

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
April 2, 2009**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 2, 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, Kathleen Rashlich – Marketing and Administrative Assistant, Armstrong County Commissioners' Office, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Sally Conklin – Planning Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Myra Miller – Controller, Armstrong County, Cheerio Miller – Clerk, Armstrong County Controller's Office, Attorney Robert Cinpinski – Solicitor for Armstrong County Controller's Office, Roy Carney – Director, Armstrong County Public Works, Ron Baustert – Coordinator, Armstrong County 911, JoEllen Bowman -HAVIN, Kay Owen –HEALTHY Armstrong, Devin Lorigan – Armstrong School District, Michelle Tallman –UPMC, Jim Kacryusk – Transcare, Dr. Hal Altman – HEALTHY Armstrong, Scott Williams – Attorney, Three Rivers Law, Public Attendance by: Mary Ann Badura

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 19, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

BID OPENING

Mowing Bids for County Properties

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Carney, the Commissioners tabled the bids on mowing for further review, and will award the bid(s) at the next meeting. The following bids were received:

Company	Canfield Homes	422 Tower	Elderton Heights	Back Acreage
Quality Cuts Lawn Care, Leechburg	\$140 per week \$2800 per season	\$45 per week \$900 per season	No bid	No bid
Ron Denny Jr., Worthington	\$1720	\$570 \$28.50 per mow	No bid	No bid
B & M Lawncare, Shelocta	\$175	\$40	\$125	\$360

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Revised Constable Policy

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the proposed policy by the Controller's solicitor Mr. Cinpinski and county solicitor Mr. McClister, the Commissioners acknowledged the Revised Constable Policy. Ms. Miller explained that this is a revision of the original policy from 2006. The efforts of the revision are to make uniform standards and procedures for Constables. Mr. Cinpinski stated that the accountability of these revisions will also create financial savings to taxpayers.

Horizon Software Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the approval of the county solicitor the Commissioners approved the Maintenance agreement with Horizon Software. Ms. Miller described this as a yearly agreement that maintains retirement figures and previous year's data. The \$2,565 fee remains the same as last year.

Applewold Borough Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project Phase II

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the approval of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Cooperation Agreement between the West Hills Area Water Pollution Control Authority and the County of Armstrong for the Applewold Borough Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project Phase II. Ms. Johnson described this as a standard co-op agreement with the West Hills Area Water Pollution Control Authority. The County will allocate and utilize \$116,603 of its 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to this project.

Revision to the County of Armstrong OBO Kittanning Borough's FY 2006 CDBG Program Year

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously based on the recommendation of Kittanning Borough, the Commissioners approved the transfer of \$9,233 from the Kittanning Community Park Playground Project into the repaving of North Grant Avenue from Market Street to Reynolds Avenue.

Revision to the County of Armstrong OBO Kittanning Borough's FY 2007 CDBG Program Year

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Kittanning Borough, the Commissioners approved the transfer of \$38,406 from the Kittanning Community Park Playground Project into the repaving of North Grant Avenue from Market Street to Reynolds Avenue.

Modification to the County of Armstrong OBO Kittanning Borough's Program Income Funds

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Kittanning Borough, the Commissioners approved the transfer of \$8,098.13 from the Kittanning Borough's Program Income Funds into the repaving of North Grant Avenue from Market Street to Reynolds Avenue. The amount was originally \$4,000 this modifies the amount by adding an additional \$4,098.13 to the account.

Summary of Ordinance Ford City Residential

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the approval of the county solicitor, Ford City Borough and the Armstrong School District, the Commissioners approved the summary of ordinance Ford City Residential. Mr. Palilla explained that this is tax abatement on residential repairs. The abatement will be set at 100 percent the first year and decrease by 10 percent annually for ten years.

Summary of Ordinance Ford City Commercial - Amendment

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the approval of the county solicitor, Ford City Borough and the Armstrong School District, the Commissioners approved the ordinance summary Ford City Commercial - Amendment. Mr. Palilla explained that this amends the 2005 ordinance which limited the geographic area. The amendment now includes the entire geographic area of Ford City Borough.

Summary of Ordinance Kittanning Residential

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried with Mr. Scahill abstaining, based on the approval of the county solicitor, Kittanning Borough and the Armstrong School District, the Commissioners approved the summary of ordinance Kittanning Residential. Mr. Palilla explained that this is tax abatement on residential repairs. The abatement will be set at 100 percent the first year and decrease by 10 percent annually for ten years.

