

**COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
November 18, 2010**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 1:30 PM in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick, Richard L. Fink and James V. Scahill, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Nathan Lasher – The Kittanning Paper, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Amanda Hiles – First Deputy, Armstrong County Controller's Office, Janet Talerico – Executive Director, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Roy Carney – Director, Armstrong County Public Works, Theresa Dukovich – Volunteer, Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Network, Public Attendance by: Regina Liermann

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded, adding that the meetings are now available to be viewed by logging onto the County's Website at www.co.armstrong.pa.us.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the minutes for the November 4, 2010 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Old Jail Exterior Wall with Senate Engineering

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the proposal to repair the old jail exterior wall between Armstrong County and Senate Engineering. Mr. Carney explained that this is in the area of the former exercise yard; the work will be done by public works, but Senate Engineering will execute the design for the repairs. He stated the contract is not to exceed \$900.00.

Change Order #1 with CNC Construction, Inc. for Leechburg VFW / Senior Center Kitchen Renovation Project

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved Change Order #1 for the Leechburg VFW / Senior Center Kitchen Renovation Project. Ms. Talerico stated that the Change Order is necessary to increase the contractor's allowance in the amount of \$288.61; the increase is necessary to purchase a larger refrigerator for the space.

Kiskiminetas Township Building Renovation Project with CNC Construction

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor and the recommendation of the Kiskiminetas Township Supervisors, the Commissioners approved awarding the contract for the Kiskiminetas Township Building Renovation Project to CNC Construction, Inc. Ms. Johnson stated that the township will be using their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money to renovate the building to meet handicap accessibility requirements. The contract is in the amount of \$28,987.00.

Kiskiminetas Township Building Renovation Project with Lawrence Plumbing, LLC

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor and the recommendation of the Kiskiminetas Township Supervisors, the Commissioners approved awarding the contract for the Kiskiminetas Township Building Renovation Project to Lawrence Plumbing, LLC. Ms. Johnson stated that the plumbing contract is a portion of the renovation project that is required to be bid separately. The contract is in the amount of \$14,836.00.

Professional Services Contract Agreement with the Housing Authority of the County of Armstrong

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved awarding the professional services contract agreement with the Housing Authority of the County of Armstrong (HACA). Ms. Johnson stated that this is a renewal of a previous contract; the County will provide environmental studies for the next two years, and the cost is not to exceed \$7,000.00.

Attorney Joe Caruso, Prison Board Solicitor

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor and the recommendation of the Prison Board, the Commissioners approved the Memorandum of Understanding between Armstrong County and Attorney Joe Caruso, Prison Board Solicitor. Mr. Fink stated that the review of Mr. Caruso's contract led to the adjustment of his hourly rate being increased to \$85.00 per hour.

PROCLAMATION

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation 2010-26

Ms. Dukovich expressed her appreciation for the support that the Armstrong County Commissioners provide. She stated that most of the statistics have not changed; there is still a six percent survival rate for five years and it is the most underfunded form of cancer research. Ms. Dukovich did state that on the positive side there is an increase in volunteers across the nation and Ms. Lisa Swayze has joined as a national spokesperson for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted the National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation 2010-26. The Board of Commissioners commended Ms. Dukovich for her work and stated that they plan to promote her efforts to other counties while attending the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Conference.

PRESENTATION OF THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Presentation of the Preliminary Budget for Public Inspection

Mr. Pepler presented the budget for inspection and announced that it can be viewed in the Commissioners' office during business hours. He stated that for the sixth year in a row there will be no increase in taxes. Mr. Pepler credited the assessed values of properties as providing new revenue and the efforts of the tax claim department for aggressively collecting the delinquent taxes. There have been increases in benefit costs, retirement costs and health insurance costs. He cautioned that these are preliminary figures that may require some adjustments, but predicts that they will be minor.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and approved unanimously the Commissioners moved to present the preliminary budget for 2011 to the public. The budget is scheduled for adoption at the second Public Meeting to be held December 16, 2010 at 1:30 PM in the Commissioners' Conference Room.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kirkpatrick opened the meeting to comments and questions.

Mr. Fink recognized the efforts of Mr. Pepler and the cooperation of the department heads and employees for working together to allow the county to operate in a cost efficient manner. Mr. Fink took a moment to recognize the death of a Crawford County Corrections Officer who passed away this week after an incident with an inmate in October. He announced that Armstrong County would be represented in the honor guard at the funeral and asked that we keep the officer's family in our prayers.

Mr. Scahill concurred with the praise of all county workers for their operational efficiencies and cost controlling methods. He commended Ms. Dukovich for her efforts and vowed to promote the efforts of Pancreatic Cancer Action Network while at the CCAP conference and during his next meeting with the National Association of Counties (NACo). He stated that he is pleased to announce that NACo will be hosting a task force on Veterans Affairs, and honored to be a part of the task force. In his closing remarks Mr. Scahill reminded everyone of the upcoming community events noting several Light-up the Night events that will be held locally. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Kirkpatrick shared her cousin's personal experience of Pancreatic Cancer that was caused by exposure to Agent Orange. She requested Mr. Scahill to champion the effort to challenge the federal government to accept the responsibility and recognize Agent Orange as a cause of Pancreatic Cancer. Ms. Kirkpatrick extended her appreciation to Kittanning Hose Company Number 6 for assisting in the decorating of the Courthouse. Without their assistance and equipment our Public Works Department would have a much more difficult time decorating. She invited everyone to come to the Courthouse and view the decorations that were designed and crafted by the Boy Scouts and Venture Crew of Moraine Trails. She praised the scouts for their efforts and creativity. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that the decorations will also be available for viewing on the County Website by logging on to www.co.armstrong.pa.us.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that there would be a special Public Hearing tonight at 7:00 PM for the purpose of setting the Elected Officials' Salaries for the period of 2012 through 2016.

Ms. Liermann requested clarification of several points in the County Budget and the practice of tax exemption.

Mr. Fryer asked the amount that the county budgeted for the Tourist Bureau. The Commissioners replied that \$131,359.00 is budgeted for 2011.

Mr. Scahill added that the NACo Dental Program is doing well; he reminded everyone of the availability to join and that there are 12 area dentists and 1 orthodontist participating in the County.

Mr. Scahill closed the meeting by describing how one person can make a difference. He used an example of a recent interaction with Penn DOT. The state offers specially designed license plates to Veterans, of various wars, Medals of Honor, Prisoner of War and Purple Heart. When first designed, the website heading incorrectly listed the Vietnam Veterans link as the "Vietnam Conflict" and not recognized as the "Vietnam War". Mr. Scahill contacted the program coordinator, and the change was made. He has received a reply that they are also in the process of changing the wording of the application.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:21 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, December 2, 2010 at 1:30 PM.