

COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
May 1, 2014



THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER ON THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014 AT 9:00 AM IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM WITH THE FOLLOWING IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner David K. Battaglia, Commissioner Robert T. Bower, Commissioner Richard L. Fink, George J. Skamai, County Administrator/Chief Clerk, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Dan Lucovich – Director, Armstrong County Human Resources, Myra Miller – Armstrong County Controller, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Gary Montebell – Director, Armstrong County Belmont Complex, Tammy Calderone, Administrator Armstrong-Indiana BDHP, Janet Talerico, Executive Director, Area Agency on Aging, Michelle Lydon, Apollo Relay for Life, Laura McCurdy, American Cancer Society, William Davis, Ford City Relay for Life, Dave Hogue, Warden, Armstrong County Jail, Kevin Shepard, Deputy Warden of Administration, Armstrong County Jail, Josie Schultz, EQT, Linda Hemmes, ARDC, Brad Pedersen, Leader Times, Jonathon Weaver, Kittanning Paper

Mr. Battaglia announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the minutes for the April 17, 2014 Public Meeting were approved.

PROCLAMATION

Proclamation 2014-10 National Correctional Officers and Employees Week

Warden Hogue stated that Corrections Officers Week is May 4th. He noted that there are a lot of good people who work at the jail and would like to recognize those corrections officers.

Mr. Fink read aloud the proclamation.

Mr. Fink stated that this proclamation means a lot and he quotes a few facts to help our citizens know what it means to be a corrections officer.

“Corrections Officers are constantly in the presence of convicted criminals”

“Corrections Officers walk the toughest beat there is in law enforcement”

“Nationwide, there are 40,000 assaults by inmates on prison staff every year”

“The average Corrections Officer can expect to be assaulted twice in his or her career”

“An average of 13 Corrections Officers are killed on the job every year”

Mr. Fink said we really need to think about this, and if you see a Corrections Officer or an employee that works at the jail thank them for what they do. Mr. Fink thanks our Officers. Mr. Shepard thanks the Board of Commissioners for the proclamation.

Mr. Fink announced that at the Warden's Conference our Warden was selected as "Warden of the Year" out of 67 counties. Having a Warden that achieved that recognition is quite an honor for Armstrong County and he thanks the Warden for his service.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2014-10 National Correctional Officers and Employees Week.

Proclamation 2014-11 Relay For Life Days of Armstrong County Ford City and Apollo

Ms. McCurdy, representing the American Cancer Society, asked the Board of Commissioners to proclaim the month of May as Relay For Life Days. There will be events throughout the month, June 7 & 8 as well as the 13th & 14th at the Ford City Athletic Field and the Apollo Ridge High School. These events are to recognize cancer survivors and remembering those who have lost, and committing to finishing the fight against cancer.

Mr. Battaglia read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2014-11 Relay For Life Days of Armstrong County Ford City and Apollo.

Mr. Battaglia stated the community is affected as well as the family when someone dies, so we really want to encourage the communities to take part in the walks and contribute because there is no substitute for human life and if you save one life or elongate one you have met the goal.

Mr. Davis stated that out of the top 50 Relay For Life teams, Ford City was number 16 out of the top 50 collecting money. Mr. Davis asked permission to place the banner that Ford City was given in the front of the courthouse so the whole community may see it.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners granted permission to hang the Relay For Life banner.

Proclamation 2014-12 Older Americans Month

Ms. Talerico announced that May is Older Americans month and they appreciate the Board of Commissioners adopting a proclamation annually. Older American Day will be May 7th and the Secretary of Aging will be visiting Armstrong County and the Area Agency on Aging Office as well as going to the Distant Senior Center for the celebration of Older Americans Day. All ten Senior Centers will be celebrating Older Americans Day. Please remember that 1 in every 4 people who live in Armstrong County are over the age of 60 and this is a nice way of thanking people, realizing that seniors are very viable to the Community. There will be a lot of activities in May listed on the County Website, one of which is the annual art show on the 22nd. It is open and free to the public.

Mr. Fink read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2014-12 Older Americans Month.

Mr. Fink reminded everyone to think about your grandparents and maybe or older neighbor telling stories of the history where you live and the culture and how things came about. He said Older Americans are a great asset and he thanks God for them.

Proclamation 2014-13 Mental Health Awareness Month

Mr. Bower read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2014-13 Mental Health Awareness Month.

Ms. Calderone thanked the Board of Commissioners for the proclamation and wants everyone to be aware that there are people out there who suffer everyday on an ongoing basis with mental illness. We need to educate ourselves and become more aware of what it means to live with a mental illness. The Community support program in Armstrong County will be having a walk on May 29th from 12:30 – 1:30.

Proclamation 2014-14 accessAbilities, Inc. Celebrating 60 Years

Mr. Bower read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners adopted Proclamation 2014-14 accessAbilities, Inc. Celebration 60 Years.

Ms. Christner thanked the Board of Commissioners for the proclamation on behalf of the agency that expands over four counties. Ms. Christner spoke on how we have so many children and adults with a variety of illnesses.

They are there to help in whatever way they can. assessAbilities is growing because of the strong need in Armstrong, Indiana, Butler and other counties as well.

Mr. Bower stated that it was nice to have these five different proclamations read in one public meeting. All five together really sends a message and highlights the commitment of the county to human services. Thanks to all of you, for the work you do.

