

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
August 20, 2009**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, August 20, 2009 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 Paz – Family Life TV, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Dave Hogue – Warden, Armstrong County Jail, Tammie Gaff– Second Deputy, Armstrong County Controller's Office,

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink, and carried unanimously, the minutes for the August 6, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Medical Service Agreement with Emergency Medical Associates, P.C.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Warden Hogue, the County Commissioners approved the medical service agreement with Emergency Medical Associates, P.C. The agreement was created by the county solicitor at the request of the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners. Warden Hogue stated that these doctors have provided medical care at the jail for many years.

Applewold Sewer Project Phase II Change Orders #1, #2, #3 with S & E Utility Contracting, Inc.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Applewold Sewer Project Phase II Change Order #1, #2, #3 with S & E Utility Contracting, Inc. Ms. Johnson explained that the change orders for additional work on the project total \$22,558.00 and will increase the project's total cost to \$240,201.70. She affirmed that the West Hills Water Authority will be paying the additional costs.

Mechling Shakley Veterans Center 2008 HOME Grant

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendations of Ms. Johnson, the Mechling Shakley Veterans Center, and the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the cooperation agreement with Mechling Shakley Veterans Center for a 2008 HOME Grant. Ms. Johnson explained that this Home Grant will be used toward the five modular units that are to be constructed at the Mechling Shakley Veterans Center.

Audit of FFY 2005 Brownfields for Housing Initiative Program with Wessel & Company

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, and pending the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the contract to conduct an audit of the FFY 2005 Brownfields for Housing Initiative Program between Armstrong County and Wessel & Company. Ms. Johnson stated that the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development require that an audit be performed within 120 days of the project's completion. Wessel & Company, of Johnstown, provided the lowest bid at \$2,000.00.

Design and Inspection Contract OBO Kittanning Borough FY 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 CDBG and CDBG-R Funds with Senate Engineering

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, and pending the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the design and inspection contract on behalf of Kittanning Borough FY 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 CDBG and CDBG-R funds between Armstrong County and Senate Engineering. Ms. Johnson explained that the contract will secure Senate Engineering to design and inspect the three paving projects that Kittanning Borough is currently undergoing. The contracted price is not to exceed \$19,500.00.

Construction Contract OBO Mahoning Township's FY 2005 CDBG and 2008 Competitive CDBG with Rankin & Son Excavation, Inc.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, the Commissioners tabled the construction contract on behalf of Mahoning Township's FY 2005, CDBG and 2008 Competitive CDBG between Armstrong County and Rankin & Son Excavation, Inc. Ms. Johnson indicated her recommendation was based on concern that the proposed funding may conflict with funding the township has already received for the water service project.

Modification of Armstrong County's FY 2007 CDBG Program

Ms. Johnson described the proposed modification that involves transferring \$66,000.00 from the Ford City 6th and 7th Avenue Water Main Loop Project to the Ford City Borough Water Treatment Plant in order to rehabilitate or replace the Dust Collector on the Lime Silo Project.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, and pending the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners adopted the resolution to approve modification of Armstrong County's FY 2007 CDBG Program.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, and pending the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the modification of Armstrong County's FY 2007 CDBG Program.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Scahill voiced concerns over the State Budget that has not yet been signed. He believes the state government has an accountability to the constituents that needs to be met. He noted the impact on funds and detailed a situation where PA Title IV E, a Children, Youth and Family program, has been ruled invalid to as far back as July 2008. This ruling enables the federal government to withhold funding that is due for the services.

Mr. Fink concurred with Mr. Scahill on the state budget. He expounded on the impact the impasse is having on Human Services. Mr. Fink described the failure to have a state budget as devastating. He stated he believes each county is trying their best to keep the services available, while trying to remain fiscally responsible to their constituents. On a local level, Mr. Fink invited everyone to attend the public showcase at the ARM-Tech Exhibit being held at the Belmont Complex today from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

Mr. Fink recognized Mr. Scahill for the President's Award he recently received from the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). The award is given as appreciation for the work performed for, and dedication to, CCAP and the advancement of the state. Mr. Scahill said that he was honored to have been chosen, and described himself as humbled and in a rare state of speechlessness. Ms. Kirkpatrick extended her congratulations to Mr. Scahill as well.

Ms. Kirkpatrick noted that it is easy to imagine that every commissioner and chief clerk in the state of Pennsylvania is on edge waiting for the outcome of state funding. She expressed uncertainty surrounding the state budget crisis and the considerable problems it has created for a great number of people. Ms. Kirkpatrick shared the figures for a few of the expenses that the County has helped cover for Human Services. She is concerned over what point the providers will potentially have to shut the doors and terminate services.

The Board of Commissioners asks citizens to reach out to the government and legislature, acting as a unified voice. They have suggested a 10 county regional meeting with the press in a proposed editorial board meeting. The meeting would highlight each passed and vetoed item to accurately identify what services will continue and which ones will not be funded.

Ms. Kirkpatrick restated an invitation to the ARM-Tech Showcase, and described the newly developed student forum that includes mentoring and an inner school competition that will award one student with a laptop and one school a \$500 cash award for student government usage.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:04 PM until Thursday September 3, 2009 at 1:30 PM.