

MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
May 21, 2009

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick and Richard L. Fink, George J Skamai – Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Jennifer Bellas – CD Division Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Darin Alviano - Planning Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Myra Miller – Controller, Armstrong County, Gary Montebell – Director, Armstrong County Belmont Complex, Chad Puz – Family Life TV, Al Pulice – Director, Kiski Valley Veterans & Patriots Association, PA Hero Walk, Ron Bouch, PA Hero Walk

Mr. Scahill was absent from today's meeting due to his attendance at a National Association of Counties (NACo) meeting in Oregon.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously, the minutes for the May 7, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Belmont's KidStuff Coupon

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Montebell, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the KidStuff Coupon Book Advertisement. Mr. Montebell explained that this is the same coupon that they have used in previous years; it is a fundraiser for the schools.

Revision of FY 2007 CDBG Program

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Bellas, and pending the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the revision of the FY 2007 CDBG program. Ms. Bellas explained that the Yatesboro Third Street Water Line Replacement Project was completed under budget. The revision will transfer the excess \$32,436.42 into the Yatesboro Fourth Street Water Line Replacement Project.

FY 2008 PA Access Program with DCED

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Bellas and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners acknowledged the approval of the contract of FY 2008 PA Access Program between DCED and Armstrong County. Ms. Bellas described that the grant was awarded in the amount of \$104,888. With an additional \$18,000 from the County's Act 137 funding an estimated nine homes will be reconstructed to meet handicapped accessibility.

RESOLUTIONS

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, pending the opinion of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the 2009 - 8 Resolution that approves the revision of the FY 2007 State Community Development Block Grant Funds. Ms. Bellas had described this as a standard resolution that is now required with all DCED grants.

PROCLAMATIONS

Wounded Warrior Project “PA Hero Walk”

Mr. Pulice spoke of the diligent work and heartfelt efforts by all involved with the Wounded Warrior Project. The PA Hero Walk will begin June 20th in Philadelphia, arriving in Leechburg and ending in New Kensington on the 4th of July. He asked everyone to log onto www.pa.herowalk.org to learn more about their cause, to purchase t-shirts benefitting the project, and for donation information.

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted the Wounded Warrior Project “PA Hero Walk” Proclamation. The Commissioners have committed to join in a portion of the walk. The Board of Commissioners proudly announced that a contribution from the Armstrong County Employee Dress Down Fund has been designated to the Wounded Warrior Walk.

American Heart Association’s National CPR & AED Awareness Week

Mr. Fink spoke of Mr. Scahill’s commitment and leadership that has spearheaded the increased availability of AED equipment and training. Ms. Kirkpatrick concurred with Mr. Fink and encouraged more businesses to provide AED training and accessibility.

Mr. Fink read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners proclaimed June 1 – 7, 2009 as the American Heart Association’s National CPR & AED Awareness Week.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Armstrong County Agricultural Land Preservation Board Appointment

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Armstrong County Agricultural Land Preservation Board Appointment of:

- a. Terry Bowser, 179 Church Road, Kittanning, PA 16201, to fulfill a term (contractor) that will expire March 1, 2011.

Housing Authority Appointment

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Housing Authority Appointment of:

- a. Reverend Freddie Morman, 1246 Lincoln Street, North Vandergrift, PA 15690, to fulfill the remainder of a term to expire February 1, 2013.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liquid Fuels County Aid Grant Awards

This was the first time since 2003 that the County Liquid Fuels program has awarded municipal grants. The Board of Commissioners praised Mr. Alviano for the efforts he and the Planning Department put forth in accepting applications and creating an impartial rating system. Mr. Alviano detailed how the Board of Commissioners established a Liquid Fuels County Aid Program for this year. They have designated \$100,000.00 to assist municipalities who are planning bridge, culvert or road projects. The following municipalities will be receiving County Aid Funding:

- ❖ Parks Twp. \$27,000 for access improvements to Kepple Hill
- ❖ East Franklin Twp. \$8,600 for bridge approach improvements on John's Road
- ❖ Kittanning Twp \$9,600 for guide rail improvements on bridges located on Baker and Graham Road
- ❖ Hovey Twp. \$2,600 for culvert repairs on Robinson Road
- ❖ Burrell Twp \$18,829.20 for multiple culvert replacements throughout Township
- ❖ Redbank Twp. \$18,337.50 for road improvements on Dry Ridge Road
- ❖ Wayne Twp. \$5,000 for road improvements on Angus Road
- ❖ Pine Twp. \$10,000 for road improvements on 1st and 4th Street and Stone Avenue

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Fink read a portion of a statement from the County Commissioners' Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), Executive Director, Doug Hill regarding Senate bill 850. Mr. Fink is the liaison to Health and Human Services and he is very concerned that if Senate Bill 850 is passed it will create a devastating effect on county services funding. He has great concerns over the long term effects that will be created by decreased human services funding. Mr. Fink was adamant that this bill will be costly to everyone and that Armstrong County taxpayers cannot absorb the increased taxes that would be necessary to offset the projected budget cuts.

Ms. Kirkpatrick detailed the timeline for the State Budget, noting laws stipulate the passage of a balanced budget by June 30th. The State is currently facing a three billion dollar deficit, and Ms. Kirkpatrick is cautious of the "trickle down" effect this will have on Armstrong County. She stated she will remain optimistic and continue to pray for due diligence by the governing bodies. In closing, Ms. Kirkpatrick asked that as we observe Memorial Day, everyone please remember the men and women who have answered the call to serve and the sacrifices they and their families have made for our country. She encouraged everyone to visit one of the many memorials throughout the county, or attend one of the scheduled services.

Mr. Fink added his appreciation for the work Armstrong County's representation is providing in regards to Senate Bill 850. Noting that regardless of party affiliation, they are all working together and deeply care about the budget outcome. He also stated that, when considering budget cuts, the Representatives will remain mindful of services that have proven and consistently successful track records.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:18 PM until Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 1:30 PM.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

James V. Scahill, Secretary

ATTEST: _____
George J. Skamai, Chief Clerk