

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
September 23, 2009

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick, Rich L. Fink and James V. Scahill, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Chad Puz – Family Life TV, 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, Nancy Dragan - Administrator, Armstrong County Health Center, Janet Talerico - Executive Director, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Dave Hogue - Warden, Armstrong County Jail, Debbie Reesman – Older Worker Employment Specialist, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, David Farkas – Pittsburgh History Landmark Foundation & Freeport, Leechburg, Apollo Group (FLAG)

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick, and carried, the minutes for the September 3, 2009 Public Meeting were approved. Due to his previous absence Mr. Fink abstained.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Tourist Bureau Lease

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Tourist Bureau lease agreement between Armstrong County and F & M Bank. The lease covers a three year period at \$548.37 per month, and includes a three percent raise each year.

Nurse Aide Agreement with Lenape AVTS

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Dragan and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Nurse Aide agreement at Armstrong County Health Center between Armstrong County and Lenape Area Vocational Technical School. Ms. Dragan stated that this program first started in 2003, and has been beneficial to both the students and the Health Center. She noted that the program is offered at no cost to the county.

Practical Nurse Agreement with Lenape AVTS

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Dragan and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Practical Nurse agreement at Armstrong County Health Center between Armstrong County and Lenape Area Vocational Technical School. Ms. Dragan stated that the Health Center has worked with this program since 1995. She detailed the experience the students gain, and the how the county benefits. It is at no cost to the county.

Model Project Cooperation Agreement and Project Management Plan regarding Kiskiminetas Township Jackson Drainage Sanitary Sewer Project

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson and the review of the county solicitor and Mr. Geary the Kiskiminetas Township Solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Model Project Cooperation Agreement and Project Management Plan regarding Kiskiminetas Township

Jackson Drainage Sanitary Sewer Project. Ms. Johnson stated that the project will be funded through a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Kiskiminetas Township CBDG funds.

Change Order #1 Cadogan Township Water Storage Tank Telemetry System Project

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson and Kittanning Suburban Joint Water Authority's Board of Directors, and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Change Order #1 Cadogan Township Water Storage Tank Telemetry System Project between Armstrong County and E.L.L., Inc. Ms. Johnson described the Change Order #1 as necessary for Kittanning Suburban Joint Water Authority to replace the presently leased telephone lines to radio-based communications for the sites relevant to the current project. The switch will increase Kittanning Suburban Joint Water Authority's share of the project's cost from \$17,850 to \$47,800, therefore increasing the project's cost to \$95,800.

Authorization by Contract with Senate Engineering Company for the Jackson Drainage Sanitary Sewer Project

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson and Kiskiminetas Township Board of Supervisors, and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the authorization by contract with Senate Engineering Company for the Jackson Drainage Sanitary Sewer Project. Ms. Johnson stated that two engineering firms submitted proposals. The Kiskiminetas Township Board of Supervisors selected Senate Engineering Company at its September 9, 2009 meeting and requested the Board of Commissioners to approve the authorization.

Area Agency on Aging Contracts

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Talerico and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Area Agency on Aging meal delivery agreement with Clarion County for certain areas of Armstrong County. Ms. Talerico described that there are eight or nine participants that are close to Clarion County and that it proves to be more cost effective to partner.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Talerico and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Area Agency on Aging psychological evaluation agreement with Dr. Judy Rein. Ms. Talerico explained the contract would cover cases on an as needed basis when protective services are required.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Talerico and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Area Agency on Aging office lease agreement for the Tri-County Workforce Investment Board with Careerlink. Ms. Talerico stated that this office space contains the Older Worker Employment Project. The Board of Commissioners commended Ms. Debbie Reesman for her management of the office.

Canon Equipment Maintenance Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Hogue and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Armstrong County Jail Maintenance Agreement between Armstrong County and Canon Equipment. Mr. Hogue explained that the copiers were acquired in 2003 and that this agreement will maintain the machine's viability.

AED Inspection Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Hogue and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Armstrong County Jail AED Inspection Agreement between Armstrong County and Physio-Control. Mr. Hogue stated this contract will provide maintenance to the two AED units that are in the jail, including replacement of batteries.

ORDINANCES

Adopt Ordinance No. 2009-6 Authorizing Commercial and Industrial Tax Abatements in Apollo Borough

Mr. Palilla explained that Apollo Borough adopted a LERTA ordinance on July 9, 2009 for their ordinance exists for 20 years, designates the entire borough as the eligible area and creates a 10 year abatement schedule.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Palilla, the County Commissioners approved the adoption of Ordinance No. 2009-6 authorizing Commercial and Industrial Tax Abatements in Apollo Borough

Adopt Ordinance No. 2009-7 Authorizing Commercial and Industrial Tax Abatements in Freeport Borough

Mr. Palilla stated that Freeport Borough adopted their LERTA ordinance on August 3, 2009. Their ordinance exists for the years, designates the entire borough as the eligible area and creates a 0 year abatement schedule.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Palilla, the County Commissioners approved the adoption of Ordinance No. 2009-7 authorizing Commercial and Industrial Tax Abatements in Freeport Borough.

