

**COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
December 20, 2012**



THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2012 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, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Ron Baustert – Coordinator, Armstrong County 911, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Carly Cowan – Armstrong County Financial Advisor / Marcellus Shale Coordinator, Maryanne Koleny – Director, Armstrong County Human Resources, David Hogue – Warden, Armstrong County Jail, Marcy Uncapher – Purchasing Coordinator, Armstrong County Finance, Regina Liermann – Armstrong County Taxpayer.

Mr. Battaglia announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried, unanimously, the minutes for the December 6, 2012 Public Meeting were approved.

AGREEMENTS / CONTRACTS

Family Psychological Associates, LTD.

Mr. Hogue requested the board approve the amendment to agreement with the Family Psychological Associates, LTD. for a three percent increase in fees for 2013.

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 amendment in the agreement between Armstrong County and Family Psychological Associates, LTD.

Crown Atlantic

Mr. Baustert stated that this is the fourth amendment to the agreement for the Parks Township tower.

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 amendment to the agreement between Armstrong County and Crown Atlantic.

LJS Development Corporation

Mr. Baustert explained that LJS Development Corporation is a commercial tower leasing company that will assist in providing income by leasing space on the towers.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the Board approved the agreement between Armstrong County and LJS Development Corporation.

Change Order #001 Motorola

Mr. Baustert stated that this is a change in the terms of testing radio coverage in the system but not in price with Motorola. He noted that there will be some milestone payment dates affected but not 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 approved Change Order #001 between Armstrong County and Motorola.

Teamster's #261 and Employers Welfare Fund

Ms. Koleny this agreement will provide health insurance for the full time corrections officers at the jail. She noted they were previously covered under the Kittanning Teamsters which is dissolving at the end of 2012. She stated that the projected annual savings for 2013 as opposed to the current rate is \$26,400.00.

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 agreement among Armstrong County, Teamsters #261 and Employers Welfare Fund.

Change Order #1 Construction Contract with Professional Mechanical Sales

Ms. Johnson stated that the county is under contract with Professional Mechanical Sales for the HVAC at the Belmont Upgrades Project. She explained that this change is necessary to redirect the air flow vents and will increase the project by \$2,988.00 for a total project cost of \$108,888.00.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, pending the review of the county solicitor, the Board approved Change Order #1 to the Construction Contract between Armstrong County and Professional Mechanical Sales.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Nonprofit Housing

Ms. Johnson stated that Mr. Bowser has been a valued board member since 2002, and noted he has agreed to serve a second term. Mr. Bower concurred.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board approved to re-appoint Mr. Fred S. Bowser, III, 420 Washington Street, Parker, PA 16049, to the Board of the Nonprofit Housing for a term to expire December 31, 2017.

Mr. Bower took a moment to recognize Mr. Paul Caruso for his time, dedication and the valuable input he provided over the years to the Nonprofit Housing Board. He noted that Mr. Caruso passed away this year at the age of 95.

ADOPTION OF 2013 ARMSTRONG COUNTY BUDGET

Adoption of the 2013 Armstrong County Budget

Ms. Cowan gave an overview of the adjustments made to the 2013 county budget since the preliminary presentation. She credited all the department heads and the Board of Commissioners for working together to bring the projected increase of taxes down from two and a half mills to two mills. Ms. Cowan described that the increase would fall under the debt portion of the tax and not the general fund, noting that the money could only be used for debts, most notably the federally mandated 911 project.

Mr. Fryer questioned the decrease in employee wage allocation from 3 percent to 2 percent. The Board of Commissioners confirmed that the decision of the Salary Board will be the determining factor to the employees' wages. He also requested clarification of the lost revenue for Human Service Agencies such as Community Action and Children, Youth and Family Services. The Board described it as a loss of State and Federal funding. The Board then clarified that the county actually serves to provide the money as a "pass thru" in many situations with agencies that are not a part of county government, like Community Action Agency.

Ms. Liermann questioned several departments that had higher costs over revenue. Ms. Cowan explained that they do not have the capabilities to generate income other than employee retirement contributions or copy services. Rather, they are departments that offer the public necessary services and in some cases mandated services. Ms. Liermann also inquired if there were any plans for evening meetings to be held to enable more residents to attend. The Board did not totally rule out the possibility but noted that it would be an increased expense to do so and similar measures in both Armstrong and surrounding counties have proven unsuccessful in encouraging increased public participation.

The Board then offered Ms. Liermann a tour of the offices that she specified in her earlier comments concerning the budget. They felt it would be beneficial to witness the various public services in action.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board approved the adoption of the 2013 Armstrong County Budget.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Koleny clarified that the health insurance contract for the unionized employees at the Armstrong County Jail is for one year only and that there is no guarantee of another large savings in 2014.

Ms. Liermann clarified with the board that the Salary Board Meeting is open to the public to attend.

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 2:00 pm. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 1:30 pm.