

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
October 15, 2009

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 1:30 PM in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick and James V. Scahill, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Chad Puz – Family Life TV, J. Gary DeComo – Armstrong County District Justice (33-03-01), Ron Baustert – Armstrong County 911 Coordinator, Rich Palilla – Executive Director, Armstrong County Planning and Development, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Sally Conklin - Planning Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Amanda Hiles – First Deputy, Armstrong County Controller's Office, Dave Croyle – Kittanning Paper

Commissioner Fink was absent due to his attendance of Commissioners' Academy Training.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously, the minutes for the October 1, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

United Telephone Company of Pennsylvania LLC Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Baustert, and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged the Service and Equipment Agreement between Armstrong County and United Telephone Company of Pennsylvania LLC. Mr. Baustert stated that the agreement will enable 911 calls for northwestern areas of Armstrong County, that are in closer proximity to Butler County, to be transferred automatically to the Butler County 911 call center. He explained that this formalizes what has been a longstanding agreement.

Memorandum of Understanding with CONXX

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Baustert, and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the Memorandum of Understanding between Armstrong County and CONXX. Mr. Baustert explained that the memorandum of understanding provides that CONXX will assist us in our broadband application. CONXX will pay the five thousand dollar application fee, with the stipulation that we must repay them if we do not select their services when committing to a contract.

CGI Communications, Inc. Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners acknowledged the County Movie Tour Book Agreement between Armstrong County and CGI Communications, Incorporated. Ms. Kirkpatrick described the agreement as a three year project that will feature videos of various aspects of life in Armstrong County. Video production for this project will begin next spring. CGI will solicit funding from businesses to underwrite the videos at no cost to the County. The videos will be linked to the county website. Armstrong County is one of the first ten counties in Pennsylvania to be featured. Mr. Scahill stated the National Association of Counties (NACo) is involved with this initiative, and encourages counties to participate.

Change Order #4 Applegold Borough Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project Phase II

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Johnson, the West Hills Area Water Pollution Control Authority and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved Change Order #4 of the Applegold Borough Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project Phase II between Armstrong County and S & E Utility, Contracting, Incorporated. Ms. Johnson explained that change order #4 in the project will increase the project cost by a total of \$5,106.34 to \$245,308.04 in order to cover additional labor and equipment costs to prepare the sub base along a portion of Willow Alley. The West Hills Area Water Pollution Control Authority will pay for these additional costs.

2009 – 2010 Unified Planning Work Program

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Palilla, and the review of the county solicitor, the County Commissioners approved the 2009 – 2010 Unified Planning Work Program between Armstrong County and Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission. Mr. Palilla described this as an annual contract that provides planning assistance. The total amount of pass-through planning funds for 2009-2010 is \$13,086.00 and requires a county match of \$3,272.00. The funding will provide for various transportation planning programs.

PROCLAMATIONS

It's In Our Hands, 2010 Census Partner Proclamation

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners proclaimed "It's In Our Hands, 2010 Census Partner" Proclamation. Ms. Conklin announced that the first meeting of the Armstrong County Census 2010 Complete County Committee meeting has been scheduled for November 4, 2009 at 11:00 AM in the Commissioners' conference room. The Board of Commissioners reminded everyone of the importance of an accurate and complete count to the census. The proclamation reads that over three hundred billion dollars in state and federal funding are based on census data.

Armstrong County Community Awareness Day Proclamation

Mr. Scahill read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners proclaimed October 19th as Armstrong County Community Awareness Day. District Magistrate J. Gary DeComo founded the event in 2004. He described that the theme for the 6th annual event is "respect". Everyone is asked to make decisions and provide responses that are respectful in nature to themselves, others and the community. An event celebrating Community Awareness Day is scheduled for October 19, 2009 at Lenape Technical School.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Scahill praised Mr. DeComo for his inception on a much needed program, and encouraged him to continue his efforts. Mr. Scahill then spoke of his experience in the personal loss of a nephew due to drug usage. He expressed desire that a program such as Mr. DeComo's had been available for his nephew. Mr. Scahill then discussed the second annual Cardiac Arrest Association Convention that he recently attended. He expressed his thanks to Commissioners Kirkpatrick and Fink for their support in the placement of AED units throughout the county. He stated the nation's survival rate of sudden cardiac arrest has risen from five percent in 2003 to eight and a half percent in 2009.

Ms. Kirkpatrick detailed the informational brochure that describes Mr. DeComo's project and provides information on the partners and sponsors. She discussed the influence of a person's early childhood experiences on their adult pattern of behavior. Ms. Kirkpatrick relayed some statistics found in the book by television personality, Deborah Norville, titled "Power of Respect". It stated that disrespect in the workplace costs American corporations approximately sixty five billion dollars in losses. Ms. Kirkpatrick cautioned that teachers' efforts and time in the classroom can only provide a portion of what is needed, and can not replace the necessary and critical training provided in the home. Ms. Kirkpatrick ended her comments by discussing the recently passed state budget. She described her emotions as mixed, due to the pending negative impact. As she awaits further detail on the specifics of this budget, she anticipates similar challenges for the 2010 to 2011 budget.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 1:56 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 1:30 PM.