

**MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
February 5, 2009**

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 5, 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, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Myra Miller – Controller Armstrong County, Adrienne Commodore– Housing Development Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Roy Carney – Director, Armstrong County Public Works, Gary Montebell – Director, Armstrong County Belmont Complex, Nancy Dragan – Administrator, Armstrong County Health Center, Dennis Demangone – Administrator, Armstrong County Children, Youth and Family, Bill Doverspike – Milton Loop Campground, Kevin Dunmire – Milton Loop Campground Public Attendance by: Mary Ann Badura

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 15, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Windstream Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the agreement between Windstream and Armstrong County. Mr. Carney described the offer from Windstream to renew the PRI (which he explained as outgoing calls) phone contract at a rate of \$745.00 per month. He stated that this is a savings of \$89.60 per month from last year's fee of \$834.60 per month.

Belmont Complex Contract between Golden Eagle Security and Armstrong County

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the contract for the Belmont Complex between Golden Eagle Security and Armstrong County. Mr. Montebell explained that the contract was revised to clarify procedures and payment should court appearances be required by the security firm.

Armstrong County Jail Agreement between Waste Management, Inc and Armstrong County

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the county solicitor, and the review of the warden, the Commissioners approved the agreement for the Armstrong County Jail between Waste Management, Inc and Armstrong County.

Contract for Lead Based Paint Risk Assessment Services Affordable Services Inc. of Pittsburgh, PA

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, pending the approval of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the contract for lead based paint risk assessment services with Affordable Services Inc. