

**Thursday, December 30, 2004 9:00 am**

A meeting of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, December 30, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Public Service Building, Uniontown, PA.

Present: Commissioner Angela M. Zimmerlink, Chairwoman  
Commissioner Joseph A. Hardy, III, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Vincent A. Vicites, Secretary  
Judy M. Bodkin, Chief Clerk  
Warren Hughes, County Manager  
Joseph Ferens, County Solicitor

- 1 Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.
- 2 Silent Prayer
- 3 Pledge of Alliance
- 4 Public Comment on Agenda Items - none
  
- 5 Redevelopment Authority

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to adopt Resolution to approve the 2004-05 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Application being submitted on behalf of the County on behalf of City Mission-Living Stones, Inc.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to adopt Resolution to adopt a Resolution to approve the 2004-05 Brownfields for Housing Application which will also formally designate the Redevelopment Authority as the applicant and sponsor of the Brownfields for Housing Application to DCED and as administrator of the funds, pending the award to be used in conjunction with the County's Homebuyer Development Program.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to adopt a Resolution to ratify authorization of submission of a FY 2004 Economic Development Initiative Application to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$198,820 to support renovation of the Wellness and Research Center located at Highlands Hospital in the City of Connellsville and to authorize the Commissioners to sign and submit application of assistance and approve executive of the Cooperation Agreement.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

- 1 Mental Health Mental Retardation

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** explained that this item was before the Board last month with other contracts to approve, however, it was requested to not include this contract at that time pending further negotiations.

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the Contract Agreement between the County of Fayette through the MH/MR Program Office and Southwood Psychiatric Hospital in the amount of \$8,418 for July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

2 Planning Zoning and Community Development

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** stated that the item on the Agenda to consider appointments to the UCC Board of Appeals and to create the UCC Board will need to be TABLED pending interviews and obtaining additional information needed to create the new Board. A special meeting will need to be called to address this appointment, as well as, others.

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to TABLE the above item.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

3 Human Resource Department

**Moved** by Commissioner Vicites and seconded by Commissioner Hardy to ratify the transfer of Neal Christopher from the Bridge Department to the Public Defender's Office for the position of Investigator at \$9.28 per hour, effective December 27, 2004.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to ratify the hiring of Shellie Cantrell as County Caseworker 1 with Children and Youth Services at \$23,500 per year effective January 3, 2005.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

4 Human & Community Service/FACT

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** suggested that the item regarding the Fayette County Airport and FACT regarding the \$25,000 for water service to FACT Transit Center on September 16, 2004 and the additional expense of \$6,000 for waterline development be TABLED pending the review and meeting of the parties involved with the County Solicitor.

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to TABLE the item.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the extension of Agreement with URS Corporation for Construction Management Services at the FACT Transit Center until March 31, 2005 at a rate of \$11,733 per month.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

5 Commissioners

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** suggested that the next item on the Agenda which was to select a company to develop and maintain the Fayette County website be TABLED because the RFP's need to be reviewed and compared to the DSF/CCAP program.

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to TABLE this item.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** suggested that the next item on the Agenda which was to appoint members to various Boards & Authorities be TABLED until the next Commissioners meeting to allow additional time for the Commissioners to conduct interviews because the interviews had not yet be scheduled.

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to TABLE this item.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Moved** by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve Resolution and Deed that the County of Fayette will sell and convey to Woodland Zoo and More, Inc. (second parcel) property containing an area of 4.4122 acres, situate on Wharton Township for a sale price of \$500.00 subject to the solicitors review of state legislation.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

Moved by Commissioner Hardy and seconded by Commissioner Vicites to approve the 2005 General Fund Budget having a revenue and expense (balanced) of \$22,599,529.23 which a 1 and ½ mill tax increase.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

6 Public Announcement - None

7 Public Comment –

**Mr. Mazza** spoke on the jobs that have been lost in Fayette County, including Anchor Hocking

and Crown Cork and Seal. Specifically he stated that former Commissioner Cavanaugh went to Harrisburg but that the Bill did not go through so he asked if the Commissioners now could help push this Bill through. The second item was that he asked Commissioner Vicites if there was about \$1million left in the budget last year. **Commissioner Vicites** said that it was a lower amount and it went into the capital reserve fund.

**Commissioner Vicites** said that he too went to Harrisburg, as well, to ask Senators and legislators to help. **Commissioner Vicites** said that Advanced Acoustics has done a good job to keep jobs in the area.

**Commissioner Vicites** stated that we needed \$5million 485,000, with \$1million 375,000, towards debt of 2004 and prior years with \$4million 110,000, in expenses and of the \$4million plus was \$3million operating expenses for 2005. As far as prior debt, \$1million 375,000 is debt; \$1.997 is 03 and prior and as a projection until we get the audit there is a projection of \$2.79 million debt for 2004. There was increase in health care and worker compensation, CYS match and grant matches went up since last year. He stated we have a plan now.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** thanked everyone who worked on the budget. To my knowledge, this is the first time we had attached a narrative to the Budget. In weeks to come, hopefully, by January 15, 2005 we will have additional more detailed financial statements and information for 2003 and 2004. We just received yesterday the Final financial statements for 2003 and still have not received the final Audit, only the draft and that in itself makes it difficult to craft a Budget, even for the year of 2004, let alone 2005.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** stated that she wished there was a way this Budget could have been balanced and the prior year deficits eliminated without any tax increase. She said given the county financial condition which was based on unrealistic expenditures and revenue projections and given certain mandates beyond the control of the Commissioners and the condition of the courthouse all of which was inherited, she reluctantly was compelled to raise the taxes. **Commissioner Zimmerlink** stated that in her first year she has worked towards cost control such as tax collection method and in the future look at the county owned vehicles, county website, overtime, excessive arbitration awards and reclassifications of positions and a better software systems and financial data. **Commissioner Zimmerlink** stated that this time next year she hopes to revisit the millage rate to lower it.

**Commissioner Zimmerlink** stated that the public should contact the Commissioners should they have questions.

**Commissioner Vicites** stated that he liked the narrative and thinks it was a good idea adding that he wished he could have seen it before and **Commissioner Zimmerlink** responded saying it is everything that was written on the board.

**Commissioner Vicites** stated that 1.5 mills was not easy but had to make it work but wanted to make it less but could not. He stated that after the proposed budget there were increased

expenses but it was pared down. He stated that in future years we can look at it. He also stated that the new software plan should help red flag. He said that the revenue side should be accurate since calls were made to department heads yesterday.

1 Meeting Adjourned

Approved:

---

---

---

Attest:

---

Judith A. Bodkin, Chief Clerk