

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING**  
**January 15, 2009**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, January 15, 2009 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, Renatta Signorini – Leader Times, Lindsay Sturgeon – Leader Vindicator, Myra Miller – Controller, Armstrong County, Sonie Mervis – Treasurer, Armstrong County, Randy Brozenick – Director, Armstrong County Public Safety, Marianne Hileman - Register & Recorder Armstrong County, Jeanne Englert – Director, Armstrong County Tax Claim, Honored Retirees: Beverly A. Casella, Fred S. Delp, Sara J. Kerr. Susan M. McGaughey, Lois J. Smail, Public attendance by: Gretchen Kepple, Karen Delp,

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 January 8, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

**CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS**

Gateway Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the approval of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Gateway Agreement between ePaymentNow.com LLC and Armstrong County. Ms. Englert explained approval of this agreement will enable the tax claim department to collect credit card payments for delinquent taxes. She stated electronic payment will enable people to pay by phone and avoid the inconvenience of traveling into the office for payment.

Mutual Aid Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the approval of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the Mutual Aid Agreement between Jefferson County and Armstrong County. Mr. Brozenick reported that this is a yearly agreement providing mutual aid coverage for Emergency Management Assistance.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Re-appointments to Armstrong County Tourist Bureau Board

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners re-appointed two members to the Armstrong County Tourist Bureau Board. As liaison to the Tourist Bureau, Mr. Fink expressed gratitude to Mr. Bennet and Ms. Jerich for accepting their re-appointments, and voiced appreciation for the hard work they and the entire Tourist Bureau Board accomplish.

- a) Re-appoint Mr. Jack Bennett of Jack's Tracks Train Shop and Downtown Kittanning, Inc., 115 Crane Drive, Country Club Estates, Kittanning, PA 16201
- b) Re-appoint Ms. Connie Jerich, of Jerich Insurance Agency, 136 Market Street, Leechburg, PA 15656

#### Re-appointments to Public Participation Panel

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners re-appointed sixteen members to the Public Participation Panel. The panel was created in 1998 to solicit public input, along with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, regarding transportation issues. Members are appointed to represent the population of their respective counties in regard to age, ethnicity, income, special needs and special interests. The Board of Commissioners invites anyone interested to participate; the panel is not limited to re-appointments only.

- a) Re-appoint Mr. Tom Bradigan, PO Box 995, Kittanning, PA 16201
- b) Re-appoint Mr. Harry Breski, RR #1 Box 488, Worthington, PA 16262
- c) Re-appoint Mr. Michael Johnston, 220 N. Grant Avenue, Kittanning, PA 16201
- d) Re-appoint Mr. James M. Seagriff, 111 Buffalo Street, Freeport, PA 16229
- e) Re-appoint Mr. Robert E. Case, 312 Broad Street, New Bethlehem, PA 16242
- f) Re-appoint Ms. Karen Waugaman, 301 Oak Avenue, Kittanning, PA 16201
- g) Re-appoint Mr. Leonard Meneely, 301 Oak Avenue, Kittanning, PA 16201
- h) Re-appoint Mr. William Gray, RD #4 Box 71, Kittanning, PA 16201
- i) Re-appoint Ms. Susan Torrance, 247 East Brady Road, Kittanning, PA 16201
- j) Re-appoint Ms. Jean Ruffaner, 651 Maple Street, Worthington, PA 16262
- k) Re-appoint Mr. Harold Mateer, RD#1 Box 192, Templeton, PA 16259
- l) Re-appoint Mr. John W. Ellenberger, 124 Armsdale Road, Kittanning, PA 16201
- m) Re-appoint Mr. Mark Snyder, PO Box 1022, Kittanning, PA 16201

- n) Re-appoint Mr. Dean R. Shakley, 108 Century Street, Parker, PA 16049
- o) Re-appoint Mr. Hopeton Thomas, 1413SR 268, Cowansville, PA 16218
- p) Re-appoint Mr. Harry Zimmerman, 1211 State Rte. 268, Cowansville, PA 16218

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Retiree Plaque Presentation**

Ms. Miller read the names aloud. The following 2008 retirees were recognized:

Beverly A. Casella*	51 years	1956 to 2008	Register & Recorder
Fred S. Delp*	20 years	1988 to 2008	EMA
Sara J. Kerr*	12 years	1995 to 2008	Register & Recorder
Susan M. McGaughey*	27 years	1981 to 2008	Health Center
Sherian E. Schaffer	15 years	1984 to 2008	Register & Recorder
Lois J. Smail*	16 years	1991 to 2008	Health Center
William E. Willyard	18 years	1979 to 2008	911

\*Denotes Attendance at meeting

The Retirement Board, consisting of Commissioners Ms. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Fink and Mr. Scahill, County Controller, Ms. Miller and County Treasurer, Ms Mervis, presented the Retiree’s with engraved plaques. The five retirees attending the meeting were invited to share their thoughts about their time as a county employee. Ms. Casella described her time with the county as a joy and a journey. She claimed it was a learning experience that she was thankful for and she hoped she gave back to the county during her time here as well. Mr. Delp expressed appreciation for his time with the county and that he misses everyone. He stated his time with the county was enjoyable. Ms. Kerr thanked Ms. Casella for hiring her, first as a Green Thumb worker and then as a county employee. She also expressed enjoyment over her time with Ms. Hileman, and the positive changes she brought to the office. Ms. McGaughey stated she may have retired, but she continues as a volunteer at the health center. She volunteers in central supply and also helps her replacement in the activities department. She told of building her job / department from scratch and expressed appreciation of Armstrong County for being a good employer. Ms. Smail described missing her co-workers, and how they get together to catch up, while enjoying dinner out. She said that since she has retired she has returned to cooking at home. The Retirement Board concluded with personal comments and best wishes for the retirees. Ms. Kirkpatrick recognized the retirees by describing the longevity of employment and how much everyone’s time and talents benefit the county and the community. Mr. Fink referred to statements his father made regarding to lack of time during retirement. He extended wishes for good health and a life of enjoyment. Mr. Scahill recalled a rainy night in Apollo with Mr. Delp as they contended with over a foot of water on the streets. He described the employees of the county as family, a unique blend of people who may have their differences, but all share one goal, to serve the public. Ms.

Mervis described the retirees as friends with whom she has shared many fond memories. She said she misses them and will be joining them soon. Ms. Miller extended the services of her office for any concerns the retirees may have. She stated helping prepare employees for retirement is a duty she enjoys. The Board of Commissioners expressed gratitude to the Controller's office for their efforts in preparing the plaques and organizing today's recognition ceremony.

### **OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Fink reminded everyone as they settle into the New Year, to please remember Tax Reform, stating that we must remain vigilant on our efforts. He encouraged everyone to support the Steelers and described them as our region's team.

Mr. Scahill expressed hope for Steeler Rallies at every County Building in the Region. He described the recent razing of the Armstrong County Campus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania in downtown Kittanning. He recalled the original class in the fall of 1963 was attended by his sister, and the cost of approximately \$125.00 per semester. He credits the Kittanning branch presence with offering many local students the opportunity of a college education. The property will be rebuilt into affordable housing for seniors.

Ms. Kirkpatrick expressed her pride while describing the symbolic importance of the United States to its citizens and to the world, especially during this significant time. She asked everyone to keep the incoming First Family and all who govern in their prayers.

### **ADJOURN**

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:07 PM until February 5, 2009 at 1:30 PM.