AGREEMENTS / CONTRACTS

Jump Start Sports, LLC Agreement

Mr. Battaglia inquired about the Certificate of Insurance that was a portion of the agreement and Mr. Montebell said he received it from ESS Insurance and he would forward a copy to the Commissioner's office.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approved the agreement between Armstrong County and Jump Start Sports LLC., pending receiving the Certificate of Insurance.

Vogel Disposal Service, Inc. Agreement

Mr. Carney stated that he researched other companies and by approving the contract with Vogel we have saved the county an annual amount of \$14,055.00. This contract does not have an automatic renewal date.

Mr. Bower stated that Mr. Carney has been working on this for a couple of years and after a large volume of phone conversations and meetings he has been able to eliminate the auto renewal. Mr. Bower wants to recognize the substantial savings and thanks Mr. Carney.

Mr. Battaglia echoes Mr. Bowers comments, and added that the County's policy is that we do not have auto renewal in our new or existing contracts, and if that is not possible we include a 30 day opt-out clause.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners acknowledged the agreement between Armstrong County and Vogel Disposal Service, Inc.

Highmark Group PPO Blue (Main Group County Employees)

Mr. Lucovich is asking approval for an agreement between Armstrong County and Highmark Group PPO for county employees who selected PPO.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approved the agreement between Armstrong County and Highmark Group PPO Blue (Main Group County Employees).

Community Blue (Main Group County Employees)

Mr. Lucovich is asking approval for an agreement between Armstrong County and Community Blue for county employees who selected Community Blue.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approved the agreement between Armstrong County and Community Blue (Main Group County Employees).

Highmark Group PPO Blue (Health Center SEIU Employees)

Mr. Lucovich is asking approval for an agreement between Armstrong County and PPO Blue represented by SEIU and the Health Center. This is a negotiated agreement.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approved the agreement between Armstrong County and Highmark Group PPO Blue (Health Center SEIU Employees).

Highmark Group Community Blue (Health Center SEIU Employees)

Mr. Lucovich is asking approval for an agreement between Armstrong County and Community Blue represented by SEIU and the Health Center. This is a negotiated agreement.

On a motion by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approved the agreement between Armstrong County and Highmark Group Community Blue (Health Center SEIU Employees).

Mr. Fink noted that the Board of Commissioners discussed the agreements with the HR director but did not make a decision to approve until public meeting and that they gained the knowledge of what is in the agreements prior to the approval at this Public Meeting.

Department of Community and Economic Development

Ms. Johnson stated that last September the County submitted its annual Community Development Block Grant application on behalf of the county and including four entitlements of Kiskiminetas Township, Kittanning Borough, Manor Township and East Franklin Township, we have received approval of the grant and it is being reviewed by the County Solicitor. The total contract is \$575,061.00 and we are asking for the Board of Commissioners approval pending the solicitors review. Entitlement means that the township or Borough must be over 4000 in population and declared to be in economic distress.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approved the agreement between Armstrong County and Department of Community and Economic Development pending solicitors review.

Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc. (SW-6 Collaboration of Counties)

Ms. Calderone asked the Board of Commissioners to approve the amendment between Armstrong County and Value Behavioral Health. In December the Board approved the original and since that time certain language regarding the contingency plan is no longer needed.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approved the amended agreement between Armstrong County and Value Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc. (SW-6 Collaboration of Counties) pending solicitor's review.

Ms. Calderone explained that the SW-6 is six counties that manage and monitor the Health Choices' Fund and these are the medical assistance dollars that are received from the state to fund all the medical assistance that receive mental health services.

Southwest Behavioral Health Management, Inc. (Administrative Service Agreement)

Ms. Calderone explained that the language was changed to provide clarification that in the event that the county would withdraw from the SW -6 that any of the already designated administrative dollars would remain with the SW-6 counties.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approved the modified agreement between Armstrong County and Southwest Behavioral Health Management, Inc. (Administrative Service Agreement) pending solicitor review.

Department of Public Welfare (2014-2018 BH HealthChoices)

Ms. Calderone stated that the Department of Public Welfare amended the contract to comply with the health care reform program. The language is changing the standard requirements and the language was inserted for clarification for when the contract modification can be made.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approved the amended agreement between Armstrong County and Department of Public Welfare (2014-2018 BH Health Choices) pending solicitors review.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Schultz from EQT wanted everyone to know that this year they will be in Armstrong County and EQT is working with Arts on the Allegheny and are giving contributions to our local Fire Department as well.

Ms. Hemmes from Allegheny River Development Corporation wanted to let everyone know that their fund raising is in high gear and they are attempting to raise \$150,000 to hopefully open the locks this summer. Dave Mackwell who is the owner of Fox Chapel Yacht Club has donated a 22 foot Pontoon with motor and trailer that will be raffled off on August 23rd. Tickets are available throughout the county. ARDC is asking for support in their efforts. Their Website is alleghenyriverdevelopment.org.

Mr. Fink stated that these are volunteers within this corporation: they don't get paid. Their mission is to the recreation boating back into our rivers and locks, back into our county. The Allegheny River divides up through the middle of Armstrong County. This has had a tremendous effect on our tourism and dollars being spent and we thank you for all that you do.

Mr. Battaglia reminded everyone that this is the National Day of Prayer and we appreciate your prayers for the county as well as the country and commonwealth. Thank you.

Acknowledge Financial Transactions for April 2014

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Bower and carried unanimously, the Board acknowledged the financial transactions for April 2014.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Bower, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously; the Commissioners adjourned the Public Meeting at 9:47 am. The next Public Meeting will be held Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 9:00 am.