

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
April 21, 2011

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, April 21, 2011, at 1:30 PM in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioner Patricia L. Kirkpatrick, Commissioner Richard L. Fink, Commissioner James V. Scahill, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Jonathan Weaver – Kittanning Paper, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Rich Palilla – Executive Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Kevin Shepard – Deputy Warden of Administration, Armstrong County Jail, Gary Montebell – Director, Armstrong County Belmont Complex, Representatives of A.B.A.T.E. – Ralph Varrato, Robin Varrato, Lonnie Baker, Robert George.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried, due to his previous absence, Mr. Fink abstained, the minutes for the April 7, 2011 Public Meeting were approved.

AGREEMENTS / CONTRACTS

J G Contracting Tower Site Contract

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor the Commissioners approved the Tower Site Contract between Armstrong County and J G Contracting. Mr. Brozenick stated that J G Contracting was awarded the bid for tower sites in January. This contract formalizes the agreement. Mr. Brozenick confirmed that there is one tower site that is being shared as a joint project with Indiana County.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Letter of De-Obligation

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, pending the review of the county solicitor the Commissioners approved the execution of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Letter of De-Obligation of Its Water Resources Development Act Funds Awarded to Armstrong County and Kiskiminetas Township for the Jackson Drainage Area Sanitary Sewer Project. Ms. Johnson stated that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were received for use on the Jackson Drainage Area Sanitary Sewer Project. The CDBG funds defrayed \$89,000.00 from the total cost of \$290,000.00 that was to be assumed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She stated that this letter releases the Corps from their obligation to fund the total amount.

Store Value Cards Inc. a Division of Futura Card

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor and the prison board, the Commissioners approved the Prestige Debit Card Program Agreement between Armstrong County and Store Value Cards Inc., a Division of Futura Card. Mr. Shepard explained that currently when an inmate is released the jail will close their

commissary account and a check is mailed. This system will streamline the process and avoid escheat reports to the state. Mr. Shepard confirmed that the service is free to the County.

Municipal Finance Partners

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the retirement board, the Commissioners acknowledged the engagement letter between Armstrong County and Municipal Finance Partners, Inc. Ms. Miller stated that this agreement will provide a better price and improved services. She listed the old contract as costing \$24,166.00 and the new contract costing \$21,600.00. The company will assist the county with determining A.R.C. and various other retirement and pension fund issues.

RESOLUTION

Resolution 2011-9 Approving the Sale of Lot #22 in the West Hills Industrial Park to Buffalo Valley LTD.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, pending the review of the county solicitor the Commissioners approved Resolution 2011-9 to approve the sale of Lot #22 in the West Hills Industrial Park to Buffalo Valley LTD. Mr. Palilla explained that this is the second time the lot is being sold, but that the original terms of the sales agreement state that the Board of Commissioners, the Redevelopment Authority and the Supervisors of East Franklin Township must agree to the transfer.

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation 2011-13 Designating May as Motorcycle Awareness Month

Mr. George invited everyone to the Gilpin Township Rifle Club on May 1, 2011 for a motorcycle blessing and social event. He stressed that increasing safety is their primary issue.

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2011-13 Designating May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. Members of A.B.A.T.E. were in attendance and described some of the safety issues that motorcyclists face. They all expressed their enjoyment in riding and boasted the benefits of 50 miles per gallon of gas!

Proclamation 2011-14 In Support of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center

Mr. Scahill read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2011-14 In Support of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcing Belmont Recreational Grants

Mr. Montebell announced that there were twelve applicants for Recreational Grants this year. Upon review it was determined that some of the groups did not request the maximum \$5,000.00 grant; this permitted all twelve applicants to receive a portion of the requested funding.

Mr. Montebell announced the following grants:

- Apollo Borough \$5,000.00
- Dayton Borough \$1,894.50
- Ding-a-Lings Sports Club \$3,250.00
- Elderton Plumcreek Park \$5,000.00
- Fort Armstrong Horseman's Assoc \$4,000.00
- Ford City Borough Parks \$4,000.00
- Ford Cliff Borough \$3,250.00
- Freeport Borough \$3,500.00
- Kittanning Borough \$3,000.00
- Kittanning Little League \$1,548.00
- Redbank Township \$2,307.50
- Washington Township \$3,250.00

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Belmont Recreational Grants as presented. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mr. Montebell and everyone who assisted in preparing and processing this year's grants.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kirkpatrick opened the meeting to comments.

Mr. Fink described his experience of a motorcycle accident that was caused by another driver not being aware of him approaching on the motorcycle. He also shared his memories of the friends and neighbors that did not return from Vietnam and the loss it left in the community. He stated he supports the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center and hopes it will serve the country well to properly recognize these soldiers.

Mr. Scahill also shared his experience with a motorcycle he owned. He expressed his appreciation for A.B.A.T.E. and the support that they provide to Veterans through their memorial rides and most notably the Wheels of Thunder that supports the Memorial. He recognized the efforts of Joe Giles of the Military Affairs Committee Task Force, where Mr. Scahill served as Chairman. The Memorial Education Center will not only honor Veterans of the Vietnam War but of all wars. The 85 Million dollar center will not be built with taxpayer's money, but privately

funded. The goal will be to have photos and stories about each of those lost in the war. Mr. Scahill recalled one of the first combat deaths from Armstrong County was Corporal John F. Olesnanik in 1968 and one of the last combat deaths from the county was Private First Class Frank T. Brochetti in 1970.

The recorder was not working at this point and the video has not yet been posted that I may review

Ms. Kirkpatrick described the upcoming Armstrong County Hall of Fame Inductions. She is pleased to say that Spy Brochetti is one of the inductees. It is to be noted that the aforementioned Mr. Frank T. Brochetti was Spy's son. She described the Recreational Grants that will put small money into Recreational Projects and Communities equally dispersed across the county.

Mr. Fryer stated that the 2012 Hall of Fame Dinner will have a new category added that will honor servicemen who were athletes.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously; the Commissioners adjourned the Public Meeting at 2:07 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 1:30 PM.