

**COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
December 22, 2010**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Wednesday, December 22, 2010, at 3:30 PM in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick, Richard L. Fink, James V. Scahill, Kathleen Rashlich – Administrative and Marketing Assistant, Commissioners' Office, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Dianne Emminger – Armstrong County Memorial Hospital, Tom Adamson – Armstrong County Memorial Hospital, William Molner – Snyder Associates Companies, James Lockard – Mission Critical Partners, Brian Bark – Mission Critical Partners, Mark Cress – Motorola, Jim Ahrens – Motorola, Paul Cherish – Motorola, Randy Howell – Motorola, Rob Sterner – Kimball, Al Smith – Kimball, Doug Ciuca – Parks Township, Ron Baustert – Coordinator, Armstrong County 911, Randy Brozenick – Director, Armstrong County Department of Public Safety, Terry Yeany – Distant Volunteer Fire Department

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2010-25 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Authorizing Cooperation and Agreement with Indiana County and Westmoreland County, Relating to the Cost and Authorization of Purchase of a Regional Public Safety Radio System Controller Switch for the Inter-county Regional Radio System (ICORRS)

Mr. Brozenick explained that the resolution will officially bring three counties together to share the cost of a controller switch. The switch will cost a total of \$2,799,754.00 to be divided equally between Westmoreland, Indiana and Armstrong Counties at a cost of \$933,278.00 per county. Mr. Smith stated that immense preparation and work has been done to arrive at this point, but noted that it will progress forward and be beneficial to all residents especially public responders. Mr. Ahrens thanked everyone for their efforts; he stated that this agreement will serve as a model to other regions. Mr. Brozenick stated that the other counties were also signing their agreements today. Mr. Bark stated that this is the culmination of the region and communities joining together to invest in the future. He described it as a rare and special day. Mr. Scahill offered thanks and "kudos" to the services that worked together to prepare the groundwork and outline for the project. He expressed his appreciation for Westmoreland County's participation and referred to this as a singular moment of regional co-operation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners adopted the Resolution 2010-25 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Authorizing Cooperation and Agreements with Indiana County and Westmoreland County, Relating to the Cost and Authorization of Purchase of a Regional Public Safety Radio System Controller Switch for the Inter-county Regional Radio System (ICORRS).

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

ICORRSCC Communications System Agreement with Motorola, Inc.

Mr. Brozenick explained that this is the outline of all costs and equipment that is involved in the contract with Motorola, Inc. Mr. Baustert stated that the switch has the capability to add more users to the service. He added that in the 10 years since the attacks of September 11, 2001 this technology has been necessary and now the three counties will have it. Mr. Ahrens stated that he is proud to be here today and involved as a part of the process.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the ICORRSCC Communications System Agreement between Armstrong County and Motorola, Inc.

Communications System Agreement with Motorola, Inc.

Mr. Brozenick described the study of equipment and how each option measured for the short term and for the future. He credited the consultants with assisting in selecting the best equipment to meet future demands and upcoming mandates. Mr. Baustert gave the example of the new equipment enabling first responders to communicate on the same system no matter where they are located with a clear signal as if they were seated beside you. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for providing a system that includes enhanced safety features for first responders. Mr. Ahrens stated that this has been a big process, but was critical to meet the needs now and in the future. Mr. Sterner stated that he appreciated the opportunity to consult on this project. Mr. Smith appreciated the opportunity to consult and looks forward to seeing this process grow in the years to come. Mr. Bark believes they have included all the elements while remaining with the core goal to enhance public safety and quality of life to residents. Ms. Kirkpatrick addressed the price of the project; she credited Motorola as being helpful in providing options and pricing. Mr. Brozenick stated that the first figures that were estimated totaled 33 to 36 million dollars. After a redesign of the system using less towers and better quality of equipment the radio side of the project will cost approximately 7.6 million dollars.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Communications System Agreement between Armstrong County and Motorola, Inc.

Franchise Agreement with Salsgiver Inc., Salsgiver Communications, Inc. and Salsgiver Telecom, Inc.

Mr. Brozenick detailed the various systems that were available and their limitations. The broadband that was selected will allow other uses through the fiber network. He estimated that the fiber project will be approximately 5.6 million dollars. Mr. Baustert referenced the improvements to all aspects of the project. He stated that the technology is so advanced from the past ten years describing this as the backbone of technology to lead us into the future. Ms. Emminger expressed her congratulations and appreciation to all involved for providing broadband to the county and enhancing resources. Mr. Adamson stated that the demands of healthcare grow by leaps and bounds and the use of fiber will assist the entire hospital. Mr. Molinar, explained that as a member of Armstrong Alliance to Economic Progress, a group that is dedicated to supporting projects based on fiber optic initiative, this project will offer unlimited potential. Mr. Lockard stated that the efforts of this project show the commitment and vision of the Commissioners. He believes broadband will be enjoyed by businesses in the county and promote economic development.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the review of the solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Franchise Agreement between Armstrong County and Salsgiver Inc., Salsgiver Communications, Inc., and Salsgiver Telecom, Inc.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kirkpatrick opened the meeting to comments and questions.

Mr. Fink commended everyone for the hours and work they have performed to bring the radio project to this point. He believes this will provide a chance for true regional operability. He recognized Mr. Yeany and Mr. Cuica as two of the members of the First Response Committee that was formed to assist in outlining the project. He stated that as the project progresses he can see the benefits that broadband will provide to the entire community. He expressed his appreciation to the businesses and hospital for attending and showing their support and noted that all is being accomplished at no tax increase to residents. Mr. Fink applauded the staff and consultants for bringing the project to this point and is looking forward to the next step but knows that the hard work will now begin.

Mr. Scahill stated he enjoys building things, whether it is a building or a system. He feels that the Radio Project will serve as a role model for other areas. He stated that the system is long overdue but views it as an exciting advancement to the community.

Ms. Kirkpatrick described this as a historic day. She never fathomed being able to impact the area in such an important and visionary way. She said the focus and primary function of government is to see how they can expand and improve on the needs of the area. She credits Motorola for addressing the long term effects, stating fiber will set us apart from other regions. Ms. Kirkpatrick concurred with Mr. Fink that there was no tax increase and referenced the bond that was signed this past year to make the project possible. She expressed her congratulations and gratitude to everyone involved.

Mr. Yeany stated that the project will simplify their jobs as respondents. He currently has three separate radio systems to operate that keep everyone connected; he stated the equipment is outdated and that the parts are hard to find.

Mr. Ciuca stated that the new system will benefit everyone in clarity and timely response when help is needed.

Ms. Emminger lead applause for everyone involved and the work they have accomplished.

Mr. Scahill described traveling to Washington D.C. with Mr. Yeany. He also detailed the work efforts at Shanksville, Pennsylvania and the inability to intercommunicate until Motorola brought radios in for use. He stated that ten years later we are on a ticking time bomb that another major catastrophe has not occurred. Mr. Scahill acknowledged that it is a major cost but stated that by working together it is possible.

Mr. Walzak requested a time frame for completion. Mr. Brozenick replied within 24 to 30 months.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 4:35 PM until Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 1:30 PM.