

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

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, January 20, 2011, at 1:30 PM in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick, Richard L. Fink, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Maryanne Koleny – Director, Armstrong County Human Resources, Rich Palilla – Executive Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Janet Talerico, Executive Director, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Jeffrey Jessell - Independent Contractor, Wendy Buzard – Director, Armstrong County Elections and Chief Registrar Armstrong County Voter Registration, Randa Dunmire – Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR Program's MR Coordinator, Don Pepler – Armstrong County Financial and Special Projects Manager, Mike Gaydosh – EXCO Resources, Adam Vincent - EXCO Resources, Heather Lamparter – EXCO Resources, Public Attendance by: Michele Grafton and Adam Grafton.

Commissioner Scahill was absent due to a family matter.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

The Board of Commissioners requested everyone to join them in observing a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Mary Scahill. Commissioner Scahill's mother passed away earlier in the week.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the minutes for the January 6, 2011 Public Meeting were approved.

**CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS**

**Elections Department Agreement with Jeffrey S. Jessell**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Elections Department Agreement between Armstrong County and Jeffrey S. Jessell. Ms. Buzard stated that this is a standard agreement that has been in place with Mr. Jessell for the previous two years. The Board of Commissioners commended Mr. Jessell for the efficiency and accuracy that he provides in election results.

**Brady's Bend Senior Center Lease with American Legion, Bishop Madden, Post 488**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Brady's Bend Senior Center Lease Agreement between Armstrong County and American Legion, Bishop Madden, Post 488. Ms. Talerico stated that this is a one year continuation of the previous lease; she affirmed that the rate will remain the same.

**Armstrong – Indiana MH/MR Program's Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Mental Retardation County Plan**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR Program’s Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012 Mental Retardation County Plan. Ms. Dunmire described the changes in state funding and the application process for grant money. She stated that the Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR program has applied for 18 of the newly termed “slots” to be awarded for special education, they have also asked for slots to assist one individual who is aging out of the Children, Youth and Family Services, one individual who resides in the state hospital, capacity rate for seven residents and person / family direct support waivers for nine individuals. The Commissioners noted that the Indiana County Board of Commissioners has already signed the plan.

Armstrong County Public Defender’s Contract Renewal

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Armstrong County Public Defender’s Contract Renewal. Ms. Koleny stated that this renewal will cover five Public Defenders and that there has been no language changes since last year.

Armstrong County Assistant District Attorneys’ Contract Renewal

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Armstrong County Assistant District Attorney’s Contract Renewal. Ms. Koleny stated that this contract will cover four Assistant District Attorneys, three contracts are being renewed and one will replace an Assistant District Attorney who has resigned to private practice.

EXCO Resources Gas Lease

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Gas Lease between Armstrong County and EXCO Resources. Mr. Pepler stated that EXCO Resources will pay the county \$639,000.00 upfront and 18% in royalties. He also noted that the county has been connected with EXCO Resources through a previous water extraction contract. Mr. Gaydosh stated that EXCO has been very active in Armstrong County and that they foresee a minimum five year lease. The property involved is 213 acres. Ms. Miller inquired if the county will be receiving free gas. Mr. Gaydosh responded that due to the limitations of the type of gas well being drilled they are unable to provide free gas. Mr. Pepler clarified that it may be a future possibility to drill shallow wells on the property that could potentially provide free gas.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 2011-1 Request for Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant for the Armstrong County Belmont Complex

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners acknowledged Resolution 2011-1, Request for Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant for the Armstrong County Belmont Complex. Mr. Palilla explained that this resolution authorizes the county to apply for money to continue

renovations to the Belmont Complex. The grant request is for \$1,250,000.00. A portion of a federal grant for \$600,000.00 is to be used as a match to this grant.

Resolution 2011-2 Request for Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant for the Armstrong County Memorial Hospital Project

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved Resolution 2011-2, Request for Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant for the Armstrong County Memorial Hospital Project. Mr. Palilla explained that the county has been invited to apply for a grant that would enable the Armstrong County Memorial Hospital's Emergency Room to expand. The grant request is for \$1,500,000.00; the county is serving as the applicant and the hospital is the co-applicant.

Resolution 2011-3 Revision of the FY 2006 State Community Development Block Grant Funds

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved Resolution 2011-3, Revision of the FY 2006 State Community Development Block Grant Funds. Ms. Johnson stated that the revision is requested in order to transfer excess CDBG funds from the Parks / Bethel Project and the Cadogan Project and to reallocate into the Sagamore Ninth Street Water Line Replacement Project. The total of funds transferred is \$4,600.00 from the Cadogan Project and \$52,000.00 from the Parks / Bethel Water Line Extension Project totaling \$56,600.00.

Resolution 2011-4 Revision of the FY 2010 State Community Development Block Grant Funds

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved Resolution 2011-4, Revision of the FY 2010 State Community Development Block Grant Funds. Ms. Johnson stated that the resolution approves retaining \$7,454.00 of the FY 2010 CDBG funds for use in the Sagamore Ninth Street Water Line Replacement Project, revises \$4,600.00 of the FY 2010 CDBG Program Year from the Sagamore Project into the Cadogan Water Lateral Replacement Project. The remaining \$52,000.00 in FY 2010 Program Funds will be reallocated with the County of Armstrong's FY 2011 State CDBG Application.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Armstrong County Housing Authority Board of Directors

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Mr. Robert (Skip) Schreckengost, 108 Kissick Lane, Freeport, PA 16229 to a five year term to expire February 1, 2016.

**OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Kirkpatrick opened the meeting to comments and questions.

Mr. Fink associated the winter weather with football and expressed his anticipation of the upcoming Steelers playoff game. He stated that when he is traveling and describes to others where he is from they always associate the region as Steelers territory.

Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that the Power of 32 has also recognized the Steelers as a regional identity. She invited everyone to log on to the powerof32.org and share any Steelers' traditions or game winning rituals or superstitions. Ms. Kirkpatrick detailed a previous lease agreement that had been approved for a shallow well on the county's property that was never drilled. She stated that she anticipates the lease agreement that has been signed today to provide additional revenue sources at a time when the county is facing critical state and federal budget cuts and the significant costs associated with the mandated radio project.

Mr. Fryer requested clarification of the gas lease, pertaining to the location and term of the lease. Ms. Kirkpatrick gave a brief description of location and verified that five years is the standard lease term. He inquired if public hearings were required. The Board of Commissioners responded that they are not aware of any such requirement.

Ms. Grafton requested the Commissioners consider increasing advertisements of meetings and planning sub-divisions on the county website. Mr. Palilla confirmed that the information for the Planning Department is available on the website. Ms. Grafton then requested an explanation of how ordinances are set and revised. Mr. Palilla gave a description of the procedures that are followed and the options available to the municipalities and townships to amend the ordinances.

## **ADJOURN**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:05 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 1:30 PM.