

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, June 27, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 27, 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.

It was announced that the Commissioners Workshop scheduled for Tuesday July 4th and the Commissioners' Meeting scheduled for Thursday July 6th have both been cancelled.

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, Assistant Solicitor, Heidi Masano, Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

II. EMA Presentation

Jeff Weidner from Berks County Emergency Management Agency presented the latest weather information regarding flooding predictions expected from the series of storms that have settled over the County bring 3 1/2 inches of rain so far. He indicated that the Blue Marsh Dam is doing its job and when the Schuylkill reaches 15ft. the City of Reading will be advising business owners and residents near the river to relocate.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Administrator:

- A. 2006 – 2007 County Comprehensive Insurance proposal – Mike Malinowski of EHD Insurance presented this year's insurance proposal and noted that the premium is 3 to 4% below the budget amount and 1% less than last year's premium. He described additional flood coverage and a proposed fiduciary liability policy intended to provide coverage for members of the County Pension Board as examples of several recommended changes in the coverage. Mr. Malinowski indicated that he would be proposing the Pension Board's coverage at their meeting in July. Commissioner Gajewski thanked Mr. Malinowski and noted the credit for the 1.4% reduction could be attributed to County employees and a reduction of Workers Compensation Claims.

Administrator Continued:

- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the allocation of the Homeless Assistance Program funding; and further authorizes the execution of the Assurance of Compliance Certificate with respect to the Homeless Assistance Program (HAP), and further authorizes Mary Henry-Moss, Human Service Grants Coordinator, the ability to distribute the remaining HAP Funds to the prior approved agencies as needed for the fiscal year 2006/2007. Administrator Dennis presented this and the Resolution approving the HSDF program allocations for fiscal year 20076/2007.

Contract Submissions:

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated June 26, 2006. Candace Noll Contract Coordinator, presented the list of contracts and the following bid award request.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing a contract award, as a result of Request for Proposal #06-04-CN, a five-year Contract for the provision of legal services to eligible clients referred by Berks County Office of Aging to:

John A. Goldstan, Esquire
539 Court Street, First Floor
Reading, PA, 19601

The term of the Contract shall be effective July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2011. The allotted amount for the first year of the Contract is not to exceed \$34,000. The awarded Contract will allow for the County to extend the Contract for additional periods upon the mutual agreement of the parties.

Children and Youth Services

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement between Berks County Children and Youth Services and the Court of Common Pleas of Berks County for the provision of Court-appointed Guardian Ad Litem for a period July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 for \$188,558 per year contingent upon Department of Public Welfare funding reimbursement. George Kovarie, Director of Berks Children and Youth presented this request describing this contract change as one many necessary funding cut backs due to the loss of Title IVE funds reimbursement from the Federal Govt. to the State and then being withheld from Counties. He explained that these along with the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) fund cuts may cause the County to "backfill" the costs of the Child Welfare mandated services as much as \$10 million. Mr. Kovarie said he has never seen such as retreat from public policy and encouraged everyone watching to contact their legislators.

Engineering:

- A. Adopt Resolution awarding a contract as a result of an invitation to bid a bridge rehabilitation project to Mar-Allen Concrete of Ephrata, PA for the Weidner's Bridge on Salem Road over the Little Swatara Creek in Bethel and Tulpehocken Townships in the amount of \$229,103.00. Bill Westcott, P.E. requested approval for this bridge rehabilitation contract.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing utilization of temporary agency for File Clerk in the Prison's Records Department, effective 6/30/06. Rate not to exceed \$12.00 per hour. This request is due to two (2) full-time vacancies in the Records Department. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease as soon as the two (2) full-time vacancies are filled.

Mental Health / Mental Retardation:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Edward B. Michalik; MH/MR Administrator to approve and accept the capitation rates as proposed by the PA DPW in support of The Berks County Health Choices Program. Dr. Ed Michalik presented this Resolution together with the following one.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing an agreement made by the County of Berks hereafter referred to as the "County" for and on the behalf of Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program to authorize the MH/MR Program Administrator, Dr. Ed Michalik or his successors. To execute all Administrative Entity Provider Agreements and to reference such approval by attachment of the annual standard Administrative Entity Provider Agreement as well as the listing of the specific contract amounts and providers as Appendices A and B to that resolution.

Council on Chemical Abuse:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing a contract between Berks County Prison and the Council on Chemical Abuse. This contract is for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009; this eliminates the need for us to execute a full contract each year. The contract funding allocation for the Period July 1, 2006 through June 30,2007 is \$307,157.00 for Berks County Prison Services/Therapeutic Community (Cost Reimbursement).

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. Commissioner Schwank presented updated information regarding the Earl Trust property including the offer of a proposed cash distribution of \$370,000 to cover the remaining mortgage held by the Berks Conservancy on the "trust" properties surrounding the Antietam Lake.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution approving a letter of support to the Strengthening Families grant application being made by the United Way, BCPS, BCAP, Opportunity House and the Conference of Churches. Scott L. Rehr, Executive Director, Berks Connections/Pretrial Services presented this request for a letter of support.
- B. Commissioner Gajewski presented for approval the following items:
1. Fund raising agreement-Berks Heim – Commissioner Gajewski indicated that the Heim Volunteer Committee agreed to provide \$9,000 towards the purchase of outdoor furniture for the residents of the Heim. In addition the Commissioner proposed an agreement with a publishing company that will help to raise additional funds to be placed in the Heim's 501C3.
 2. NACo Discount Prescription Drug program. – Commissioner Gajewski explained that the agreement has been amended from the previous version and that the County Solicitor is satisfied with the indemnification language that was causing concern previously. The Commissioner explained that the County is only responsible for promoting and distributing the Prescription Cards. Commissioner Schwank agreed that the County should move forward on this program.

Commissioner Scott**V. PRESENTATION CERTIFICATES**

- Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for Wyomissing's 100th Anniversary. Mike Reinert, Chair of the Wyomissing Centennial Committee.
- Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival to Carol Heppe, Manager of the Kutztown Pennsylvania German Festival.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Atty. Dave Battorf presented a letter representing members of a group of concerned citizens who recently met with the Mayor of Reading and Reading's Police Chief to discuss methods of crime reduction. His letter suggesting placing a referendum on the ballot for the next election to gain the approval of voters to raise county taxes equivalent to allow the City of Reading to hire additional Police Officers and necessary equipment. Following a discussion with the board, Mr. Battorf was asked to provide additional information.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:23P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk