

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 8, 2008

The Special Meeting of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, December 8, 2008 at the Bucks County Courthouse, Community Room, Doylestown, PA, for the purpose of reviewing the Preliminary 2009 Budget for the County of Bucks. In attendance were Commissioner James F. Cawley, Chairman, Commissioner Charles H. Martin and Commissioner Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia. Commissioner Cawley called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Cawley called on Brian Hessenthaler, Finance Director, to review the preliminary budget. Mr. Hessenthaler spoke about the inter-departmental process of forming the budget and broke down estimated expenditures and anticipated revenues for the upcoming year. He attributed a decline in revenue to decreased interest payments and lower amounts of state and federal funding and explained that the combination of anticipated expenditures and revenues leave Bucks County with a \$7.1 million shortfall. Mr. Hessenthaler explained that the county may decrease expenses, increase taxes, or utilize the “rainy day fund” to make up for the shortfall.

Mr. Hessenthaler spoke of progress achieved since the budget process began and stated that \$9 million has been cut thus far, adding that the budget continues to be refined. A large factor that remains to be determined is an upcoming announcement from the state regarding additional budget cuts, which will likely impact funding allotted to Bucks County.

Upon the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Ellis-Marseglia spoke about a list of suggestions which she had distributed to her colleagues and expressed her preference to cut expenses to make up for the budget shortfall. A discussion followed regarding expenses, including the possibility of a 2% reduction in all departments and activities not related to contractual issues, salary or benefits. Mr. Hessenthaler stated that suggestions from various parties will be compiled into a comprehensive list, and the Commissioners decided to delay an in-depth discussion until the conclusion of today’s meeting and after the state’s upcoming announcement.

Mr. Martin shared his belief that the sound advice of the Finance Department led to the relatively good financial standing of Bucks County and expressed his preference to continue following the lead of Mr. Hessenthaler and the Finance Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BY:

James F. Cawley, Esq.
Chairman

Charles H. Martin
Commissioner

Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia
Commissioner

David M. Sanko, County Chief Clerk