Adopt Ordinance No. 2009-8 Authorizing Commercial and Industrial Tax Abatements in Leechburg Borough

Mr. Palilla stated that Leechburg Borough adopted their LERTA ordinance on August 3, 2009. Their ordinance exists for a five year period, designates their industrial and commercial zones as the eligible area and creates a 10 year abatement schedule.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Palilla, the County Commissioners approved the adoption of Ordinance No. 2009-8 authorizing Commercial and Industrial Tax Abatements in Leechburg Borough

Mr. Farkas expressed his gratitude to the Board of Commissioners for passing the ordinances. He stated that the abatements will help attract businesses to the area. He noted the strength that has been achieved by the formation of Freeport, Leechburg, Apollo Group (FLAG). Mr. Farkas also thanked the county for their efforts to assist and made special mention of Ms. Adrienne Commodore of the Planning and Development Department for her dedication and resources.

Ms. Kirkpatrick acknowledged Mr. Farkas' efforts and his work with Senator Ferlo to spearhead the start of FLAG.

Mr. Fink described the efforts of the volunteers who have worked diligently to achieve success for FLAG, making special mention of their impressive new office.

Mr. Scahill referenced FLAG as an example of what communities working together can accomplish. He cited the Allegheny Valley Region as a prime location and rich resource in the area that contains large potential.

Adopt Ordinance No. 2009-9 Authorizing Commercial and Industrial Tax Abatements in Ford Cliff Borough

Mr. Palilla explained that Ford Cliff Borough adopted a LERTA ordinance on September 3, 2009. Their ordinance exists for a five years, designates the entire borough as the eligible area and creates a ten year abatement schedule.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Palilla, the County Commissioners approved the adoption of Ordinance No. 2009-9 authorizing Commercial and Industrial Tax Abatements in Ford Cliff Borough

Adopt Ordinance No. 2009-10 Authorizing Residential Tax Abatements in Ford Cliff Borough

Mr. Palilla explained that Ford Cliff adopted their residential LERTA ordinance on September 3, 2009. Their ordinance exists for 20 year designates the entire borough as the eligible area and creates a ten year abatement schedule.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Palilla, the County Commissioners approved the adoption of Ordinance No. 2009-10 authorizing Residential Tax Abatements in Ford Cliff Borough.

PROCLAMATIONS

Employ the Older Worker Week Proclamation

Ms. Reesman stated that the program has almost tripled in growth over the last three years. She is working with approximately ninety six people in different forms of eligibility and job needs. Mr. Fink praised the program for the experience and work ethic the older workers bring to jobs in the county.

Mr. Fink read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the Employ the Older Worker Week Proclamation.

The Board of Commissioners, Ms. Talerico and Ms. Reesman have all seen the positive effects that the Employ the Older Worker Program has had on employees and businesses alike.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board Appointments

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the appointment of Ms. Elsie M. Hiding, 930 Fifth Avenue, Rear, Ford City, PA 16226 as Consumer Representative from Ford City Area, for the remainder of a three year term, expiring December 31, 2009.

Armstrong County Memorial Hospital Authority Board Re-appointment

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Mr. Robert Polczynski, 140 Finnan Road, New Kensington, PA 15068, to a five year term, expiring January 1, 2015.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Scahill described the beginning of LERTA and its development, referencing the Hilltop Plaza in East Franklin Township that originally benefited from the tax abatements and is now a major source of tax income to the county. He then proclaimed the NACo Drug Program as a success, offering prescription drug discounts to residents who are without prescription coverage. He described plans to expand the plan and offer more discounts in other areas of health care. Mr. Scahill noted that September 21, 2009 marked the tenth anniversary of his sudden cardiac arrest experience. He acknowledged the team of people who assisted his recovery and thanked Ms. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Fink for their support in obtaining AED equipment at every county owned facility.

Ms. Kirkpatrick reciprocated the appreciation noting Mr. Scahill’s efforts to spearhead the importance of awareness and AED availability across the nation. Mr. Scahill described their current efforts of gaining national attention; his colleagues include all ages even involving young children who have suffered sudden cardiac arrest.

Mr. Fink praised the efforts of FLAG, stating that communities who work together for a common goal are models for the state. He expressed pride that they are part of Armstrong County and thankfulness for Senator Ferlo regarding his ability to secure funding. Mr. Fink went on to discuss the state budget; he stated hope that upon its passage the County will have a chance to initiate more tax reform.

Ms. Kirkpatrick remains hopeful but cautious for the outcome of the State Budget. She detailed her recent attendance at a conference in Philadelphia where she has learned of efforts by other counties and states to promote economic growth. She stated Pennsylvania is well positioned to face the economic development and challenges compared to other states and regions. She stressed that the efforts of community leadership will help bring solutions by working together with the private sector and the public.

Mr. Scahill reminded everyone of the Senior Expo, sponsored by Senator White, to be held Friday, September 25th at St. Mary’s Parish Hall. It gives area residents the chance to contact any of twenty eight agencies in one location.

Ms. Reesman requested everyone to remember the family of Nathale Williams in their prayers. Mrs. Williams passed away on Tuesday evening; she had been the oldest participant in the Employ the Older Worker Program. She most recently worked in the Worthington library, until retiring this past spring; she was ninety four years old.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:50 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 1:30 PM.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

James V. Scahill, Secretary

ATTEST: _____
George J. Skamai, Chief Clerk