

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
March 4, 2010

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 4, 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, Dave Croyle – Kittanning Paper, Myra Miller –Armstrong County Controller, Maryanne Koleny – Director, Armstrong County Human Resources, James Venturini, Director, Armstrong County IT Department, Dave Hogue – Warden, Armstrong County Jail, Jim Kuemmerle – Administrator, Armstrong – Indiana Mental Health / Mental Retardation.

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 February 22, 2010 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Area Agency on Aging Administrative Service Highmark Agreement

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 Area Agency on Aging (A.A.A.) Administrative Agreement between Armstrong County and Highmark. Ms. Koleny explained that health insurance for the employees working at A.A.A. is provided through an agreement separate than the rest of the county employees, and that this agreement covers only the Health Reimbursement Account aspect of the coverage.

Leechburg Pharmacy Business Associate Agreement

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 Business Associate Agreement between Armstrong County and Leechburg Pharmacy. Warden Hogue stated that the longstanding, annually renewable agreement with Leechburg Pharmacy is in place to maintain confidentiality in accordance with HIPPA laws.

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation 2010-4 Intellectual Disability Awareness Month

Mr. Kuemmerle shared details on the local and statewide endeavor to increase opportunities for intellectually disabled people. He stated that the primary purpose for him and the staff at Armstrong – Indiana Mental Health / Mental Retardation is to insure that best practices are applied throughout the community.

Mr. Fink read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2010-4 Intellectual Disability Awareness Month.

Mr. Fink expressed his gratitude for the efforts of everyone at Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR. He stated that, despite decreased state funding, they continue to provide the best care and practices available.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners acknowledged the financial transactions for the month of February 2010.

Mr. Scahill stated that he applauds the efforts of Mr. Kuemmerle and the people at Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR for their efforts. He related a story of his own Grandmother's experiences in the 1920's when she raised her special needs daughter, Martha, without the services that are available today. Mr. Scahill spoke of his hope for continual improvements in services and opportunities to the disabled. He also expressed his desire for society's acceptance of those who face such challenges, adding that we are all children of God.

Mr. Fink discussed a recent article in a local newspaper regarding a drug testing policy for local corrections officers. He stated that the policy of testing for drugs is not unique or limited to employees at the jail, but is, in fact, applicable for all county employees. The policy ensures safety and does not discriminate. He implored the bargaining unit to come back to the table and share their terms for this agreement. Mr. Fink explained the implications involved with the bargaining unit's preference for arbitration over mediation. The former costing the county \$2,000 to \$3,000 and latter, providing the same service, at no cost to either party. He closed by stating that though he has no authority to enforce drug testing on any other elected official, he personally would volunteer to be tested.

Ms. Kirkpatrick discussed the positive partnership that the County shares with the Progressive Workshop. She also applauded Mr. Kuemmerle and his organization on their efforts to assist the intellectually disabled. She added that it is important to recognize that those who are assisted through the services of MH / MR are citizens connected with each of our lives.

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Ms. Kirkpatrick described the tremendous effort undertaken by the County in 2005, to develop and implement an Information Technology (IT) system that operated independent of subcontractors. Mr. Venturini detailed the design of the IT backbone which includes system-critical components such as security and redundancy. Ms. Kirkpatrick then described some of the information that is contained within the system. Listed among them were county financial records, retirement accounts, property and tax records as well as various programs utilized by the police, 911, HAVIN, the county's Children, Youth and Family department. She made clear the considerable risk involved with accessing websites which contain pornography, and the devastating implications that risk poses to the entire, county IT system.

She then provided an account of the pornographic material discovered on the laptop and desktop computers issued to the Coroner's Department by the county. Ms. Kirkpatrick, on behalf of The Board, vowed to provide the tools necessary for the Coroner's Department to complete their work, while maintaining the integrity of the county's IT system. This, in the case of restoring internet

service to the desktop computer issued to the Coroner's office, will require extensive preventative measures.

Mr. Fink expressed his gratitude to Ms. Kirkpatrick for representing The Board of Commissioners in her description of the county's IT system and the measures taken to protect it. He provided his assurance that the Board's actions was motivated by a desire to protect that investment. He committed to continue in that endeavor adding that had the incident involved the office of any other elected county official; he would have acted in the identical manner.

Mr. Scahill stated that he finds it incredulous that the only request for information in the matter involving the computers issued to the Coroner's Department, was made by a private citizen. He encourages citizens to become involved and informed in their government.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:24 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 1:30 PM.