

**COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
March 18, 2010**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 18, 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, Nathan Lasher – Kittanning Paper, Myra Miller –Armstrong County Controller, Jim Kuemmerle – Administrator, Armstrong – Indiana Mental Health / Mental Retardation, Roy Carney – Director, Public Works, Sonie Mervis – Armstrong County Controller, Sally Conklin – Recycling Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Kathy Heilman – Community Development Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Jennifer Bellas – Community Development Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Honored Retirees: Karen Sweitzer and Kathy Tardivo, Citizen Honoree Attendance: Twila Williams, Tarah Stewart, Brandon Harriger, Honoree Guests Attendance: Judy Harriger, Denny Harriger, Al Harriger, Sara Harriger, Glee Duncan, Philip Duncan, Eleanor Bishop, Ron Williams, Terry Stewart, Tracy Stewart, Public Attendance by: Gayle Furer

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 March 4, 2010 Public Meeting were approved.

BID OPENING

Opening of Mowing Bids

The following bids were opened:

Company	City	Total	Canfield Holmes	422 Water Tower	Elderton Heights	Back Acreage
Ron Denny	Worthington	\$3,515	\$1,795	\$570	\$750	\$400
W. Truitt	Distant	\$13,240	\$6,360	\$3,480	\$1,920	\$1,480
Crawford's	Kittanning		\$1700	\$550	\$450	No Bid

Mr. Carney stated that the mowing season would be from April 20, 2010 to September 30, 2010. The County is only approving bids on two of the properties, Canfield Holmes and 422 Water Tower, the bids collected for the Back Acreage and Elderton Heights properties will be forwarded on to the Pennsylvania Housing Authority for review and approval.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and approved unanimously, the County Commissioners tabled their decision on the awarding of the mowing bids for further review.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Armstrong – Indiana County MH / MR Lease Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the lease agreement between Armstrong County and Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR. Mr. Kuemmerle stated that the lease reflects the expanded space that they now occupy. The new lease is in effect at \$2,428.00 per month until 2014.

Applewold Borough Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project Phase II

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor and the approval of West Hills Water Authority, the County Commissioners approved the cooperation agreement for the Applewold Borough Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project Phase II between Armstrong County and West Hills Area Water Pollution Control Authority. Ms. Johnson stated that a portion of the County's 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds (\$50,000) along with funds provided by the West Hills Area Water Pollution Control Authority (\$8,000) for the Applewold Borough Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project Phase II with a total project cost of \$58,000.

Armstrong Recycling Center Grant

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 Grant Contract between Armstrong County and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the Armstrong Recycling Center. Ms. Conklin stated that the grant is in the amount of \$117,260.00 and will be used for the purchase of collection and processing equipment for the Armstrong Recycling Center.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

MH / MR EI Program Advisory Board Appointment

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and approved unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Kuemmerle, the County Commissioners appointed Ms. Sheree Shafer, Children's Community Pediatrics, 100 Medical Arts Building, Kittanning, PA 16201 as the Hospital Representative to the MH / MR / EI Program Advisory Board for a term to expire December 31, 2012. Mr. Kuemmerle stated that Ms. Shafer has been assisting MH / MR on several recent initiatives. Mr. Scahill affirmed that the board is gaining an excellent representative.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2010-4 Authorizing Issuance of Individual Procurement Cards

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and approved unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor and the recommendation of Mr. Pepler, the County Commissioners adopted Resolution 2010-4 Authorizing Issuance of Individual Procurement Cards. Mr. Pepler explained that select employees will be issued Procurement Cards for purchases from select vendors with set spending limits. He stated that the cards will be issued through Pennsylvania Local Government Insurance Trust.

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation 2010-5 Chamber of Commerce 2010 Volunteer of the Year Twila Williams

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2010-5 Chamber of Commerce 2010 Volunteer of the Year Twila Williams.

Ms. Kirkpatrick described the benefits that volunteers provide to the hospital, churches and various area programs. The Board of Commissioners praised the Chamber of Commerce for their Volunteer of the Year recognition program. They stated their regrets of missing the luncheon that was held February 24, 2010; while they were in Washington DC.

