

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING**  
**March 19, 2009**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. 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, Carmen Johnson - Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Ron Baustert – Coordinator Armstrong County 911, Jim Kuemmerle – Armstrong – Indiana, MH / MR Program Administrator, Amanda Hiles – First Deputy, Armstrong County Controller's Office, Public Attendance by: Regina Liermann

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 5, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

**CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS**

**New World CAD Contract Reduction Removal of Digital Imaging**

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Baustert, the Commissioners approved the addendum to the County's New World contract. This addendum is to remove the Digital Imaging option from the software. Mr. Baustert explained that the option was determined to be unnecessary and duplicates capabilities of our current software. This deducts \$8,250.00 from the package fee and saves \$943.00 in maintenance fees.

**New World CAD Contract Reduction Removal of CML**

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Baustert, the Commissioners approved the addendum to our New World contract. Mr. Baustert stated the required interface from CML (our phone equipment provider) does not exist; therefore we can reduce our bill by removing this option. The removal of the interface option will save the county \$15,000.00.

**Change Order #1 Hyde Park Footbridge**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, the Commissioners approved the Change Order #1 for the Hyde Park Footbridge. Ms. Johnson reported that due to decreased inspection time the cost was decreased from \$48,903.36 to \$35,286.67. The Change Order #1 reflects the \$13,616.69 decrease. The Board of Commissioners commended the efforts of county employees who vigilantly monitor ongoing projects and find ways to save money.

**LEO Agreement with Tri-County WIB**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the opinion of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Local Elected Officials (LEO) Agreement. Ms. Kirkpatrick explained that this agreement is signed by all commissioners from each participating county including Armstrong, Butler and Indiana, agreeing that a board will be in place at the Tri – County Workforce Investment Board. The board will manage monies, complete a local workforce investment plan and work on behalf of each of the county entities. This is an updated version of an agreement that has been in place for several years. Butler and Indiana County Commissioners have already signed the agreement.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

### **MH / MR Program Advisory Board Reappointment**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Kuemmerle the Board of Commissioners approved the reappointment of Ms. Linda Jacques, 215 Locust Lane, Kittanning, PA 16201 to a three year term expiring December 31, 2011.

## **OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Fink spoke of the previous meeting's discussion on the Stimulus Package and what it means for residents of Armstrong County. It will help create jobs and help unemployed county workers. He said he is confident of the improvements it will bring and pleased with the safeguards that were implemented.

Mr. Scahill discussed how important it is for all levels of elected officials to read and investigate all bills and their amendments before voting on them. He announced with great pleasure the reopening of the former Kensington Manufacturing plant by Serious Materials Incorporated, a "green" company that manufactures windows. This victory offers a re-creation of almost 150 jobs for the county. Mr. Scahill acknowledged the efforts of Jim Rohr of PNC Bank, the note holder on the plant, for their cooperation and assistance in making the reopening a reality. Mr. Scahill then referenced his time attending the National Association of County Officials (NACo) conference last week. His main objective was to carry forward the Fair Trade Resolution on behalf of Armstrong County and the State of Pennsylvania. He sat before three committees and proudly announced that with each presentation, the Resolution passed. The Fair Trade Resolution is now a policy of NACo. Mr. Scahill expressed his hopes that everyone has learned from the NAFTA partnerships of years past, and the negative imbalance created through those partnerships. He stated he would like to see a report card of NAFTA Members' employment and environmental policies which would then indicate where adjustments in the partnerships need to be made.

The Board of Commissioners extended their thanks and appreciation to Mr. Scahill for his diligence and victory in bringing the Fair Trade Resolution to National Policy status. They would like to see each county across the nation adopt the resolution at the county level as a sign of solidarity and support. They are proud that Armstrong County is the lone representative on this resolution and do extend appreciation to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) for their support.

Ms. Kirkpatrick described the accessible information in regarding the current American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, available at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov). The website offers detail on where money is being spent, projects that are ongoing and others in the planning stages, along with fact sheets for each project. She encouraged everyone to access the information and continue monitoring the website. Those without internet access were reminded that free access is available at the public libraries, and is not limited to library members only.

Mr. Fryer requested clarification of the actions taken at NACo. The Board of Commissioners informed him that the documentation presented requests that, when agreeing to trading goods, the overall equality and fairness in the areas of environmental standards, labor law and pay among other points is considered. They further suggest that these points should be presented as a score card of the facts. Mr. Scahill summarized by explaining it as NACo adopting a moratorium until a report card is given. The Board of Commissioners stated that if we do not start receiving answers from the federal government then NACo will rally and request a commissioned study. America can not compete if other countries do not follow the same rules and regulations to maintain a fair balance.

Ms. Liermann voiced several concerns regarding the details of the pending Armstrong County Comprehensive Recreation Park, Open Space and Greenway Plan. The Board of

Commissioners recommended that she attend the meeting scheduled for this evening to learn what the current plan involves and to have her concerns addressed.

Mr. Kuemmerle was pleased to announce that the Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR recently received two grants that will greatly benefit their case management work. He stated thru being awarded these funding initiatives, their program’s efforts have received recognition and validation.

**ADJOURN**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:15 PM until April 2, 2009 at 1:30 PM.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
James V. Scahill, Secretary

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