

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING

September 18, 2013



THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013 AT 11:00 AM 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 Pedersen – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Rich Palilla – Executive Director, Armstrong County Planning and Development, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning and Development, Wendy Buzard – Director of Elections and Voter Registration, Armstrong County, Janet Talerico – Executive Director, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Holly Gerardi – Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Tammie Gaff – First Deputy, Armstrong County Controller's Office, Marie Dillon Griffith – PA Career Link Armstrong County, Kathleen Kemp – Managing Attorney, Laurel Legal Services, Public Attendance by Landowners and Farmers: Dale Myers, Robert Myers, Harold Heckman, Louella Neiswonger, Dan Heilman, Joe Polka, Alvina Polka, Richard Napierkowski, Ross Grooms, Jim Walters, Ralph Myers, Dennis Smail, Sandra Kaplon, Raymond Kaplon, William Knell, Velma Knell, John Reed, Dennis Hill, Max Salomon, Lorraine Skomo, Richard Brocious, Daryl Smith, Ray Claypoole, Shirley Claypoole, Kip Parker, Daniel Lynch, Richard Anthony, Mildred Rosborough, Thomas Nassar, Samuel Grantz, Beverly Reed, Alfred Kammerdiener, Arthur Storey, Barry Phillips, Mary Huston, Robert Coleman, Ron Freehling, Emma Heckman, Valerie Huston, Ed Huston, Marlene Sober, George Sober, DJ Claypoole, Dan VanHorn, Jim Minich, Jerry Shoemaker, Floyd Young, Glenda Rosborough, David Geltz, Paul Stubrick, Dwight Claypoole, Susan Edwards.

Mr. Battaglia announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the minutes for the September 5, 2013 Public Meeting were approved.

PROCLAMATIONS

2013-23 Employ the Older Workers Week

Mr. Bower read aloud the proclamation.

Ms. Talerico expressed her appreciation to the Board of Commissioners and CareerLink for the cooperation and support they give to Area Agency on Aging and most notably the Older Worker Program. Ms. Dillon-Griffith described the benefits of the Older Worker Program for both the employees and the employers.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approved Proclamation 2013-23 Employ the Older Workers Week. Mr. Fink recognized the program and the many years of service it has provided, mentioning that the County has employed several employees over

the years, noting that a few have become full time employees. He credits the success of the program to the combination of training and the work ethics of the older workers. Ms. Talerico stated that anyone interested in participating in the Older Worker Program should contact the Area Agency on Aging Office.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2013-20 Application of CDBG Funds appropriated for FFY 2013 on its own behalf and on behalf of the Four Entitlement Municipalities in Armstrong County

Ms. Johnson explained the application for Community Development Block Grant funds appropriated for Federal Fiscal Year 2013 on the County's own behalf and on behalf of the County's entitlement communities of East Franklin Township, for sewage improvements; Kiskiminetas Township for water / sewer improvements; Kittanning Borough for public facilities in Kittanning Business District Market Street Revitalization Project; and Manor Township for housing rehabilitation and a storm sewer project. She continued to describe how the County will use their \$244,041.00 for the following areas and projects: Brady's Bend Township for an emergency generator project; Westmoreland County for a North Apollo Borough water line extension project and County-wide for a Housing Rehabilitation project.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, pending the solicitor's review, the Board of Commissioners acknowledged Resolution 2013-20 Application of CDBG Funds appropriated for FFY 2013 on its own behalf and on behalf of the Four Entitlement Municipalities in Armstrong County.

Resolution 2013-19 Fair Housing

Ms. Johnson stated that it is an annual requirement that the Board of Commissioners designate a contact and apply for the Fair Housing resolutions for the CDBG application. She requested that Ms. Adrienne Commodore be appointed.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, pending the solicitor's review, the Board of Commissioners acknowledged Resolution 2013-19 Fair Housing.

AGREEMENTS / CONTRACTS

AccessAbilities, Inc.

Ms. Talerico stated that this is an annual interagency agreement to provide information for services.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, based on the solicitor's review the Board approved the agreement between Armstrong County and AccessAbilities, Incorporated.

Geidel's Personal Care Home

Ms. Talerico stated that this is an annual agreement that is used on an as needed basis to provide temporary emergency shelter.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, based on the solicitor's review the Board approved the agreement between Armstrong County and Geidel's Personal Care Home.

Lease Agreement Laurel Legal Services

Ms. Kemp requested a lease agreement to obtain office space in the Kittanning Senior Center in order to maintain offering services in Armstrong County. She explained the need for a new space is due to the fact that their current location will be razed.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the solicitor's review, the Board approved the lease agreement between Armstrong County and Laurel Legal Services.

Memorandum of Understanding with Cowanshannock Creek Watershed Association

Mr. Battaglia explained that the Memorandum is being acknowledged rather than approved because due to time restraints it was approved at last week's public work session.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the solicitor's review, the Board of Commissioners acknowledged the Memorandum of Understanding between Armstrong County and Cowanshannock Creek Watershed Association.

