

**COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING**  
**October 20, 2011**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, October 20, 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, George J. Skamai, Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Jonathan Weaver – Kittanning Paper, Myra Miller - Armstrong County Controller, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Wendy Buzard - Director of Elections and Chief Registrar, Armstrong County, David Mansour – Administrator, Armstrong County Health Center.

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 October 6, 2011 Public Meeting were approved.

**POLLING PLACE CHANGE**

**Approval by the Board of Elections to Change Polling Location**

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Ms. Buzard, the Commissioners approved the change of the Apollo Borough Polling Place from the Borough Building, 615 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Apollo, PA to Apollo Hose Company #2, 327 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Apollo, PA. Ms. Buzard stated that she has surveyed the property personally and determined that this site is the most efficient and cost effective option of the two sites. Mr. Fink asked if there was much opposition to the move, to which Ms. Buzard replied there was some at the beginning of the process but it has dissipated.

**AGREEMENTS / CONTRACTS**

**Amendment to Therapy Services Agreement with Sundance Rehabilitation Corporation**

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Amendment to the Therapy Services Agreement between Armstrong County and Sundance Rehabilitation Corporation. Mr. Mansour stated that this is a renewal of a vendor who has continuously earned positive feedback from the residents. He mentioned that this year's costs do reflect a three percent increase, but the cost should be offset by a new method of billing through a daily per diem rate. Mr. Mansour affirmed that this is an annual renewal. Mr. Scahill relayed his family's personal experience between his mother and Sundance Rehabilitation Corporation, stating that it was a positive relationship.

**Change Order #1 Jackson Drainage Area Phase I Sanitary Sewer Project**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved Change Order #1 to the Jackson Drainage Area Phase I Sanitary Sewer Project. Ms. Johnson stated that the project was divided into two

phases, noting that Change Order #1 to Phase I will reduce the cost of the contract by \$73,675.18 to a cost of \$269,324.82.

Change Order #1 Jackson Drainage Area Phase II Sanitary Sewer Project

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Change Order #1 to the Jackson Drainage Area Phase II Sanitary Sewer Project. Ms. Johnson quoted the project savings for Phase II as \$30,418.12, which created the need for Change Order #1 for Phase II, bringing the total project cost to \$169,581.88.

**RESOLUTIONS**

County 2011 CDBG 2011-16 Resolution Approval – Application Submission

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners acknowledged County 2011 CDBG 2011-16 Resolution Approval – Application Submission. Ms. Johnson explained that due to time restraints this was approved at the Commissioners’ Work Session on October 12, 2011. She stated that this resolution was for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application that included sections of Kiskiminetas Township, Kittanning Borough and Manor Township’s 2011 CDBG’s allocations.

County Fair Housing 2011-17 Resolution Approval

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners acknowledged County Fair Housing 2011-17 Resolution Approval. Ms. Johnson stated that this is an annual resolution that had been approved at the October 12, 2011 work session in order to meet the deadline.

Modification Approval by 2011-18 Resolution for the County’s 2010 CDBG Funds

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners acknowledged Modification Approval by 2011-18 Resolution for the County’s 2010 CDBG Funds. Ms. Johnson explained that the modifications are in conjunction with the County’s 2011 CDBG application. She stated that the modifications and transfers was \$52,000 from the Sagamore Ninth Street Water Line Replacement Project which was completed under-budget, to the Village of Margaret Well Development Project (Multi Year Activity) in order to adequately fund this project. She said that this was also approved at the October 12, 2011 work session in order to meet the deadline. The Board of Commissioners praised the staff in Planning and Development for meeting the deadlines and having the resolutions and requirements met so that the county may continue to receive funding from CDBG.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Proclamation 2011-25 Recognizing the Power of 32

Ms. Kirkpatrick, a member of the Power of 32 Steering Committee, read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2011-25 Recognizing the Power of 32. Ms. Kirkpatrick invited everyone to review a brochure that outlines the objectives and work of the Power of 32 and the six framing solution issues and visioning statements which are: education, economy, environment, government, people, communities & transportation, and infrastructure. She described a program that will air this evening and the following two Thursday evenings on WQED at 7:30 that will cover one or two issues each episode. Following the last episode, which airs on November 3, there will be a live interactive Town Hall meeting broadcasted to all of the 32 Counties involved in the Power of 32. She noted that this is the first time a group this large came together to work on issues that affect the region. Ms. Kirkpatrick closed by stating even though the Power of 32 is coming to an end the progress that has been made will continue on through other collaborative goals of improvement including freight transportations, Traffic 21, and the increased use of railroads, locks, rivers and dams in the region.

Mr. Scahill expressed his hopes that the use of coal will continue to be promoted, noting that with the exception of one county (Mercer) all the counties involved in the power of 32 are counties that are rich in coal and immersed in the coal industry. Ms. Kirkpatrick responded that she knows that it has been discussed, but was not part of the specific meeting. She described part of this evening's program as a discussion on the EQT Natural Gas Station that is located in the strip and services their fleet of vehicles.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Kirkpatrick opened the meeting to comments.

Mr. Fink commended his fellow commissioners for taking the lead and serving on various boards and committees. He recognized the strength in numbers that these boards provide. He cautioned that the counties must work together to protect the livelihood of our coal industry. Mr. Fink described the potential regulations that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering to implement for coal jobs, stating that they would have a catastrophic impact on or in our area and that the unemployment rate would skyrocket.

Mr. Scahill described the pros and cons of various organizations that have joined together over the years and how working together creates strength in the organization but may not provide the best decisions for all involved. He then detailed an initiative that the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) has undertaken a national task force to assist returning veterans. He stated that CCAP is also working on recognition for Korean War Veterans, noting that many of the military record archives were destroyed in the flood caused by Hurricane Agnes. Mr. Scahill closed by describing efforts to improve the memorials and details of soldiers' lives and backgrounds.

Ms. Kirkpatrick added that the Power of 32 is encouraging a viewing party of their Thursday broadcasts. She stated that she will be part of the audience at the WQED studios. In regards to the transformation of the Power of 32, she recognized the work done by all involved whether their county is large or small and closed by saying that the counties involved have learned that they not only have to work harder but smarter to gain respect from other areas in each respective state.

Mr. Weaver requested clarification of the Southwest Planning Commission (SPC) and Region 13. Mr. Scahill explained that SPC consists of 10 counties and Region 13. He then stated that Region 13 is comprised of all the counties that participate in SPC as well as Mercer, Cambria and Somerset counties, who assemble for emergencies. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that as a member of the Executive Committee of SPC, she was in Harrisburg earlier this week to meet with legislators regarding funding for transportation and local development districts especially regarding funding. She reported that there was strong presence from the western side of the state. She stated that she was pleased with the results.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously; the Commissioners adjourned the Public Meeting at 2:14 pm. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 1:30 pm.