

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
January 21, 2010

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, January 21, 2010, 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, Nate Lasher – Kittanning Paper, Myra Miller –Armstrong County Controller, Sally Conklin – Planning Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning and Development, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Maryanne Koleny – Director, Armstrong County Human Resources, Public Attendance by: Eric Martin, Charles Olinger

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 January 7, 2010 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Awarding Yatesboro and Sagamore Waterline Project Contracts

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously the County Commissioners acknowledged the awarding of the Yatesboro and Sagamore Waterline Replacement Project Contract to Tim Fouse Excavating of Kittanning. Ms. Johnson stated that the project amount is \$203,812 and that it will be partially funded through 2008 and 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Jackson Drainage Area Phase I Sanitary Sewer Project

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Jackson Drainage Area Phase I Sanitary Sewer Project award of contract to RA Monzo Construction of Latrobe. Ms. Johnson stated that the project amount is \$343,000 and that it will be partially funded through 2005 to 2009 CDBG funds and some stimulus money.

Donation of Service and Space Agreement of the 2010 Census

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Donation of Service and Space Agreement of the 2010 Census. Ms. Conklin explained that the Census 2010 committee will offer office hours at the CareerLink Building to assist citizens who encounter issues while completing census forms. The census information will be gathered from March 23, 2010 to April 15, 2010. Ms. Conklin reminded everyone that the Census 2010 Committee is in need of part time temporary workers to assist in gathering census statistics, the jobs pay from \$11 to \$15 per hour. Anyone wishing to learn more is asked to visit the website at www.census.gov.

Highmark Service Agreement

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. Koleny, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Highmark Service Agreement. Ms. Koleny described this as the master service agreement for 2010. She added that it includes a health reimbursement account.

Employment Agreement with Jeffrey S. Jessell

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Employment Agreement with Jeffrey S. Jessell for Elections. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that this is a one year contract for a sum of \$30,000.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Tri-County Workforce Investment Board

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Joseph Stratico, Western Regional Director, Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership, PA Department of Labor & Industry, 2 Robinson Plaza, Suite 410, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, as the Labor and Industry Representative for the remainder of a three year term to expire September 30, 2010.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conflict of Interest – Eric J. Martin & EJM Construction – CDBG Program

Ms. Johnson announced that Eric J. Martin of EJM Construction has accepted a position as a Pine Township Supervisor. She further noted that, while Mr. Martin's construction company is currently in the process of completing several projects for the township involving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the County of Armstrong wishes to clarify that Mr. Martin was not a township supervisor at the time that the contracts were awarded. This public announcement is a first step in a state-mandated waiver process. A waiver may be requested after this formal action and any questions or comments must be received by the State before January 27, 2010.

Mr. Martin expressed an inability to understand the concern over a potential conflict of interest, given the timing of the two events. The Board of Commissioners explained that according to the county solicitor a conflict of interest has been identified for which this action was necessary. Ms. Johnson clarified that the conflict of interest which was identified only involves competitive CDBG contracts in Pine Township.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Fink encouraged anyone that may be interested to consider the positions with the Census Committee. He also requested that the members of the press assist in publicizing the details of the census employment opportunity.

Mr. Scahill stressed the importance of citizen participation in Census 2010, adding that state and federal budgets and funding as well as representation for the House of Representatives will be based on the census results. He identified a charred copy of the 1847 assessment records as one of the oldest and most sought after records on file. Speaking to Mr. Martin's concerns, Mr. Scahill shared past personal experience in a conflict of interest matter, citing work that he completed in the month prior to being sworn in as a County Commissioner. He then offered Mr. Martin the assurance that it is in his best interest that the Board of Commissioners file a waiver on his behalf.

Ms. Kirkpatrick expressed her deep concern for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti, and those who have fallen victim to other tragedies worldwide. She announced the positive news concerning the accomplishments of the county's local 4-H students who earned a blue ribbon at the recently held state farm show. She is proud of the work ethic and dedication that these young county residents have exhibited. Ms. Kirkpatrick then discussed the County Commissioner Association of Pennsylvania's (CCAP) recently released County Government Priorities List. As she briefly described several of the items listed, she expressed concerns that these important initiatives have gone largely unpublicized. She then requested that the press and citizens assist in promoting awareness of pending issues, some of which involve unfunded state mandates that will affect our local budget.

Mr. Olinger presented questions to the board regarding County Recreation Grants. The board affirmed that the grants are county funded, then provided a summary of the application and distribution process. Mr. Olinger then accepted the board's invitation to meet individually with him to address any additional concerns that he might have.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:12 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 1:30 PM.