

**COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING**  
**November 5, 2009**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 1:30 PM in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick, Richard L. Fink and James V. Scahill, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Lindsay Sturgeon – Leader Vindicator, Chad Puz – Family Life TV, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Roy Carney – Director, Armstrong County Department of Public Works, Mike Coonley, Executive Director, Armstrong County Economic Development, Denny Demangone – Administrator, Armstrong County Children, Youth and Families, JoEllen Bowman – Executive Director, HAVIN, Nancy McLean of “His Kids”, Theresa Dukovich, Volunteer and Pittsburgh Affiliate Coordinator for Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Public Attendance by: Gayle Furer

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 October 15, 2009 Public Meeting were approved. Mr. Fink abstained due to his previous absence while attending Commissioners' Academy Training.

**CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS**

**Courthouse Retaining Wall Proposal**

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Carney, and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Courthouse Retaining Wall Reconstruction Proposal between Armstrong County and Senate Engineering. Mr. Carney explained that the project is needed to avoid a potential future safety hazard. The construction estimate is approximately \$48,000.00. The design and construction documents costs are \$3,800.00.

**Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Agreement**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Bowman and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Agreement. Ms. Bowman stated that this is an annual grant, but that there are some changes for this year, it will now be a competitive grant, with a potential to receive \$125,000.00. The money to be awarded has increased, but the number of counties to receive money has decreased. Ms. Bowman feels confident that Armstrong County's past record of successful programming will prove advantageous in their efforts to capture future grant money.

**Armstrong County's 2009-R CDBG Grant Contract with the DCED**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor and the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, the County Commissioners approved the execution of the County's 2009-R CDBG Grant Contract between Armstrong County and DCED. Ms. Johnson stated that the county has received \$180,730.00; this includes the 2009-R CDBG allocations for the County, Kiskiminetas Township, Kittanning Borough and Manor Township.

**Cooperation Agreement for the Sagamore First and Second Street Water Line Replacement**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor and the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, the County Commissioners approved the cooperation agreement for the Sagamore First and Second Street Water Line Replacement Project between Armstrong County and Cowanshannock Township Municipal Authority. Ms. Johnson explained that Armstrong County allocated \$73,895.00 of its Community Development Block Grant – R (CDBG-R), up to \$1,970.00 of its Program Income funds; and up to \$14,635.00 of its 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; Cowanshannock Township Municipal Authority will provide \$13,500.00 to fund the balance of the project.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **2009-21 CDBG Grant Application On Behalf of East Franklin Township**

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor and the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, the County Commissioners acknowledged Resolution 2009-21 CDBG Grant Application on behalf of East Franklin Township. Ms. Johnson explained that the county plans to submit an application in the amount of \$212,740.00 on behalf of East Franklin Township in order to assist low and moderate income households with the sanitary lateral connections and indoor plumbing changes necessary to connect into the sanitary sewage project. It is estimated that 201 owner occupied homes will be assisted.

### **2009-22 Local Economic Development Assistance (LEDA)**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor and the recommendation of Mr. Coonley, the County Commissioners approved Resolution 2009-22 Local Economic Development Assistance (LEDA). Mr. Coonley explained that this resolution approves applying for grant money to be utilized in marketing and studies of economic development projects. The potential amount for the grant is \$12,362.00; Mr. Coonley noted that this is approximately sixty percent less than previous years.

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

### **National Adoption Month**

Mr. Demangone explained that this is a nationwide effort. When children enter Children, Youth and Family Services the goal is to reunite them with their families, but in cases where it is not plausible then adoption is a necessary and desirable option. Mr. Demangone introduced Ms. McLean an adoption advocate, representative of "His Kids", and adoptive mother of seventeen children. Ms. McLean stated that the goal is to get every county across the nation to acknowledge National Adoption Month. The Board of Commissioners have vowed to assist in increasing awareness by presenting the information to the National Association of Counties (NACo). Mr. Scahill, a national board member, will be attending a conference in March; he would like to bring it forward as a resolution. Mr. Fink shared a story about his neighbor's family, and their second child that they have recently adopted.

Mr. Fink read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners proclaimed November as National Adoption Month.

### **Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation**

Ms. Dukovich stated that Pancreatic Cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer related deaths. It receives the least amount of funding and has had the least advancement in treatment. There are few advance warning signs, and once diagnosed patient's treatment options are limited. Ms. Dukovich shared her experience of losing her mother to Pancreatic Cancer. Ms. Kirkpatrick described her cousin's struggle due in part to the fact that the Veteran's Agency does not recognize pancreatic cancer as a result of Agent Orange exposure. Ms. Dukovich suggested anyone interested in learning more, to log on to [pancan.org](http://pancan.org) the official website, to learn more information, helpful diet and care tips and updates on the efforts to raise awareness.

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners proclaimed November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

### **Industrial Development Authority Appointments**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Mr. Richard Krauland, 201 Market Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 and Dr. Gerald Shuster, 392 North McKean Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 to the Industrial Development Authority for five year terms that will expire December 31, 2014.

**OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Financial Transactions**

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

Ms. Kirkpatrick described her recent trip to Washington DC when she traveled with a contingency from Armstrong and Indiana Counties to meet with our Representatives and Senators regarding our regional broadband grant alliance application. The group learned that our application was the top application in our region that it meets eligibility and that it currently is in the Due Diligence Phase. Congresswoman Dahlkemper has been extremely active and supportive of our alliance's efforts. Ms. Kirkpatrick praised the efforts and the work both counties' employees have performed on the application.

Mr. Fink concurred with Ms. Kirkpatrick's comments. He praised the contingent for traveling directly to Washington DC and addressing the status of our application. He ended his comments by saying "we can accept rejection if it is warranted", but in this case it did not appear to be so.

Mr. Scahill affirmed that as a small county we are often rejected, but we are not to be overlooked. He then reported the positive news in regards to his testimony at the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) hearing that morning. He stated hope for our application due to a backdoor mandate of radio frequencies. Mr. Scahill also reported that he is thankful to see the beginning improvements that will result from the East Franklin Project. He stated that the areas of Cowansville, Adrian and the surrounding homes have needed these sewage improvements for a long time. The money will be coming from ARRA and Pennvest's involvement.

Ms. Gayle Furer requested clarification of the purpose and plan for broadband. The Board of Commissioners explained that the updates are necessary to correct the lack of coverage in buildings, increase coverage that had previously been blocked by the rough terrain and provide coverage to the municipalities and county entities for free as a measure of long-term cost effectiveness.

**ADJOURN**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:32 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 1:30 PM. The draft of the 2010 budget will be available for viewing at the next meeting.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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James V. Scahill, Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
George J. Skamai, Chief Clerk