

**COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
January 3, 2013**



THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013 AT 1:30 PM IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM WITH THE FOLLOWING IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner David K. Battaglia, Commissioner Robert T. Bower, Commissioner Richard L. Fink, George J. Skamai, Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Jonathan Weaver – Kittanning Paper, David Mansour – Administrator, Armstrong County Health Center, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Carly Cowan – Armstrong County Financial Advisor / Marcellus Shale Coordinator, Rich Palilla – Executive Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Allison Ball – Director of Marketing and County Enhancement Specialist, Frankie Shumaker – Deputy, Armstrong County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Battaglia announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the minutes for the December 20, 2012 Public Meeting were approved.

AGREEMENTS / CONTRACTS

Courthouse Cupola Renovation Project with RSSC of Wexford, PA

Ms. Johnson explained that grant funding has been received for the engineering and design portion on the cupola renovation. She stated that county funding will be used for the completion of the work. Ms. Johnson added that four proposals were received and after reviewing them, it is recommended that the architectural services contract be awarded to RSSC of Wexford, PA in the amount of \$22,000.00. She noted that this is a 50/50 grant and that Armstrong County would be responsible for half the cost.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the Board awarded the architectural services contract for the Armstrong County Courthouse Cupola Renovation Project to RSSC of Wexford, PA.

Eastern Elevator Service and Sales Company Elevator Upgrade

Mr. Mansour explained that the upgrade work will be for the hydraulic work at a cost of \$22,310.00.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the Board approved the elevator upgrade agreement at the Armstrong County Health Center between Armstrong County and Eastern Elevator Service and Sales Company.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2013-1 Supplemental Engineering Agreement

Mr. Palilla stated that this is a two part action with an agreement with PennDOT that will move the project from the preliminary phase to the final design, with the design cost being reimbursed 100 percent by PennDOT. He stated that the resolution is necessary to authorize the signatures for the work to be completed.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board approved Resolution 2013-1 for the Supplemental Engineering Agreement between the County of Armstrong and P. Joseph Lehman, Inc. for the Lower Pine Run Project.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board approved the re-appointment of Mr. Richard Palilla, 402 E. Market Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 to the SPC for a term of four years to expire December 31, 2016.

Armstrong County Tourist Bureau Board of Directors

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Battaglia and carried unanimously, the Board approved the re-appointment to the Armstrong County Tourist Bureau Board of Directors for a term of three years to expire December 31, 2015 to:

- Mr. Melvin Check, 660 Hillville Road, Karns City, PA 16041
- Mr. Travis Lindsay, 225 Furnace Run Road, Freeport, PA 16229
- Mr. Chuck Rupp, P.O. Box 334, Templeton, PA 16259

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Battaglia noted that Ms. Regina Liermann was offered a tour of the Courthouse and Administration Building following last month's meeting. She did take a tour and Mr. Battaglia stated he felt it did assist her in understanding the flow of county business.

Mr. Battaglia stated that the Belmont Complex would be formulating a program to offer businesses in the area a chance to "Name the Ice" and create revenue by selling advertising space.

Mr. Battaglia announced that the Board has decided to close the Armsdale Building at the end of June, citing that the cost of operations and necessary repairs has made the continuance of operations no longer feasible. Ms. Cowan confirmed that operational costs for the building are

currently over \$100,000.00 per year and that the basic renovations to meet code total over \$500,000.00 with other necessary renovations costing another \$500,000.00 or more. Mr. Weaver inquired as to relocation plans for the current tenants. The Board stated that each office would be obtaining their own locations, but mentioned that the Economic Development office is assisting in compiling a list of available office space.

Mr. Fink described the measures that have been taken to reduce operating costs overall. He added that, given the fact that the Armsdale office space was costing taxpayers' money instead of providing revenue, the decision to close the building, though difficult, was equally clear. It has not been determined what is planned for the future of the building. Mr. Walzak questioned how much office space is available, to which the Board responded approximately 800 feet, but noted that it is not prime space and needs to be updated.

Financial Transactions

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board acknowledged the Financial Transactions for December 2012.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously; the Commissioners adjourned the Public Meeting at 1:45 pm. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 1:30 pm.