

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING

August 15, 2013



THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2013 AT 1:30 PM IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM WITH THE FOLLOWING IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner David K. Battaglia, Commissioner Robert T. Bower, Commissioner Richard L. Fink, George J. Skamai, County Administrator/Chief Clerk, Brad Pederser – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Michael Stivason – Intern, Armstrong County Commissioners' Office, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning and Development, Randall Brozenick – Director, Armstrong County Public Safety, Ron Baustert – Coordinator, Armstrong County 911, Dan Lucovich – Director, Armstrong County Human Resources, Mike Coonley – Executive Director, Armstrong County Economic Development, Josie Schultz – EQT, David Boyce – Mission Critical Partners.

Mr. Battaglia announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the minutes for the August 1, 2013 Public Meeting were approved.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST RESPONDERS

Michael Stivason, Intern Presentation

Mr. Battaglia introduced the Armstrong County Commissioners' Intern Michael Stivason and explained the project that Michael was asked to accomplish. Mr. Battaglia also recognized Ms. Connie Wright for suggesting the idea for the project.

Mr. Stivason read aloud the letter that was sent to all first responders inviting them to participate in the Public Meeting on September 5th. The First Responders will be recognized for their efforts and each organization will receive a proclamation. The groups are also invited to provide an item for the display case in the Administration Building's lobby.

BID AWARDS

Shady Plain Road Water Line Extension Project Phase I / Phase II

Ms. Johnson stated that Kiskiminetas Township received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to be used for the Shady Plain Road Water Line Extension Project Phase I / Phase II. She announced that the results of a bid opening that was previously held had resulted in six bids, noting that the lowest responsible bidder was W. Construction Corporation, of Jeannette in the amount of \$160,420.60.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County, pending the solicitor's review, the Board approved the bid award for the Shady Plain Road Water Line Extension Project Phase I / Phase II to W. Construction Corporation.

Apollo Borough Handicap Ramps Improvements Project

Ms. Johnson described the Apollo Borough Handicap Ramps Improvements Project and the funding that is required to complete the project through CDBG funds, County Aid Liquid Fuels Program and contributions from Apollo Borough for a total of \$29,830.00. She quoted Santamaria Landscape & Cement Contractors, Inc. of Apollo as the lowest bid submitted, of \$29,830.00.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Apollo Borough, pending the solicitor's review, the Board approved the bid award for the Apollo Borough Handicap Ramps Improvements Project to Santamaria Landscape & Cement Contractors.

WestCORE 9-1-1 RFP

Mr. Brozenick stated that after concluding both financial and technical scoring with vendor presentations and equipment demonstrations, the WestCORE group is requesting that the Commissioners award the contract to Cassidian Communications and CenturyLink Inc. as the vendor / service provider at a cost not to exceed \$7,997,400.64. The board clarified that twelve counties will share the cost and that Armstrong County has taken the lead on the project. Mr. Boyce from Mission Critical Partners described what WestCORE is doing to achieve the required updates for the Broadband Project at a shared cost. He noted that each county will have an individual contract with itemized and specific costs. Mr. Fink commended all the parties involved for working together and achieving the best options at the best pricing.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, pending the solicitor's review, the Board approved the bid award for the WestCORE 9-1-1 RFP to Cassidian Communications as the equipment manufacturer and CenturyLink Inc. as the vendor / service provider.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2013-15 KOEZ Extension on Lot #36 in West Hills Industrial Park

Mr. Coonley described the two resolutions and how the Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone program will benefit and increase opportunities in the community. He listed the proposed property to include four schools that will be vacated after the consolidation of high schools, an elementary school that has been previously closed, and property in Northpointe. He also noted that the application will include 50 acres in Indiana County. Mr. Coonley explained the program as a ten year tax free zone in a cooperative effort to abate taxes at all levels.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, based on the solicitor's review and seconded by Mr. Fink and carried with Mr. Battaglia opposing citing the recent change in the Clean and Green Program, the Board approved Resolution 2013-15 KOEZ Extension on Lot #36 in West Hills Industrial Park.

Resolution 2013-16 KOEZ 2013

Mr. Coonley stated that this is the same program and type of resolution as previously presented. Mr. Fink clarified that this resolution includes the schools that are not in use or within two years will no longer be in service, namely: Ford City High School, Kittanning High School, Kittanning Jr. High School and Kittanning

Township Elementary. Mr. Coonley explained that school buildings are often difficult to redevelop and the tax break is incentive to businesses to consider them.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, based on the solicitor's review, seconded by Mr. Bower with discussion on motion: Mr. Fink requested clarification because he felt Mr. Battaglia had previously presented the idea of KOEZ to the Board and questioned why he was now opposed. Mr. Bower concurred with Mr. Fink that Mr. Battaglia presented the program to them. Mr. Battaglia stated the idea to include the schools was developed by Indiana County originally. The vote on the motion occurred with Mr. Bower and Mr. Fink voting to adopt, and Mr. Battaglia opposing citing the sensitive nature of Clean and Green, the Board approved Resolution 2013 – 16 KOEZ 2013.

