

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
November 17, 2009

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, November 17, 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, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Chad Puz – Family Life TV, Nathan Lasher – Kittanning Paper, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Don Pepler – Financial and Special Projects Manager, Amanda Hiles – First Deputy, Armstrong County Controller's Office, Janet Talerico – Executive Director, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Randy Brozenick - Director, Armstrong County Public Safety, Tammy Calderone – County Fiscal Officer III, Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill, and carried unanimously, the minutes for the November 5, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

FY 2007 and 2008 CDBG Funds Cooperation Agreement with Cowanshannock Township for the Yatesboro Fourth Street Waterline Replacement Project

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, and the review of the Cowanshannock Township Municipal Authority and the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the FY 2007 and 2008 CDBG Funds Cooperation Agreement between Armstrong County and Cowanshannock Township for the Yatesboro Fourth Street Waterline Replacement Project.

Congregate and Home Delivered Meal Services Contract Amendment with Nutrition Inc.

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 Congregate and Home Delivered Meal Services Contract Amendment between Armstrong County and Nutrition Inc. Ms. Talerico stated that the amendment provides an additional package selection for meal purchases.

Transportation Services Agreement with Mid-County Transit Authority DBA Town and Country Transit

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. Talerico, the County Commissioners acknowledged the transportation services agreement between Armstrong County and the Mid-County Transit Authority DBA Town and Country. Ms. Talerico explained that this amendment provides standardized rates for shopping in and out of the county when transportation is sponsored by the senior centers.

Agreement Modification of Senior Community Services Employment Program (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) with Senior Service America, Inc

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 approved the agreement modification of Senior Community Services Employment Program (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA), between Armstrong County and Senior Service America, Inc. Ms. Talerico described how this amendment provides a chance for senior workers to receive computer training from peer counselors and expand their job skills. The Board of Commissioners and Ms. Talerico acknowledged that this is a wonderful benefit being provided to the senior workers by ARRA money.

Project Management Change Order with L. Robert Kimball and Associates

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Brozenick and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the project management change order between Armstrong County and L. Robert Kimball and Associates. Mr. Brozenick explained that at the completion of the contract there was a surplus of \$22,500.00 from the Wireless Fund Act. He stated that the change order is necessary to designate use of the excess money for further improvements to the wireless project with Kimball.

Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR Long Term Structured Residence Contract with Passavant Memorial Homes

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Calderone and the signature of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the residence contract between Armstrong County and Passavant Memorial Homes. Ms. Calderone explained that this agreement will insure the availability of specific mental health and mental retardation services. The Indiana County Commissioners are scheduled to sign this agreement December 4, 2009.

Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR Early Intervention Contract with Developmental Therapy Associates

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Calderone and the signature of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Early Intervention Service Contract between Armstrong County and Developmental Therapy Associates. Ms. Calderone stated that this contract obtains an additional provider choice for their clients. The Indiana County Commissioners are scheduled to sign this agreement December 4, 2009.

Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR Early Intervention Services through the Infants, Toddlers and Families Medicaid Waiver Contract with Developmental Therapy Associates

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Calderone and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the early intervention services through the Infants, Toddlers and Families Medicaid Waiver Contract between Armstrong County and Developmental Therapy Associates. Ms. Calderone explained that this is the same contract as the previous, but waives the dollars collected. The Indiana County Commissioners are scheduled to sign this agreement December 4, 2009.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Armstrong – Indiana Mental Health / Mental Retardation Advisory Board Re-Appointments

Ms. Calderone stated that Ms. Brocious has been involved with their board for over twelve years, and has recently served as chairman and previously as secretary. Mr. Fink described Ms. Brocious as a true asset to the advisory board, he is glad to see she will continue to serve.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Ms. Diana Brocious, 431 Dever Hollow Road, Templeton, PA 16259, to a three year term that will expire December 31, 2012.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF 2010 ARMSTRONG COUNTY BUDGET

Mr. Pepler stated that there will not be an increase in county taxes. The balances for each department are similar to last year, and any shortfalls created by the economy have been balanced out by an increase in available assessed property, and a one time constant maturity swap that earned the county approximately \$373,000.00.

The Board of Commissioners agreed that the success of a balanced budget is due to the efforts of everyone. They praised Mr. Pepler for his efforts and credited the elected officials, department heads and all county employees for their financial responsibility. They announced that the official adoption of the budget will be at the December 17, 2009 Public Meeting, and reminded everyone that this is a draft and adjustments may be necessary.

Mr. Fryer inquired as to how the State Budget affects the County Budget. Mr. Pepler replied that it may have impacted outside agencies and their services, but had no impact on the general fund.

The Board of Commissioners noted that at this time, they do not anticipate the state's reimbursement of the state mandated salary increases to the District Attorney; but stated any payment by the state towards the amount owed would be welcomed.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Scahill expanded on the District Attorney salaries that were mentioned during the budget discussion. He began by stating that it is in no way a reflection of our county's District Attorney, that this is a decision that was made on the state level and had begun to take form in 2001. Due to the overload in cases it was decided that counties should have a full time District Attorney, and that the state would reimburse each county for sixty five percent of their salary. The funds have not yet been available for distribution and each county is owed money by the state. Mr. Scahill estimates that it may require six to seven years for the payments to break even.

Mr. Fink described the efforts of agencies to maintain services and remain viable during the recent state budget crisis. He extended special thanks to MH / MR for identifying alternative funding for various services and programs. Mr. Fink praised everyone at MH / MR and all agencies, department heads and elected officials for their diligence through the extensive budget process.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this Friday, the 20th of November will be "Light Up Night" in Downtown Kittanning. She invited everyone to visit the courthouse and view the trees, and encouraged them to enjoy the decorations that were crafted by members of the area Senior Centers. Ms. Kirkpatrick expressed her thanks to Ms. Talerico and all the participants for the beautiful decorations adorning the trees. Ms. Kirkpatrick closed her remarks by recognizing the twenty fifth anniversary of the StrongLand Chamber of Commerce that is taking place this week. She stated that the StrongLand Chamber is comprised of the Southern portion of Armstrong County and the Northern portion of Westmoreland County. Ms. Kirkpatrick credits the chamber's success to their grassroots efforts and constant activities. She wishes them success as they grow into the next twenty five years.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:10 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 1:30 PM.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

James V. Scahill, Secretary

ATTEST: _____
George J. Skamai, Chief Clerk