

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
December 2, 2010

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, December 2, 2010, 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, Dave Croyle – Kittanning Paper, Jonathan Weaver – Kittanning Paper, Kevin Shepard – Deputy Warden, Armstrong County Jail, Maryanne Koleny – Director, Human Resources, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Janet Talerico – Executive Director, Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Public Attendance by: Stephen Haasch. Due to his attendance at a National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference, Commissioner James V. Scahill was present via teleconference.

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 November 17, 2010 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Audit Agreements with Chapman Kelly

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Audit Agreement between Armstrong County and Chapman Kelly. Ms. Koleny stated that the audit will verify eligible dependents that are covered under the county's insurance policy. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated that extensive research has been conducted to attain all possible cost savings for the County.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 330 Senior Center Lease

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Leechburg Senior Center lease agreement between Armstrong County and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 330. Ms. Talerico stated the lease is effective beginning November 2010 and is in effect for five years with an option to renew. She stated that the transition has taken place and they are in the process of sponsoring a grand re-opening. Ms. Talerico also described the new breakfast buffet that will be featured at the facility.

Memorandum of Understanding for ATM Machine at the Armstrong County Jail with DSI-ITI, LLC

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Memorandum of Understanding for ATM Machine at the Armstrong County Jail between Armstrong County and DSI-ITI, LLC. Mr. Shepard described how the unit will function as an internet banker like a reverse ATM machine, family members and visitors to the jail will be able to deposit money via a kiosk into the inmates' commissary accounts or deposit money on the internet. He also noted that this service is offered

at no cost to the county and will save time and employee hours that were formerly spent processing transactions.

Extension of Service Agreement Family Psychological Association

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor and the acknowledgement of the Prison Board, the Commissioners approved the Extension of Service Agreement for the Armstrong County Jail between Armstrong County and Family Psychological Association. Mr. Shepard stated that this extension is being offered at the same cost as the previous contract.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the County Commissioners acknowledged the financial transactions for November 2010.

Ms. Kirkpatrick opened the meeting to comments and questions.

Mr. Scahill described the NACo Conference that he is attending in Texas, at the home county of NACo President Glenn Whitley. He announced that the next meeting he will attend will involve a major initiative on a national level that parallels the Military Affairs project that the County Commissioners' Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) has recently undertaken. It will encompass all veterans living and deceased. The initial meeting of the task force will be held this afternoon. Mr. Scahill stated that NACo will be "the voice on the hill" in DC. He then reported that the weather in Dallas was 65 degrees! It was discussed that while the Pennsylvania hunters may be enjoying the snow, Mr. Scahill was missing this pastime with his sons. He described hunting as quality time that promotes family values and traditions. He stated he is looking forward to joining his sons on the upcoming Saturday.

Mr. Fink expressed his thoughts that twenty years ago elected officials could not foresee the technological advances that would allow such remarkable administrative tools as video conferencing. He concurred with Mr. Scahill that his family also enjoys their time hunting together. Mr. Fink closed his comments by noting the personal convenience that he enjoys with the technology that he described earlier in his comments. He described how it offered his son the opportunity to send a picture and message via cell phone from the woods, in real time, where they are hunting.

Ms. Kirkpatrick referenced an article in the Rural Pennsylvania Newsletter describing a report compiled by East Stroudsburg University. The report detailed the significant differences between rural and urban areas in dealing with property reassessment. CCAP is currently collecting data on various procedures and policies. One revision, currently under consideration, would consolidate laws to benefit the Commonwealth and set schedules for reassessment.

Having served 19 years on the assessment and tax committee of CCAP, Mr. Scahill noted the disjointed assessment law which has existed for at least ten years. He added that CCAP has displaced the emphasis of Tax Reform in favor of Tax Fairness.

Mr. Fryer requested further detail regarding the Public Meeting videos available on the County's website. The Board of Commissioners described the videos as promotional tools that were

provided at no cost to the County. The company that produced the videos segments highlighting various aspects of Armstrong County, sought sponsorships from area businesses to fund the project.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that the 2011 Budget will be passed at the December 16, 2010 meeting. Mr. Fryer asked what the biggest challenge was in preparing the budget. The Board of Commissioners stated that while they are not able to predict how the State Budget will affect the county, they prepared for potential reductions in state funding. Another area of great concern was rising Healthcare costs and retirement funding. The Board recognized Ms. Miller and Ms. Koleny for their diligent work in researching the most fiscally responsible measures in dealing with those two areas.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:08 PM. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 1:30 PM.