

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
February 4, 2010

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 04, 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, Dave Croyle – Kittanning Paper, Myra Miller –Armstrong County Controller, Maryanne Koleny – Director, Armstrong County Human Resources, Nancy Dragan – Administrator, Armstrong County Health Center, Gary Montebell – Director, Armstrong County Belmont Complex, Lloyd Riggle – Boy Scouts of America

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 21, 2010 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Walker Bros. Circus

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously based on the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the contract between Armstrong County and the Walker Bros. Circus. Mr. Montebell stated that Walker Bros. Circus has been leasing the Belmont bi-annually; he noted that this will be their third appearance. They have scheduled two shows for May 3, 2010.

ACMH Health Center Transfer Agreement with the Armstrong County Health Center

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Armstrong County Health Center Transfer Agreement between Armstrong County and Armstrong Center for Medicine and Health Hospital. Ms. Dragan explained that this is a renewal of a transfer agreement between the Health Center and Armstrong Memorial Hospital.

Tentative Registered Nurse Agreement for the Armstrong County Health Center

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. Koleny, the County Commissioners acknowledged a tentative agreement for the Registered Nurses (RN) at the Armstrong County Health Center. Ms. Koleny stated that this is a three year agreement thru December 31, 2012 that affects eight employees. Ms. Dragan commented that the agreement was reached within two meetings.

SEIU (ACHC) Tentative Agreement for Armstrong County Health Center Employees

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 SEIU (ACHC) Tentative Agreement for Armstrong County Health Center Employees. Ms. Koleny stated that this is a three year agreement that will end December 31, 2012. Ms. Dragan estimates that this contract will affect between 135 to 140 employees at the Health Center. The Board of Commissioners conveyed comments they have received regarding the expressions of gratitude that are extended to them by residents of the Health Center, their family and friends. They also commended Ms. Dragan and her staff for their fiscal responsibility.

Assistant Public Defender Contracts

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 Assistant Public Defender Contracts between Armstrong County and Attorney Preston T. Younkens, Attorney James H. Wray, Attorney Debra L. Yost, Attorney Charles A. Pascal and Attorney Paula Caruso LaStrapes. The contracts include a salary increase that became effective on January 1, 2010. Each of the attorneys has signed their respective contract. Mr. Scahill noted that this is the only legal department that the county is lawfully required to financially support.

Assistant District Attorney Contracts

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Assistant District Attorney Contracts between Armstrong County and Attorney George R. Kepple, Attorney Chase G. McClister, Attorney Cindy L. Calarie and Attorney Jason R. Lewis. Ms. Koleny stated that these contracts remain the same with the exception of the salary adjustment.

PROCLAMATIONS

American Heart Association Healthy Heart Month

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that all county employees are asked to wear red on Friday in celebration of the American Heart Association's Go Red Campaign.

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners adopted the American Heart Association Healthy Heart Month Proclamation. The Board of Commissioners and Ms. Koleny described the efforts of the County Employees participating in the Wellness Works Program and the Biggest Loser Competition between county offices and statewide with other counties through the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary Celebration Proclamation

Mr. Lloyd Riggle described the history of the Boy Scouts of America, and his 45 years of experience as a scout master.

Mr. Scahill read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners adopted the Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary Celebration Proclamation.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Financial Transactions

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Financial Transactions for January 2010.

Mr. Scahill described the red tie he was wearing as a reminder and symbol of support for the American Heart Association's Red Dress Campaign. He praised Mr. Riggle for his years of dedication to the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Scahill stated that he and Mr. Riggle share a common experience, they have both had near death experiences that have deepened their faith in God and His plan.

Mr. Fink reiterated his appreciation for the effort that everyone put forth in settling the Health Center Contracts. He specifically thanked Ms. Koleny for her efforts in achieving a fair and timely settlement.

Ms. Kirkpatrick shared topics that were reviewed at an Institute of Politics meeting she had attended that morning including the pending threat of additional reductions in state funding. She stated the increased importance that budgets must be vigilantly monitored and the practice of cost saving measures. In her closing comments she asked that everyone please keep Congressman Murtha in their thoughts and prayers for a full and speedy recovery. The Board of Commissioners all expressed sentiments of concern and well wishes to a man they describe as a dear friend to Armstrong County.

Mr. Fryer requested an explanation regarding the allocation for the health center. The Board of Commissioners responded that due to self sufficiency and financial stability, the health center is not in need of an allocation as in previous years. Mr. Fryer then asked for details of the RN and Employee contracts. The Board responded that the contract includes the three percent wage increase, and that the RN's have increased their contribution to health care to ten percent, which is the standard rate for all county employees.

Mr. Croyle inquired about population statistics at the health center. Ms. Dragan explained that while there are some full time residents, the majority of the residents at the health center are there for physical rehabilitation or adult day care. She stated that the facility has been updated and that the staff works very hard to keep the programs inviting and upbeat.

Mr. Croyle then asked for comment on the importance of the Census and a complete count. The Board of Commissioners responded that they are asking for assistance from the media to promote awareness and to encourage participation. They explained that the information gathered will be used to make adjustments in state funding and the representation in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Weiss spoke about a report provided to the Board of Commissioners regarding inappropriate material that was discovered on the hard drives of the laptop and desktop county-owned computers issued to Robert Bower, the Armstrong County Coroner. He clarified that Mr. Bower is an elected official and not under the administration of the Board of Commissioners.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:27 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Monday, February 22, 2010 at 1:30 PM.