

Pre-Commissioners' Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 24, 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.

The Board of Commissioners discussed and approved the following items for listing at the February 26, 2004 Meeting:

II. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Proclamation regarding *A Good Thyme for Life Day*, March 2nd, 2004.
- B. Adopt Proclamation regarding *Purchasing Month*, March 2004.
- C. Adopt Proclamation regarding *Reiffton Fire Company Day*, February 28, 2004.
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing the appointment of Modesto Fiume, Executive Director, Opportunity House, 430 N. 2nd Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601, to the Berks County Workforce Investment Board, to fill the unexpired term of Kendall TeSelle, said term to expire June 20, 2006.
- E. Adopt Resolution authorizing the appointment of M. Catherine Shearer, Acting Vice President Workforce Development, Goodwill Industries, 501 Crescent Avenue, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19605, to the Berks County Workforce Investment Board, to fill the unexpired term of Robert Howe, said term to expire June 20, 2006.
- F. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a grant agreement between the County of Berks (Berks County Intermediate Unit) and the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare, regarding childcare services in the amount of \$7,761,982.00.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of standard contract between the County of Berks (Berks County Employment & Training Office) and Junior Achievement of Berks County, Inc. to operate a TANF MODEL YOUTH program during the period February 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004.
- B. Authorize payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
 - 1. No. 2065 – Community Development Block Grant Program
 - 2. No. 456 – HOME Grant Program
 - 3. No. 1206 – Property Rehabilitation Program
 - 4. No. 2064-S – Emergency Shelter Program
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing legislation of the Work Force Investment Board.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 05/30/86 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$21.50 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 281).
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 01/02/02 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 817).
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 03/26/02 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 15715).

III. OTHER REQUESTS:***Budget Director:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2003 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$516,940.00; 2003 Budget Appropriations in the total aggregate amount of \$7,897.00; 2004 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$31,795.00; and 2004 Budget Appropriations in the total aggregate amount of \$140,810.00 per listing dated February 20, 2004.

Contract Coordinator:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated 02/20/04.

Solicitor

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a letter agreement by the County of Berks to Reinsel and Company LLP, concerning audit of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Account.
- B. Adopt resolution approving the written election by Mr. And Mrs. Cyril Ganter, 1994 Highland Avenue, to designate such property as being located in Cumru Township beginning with the 2003 tax year.
- C. Judith Kraines wishes to address the Board of Commissioners concerning reimbursement of legal fees incurred as a result of an investigation by the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission

Commissioner Schwank invited Ms. Kraines to address the Board. Ms. Kraines stated her belief that, as Controller, she was entitled to legal defense even when ethics are questioned. This matter was not addressed at the time because Ms. Kraines believed that she would have been guilty of violating the Ethics Board's call for secrecy during investigation. Ms. Kraines reminded the Board that upon appeal to the Commonwealth Court, no abuse of office was found and there was no basis for the charges.

Commissioner Scott stated his support for assisting with legal costs, calling the entire process necessary in order to encourage people to run for office. Commissioner Scott asked that the County look at their present insurance coverage that excludes legal representation in defense against ethics charges, believing that a change should be made to permit such legal representation.

Commissioner Schwank stated her agreement that the case ended as it should have, but there was fallout in that we no longer have the same relationship with the Reading Hospital. The Commissioner stated her support for paying the legal bill.

Commissioner Gajewski commented on his disadvantage of not being involved in the proceedings. He added his desire to reserve judgment until he could review the matter further.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

- A. Authorize utilization of temporary service for the Human Resources Department, Office Support position from 2/25/04 until a replacement can be found. Rate not to exceed \$16.50/hour.

Commissioner Gajewski, with concurrence of Commissioner Schwank and Commissioner Scott requested staff to develop a RFP for Financial Advisor Services for Berks County. Administrator Dennis stated that staff will begin work as the Board directed.

Commissioner Schwank requested, with concurrence of Commissioner Gajewski and Commissioner Scott, that the Downtown Improvement District receive its full year funding in one payment and as soon as possible. This directive was given as a means of assisting the District with cash flow.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Dennis, Acting Chief Clerk