

**Commissioners' Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 29, 2004**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 29, 2004 at 10:30 AM in the Board meeting room on the thirteenth floor 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 Tom Gajewski, Commissioner Mark Scott, Solicitor Alan S. Miller, and Acting Chief Clerk William E. Dennis in attendance.

Commissioner Schwank followed with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Schwank advised that the Commissioners' meeting agendas were now available for review on the County website, with minutes and more information available in the near future.

On motion by Commissioner Gajewski, seconded by Commissioner Scott, the minutes of the January 20, 2004 and January 22, 2004 Commissioners' meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Gajewski presented and read a proclamation establishing January 31, 2004 as Reading Volunteer Firefighter Day. Kathryn L. Houck, a third generation volunteer, was present to accept the proclamation and called upon the public to become involved in volunteer service.

Commissioner Schwank called upon Carey Kaucher to present the Employee Volunteer Council 2004 Calendar of Events. Commissioner Schwank advised that there was no need for formal action. Commissioner Gajewski stated his appreciation to the members of the Council for their efforts.

On motion by Commissioner Gajewski, seconded by Commissioner Scott, the "Consent Agenda" was moved for approval. Before action, Commissioner Schwank moved to withdraw Resolution 50-04, agenda item G from the Consent Agenda. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott. The motion to withdraw was approved on a vote of 2-0 with Commissioners Schwank and Scott voting in the affirmative and Commissioner Gajewski abstaining. Commissioner Scott commented that neighbors of the Felix Dam have expressed objection to the replacement of the Dam. Commissioner Gajewski asked that he be advised of those specific objections. The vote on approving the amended Consent Agenda was then taken with all in favor.

1. Adopt the following Resolutions:

- 44-04     A.    Authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Commissioner, Chair, and Sandy Graffius, County Controller, to execute certification of

appropriation funding for 2004 in the amount of \$6,067,177.00 for the purchase of Agricultural Easements under Act 43.

- 45-04 B. Authorizing the reappointment of David K. Esser, 18 Turkey Road, Kempton, Pennsylvania, 19529, to the Berks County Parks & Recreation Board, for a four-year term expiring 3/11/07.
- 46-04 C. Authorizing the reappointment of Joan Notter, 2704 Philmay Terrace, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19606, to the Berks County Children & Youth Services Advisory Board, for a three-year term expiring 12/31/06.
- 47-04 D. Authorizing the reappointment of Joan Lewis, 108 New York Avenue, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, 19608, to the Berks County Children & Youth Services Advisory Board, for a three-year term expiring 12/31/05.
- 48-04 E. Authorizing the reappointment of Jan D. Krafczek, Esquire, 44 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601, to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority, for a five-year term 12/31/08.
- 49-04 F. Authorizing the reappointment of Arthur White, 1319 Reading Blvd., Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, 19610, to the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals, for a four-year term expiring 12/31/07.
- 50-04 G. Expressing support for the replacement of the Felix Dam in Muhlenberg Township.
- 51-04 H. Authorizing the reappointment of Fred Stubbs, 500 Buttonwood Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601, to the MH/MR Advisory Board, for a three-year term to expire 12/31/06.
- 52-04 I. Authorizing the reappointment of Dr. Kelley Kenney, 2940 Marcor Drive, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, 19608, to the MH/MR Advisory Board, for a three-year term to expire 12/31/06.
- 53-04 J. Authorizing the reappointment of Susan A. Freeman, M.A., N.C.C., 724 North Third Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601, to the MH/MR Advisory Board, for a three-year term to expire 12/31/06.
- 54-04 K. Authorizing the execution of a Project Modification Request for the County of Berks (Adult Probation) with respect to Subgrant #2003-DA-ST-013433, Phase II-Level 3 & 4 Rip Offenders, for submission to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and

Delinquency. Request seeks to increase the existing grant budget by \$150,501.00 (100% state funding) for the project period from 7/1/03 to 6/30/04.

