

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
September 3, 2009

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick and James V. Scahill, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Chad Paz – Family Life TV, Dave Croyle- Kittanning Paper, Denny Demangone – Administrator, Armstrong County Children, Youth and Family Services, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Amanda Hiles – First Deputy, Armstrong County Controller's Office, Rich Palilla – Executive Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Wendy Buzard – Director, Armstrong County Voters Registration & Elections, Jim Kuemmerle – Executive Director, Armstrong – Indiana Mental Health / Mental Retardation, Public Attendance by: William Beranty

Commissioner Fink was absent from the meeting.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously, the minutes for the August 20, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Leechburg Borough Election Relocation

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Buzard, the County Commissioners approved the relocation of the Leechburg Borough polls. Ms. Buzard explained that the Housing Authority, where the polls were previously located, is no longer able to provide space. She also stated that the fire department will provide one location with two separate rooms, and that the \$200.00 rental fee is consistent with other locations.

Sewage Phase II – Seminole Contract

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, the Township of Mahoning, and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Sewage Phase II – Seminole contract on behalf of Mahoning Township between Armstrong County and Rankin and Son Excavating. Ms. Johnson stated the bid amount was \$667,096.00. The project will be contingent upon receiving all necessary Right of Ways, adding that the project is being funded through a competitive block development grant and partial use of 2005 CDBG funds.

McAuley Bridge Design Consultant Selection

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Palilla and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the consultant selection of Senate Engineering for the McAuley Bridge Design. Mr. Palilla described the McAuley Bridge as being a 1912 structure in Boggs Township. The required PennDOT policy and procedure led to the review of eleven proposals that were received as potential consultants.

National Bridge Inspection System Bridge Inspection Consultant Selection

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Palilla and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the consultant selection of Senate Engineering for the NBIS Bridge Inspection. Mr. Palilla explained that a federally mandated program requires a bridge inspection every two years; the next inspection is due in 2011. Fifteen proposals were received and reviewed. The Board of Commissioners recognized the efforts of county maintenance employees to improve the bridges and clean up the surrounding areas including the improvement of surrounding signs.

PROCLAMATIONS

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Week Proclamation

Mr. Kuemmerle described a one day conference that will be sponsored by IUP on September 9, 2009. He expressed gratification in the collaboration that the MH / MR program has accomplished while working with the Drug and Alcohol Commission. Last year they used cocktail napkins to promote their message, this year they will use coasters.

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Week Proclamation.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2009-20 Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) for West Hills

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners adopted Resolution 2009-20 Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) for West Hills. Mr. Palilla explained that the resolution is being approved to correct the end date of a resolution that was passed earlier this year.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Tri-County WIB Board Re-appointments

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the five following reappointments to Tri-County WIB Board.

- a. Re-appoint Dr. Karl Harris, Director, Electro Optics Center, 222 Northpointe Boulevard, Freeport, PA 16229, to a three year term, expiring September 30, 2012.
- b. Re-appoint Mr. Royce Young, Representative, Operating Engineers, Local 66, 267 State Route 2020, Ford City, PA 16226, to a three year term, expiring September 30, 2012.
- c. Re-appoint Mr. Mike Coonley, Director, Department of Economic Development, 124 Armsdale Road, Kittanning, PA 16201, to a three year term, expiring September 30, 2012.
- d. Re-appoint Ms. Janet Talerico, Executive Director, Armstrong Area Agency on Aging, 326 South Water Street, Kittanning PA 16201, to a three year term, expiring September 30, 2012.
- e. Re-appoint Ms. Dawn Kocher-Taylor, Director, Lenape Technical School, 2215 Chaplin Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226, to a three year term, expiring September 30, 2012.

Census 2010 Complete Count Committee Appointments

Mr. Palilla explained that the census committee was formed to help promote awareness of the importance in an accurate count for the upcoming census. The members were selected for their associations they represent or are involved with. He stated that they will begin meeting in October.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the nineteen following appointments to the Census 2010 Complete Count Committee.

- a. Appoint Mr. Ed Huston, Farm Services Agency, 124 Armsdale Road, Kittanning, PA 16201
- b. Appoint Ms. Mary Ralston, Township Association / Kiski Area School District, 26 Jackson Street, Vandergrift, PA 15690
- c. Appoint Ms. Emily Foust, Allegheny Clarion Valley School District, PO Box 100, Foxburg, PA 16036
- d. Appoint Mr. Charles Pepper, Armstrong School District, 410 Main Street, Ford City, PA 16226
- e. Appoint Mr. Donald Dell, Freeport Area School District, 325 4th Street, Freeport, PA 16229

