

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, May 23, 2006**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at 10:30 A.M. in the thirteenth floor Board Room of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Commissioner Chair Judith L. Schwank called the meeting to order with Commissioner Thomas Gajewski and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor, Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

### **II. PRESENTATIONS:**

Ken Pick, Berks County Community Development Director explained the purpose of the 2006 Community Development Contest which he explained was created as a public awareness campaign designed to highlight the Berks County projects funded with CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds. He asked each of the County Commissioners and Reading Mayor Tom McMahon to draw the four winners names for this year's contest entries as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Teresa Lake, Kenhorst Blvd. - two season tickets to the Reading Royals
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Steph Keiffer, Denver - Box Seats to 30 Reading Phillies games
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Dennis Fillman, Boyertown – Reading Royals Jersey
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Ryan Strauz, Leesport - \$100 gift certificate to the Sovereign Center

Mayor Tom McMahon expressed appreciation to the County Commissioners for their leadership role in the new spirit of cooperation between the County and the City of Reading.

### **III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

#### **Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$87,466.00 per listing dated May 19, 2006. Bob Patrizio Budget Director presented the list of budget transfers.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorization to execute a contract as a result of Invitation to Bid #06-01-KL (REBID) supply general trash removal and recycling services for all County of Berks facilities. Candace Noll described the following bid results announcing that they represent a total increase of 9.5% due to increase fuel cost. She then requested that the award be made to the following vendors;

**RFP - Continued:****BFI Waste Services of PA. LLC**

P.O. Box 197, 50 Orchard Lane

Leesport, PA 19533

**General Trash Removal Zone 1 - \$78,116.00****General Trash Removal Zone 3 - 14,840.00****Total - \$92,956.00****Waste Management**

197 Swamp Creek Road

Gilbertsville, PA 19525

**General Trash Removal Zone 2 - \$7,380.00****Rural Recycling Program - \$64,925.00****County Recycling Center - \$57,120.00****County Department Recycling Program - \$21,420.00****Total - \$150,845.00****Contract Submissions:**

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated May 22, 2006.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. Beth Schiepan, Human Resources Director presented the Total Compensation program for the County and requested approval by the Board of Commissioners. She explained that this program represents a new compensation philosophy for Management/Confidential employees of the County that was two years in the making. She indicated that the document is designed to provide employees with basic information on the different forms of compensation offered by the County, how salary levels and total compensation is determined together with a philosophy to attract, motivate, and encourage learning and mobility for highly qualified employees while assuring compliance with State and Federal Laws regarding pay practices. She focused her discussion on the portion of this policy that proposes a new concept task sharing and the opportunity it provides for a cost effective to re-engineering of staffing needs. She indicated this process could work particularly well if the County were to consider a second Voluntary Severance program. Commissioner Schwank complemented Beth and her staff for finding an equitable solution to help employees to "get ahead." The Commissioner also indicated her support towards the consideration of a second VSP, which was discussed by County Administrator Dennis. Commissioners Scott and Gajewski also expressed appreciation towards the HR staff for this policy document.

**Facilities Department:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of Penn Dot form MS340 Application to unencumber \$195,000 in County Liquid Fuels that have been allocated by the County to Rockland Township for the Henry Road bridge replacement project Number 99-06234-02. William Westcott County Engineer indicated that the Township's cost for engineering and obtaining all required "environmental permits" has exceeded their expectations and "returned" the award to the county and will now reconsider this project and possible closure the road.
- B. Adopt Resolution accepting the proposal from Schuylkill Valley Engineering, Inc., located at 4338 Pottsville Pike, Reading PA and dated 5/11/06 to provide Geotechnical Engineering Services for the County of Berks Prison Addition and Renovations for an estimated lump sum total of \$8,645.00 plus expenses not to exceed \$250.00 (total proposal \$8,895.00). Jim Stroehecker Project Engineer for the county requested the board to approve this RFP.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. A decision to cancel the June 8, 2006 Commissioner meeting due to the professional bike race scheduled for the City of Reading will continued on Thursday's Commissioner meeting.
- B. Shannon Rossman, Planner for the Berks County Planning Commission requested some final pieces of information for the final preparation of the of the Open Space and Recreation "Landfill" Grant application to which is proposed to be the application form for the \$100,000 settlement fee received by the County from the owners of Conestoga Landfill.
- C. The Commissioners acknowledged the passing of former Reading City Councilman Jim Pollock and noted his many years of public service and community activism.

**V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

George Kovarie, Director of Children and Youth Services informed the Commissioners of the strong potential for the loss of federal funding for Children and Youth programs in 2007 and beyond. He explained that Pennsylvania has funding the Counties programs yet they are 6 quarters behind in obtaining reimbursement from the Federal Government. He said that due the strain in the funding stream, Berks County has already eliminated 50% of our "purchased in-home services" and future preventative services are threatened. What he feels will be the ultimate result is that the courts system will be driving the system and will force the costs of mandated "unfounded" service to rise there by creating additional burdens on the taxpayer. He encouraged the Commissioners to contact the Federal Legislators for immediate assistance.

**VI. PROCLAMATIONS / CERTIFICATES**

Commissioner Gajewski will present a Proclamation for Topton Borough's 130th Anniversary. Accepting on behalf of the Borough was the current Mayor Thomas Biltcliff and former Mayor Larry Werst.

Commissioner Gajewski will present a Proclamation for the Bally WWII Memorial Dedication over the weekend.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk