

Pre-Commissioners' Meeting
Tuesday, January 6, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 6, 2004, at 10:30 AM, in the thirteenth floor Board Room of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public. Commissioner Chair Judy Schwank called the meeting to order with Commissioners Tom Gajewski and Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were Acting Chief Clerk William E. Dennis and Solicitor Alan Miller.

Commissioner Schwank recognized newly elected City of Reading Mayor Tom McMahon in attendance. The Mayor was present for a discussion related to an economic development initiative, that Commissioner Schwank explained will look at economic development in the region, the county and the city as well. She introduced Mr. Jerry Johnson and Mr. John Devor who gave a synopsis of the project. The *Initiative for a Competitive Inner City* (ICIC) is a study that will take a hard look at economic development data with the purpose of concluding where the best economic development prospects lie. The focus will be the economy of the region that will include a partnership with other counties, the state and others, the primary reason being successful implementation will necessarily involve a great number of people. It is everyone's intent to continue current initiatives. In addition to sponsorship by Berks County and the City of Reading, included in the partnership is a team of twenty-four (24) community leaders from the private sector. The study will look at "clusters", businesses that are linked together by a product need. It is the intent of the study to identify four (4) clusters that all can agree upon. The assessment of our current efforts is one of "ready, aim, fire", and given a limited amount of resources, a measured, steady, careful look is essential. ICIC provides a facilitator for that process. The projected cost of the project is between \$600,000 and \$700,000 with a flat fee from the firm of \$500,000. The fees will be split one-third between the county, city and the private sector.

Questions from the Commissioners and others determined that the selected firm has done studies in Boston, Bridgeport, the State of Connecticut, St. Louis, Milwaukee and the United Kingdom. Two upcoming projects are Berks County and Brooklyn. ICIC would point to Milwaukee as an identifiable success. It was agreed also that this study would be politically objective and not just focus on the unemployed in the city thereby blocking out the outlying county. When questioned about funding assistance from other counties, it was stated that that was a possibility. Commissioner Gajewski advised that he had already made an initial outreach with commissioners from some other counties.

Commissioner Schwank then invited Mayor McMahon to speak, the Mayor stating that he was excited by this effort, citing the successes of Bridgeport, CT. He affirmed that from this point on everyone will be working together and that he looked forward to be a part of this endeavor.

The Board of Commissioners discussed and approved the following items for listing at the January 8, 2004 Meeting:

II. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Authorize payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
 - 1. No. 2056 – Community Development Block Grant Program
 - 2. No. 453 – HOME Grant Program
 - 3. No. 1200 – Property Rehabilitation Program
 - 4. No. 2054-PS – State Emergency Shelter Program
 - 5. No. 2055-S – Emergency Shelter Program

- B. Authorize refund of 2002 and 2003 County Property Taxes at the request of the Board of Assessment Appeals (attached list).

- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 2/27/03 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$10.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 817).

- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 7/24/03 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$11.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 20424).

- E. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 11/24/02 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$10.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 22151).

- F. Adopt Resolution authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a female child born 12/30/85, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 12/30/03 through 2/1/04 in the form of Purchased Care from Bethany Children's Home Shelter Care Program at the per diem rate of \$152.00 to allow child to pursue her GEC certification while attending Job Corps.

- G. Adopt Resolution authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a female child born 1/10/85, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 1/10/04 through 5/30/04 in the

form of Purchased Care from Church of Brethren Youth Services at the per diem rate of \$65.00 to allow for completion of high school.

- H. Adopt Resolution authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a male child born 2/7/86, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 2/7/04 through 2/7/05 in the form of Purchased Care from Open Door CYC, Inc. Kinship Care Program at the per diem rate of \$64.00 to allow for completion of high school.
- I. Adopt Resolution authorizing an increase in Maintenance subsidy from \$10.00 per day to \$16.00 per day for a male child born 4/28/92 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations (Case Number 7861).
- J. Adopt Resolution authorizing an increase in Maintenance subsidy from \$16.00 per day to \$22.50 per day for a male child born 9/13/92 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations (Case Number 6398).
- K. Adopt Resolution authorizing opening of the Berks County Budget for the Year 2004 and further, to authorize the Board of Commissioners to take any and all necessary steps regarding the revision of such budget.
- L. Adopt Resolution authorizing William Dennis, County Administrator, to handle various personnel matters as directed by the Board of Commissioners.

III. OTHER REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2003 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$1,131,752.00; 2003 Budget Appropriations in the total aggregate amount of \$103,582.00; 2004 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$250,000.00; and 2004 Budget Appropriations in the total aggregate amount of \$120,000.00 per listing dated December 29, 2003.

Contract Coordinator:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated 12/30/03.

Human Resources/Payroll:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the purchase, installation and implementation of an Integrated Human Resources/Payroll Software System from Cort Directions at a total estimated cost of \$442,160.00.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the purchase, installation and implementation of Time/Attendance/Scheduling software from SmartLinx Solutions at a total estimated cost of \$265,593.00.

Purchasing Director:

- A. Award Invitation to Bid #03-25 for the furnishing of window washing services to Northeastern Building Maintenance Services Systems, Inc., 4403 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109 at their bid price of \$17,596.08. This includes an annual cleaning of all windows in the Services Center and Courthouse buildings and monthly cleanings of cross walk windows and lobby windows.

Solicitor:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of the Addendum to Lease Agreement between Gerald A. and Jean A. Epting and the County of Berks for office space for District Justice Gloria Stitzel.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

- A. Authorize execution of Certification to the State Tax Equalization Board, of a list of conveyances or transfers of real estate during the month of November 2003.
- B. Authorize utilization of temporary service for the Chief Clerk's Office from 1/5/04 through 1/16/04. Rate not to exceed \$15.90/hour.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Dennis, Acting Chief Clerk