- f. Appoint Ms. Shirley Hildebrand, Karns City Area School District, 1446 Kittanning Pike, Karns City, PA 16041.
- g. Appoint Mr. Terry Knepshield, Leechburg Area School District, 113 Castena Lane, Leechburg, PA 15656.
- h. Appoint Ms. Lynda Pozzuto, Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce, 124 Market Street, Kittanning, PA 16201
- i. Appoint Ms. Diana Shirey, Redbank Valley Chamber of Commerce, 225 Water Street, New Bethlehem, PA 16242.
- j. Appoint Mr. Allan Walzak, Strongland Chamber of Commerce, 1 Parks Bend, Vandergrift, PA 15690
- k. Appoint Ms. Jolena Reefer, Area Agency on Aging, 326 Water Street, Suite 1, Kittanning, PA 16201
- l. Appoint Ms. Susan Bartoe, Progressive Workshop, 301 Oak Avenue, Kittanning, PA 16201
- m. Appoint Mr. Bill Schall, Amish Contact, 283 Cherry Run Hill Road, Ford City, PA 16226
- n. Appoint Ms. Carla Scholl, East Franklin Township, 106 Cherry Orchard Avenue, Kittanning, PA 16201
- o. Appoint Mr. Royce Young, Labor Council and Plumcreek Township, 267 State Route 2020, Ford City, PA 16226
- p. Appoint Dr. Gerald Shuster, Kittanning Borough, 392 North McKean Street, Kittanning, PA 16201
- q. Appoint Ms. Jill Davis, Manor Township, 107 Cherry Way, McGrann, PA 16236
- r. Appoint Mr. Josh Walzak, Leader Vindicator, 435 Broad Street, New Bethlehem, PA 16242
- s. Appoint Ms. Diane Emminger Armstrong County Memorial Hospital, One Nolte Drive, Kittanning, PA 16201
- t. Appoint Mr. David Croyle, Family Life TV & Kittanning Ministerial Association, 114 South Jefferson Street, Kittanning, PA 16201

Child Death Review Team Appointments

Mr. Demangone explained that these appointments are in compliance with the Public Health Child Death Review Act. Each county is asked to establish a local review team for all deaths involving decedents twenty one years of age or younger. The Commissioners have been asked to appoint one law enforcement officer and one physician or healthcare worker. There are twelve other members on the review team. Mr. Demangone and the Board of Commissioners expressed their appreciation to all appointees who have accepted the responsibility of serving on a team that concerns such a difficult subject.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the following two appointments to the Child Death Review Team.

- a. Appoint Corporal Daniel G. Herr, Crime Unit Supervisor, Pennsylvania State Police, Troop D, 184 Nolte Drive, Kittanning, PA 16201
- b. Appoint Dr. Kiran Bhat, Children's Community Pediatrics, One Nolte Drive, Suite 170, Kittanning, PA 16201

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Financial Transactions

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners acknowledged the approval of financial transactions for August 2009.

Mr. Scahill discussed a sewage meeting he attended the previous evening as an informal participant. He praised Jennifer Bellas, noting that she was also there as a resident, for the knowledge she brought to the meeting and the confidence she displayed in sharing information with the other attendees.

Ms. Kirkpatrick spoke of the census for 2010 describing the theme as "in our hands". She explained that there will not be a lengthy questionnaire as in the past; the census bureau is hopeful that the shorter form will garner increased results to assist in producing a more true and accurate census. She described that the need for accuracy is not only at the national level, but at the local level as well. She stated that the results of the census will affect everyday encounters, including the distribution of federal funding and also the number of representatives serving each state. Ms. Kirkpatrick encourages anyone who would like more information on the census to please log onto www.census.gov/2010census.

Mr. Scahill and Ms. Kirkpatrick each described their concerns over the continuing state budget impasse.

Ms. Kirkpatrick described an email she received that in a show of support for non-profit organizations, some Erie residents have begun flying their state flags upside down in the international signal of distress. She also shared a newspaper story detailing the author's view of irony that Pennsylvania is preparing to host the G-20 Summit where global fiscal matters will be addressed, when the state stands without a budget.

Mr. Scahill described the concept of withholding from the state the collected fees, penalties and fines that the County collects on behalf of the State and instructing the state to deduct these amounts from the total amount owed to the counties. He described the lack of budget as a disgrace, and suggested that we collectively demand a constitutional convention, noting that the last one was in 1968.

Mr. Kuemmerle stated he has been encouraging residents to contact their representatives to describe their needs and urge them to settle the budget.

Mr. Beranty requested that everyone read the editorial regarding the recent actions of a Ford City councilman. He also expressed concerns over Worthington Borough's actions in regards to the Sunshine Act and possible violations. He acknowledged that the Commissioners do not preside over these councils, but wanted to bring awareness to the situations.

Mr. Croyle announced that there will be a protest rally by citizens affected by the state budget impasse on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:00 PM on the Courthouse stairs.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:09 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 2:00 PM. Ms. Kirkpatrick noted the change from the regularly scheduled third Thursday of the month, is due to the Commissioners attendance at a conference of the Institute of Politics.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

James V. Scahill, Secretary

ATTEST: _____
George J. Skamai, Chief Clerk