- 55-04 L. Authorizing the reappointment of Helen Barsky, 300 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 211, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19602, to the MH/MR Advisory Board, for a three-year term to expire 12/31/06.
- 56-04 M. Authorizing the reappointment of Edward Chastka, MD, 999 Berkshire Boulevard, Suite 130, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, 19610, to the MH/MR Advisory Board, for a three-year term to expire 12/31/06.
- 57-04 N. Authorizing the reappointment of The Honorable Arthur E. Grim, Berks County Courthouse, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 633 Court Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601, to the MH/MR Advisory Board, for a three-year term to expire 12/31/06.
- 58-04 O. Authorizing the execution of the Delegation of Signatory Authority form between the County of Berks (Children & Youth Services) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission specifying signature authority for paperwork submission.
- 59-04 P. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 8/3/95 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$16.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 4200).
- 60-04 Q. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 7/27/95 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$16.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 17587).
- 61-04 R. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 11/1/01 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 17587).

- 62-04 S. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 11/10/99 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 14424).
- 63-04 T. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 1/17/02 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 19187).
- 64-04 U. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 2/19/03 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 19187).
- 65-04 V. Authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a female child born 2/15/86, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 2/15/04 through 6/30/04 in the form of Purchased Care from Bethany Children's Home at the per diem rate of \$115.00 to allow for completion of high school.
- 66-04 W. Authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a male child born 3/27/86, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 3/27/04 through 6/30/05 in the form of Purchased Care from Bethany Children's Home-Residential Program at the per diem rate of \$115.00 to allow for completion of high school.
- 67-04 X. 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 6/30/05 in the form of Purchased Care from Open Door CYC, Inc.-Kindship Foster Home at the per diem rate of \$64.00 to allow for completion of high school.
- 68-04 Y. Authorizing 2003 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$311,500.00; 2003 Budget Appropriations in the total aggregate amount of \$41,757.00; and 2004 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$440,691.27 per listing dated January 29, 2004.

- 69-04 Z. Authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated 01/23/04.
2. Award Invitation to Bid #03-27, a two-year contract for the furnishing of general trash & recycling removal, and rural recycling program services to Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc. with an office at 197 Swamp Creek Road, Gilbertsville, PA, 19525 at their bid price of:
- |                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| General trash removal:   | \$91,941.94 (estimated annual total) |
| Recycling program:       | \$53,784.44 (estimated annual total) |
| Rural recycling program: | \$19,536.00 (estimated annual total) |
3. Authorize payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
- a. No. 2061 – Community Development Block Grant Program
  - b. No. 454 – HOME Grant Program
  - c. No. 1203 – Property Rehabilitation Program
  - d. No. 2060-S – Emergency Shelter Program

The County Treasurer and the County Controller presented their weekly reports.

**Agenda Items for Discussion**

George Kovarie, Executive Director, Berks County Children & Youth Services, presented information related to County participation in the Barriers to Permanency Project. This project is funded by the State Office of Children, Youth and Families and is conducted by the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. There are elements of this project, which may improve outcomes for children while at the same time reducing placement expenditures. The requirements are: county support for the project, commitment of our solicitor's office to work with the ADA on the project utilizing our solicitors) commitment of the local court to be part of the project, including sitting on the Advisory Board attached to this project, and support of the Office of Children, Youth and Families.

County Administrator William Dennis provided an overview regarding re-opening and final adoption of Fiscal Year 2004 Budget. The Commissioners were advised that no additional funding opportunities or expenditure demands were found necessitating a change in the originally presented and acted upon budget. A number of management issues existed, however, that must be addressed throughout the fiscal year. Commissioner Gajewski expressed his disappointment in the manner the budget was presented, citing a need to fully disclose the amount of designated, undesignated and cash fund balances. He added that he would not approve the budget in its present format. Commissioner

Scott advised departments and agencies that the Commissioners will not vote for expenses outside the approved budget and that a tax increase is probable for fiscal year 2005.

**Citizen Comment/Business From The Floor**

No comments were received.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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William E. Dennis, Acting Chief Clerk