AGREEMENTS / CONTRACTS

DQE Communications, LLC

Mr. Brozenick described this contract as a two part contract for the connection of fiber optics. He stated the first part is a temporary connection with the second part providing the permanent connection. He quoted the cost of the contract as \$77,000.00.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the solicitor's review, the Board approved the contract between Armstrong County and DQE Communications, LLC.

Armstrong, Indiana and Westmoreland Counties and Motorola Solutions

Mr. Baustert described the plan to share the cost of the Motorola contract with other counties and stated that the contract is now ready for signature. He quoted it as an eight year and seven month contract at a cost to Armstrong County of \$66,565.00 to cover from June 2013 through the end of the year. He noted that after that the cost will be \$199,697.16 and escalate annually by two percent.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the solicitor's review, the Board approved the contract among Armstrong, Indiana and Westmoreland Counties and Motorola Solutions.

ACT 137 Allocation

Ms. Johnson explained that the County had received \$65,000.00 Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant (HPG). The grant will benefit low to moderate income owner occupied households and added that with the County's match to the grant a total of 10 to 17 households were to receive assistance. She stated that ten applicants have received assistance with two additional applications pending, and requested that the Commissioners award an additional \$15,000.00 of ACT 137 funds to the HPG Program.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board approved the ACT 137 Allocation.

Revised Change Order #1 Tim Fouse Excavating

Ms. Johnson requested Change Order #1 Tim Fouse Excavating to increase the project cost from \$181,295.00 to \$194,501.02. She stated that West Kittanning Municipal Authority has agreed to pay the additional \$13,966.02.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Battaglia and carried with Mr. Bower abstaining due to his position on the Water Authority Board, pending the solicitor's review, the Board approved the Revised Change Order #1 between Armstrong County and Tim Fouse Excavating.

Change Order #2 Gregori Construction & Engineering, Inc.

Ms. Johnson stated that Change Order #2 was necessary for the Apollo Borough Business & Industrial Park Access Road Project due to an increase of \$8,630.00 to total cost of \$298,759.70.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, pending the solicitor's review, the Board approved Change Order #2 between Armstrong County and Gregori Construction & Engineering, Inc.

Change Order #GC016 Sterling Contracting, LLC

Ms. Johnson quoted the amount of \$4,800.12 is necessary for Change Order #16 to increase the project cost to \$1,445,872.53 which will level the floors in the locker room and remove existing pipe supports at the Belmont Complex.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, pending the solicitor's review, the Board approved Change Order #GC016 between Armstrong County and Sterling Contracting, LLC.

Change Order #GC017 Sterling Contracting, LLC

Ms. Johnson stated Change Order #17 will increase the contract amount by \$10,662.77 to a total cost of \$1,456,535.30 to provide new metal framing to support plywood sheathing and to provide expansion joint at the Belmont Complex.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, pending the solicitor's review, the Board approved Change Order #GC017 between Armstrong County and Sterling Contracting, LLC.

Gallagher Fiduciary Advisors, LLC

Ms. Miller, Secretary of the Retirement Board, described their duties and obligations to the employees to provide financial stability of the retirement account. She requested the contract for consulting be approved at a cost of \$15,000.00 in the hopes that a higher performing management group will be identified.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Battaglia and carried with Mr. Fink abstaining, based on the solicitor's review, the Board approved the addendum between Armstrong County and Gallagher Fiduciary Advisors, LLC.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Myra Miller, President of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Controllers

The Board of Commissioners recognized and congratulated Ms. Miller for being elected as President of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Controllers. She stated she was humbled by the honor of being selected by her peers and looks forward to working with the other Controllers across the state.

Mr. Battaglia described a story of an Armstrong County family that is faced with health issues and financial concerns that have received an increased tax notice under the new values of the Clean and Green program. He wants to assure everyone that the Board of Commissioners will meet with groups and review the values

and cost of the taxes for the people enrolled in the Clean and Green Program. He asks that people understand that they will work diligently to verify the participants of the program are actually eligible.

Mr. Fink confirmed that the board will continue to sort through the program and meet until solutions are found.

The Board all concurred that the talks have been successful, amiable and are making a difference. Mr. Fink expressed his appreciation to the Senator Don White, the Elected Officials of Township and Boroughs, the School Boards and the residents of Armstrong County for their assistance and support on bringing the KOEZ Resolutions into effect to better serve the community.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously; the Commissioners adjourned the Public Meeting at 2:06 pm. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, September 5, 2013 at 1:30 pm.