

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
October 1, 2009

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 1:30 PM in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick, Rich L. Fink and James V. Scahill, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Chad Puz – Family Life TV, Sally Conklin - Planning Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Amanda Hiles – First Deputy, Armstrong County Controller's Office, Laurie Johns – HAVIN Outreach Coordinator, Vince Cappel – HazMat Coordinator, Armstrong County Public Safety, Public Attendance by: Stephanie Simon

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 September 23, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Hazardous Materials Flow Study Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Cappel, and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Hazardous Materials Flow Study Agreement between Armstrong County and JH Consulting. Mr. Cappel stated that JH Consulting, a West Virginia company, will perform a study of the transportation of hazardous materials over the county's roadways. The study will be completed by August 31, 2010 at a total cost of \$4,850.00, the county will only be responsible to pay \$970.00, a twenty percent soft match, and the remainder will be paid from HazMat funds.

PROCLAMATIONS

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Ms. Johns expressed appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for their support. She stated that HAVIN provided services for over 750 clients in the last fiscal year. Ms. Johns reminded everyone that services are available to men and women, stating that last year approximately twenty percent of their services were provided to men. She stated that HAVIN is "holding their own", despite the state budget impasse, but they are anxiously awaiting a resolution.

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Board of Commissioners commended HAVIN for the work that they perform and the services that remain to be offered at no cost to the recipient. Ms. Johns invited everyone to attend HAVIN's annual

fundraiser that will be held October 23, 2009 at Lindgrow Farms; the event will include a silent auction.

Eleanor "Dolly" Barrett Day Proclamation

Deputy Tarr stated that his mother-in-law is an amazing lady, and that it seems unbelievable that she is celebrating her 100th birthday.

Mr. Scahill read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners proclaimed October 5th as Eleanor "Dolly" Barrett Day. The Board found Mrs. Barrett's life to be filled with many interesting facts, most notably her extremely small birth weight of two pounds four ounces, her family relationship to General Neville, and her time spent as an employee of Armstrong County.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Steering Committee Appointments

Ms. Conklin stated the County has received funding from Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct an OHV feasibility study. The steering committee will meet a few times over the next three months.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners approved the six following appointments to the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Steering Committee:

- a. Appoint Mr. Rex Barnhart, 1236 Bowser Road, Kittanning, PA 16201
- b. Appoint Mr. Scott Hiwiler, 392 Scenic Road, Templeton, PA 16259
- c. Appoint Mr. Randy Bish, 128 West Caldwell Road, New Bethlehem, PA 16242
- d. Appoint Mr. Steve Stiller, 12488 US Route 422, Kittanning, PA 16201
- e. Appoint Mr. Ken Blake, 1309 State Route 1025, New Bethlehem, PA 16242
- f. Appoint Mr. Jerry Cobaugh, 153 Hopper Road, Templeton, PA 16259

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Financial Transactions

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners acknowledged the approval of financial transactions for September 2009.

Mr. Fink extended his best wishes to Mrs. Barrett and family; he made a special reference to the close relationship that their family is fortunate to share. He stated that we are blessed to have residents who have given so much to the county. He also expressed how fortunate we are to have HAVIN in Armstrong County. He commended them for their resilience in facing the obstacles present by the state budget impasse. Mr. Fink discussed the press release by the Governor that was scheduled to start at 1:30, stating that the legislators' actions are disgraceful. He passionately implored citizens to contact their legislators and hold them accountable for their actions. He closed his statements by praising the work that has been done on the OHV Trails. He stated he feels that the steering committee's input and the completion of the trails will bring a positive effect to tourism in the county.

Mr. Scahill expressed his support for the Hazardous Materials Flow Study, describing it as critical to the safety of our roadways. He noted the increased usage of the 422 corridor as justification to the importance of the study. He then proclaimed that "Tough Guys Wear Pink"! Mr. Scahill referenced his pink shirt that he wore in tribute to Breast Cancer Survivors, particularly his wife, and that he also honors all who have lost their battle with cancer. He encouraged everyone to show their support throughout the year, but especially during October, the official month for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Ms. Kirkpatrick commended Joellen and the staff of HAVIN for their efforts in, what she knows is, a difficult job. She expressed delighted surprise that Mrs. Barrett is still interested in reading at age 100, stating that she hopes to still possess her love of reading at that age. Ms. Kirkpatrick praised the rapid progression of the OHV Plan, that it is "the people's plan". She noted that the work has been continuous, crediting the volunteers for their interest and time spent. She anticipated the successful results of their plan. Ms. Kirkpatrick expressed disappointment at the continuance of the state budget impasse. She described the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission meeting that the Board attended at the beginning of the week. At the meeting an overview of the cuts in the proposed state budget was made available. She noted the substantial supporting data that displays the distressful effects that the budget cuts have made. Ms. Kirkpatrick is hopeful that the Governor and Legislators will realize the importance of supporting Economic Development in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Simon addressed the Board of Commissioners with concerns regarding the transfer of property she and her husband purchased in Armstrong County. The Board stated that they are aware of the situation and have referred the matter to the county solicitor. They assured Ms. Simon of their desire to assist in expediting the process and resolving the issue.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:05 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 1:30 PM.