

**COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
December 16, 2010**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, December 16, 2010, at 1:30 PM in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick, Richard L. Fink, James V. Scahill, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Renatta Signorini – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Stephen Haasch - Kittanning.org , Jonathan Weaver – Kittanning Paper, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Rich Palilla – Executive Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Janet Talerico – Executive Director, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Len Meneely – Armstrong Recycling Center, Sally Conklin – Planning Division Director, Department of Planning & Development, Gary Montebell – Director, Armstrong County Belmont Complex, Don Pepler – Armstrong County Financial and Special Projects Manager, Public Attendance by: Ed Reitler.

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 December 2, 2010 Public Meeting were approved.

BID OPENING

Speedex

Mr. Montebell described the Speedex as a small hydraulic tractor with a front end loader and a backhoe.

Name	City	Amount
Chuck Rupp	Kittanning, PA	\$51
CE Mowery	New Bethlehem, PA	\$139.99
Sullimotors	Ambridge, PA	\$444
Dennis Stitt	Kittanning, PA	\$350
Thomas J Huffhand	Kittanning, PA	\$561
Ed Reitler	Ford City, PA	\$262.50
Kevin Brenner	Ford City, PA	\$163

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Montebell the Commissioners awarded the bid for the Speedex to Thomas J. Huffhand, Kittanning, in the amount of \$561.00.

Mite-e-lift

Mr. Montebell described the Mite-e-lift as a 26 foot electric powered lift.

Name	City	Amount
Chuck Rupp	Kittanning, PA	\$176
C.E. Mowrey	New Bethlehem	\$567.98
Kevin Brenner	Ford City	\$67
Thomas J Huffhand	Kittanning	\$251

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of Mr. Montebell the Commissioners awarded the bid for the Mite-e-lift to C.E. Mowrey of New Bethlehem, in the amount of \$567.98.

Recycling Bin Trailers and Extra Bins

Ms. Conklin stated that the Department of Environmental Protection will fund ninety percent of the cost with a ten percent match from the county.

No bids were received for the Recycling Bin Trailers and Extra Bins.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved to re-advertise the bids for the Recycling Bin Trailer and Extra Bins.

Open Baler Bids

There was one bid envelope from Reaction Distributing of Ontario Canada. Ms. Miller stated that it contained two options for the baler and each option was quoted with and without a cage. There was a bid check for \$5,448.50 included.

Name	City	With Cage	Without Cage
Reaction Distributing	Ontario, Canada	\$53,485	\$51,995
Reaction Distributing	Ontario, Canada	\$54,485	\$52,995

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously the Commissioners tabled the bids for tabulation.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Gastown Bridge Supplemental Engineering Agreement with Widmer 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 Gastown Bridge Supplemental Engineering Agreement between Armstrong County and Widmer Engineering. Mr. Palilla stated that the Gastown Bridge is a county owned bridge in Plumcreek Township that has been slated for replacement in 2011. He explained that this agreement revises the previous agreement with Widmer Engineering and increases the amount of the contract by \$25,852.00 for construction consultation services. Mr. Palilla reported that all costs will be fully reimbursed by PennDOT.

Resolution 2010-22 Authorizing Armstrong County Board of Commissioners Chairman to sign Gastown Bridge Supplemental Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners adopted Resolution 2010-22 Authorizing Armstrong County Board of Commissioners Chairman to sign the Gastown Bridge Supplemental Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT. Mr. Palilla stated that the resolution of authorization of signature is a requirement from PennDOT.

Gastown Bridge Supplemental Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved Gastown Bridge Supplemental Reimbursement Agreement between Armstrong County and PennDOT. Mr. Palilla explained that this agreement will supplement the engineering cost and construction cost reimbursement by PennDOT. The agreement covers up to a maximum of \$1,199,000.00 in costs.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Re-appoint Members to the Armstrong County Planning Commission

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the following re-appointments to the Armstrong County Planning Commission for four year terms beginning January 1, 2011 and expiring December 31, 2014:

- Mr. Kenneth Riggle, 400 Novinger Road, Leechburg, PA 15656,
- Mr. F.L. (Bud) Shannon, 2668 River Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690
- Mr. Oscar (Bud) Houser, 547 Calhoun School Road, New Bethlehem, PA 16242
- Ms. Melinda Shay 1359 State Route 85, Kittanning, PA 16201

Re-appointment to the Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the re-appointment to the Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board of Consumer Representative Raymond C. Hayes, 1014 State Route 1042, NuMine, PA 16244, to a three year term beginning January 1, 2011 and expiring December 31, 2013.

