

MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
January 8, 2008

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, January 8, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick, Richard L. Fink and James V. Scahill, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Lindsay Sturgeon – Leader Vindicator, Rich Palilla – Executive Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Darin Alviano – Planning Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning & Development, David Hogue – Warden, Armstrong County Jail, Sally Conklin – Planning Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Public Attendance by: Tim Mohney

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 18, 2008 Public Meeting were approved.

BID AWARD

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the county solicitor and the Planning Department, the Commissioners awarded the bid for culvert rehabilitation to the Buffalo Creek Bridge to Insight Pipe Inc LP of Harmony, Pennsylvania. The bid was in the amount of \$24,200.00 not including per diem or wages.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Inmate Housing Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Inmate Housing Agreement between Butler County and Armstrong County. This agreement was prepared by our County Solicitor. Mr. Hogue reported that revenue collected in 2008 through September was \$414,000.00, and an additional \$130,000.00 payment for October through December will be received once this agreement has been approved. The agreement allows for payment of \$50.00 per day per inmate plus medical expenses to be collected by Armstrong County from Butler County.

POLICIES

Adopt Summary LERTA Policy

Ms. Kirkpatrick read the ordinance aloud.

Mr. Palilla stated that five municipalities have adopted the policy as it currently exists. The Board is pleased by the five municipalities involved and they encourage others to adopt the policy. The Summary's purpose is to clarify the goal to stimulate economic growth and development by offering a ten year tax abatement schedule. The Commissioners believe that the participation of all three taxing bodies will provide the strongest success. On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill, and carried unanimously, based on the approval of the county solicitor, the Commissioners adopted the Summary LERTA Policy.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the appointment and reappointments to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.

- a) Appointment of Patricia Kirkpatrick, Commissioner, 450 E Market Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 to the Executive Committee and Corporation.
- b) Re-appointment of James Scahill, Commissioner, 450 E. Market Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 for a three year term as County Commissioner Category to expire December 31, 2011.
- c) Re-appointment of Richard Fink, Commissioner, 450 E Market Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 for a three year term as Local Elected Official Category to expire December 31, 2011.
- d) Re-appointment of Mr. Mark Snyder, Snyder Associated Companies, PO Box 1022, Kittanning, PA 16201 for a three year term as Citizen Category to expire December 31, 2011.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Conklin announced that there will be a Public Meeting regarding Parks, Recreation and Trails. The meeting will be held January 14, at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners Conference Room. Pashek Association will be in attendance at the meeting to answer questions. She invited everyone to attend and learn about the findings and recommendations of Armstrong County's Draft Recreation Plan. Ms. Conklin stated the

meetings and planning originally started in 2006. The draft plan is currently available to view on the county's web site.

Financial Transactions for December 2008

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill, and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Financial Transactions for December 2008.

Mr. Fink reminded everyone that funding for Human Services and the state budget are conditions to be watched. He voiced concern that any budget cuts that decrease preventative services will lead to an increased need for mandated services in the future.

Mr. Scahill discussed a visit from Senator White and the foreboding cuts to be made in the state budget. He praised the people of Armstrong County for being resilient and has vowed to research the funding for mandates to provide definition in dollar amounts that people can relate to.

Ms. Kirkpatrick discussed the Allegheny / Kiski Valley Leadership Conference she recently attended. Local Congressmen and Representatives spoke at the conference on many topics including the two billion dollar shortfall the state is facing. She noted that the reimbursement check for the District Attorney's salary has not been received. The State is going to have budget cuts and will need to prioritize where to designate funding. She warned that we are going to have to be cautious of spending until we see how state budget cuts will affect our county.

Mr. Hogue announced a project that he and Mr. George Hilty organized with the help of area churches. Their efforts provided two gifts each to 55 children of inmates. Each child was presented with a gift of a clothing item and a gift of a toy.

Mr. Fink discussed the generous Christmas donations that Community Action received and the joy they could pass on to 100 area families. He commended Mr. Scahill for his efforts in helping secure funding for the project.

Mr. Scahill passed the praise on to the businesses who donated and the work done by the committee to provide assistance every year. He stated that he is warmed by the way people help others less fortunate and how everyone's efforts spread the real joy of Christmas.

Mr. Mohny stated his thoughts on how generous the people of Armstrong County have been. He spoke of playing Santa for the 38 families sponsored by Sheetz Christmas Project and also at the Church of the Nazarene at a party for the mentally and physically challenged.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:00 PM until January 15, 2009 at 1:30 PM.