Ms. Williams introduced her husband Ron, and described their duties as hospital volunteers. Ms. Williams is also very active in her church and the VNA. She detailed some of the fundraising efforts she has overseen at the hospital and how she is constantly looking for new ways to benefit the hospital.

Proclamation 2010-6 Chamber of Commerce 2010 Junior Volunteer of the Year Tarah Stewart

Mr. Fink read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2010-6 Chamber of Commerce 2010 Junior Volunteer of the Year Tarah Stewart.

Ms. Stewart introduced her parents Tracy and Terry Stewart. She explained that her personal experience with Type 1 Diabetes has led her to actively volunteer and raise awareness of this disease. She especially enjoys her work with children at Camp Sunshine and in the elementary school basketball program. Ms. Stewart stated that she would like to pursue a career in psychology after graduation.

Proclamation 2010-7 Chamber of Commerce 2010 Junior Volunteer of the Year Brandon Harriger

Mr. Scahill read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2010-7 Chamber of Commerce 2010 Junior Volunteer of the Year Brandon Harriger.

Mr. Harriger introduced his father Alan; he was also accompanied by his grandparents, uncle, cousin and a family friend. He stated that his father introduced him to volunteering at the fire hall and that he has enjoyed expanding his role and capabilities as a volunteer firefighter. His classes at Lenape Vocational Technical School have given him the opportunity to work with the County's 911 Dispatch Center. Mr. Harriger credits much of his volunteerism to his involvement in the church. He aspires to continue as a firefighter.

The Board of Commissioners recognized Ms. Heilman and the Planning and Development Department for their involvement in bringing grant money to Lenape Vocational Technical School to form the Law Enforcement Information Technology (LEIT) program. Mr. Harriger will be a member of the second LEIT class to graduate from Lenape Vo-Tech.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Presentation of 2009 Retiree Plaques

The following employees retired from Armstrong County in 2009:

Darlene L. Beers	Health Center	15 years	1993 to 2009
Kathy Clever	Health Center	26 years	1983 to 2009
James E. Cravenor, Jr	Public Works	11 years	1998 to 2009
Joyce D. Gramsky	Children Youth Family	11 years	1997 to 2009
Sarah A. Heberling	Tourist Bureau	6 years	2002 to 2009
Karen J. Sweitzer *	Planning Department	29 years	1980 to 2009
Kathy M. Tardivo *	Health Center	29 years	1978 to 2009

*Denotes attendance at meeting

The Board of Commissioners recognized the retirees and their years of service to the county. Ms. Sweitzer stated that she loves retirement and the free time it permits to pursue other activities and interests. Ms. Tardivo also loves retirement and the opportunity to spend time with her grandchildren. Ms. Miller assisted the Commissioners in presenting plaques to the retirees.

Mr. Fink stated that Public Meetings such as today are the ones that he enjoys the most. He believes that Armstrong County has an incredible amount of volunteerism. He extended congratulations to the volunteers that were recognized today noting their contributions in making Armstrong County the special place that it is.

Mr. Scahill reported that he recently represented Pennsylvania in Washington DC during the recent National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference. He stated that he is happy with the recent rise in NACo's membership. He detailed some of the causes the organization is undertaking, including veteran's affairs. NACo will also distribute a "report card" that shows how the local economy in various counties has been affected by foreign competition. Mr. Scahill announced that Mr. Joe Giles, a fellow commissioner from Erie County, is running for second vice president of NACo, adding that he currently serves as President of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). Mr. Giles has made the plight of veterans his presidential effort. Mr. Scahill then went on to recognize the volunteerism of today's honorees, stating that it is their efforts that enables the high number and level of services throughout our county. He commended Ms. Stewart and Mr. Harriger for their efforts as junior volunteers.

Ms. Kirkpatrick praised the junior volunteers for their involvement in their communities, schools and churches. She spoke of the value of the Leo Club and the fire companies that mentor young people in volunteer service. She acknowledged some of the various services in the community that benefit from volunteers.

Ms. Kirkpatrick displayed a copy of the Armstrong County Council poster regarding the 2010 Census. She reminded everyone of the importance of a complete census count and its bearing on local communities. Ms. Conklin then added that the completed census forms are to be returned by April 1, 2010. She also directed everyone's attention to a collection of items, imprinted with the census logo, that were being offered.

ADJOURN

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