Appointments to the Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board

Ms. Talerico stated that there are ten geographical consumer positions and five agency positions. She expressed her appreciation to all who serve and noted that these positions are voluntary.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the appointment of Consumer Representative Elinor V. Weaver, 659 ½ N. Grant Avenue, Kittanning, PA 16201, to the Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board for an unexpired term beginning January 1, 2011 and expiring December 31, 2011.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the appointments to the Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board for three year terms beginning January 1, 2011 and expiring December 31, 2013 to the following:

- Consumer Representative James A Turney, 214 Craigsville Road, Worthington, PA 16262
- Consumer Representative Anna Jane Loudon, 1103 Eagles Nest Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690
- Consumer Representative Linda Zellman, 534 State Route 1041, Dayton, PA 16222
- Organization / Agency Representative Reverend Doctor Wes Berkebile, 2039 Freeport Road, Kittanning PA 16201
- Organization / Agency Representative Jolene Formaini, Visiting Nurses Association, Western PA, 154 Hindman Road, Butler, PA 16001
- Organization / Agency Representative Lois Lutz, Alzheimer's Association. Greater Pennsylvania Chapter, 1100 Liberty Ave, Ste E-201, Pittsburgh, PA 15222,

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2010-23 Revision to the County of Armstrong OBO Kiskiminetas Township FFY 2008 State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, pending the solicitor's review, the Commissioners approved Resolution 2010-23 Revision to the County of Armstrong OBO Kiskiminetas Township FFY 2008 State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds. Mr. Palilla explained that the resolution will transfer \$6,000.00 from the Jackson drainage project to the township building renovation project.

Resolution 2010-24 Fixing the Salaries of Elected Officials of Armstrong County

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved Resolution 2010-24 Fixing the Salaries of Elected Officials of Armstrong County. This will be in effect for a four year term beginning in 2012.

ADOPTION OF THE 2011 ARMSTRONG COUNTY BUDGET

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted the 2011 Armstrong County Budget. Mr. Pepler stated that the only material changes are that the health insurance costs were included in the final budget. He explained that the exact costs were not available for the preliminary budget. Mr. Pepler announced that the general fund budget included \$18,424,251.00. The Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Pepler for his efforts.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kirkpatrick opened the meeting to comments and questions.

Mr. Scahill commended Mr. Pepler and all the Department Heads for their efforts to reach a balanced budget. He cited the example of the Federal Budget, detailing the facts that they will be passing a continuing budget through resolution. Mr. Scahill also described the challenges posed by the lack of reimbursement from the state for the mandated increase to the District Attorney's salary. He then discussed the upcoming planned replacement of the Gastown Bridge. He stated that in the twenty years that he has been in office he remembers the adjustments that the bridge has received to accommodate the local farmers and their vehicles. He expressed confidence that many of the local citizens will appreciate the improvements that the new bridge will afford. Mr. Scahill closed by commending the efforts of Community Action of Armstrong County who worked in cooperation with the Salvation Army to provide Christmas gifts for families in need. He recognized the generous donations of local companies, unions and several county departments and employees for assisting in making Christmas special for those in need.

Mr. Fink expressed his thanks to everyone for their efforts in providing Christmas gifts for those in need. He also commended every employee for their part in operating the county in a cost effective manner. He stated that it takes everyone's effort to accomplish a balanced budget and specifically commended Mr. Pepler for his hard work and helpfulness. Mr. Fink credits everyone's combined co-operation to enable a budget being passed that did not include a tax increase.

Ms. Kirkpatrick thanked Mr. Pepler for the work he did on the budget and the thorough overview that he provides for the Commissioners. "It's not just about passing the budget, it's about monitoring it on a regular basis," Commissioner Patty Kirkpatrick said. "It's always been our goal as a board ... to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer resources." She acknowledged that the retirement funds and healthcare funds are generally the largest costs to the county. Ms. Kirkpatrick described the comprehensive wellness initiative that is under way to help promote better health habits for all employees which will hopefully aid in the decrease of insurance costs. She complimented Mr. Fink and Mr. Scahill for their efforts in securing donations from area businesses and unions to assist Community Action's recent efforts. Ms. Kirkpatrick closed her comments by recognizing the recently released Recycling Calendar that is provided collectively by the County, the Progressive Workshop and the Armstrong County Community Foundation. She then acknowledged Ms. Conklin's efforts for the coordination of the calendar.

Ms. Conklin stated that this is her tenth year but noted that the project is in its seventeenth year. Ms. Kirkpatrick congratulated the winners and complimented all of the students for their submitted artwork, describing the competition as fierce.

Mr. Pepler stated that there has not been a tax increase in five years and that the county has received an A bond rating, reaffirming that the county finances are in excellent state. He described how the county has been consistently fully funding its retirement program adding that there will not be a "big balloon payment" due as other businesses have experienced.

RECESS

The Board of Commissioners wished everyone a blessed Christmas. Ms. Kirkpatrick then announced that there are pending contracts that are currently under negotiation that the board intends to have signed before the end of the year.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to recess the Public Meeting at 2:20 PM until Wednesday, December 22, 2010 at 3:30 PM. The next regular Public Meeting will be held Thursday, January 6, 2010 at 1:30 PM.