Amendment #1 DCNR Contract for Snowmobile / ATV Feasibility Study

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved amendment #1 to the DCNR Contract for snowmobile / ATV feasibility study. Ms. Conklin explained that this amendment will allow for a study to find a site that could be utilized as a snowmobile or ATV trail and / or park.

Windstream 911 Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the approval of the county solicitor and Mr. Baustert's recommendation, the Commissioners approved the agreement between Windstream and 911. Mr. Baustert explained that this is a five year renewal of a previous contract. This agreement includes a decrease of \$29.48 per month in the county's bill and includes increased access to equipment.

Independent Contractor Agreement for Voter Registration / Election

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Voter Registration / Election independent contractor agreement with Jeffrey Jessell. Mr. Jessell has worked with the county for several years, providing state mandated services for compliance and programming to the touch screen voting machine.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Tri-County WIB Appointments

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Tri-County WIB appointment of John Welch, Executive Vice President, Stimulus Technologies, 1956 State Route 66, Ford City, PA 16226, to a three year term ending 9/30/2011.

PROCLAMATIONS

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved adopting April 2009 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Ms. Bowman thanked the Board of Commissioners for their continued and constant support of the HAVIN program and its efforts. She also announced that HAVIN is celebrating their 30th Anniversary in Armstrong County. The Board of Commissioner commended Ms. Bowman and everyone involved with HAVIN for their work, as the only victim's shelter in Armstrong County they have provided a much needed service to the community. Ms. Bowman invited everyone to attend a public forum at the Belmont Complex on April 30th, it is a free event and Act 48 credits will be offered.

April 2009 Wellness Month, HEALTHY Armstrong

Mr. Fink read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved adopting April 2009 as Wellness Month. Ms. Owen introduced the representatives of HEALTHY Armstrong and invited Dr. Altman to Speak. Dr. Altman described this program as being a health initiative addressing the overwhelming health issue of childhood obesity. The Board of Commissioners congratulated the efforts of all involved with HEALTHY Armstrong and encouraged everyone to view the newly completed website. Ms. Owen gave the internet address at www.healthyarmstrong.com (adding that .net or .org are also registered for use). Ms. Kirkpatrick noted the significance of the accomplishments this collaborative has pioneered, allowing Armstrong County to make a positive mark on the important initiative of health improvement. Mr. Fink voiced concern for the future of the nation's youth, and has vowed to encourage his granddaughters to increase their awareness of program availability and participation. Mr. Scahill compared the anticipation of the program to that of John F Kennedy's fitness program. Ms. Tallman expressed the excitement that UPMC feels in regards to being an integral part of the construction and development of the initiative.

RESOLUTIONS

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the approval of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the 2009 Resolution for Armstrong County's DCNR Grant Application. Ms. Conklin described this as phase II of the feasibility study for the ATV trail and/or park master site plan.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Financial Transactions March 2009

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners acknowledged the Financial Transactions for March 2009.

Mr. Scahill described the recently changed etiquette to the American Flag; Veterans in or out of uniform and without cover are encouraged to salute the flag while pledging or in passing. Mr. Scahill explained the process of mining Marcellus Shale and the taxes that the Assessment of Taxation will be imposing on the viable gas and oil industry. He closed his comments by expressing concern for the lack of funding for low band radio.

Mr. Fink discussed the recent CCAP / Legislative conference that the Board of Commissioners recently attended. He described budget cuts that will affect Human Services, especially in regards to the veterans returning from deployment. Some of the challenges veterans face are lives filled with unemployment, homelessness and the large number who have been incarcerated. He compared this as one example of why it is so imperative to all departments to work together to capture every possible avenue for grants and program advancement.

Ms. Kirkpatrick was pleased to announce that House Bill 718 has passed. The critical funding associated with this bill helps 911 centers to track and locate calls. Because of the extraordinary efforts of Representative Oberlander in demonstrating the importance of this bill to the assembly, Ms Kirkpatrick is hopeful that the impending sunset clause can be avoided. Ms. Kirkpatrick recognized Mr. Scahill for being re-appointed to NACo and thanked him for his previous and continued commitment.

Mr. Scott Williams spoke on behalf of the constables that he represents, in regards to the Constable Fees Procedures Manual. He described specific points that are of concern to them, including payment for services.

Mr. Scahill wished to clarify to the public that the revised procedures manual is to stabilize court cost. He detailed the past three year's increases in constable fees that have risen from \$50,000 to \$90,000 to \$170,000 per year. He described the responsibility that the Board of Commissioners has to the taxpayers and wanted to clarify the county's stance on Mr. Williams's statements.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:38 PM until Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 1:30 PM.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

James V. Scahill, Secretary

ATTEST: _____
George J. Skamai, Chief Clerk