Change Order #18 and #19 Sterling Contracting LLC

Ms. Johnson stated that Change Order #18 and #19 for the Belmont Complex Renovation Phase III were approved at the public work session. She explained Change Order #18 as a no cost change order that deletes the sidewalk extension to the north end of the parking area and adds excavation of asphalt between the two buildings for the new sidewalk. She then explained that Change Order #19 will reflect a \$6,354.86 increase in cost to \$1,462,890.16 to add changes to yard drains on the pool side of the building.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the solicitor's review, the Board of Commissioners acknowledged Change Orders #18 and #19 of the Belmont Renovation Phase III between Armstrong County and Sterling Contracting, LLC.

Change Order #20 Sterling Contracting LLC

Ms. Johnson requested the Board approve Change Order #20 for additions and renovations to the Armstrong County Belmont Complex Project with Sterling Contracting LLC that will increase the contract amount by \$471.24 to \$1,463,361.40 to add a reset option on the fire shutters.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, based on the solicitor's review the Board approved Change Order #20 between Armstrong County and Sterling Contracting LLC.

Change Order #1 Right Electric, Inc.

Ms. Johnson stated that Change Order #1 with Right Electric, Inc. was approved at the public work session pending solicitor's review. She explained that the request is for an increase in the contract amount by \$13,644.73 to \$228,088.73 to add costs associated with exterior lighting time, fire alarm devices, generator controls, 3" data conduit and kitchen GFCI.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, pending the solicitor's review, the Board of Commissioners acknowledged Change Order #1 between Armstrong County and Right Electric, Incorporated.

Change Order #4 McRandal Company, Inc.

Ms. Johnson requested that Change Order #4 with McRandal Company, Inc. be approved. She summarized that the contract will increase by \$362.00 to \$259,785.02 to add four additional access doors.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, based on the solicitor's review, the Board approved Change Order #4 between Armstrong County and McRandal Company, Incorporated.

RSSC Contract Amendment

Ms. Johnson stated that the front exterior stairs of the Belmont Complex have deteriorated and must be removed. She explained that the stairs will be removed, the ramp will provide sufficient capacity to exit the arena during an emergency situation and a retaining wall and landscaping will be added to the former stair area. The amended work will not exceed \$750.00.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, pending the solicitor's review, the Board acknowledged the amendment to the contract between Armstrong County and RSSC.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Tri-County WIB Board

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board approved the reappointments of the following members of Tri-County WIB for three year terms to expire September 30, 2016:

- Charles Wetmore, CEO, Kensington HPP, Inc., 1136 Industrial Park Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690
- Philip Tack, Administrator, Sugar Creek Rest, 120 Lakeside Drive, Worthington, PA 16262
- Frank Amato II, Partner, Amato Financial Services, 165 Third Street, Leechburg, PA 15656
- Vickie DeThomas, Director of Human Resources, FLIR Government Systems Pittsburgh Optical Systems Technology, 183 Northpointe Boulevard, Freeport, PA 16229
- Linda Schell, Assistant Regional Director- Western Region Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership, 255 Elm Street, Oil City, PA 16301

ANNOUNCEMENT

Election Registration Information

Ms. Buzard announced that the last day to register to vote or to make changes to your registration is October 7, 2013. She added that Absentee Ballots are available now through October 29, 2013 for those eligible to vote absentee. She stated that applications are available on the county website and in the office. Ms. Buzard reminded everyone that voters will be asked to show ID but will be permitted to vote if they do not have proper identification.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Clean and Green

Mr. Battaglia announced that the discussion was now open regarding the Clean and Green Program and the proposed changes. He invited everyone to participate whether they were for or against the changes and asked that everyone keep in mind this is an open discussion only and nothing would be voted on at today's meeting.

A summary of points brought up by the attendees include:

- It was suggested that the Board consider raising the taxes in annual increments versus one huge increase
- A request was made to compare land values in surrounding counties to assure accuracy
- Some of the farmers asked that the soil be tested to determine which crops / trees can be grown and value of the soil
- They requested an explanation why the Commissioners agreed to use the Department of Agriculture values over assessed values.
- Several property owners discussed the unfairness that under the new taxing only the Clean & Green participants will be subject to annual appraisals
- Some of the attendees voiced concerns regarding the fairness of businesses getting KOZ tax exemptions for ten years and Clean and Green values are being raised
- A few property owners requested a list of which surrounding counties participate in the Clean and Green program and how they voted to use the assessed values versus the Department of Agriculture values

The above points were brought up by several of the attendees, the Commissioners responded after each point, and have agreed to research the options discussed and work together to make a decision and plan of action before the November 19th deadline. One of the points that the Board is concerned with is to verify that all participants enrolled in the program are eligible to belong. The Board expressed their appreciation to all the participants for their time, the points that they shared and the polite and professional manner in which the meeting was conducted.

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 12:30 pm. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 1:30 pm.