

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
May 6, 2010

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, May 6, 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, Nathan Lasher – Kittanning Paper, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Roy Carney – Director, Armstrong County Public Works, Mike Coonley, Executive Director, Armstrong County Economic Development, Dan Dodd, Weatherization Director, Armstrong County Community Action, Cheryl Morris, Director, Armstrong County Domestic Relations, Ron Baustert, Coordinator, Armstrong County 911, Chris Brewer, Partner, Disnmore Shohl, LLP, Jay Wenger, Susquehanna Group, Don Pepler – Manager, Armstrong County Finance and Special Projects, Amanda Hiles – First Deputy, Armstrong County Controller's Office, Alan Walzak, Strongland Chamber of Commerce, Mindy Knappenberger – Armstrong County Community Foundation .

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 April 15, 2010 Public Meeting were approved.

BID AWARD

Retaining Wall / Front Stair Bid Award

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and approved unanimously, based on the recommendation of Senate Engineering, the County Commissioners awarded the bid to Francis J. Palo. Mr. Carney read a letter of recommendation from Senate Engineering that stated Francis J. Palo was the lowest bid and did meet the criteria of qualifications and experience. The Commissioners and Mr. Carney detailed the temporary detour and handicapped entrances that will be in effect during the construction.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Trade Adjustment Assistance Grant Application

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Trade Adjustment Assistance Grant Application. Mr. Coonley stated that the County qualified to apply for a 1.1 million dollar grant. He explained that this is based on the number of jobs lost from trade practices.

Food Purchase Grant for Community Action

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 Mr. Dodd, the County Commissioners approved the Food Purchase Grant between Armstrong County and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Department of Agriculture. Mr. Dodd explained that the amounts have not been listed since this is a preliminary contract that will be completed based on the state budget.

Cooperative Agreement Under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act

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. Morris, the County Commissioners approved the Cooperative Agreement Under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act between Armstrong County and the Department of Public Welfare. Ms. Morris stated that this is a five year contract that is a continuation of previous contracts. She explained that this contract will provide financial and medical support for children involved in the Domestic Relations cases.

Security Monitoring Upgrade Agreement for the Belmont Complex

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 security monitoring upgrade agreement for the Belmont Complex between Armstrong County and MVS Security. Ms. Kirkpatrick explained that this is an upgrade of equipment on existing security.

Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (C.L.E.A.N.) System

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 Mr. Baustert, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (C.L.E.A.N.) System between Armstrong County Probation and 911. Mr. Baustert explained that this is in compliance of a recent audit of the 911 Department. The C.L.E.A.N. system will permit 911 to obtain back up of files from Probation in case of system failure.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2010-6 Authorization of Representation

On a motion by Mr. Scahill seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged resolution 2010-6 authorizing Randall J. Brozenick, Director, Department of Public Safety to execute for and on behalf of Armstrong County between Armstrong County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Brozenick's representation of the county will be for any meetings and / or paper work that may result in the county's reimbursement for snow removal from the winter's heavy snowfalls.

Resolution 2010-7 Termination of Swapation and Authorization of Fixed Receiver Swap

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 to terminate the Swapation and Authorize Fixed Receiver Swap. Mr. Pepler explained that the County's action was to take advantage of the current interest rates and refund a portion of the County's existing 2001 Bond issue. Mr. Wenger explained that the resolution will terminate the swap that was signed in 2004 whereby the County received approximately \$1,500,000.00. In addition to the savings realized in 2001, the County expects to realize approximately \$600,000.00 of savings as part of this refunding transaction.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2010-3 Formal Action Constituting a Debt Ordinance Under the Local Government Unit Debt Act

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 resolution 2010-7 Formal Action Constituting a Debt Ordinance Under the Local Government Unit Debt Act. Mr. Brewer Mr. Pepler stated that the resolution and ordinance are in place allowing the county to manage the current debt and to prepare for the future debt of the Public Safety Radio Project. The Board described these actions as allowing for a plan to be in place for when it is time to act.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Redevelopment Authority of the County of Armstrong Board Re-Appointment

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and approved unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Mr. Fred S. Bowser III, 420 Washington Street, Parker, PA 16049, to a five year term to expire May 29, 2015.

PROCLAMATION

Proclamation 2010-14 Rivers' Month Proclamation

Mr. Walzak stated that the river sojourn has increased tourism throughout the community. He said that this is the 13th year for the program and it continues to grow, attracting visitors from Maine, New York and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2010-14 Rivers Month June 2010, and to recognize the Allegheny / Kiskiminetas / Conemaugh Rivers Sojourn. Mr. Walzak invited everyone to participate in the upcoming river events.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Financial Transactions for April 2010

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and approved unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the financial transactions for April 2010.

Ms. Kirkpatrick gave a brief presentation of the Power of 32. This initiative includes thirty two local counties joined together to share the commonalties, create a regional agenda and to promote the area's assets. She invited everyone to view the website powerof32.org and to take part in the survey. There will be upcoming community conversations from June through August. These conversations will be directed through local organizations, anyone wishing to be considered as a facilitator is encouraged to become involved.

Mr. Fink discussed his comments from the previous public meeting regarding the death of the twenty nine West Virginia miners. He reported that the officials have continued the investigation into their deaths and plan to prosecute anyone responsible for safety violations in connections with this tragedy. Mr. Fink then discussed the transactions at today's meeting. He described some of the reasons that debt is incurred. He explained that the commissioners try to manage the debt to save the taxpayers as much money as possible.

Mr. Scahill described the projects that he has seen during his time as a county commissioner and detailed the debt that was incurred as a result. He stated that the Public Safety Radio project will be a great expense, but due to the federally mandated discontinuation of low band, there is no other option. Mr. Scahill ended his comments by commending the efforts of the people promoting Rivers Month.

Ms. Kirkpatrick recognized the miners' families and requested everyone to remember them in prayer. She reminded everyone that today is National Day of Prayer, and recognized the power of divine intervention. Ms. Kirkpatrick then described the grant application and funding process that the county has been working through to receive funding for the Broadband Project. She expressed concern over the state budget's impending gap and how the money is being allocated.

Mr. Fryer inquired as to the start date of the stair project. The Commissioners responded that work will begin within thirty days, depending on the weather. A predicted completion of the project is within sixty days of commencement.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:31 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 1:30 PM.