

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
June 2, 2011

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, June 2, 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, Kathy Rashlich – Commissioners' Office, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Jonathan Weaver – Kittanning Paper, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Rich Palilla – Executive Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Janet Talerico – Executive Director, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Lori Leard - Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Bill Braun – Senate Engineering, Bruce Harkleroad – Rural Valley Construction, Inc.

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 May 19, 2011 Public Meeting were approved.

BID OPENING

2011 Armstrong County Bridge Maintenance Bids

The following bids were received:

Company	Location	Bid Bond	Total Bid
Rhino Construction	Lower Burrell	Yes	\$97,719.00
Rural Valley Construction Inc.	Rural Valley	Yes	\$96,645.00
Thornbury, Inc.	West Sunbury	Yes	\$72,021.00

Mr. Braun stated that the bridges that have been selected for maintenance were based on inspection reports. On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor the Commissioners tabled the bid results for review. Mr. Braun stated he would have the results and recommendation prepared for the Commissioners' worksession on June 7, 2011.

AGREEMENTS / CONTRACTS

2008 PA ACCESS Program to be Repaid

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners acknowledged the 2008 PA ACCESS Program to be repaid through the PA ACCESS Program. Mr. Palilla explained that this is an advance of funds from ACT 137 Funds in the amount of \$28,000.00. He stated the money will be reimbursed upon receipt from the Department of Community and Economic Development.

KidStuff Coupon Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor the Commissioners approved the coupon agreement between Armstrong County and KidStuff. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that the Belmont has participated in the program for the past six years. She explained that the book costs \$25.00 and the school receives half the cost of each book sold. Ms. Kirkpatrick quoted statistics provided by Mr. Montebell that last year's intake was 41 coupons including 11 for the pool and 30 for ice usage. According to Mr. Montebell's report as of date they have received 16 coupons this year for ice usage.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board Appointments

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board Appointments of Ms. Kathryn M. Burke, 534 Queenstown Road, Karns City, PA 16041, to the remainder of a three year term, expiring December 31, 2012 and Ms. Anna Hopper, Visiting Nurses Association, 314 South Water Street, Kittanning, PA 16201, to the remainder of a three year term, expiring December 31, 2013. Ms. Talerico explained that Ms. Burke will be filling the vacancy created when Mr. DeBacco moved and that Ms. Hopper had been serving as an observer and now she will serve in the position Ms. Formaini held before retirement.

Housing Authority Advisory Board Appointment

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Housing Authority Advisory Board Appointment of Mr. Todd Crissman, 238 Cedar Drive, Kittanning, PA 16201, to an unexpired term to end February 1, 2013.

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation 2011-18 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

The Area Agency on Aging is participating in Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2011. Ms. Leard stated that there are services in place to investigate and assist elders who are suffering abuse. She stressed that the services are available but are ineffective if the abuse is not reported. Reports are accepted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-732-6618 or you may dial 911.

Mr. Fink read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2011-18 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Proclamation 2011-19 Wounded Warrior Walk

Mr. Scahill read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2011-19 recognizing the third annual Wounded Warrior Walk.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Financial Transactions

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners acknowledged the Financial Transactions for May 2011.

Ms. Kirkpatrick opened the meeting to comments.

Mr. Fink described his alarm at the large number of elder abuse cases. He is thankful for the work that Area Agency on Aging and all County offices provide but is concerned with how the human services will be affected by the proposed state budget cuts. He stressed that some programs are state mandated and are required to be offered but noted that some that are not required are still necessary. He encourages the public to keep an eye on the budget and cautions taxpayers to be aware that cuts labeled as Public Welfare are not only cuts to payments of checks and food benefits but also human services.

Mr. Scahill described the Wounded Warrior PA Heroes Walk that will begin on June 12, in Philadelphia and end July 25, with a celebration at the Lower Burrell VFW Post 92. He said the walk is 320 miles across Pennsylvania over 14 days in an effort to bring awareness to the needs of wounded veterans and raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project. Mr. Scahill recalled that the first year they were joined by two combat veterans and last year there were six combat veterans; he added that last year they raised \$88,000.00 and that they are looking to surpass that amount this year. Mr. Scahill directed everyone to the Wounded Warrior Walk website at www.paherowalk.org for more information and the schedule of the walk.

Ms. Kirkpatrick wished Mr. Scahill and everyone involved in the walk safe travels and extended her appreciation and gratitude for his work on such a worthy charitable cause. She then expressed her concern regarding the impending State Budget that will take effect July 1st. She cautioned that depending on how the budget is passed local county governments may find they need to make adjustments half way into this fiscal year to cover the shortages left by state budget cuts. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that as of May 31, 2011 the local tax payers have paid 10.6 million dollars in taxes. She expressed her gratitude for their diligence. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that she has seen how the state's taxing system inhibits growth and opportunity to state residents and that everyone should voice their request for restructuring of the tax system.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously; the Commissioners adjourned the Public Meeting at 2:05 pm. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 1:30 pm.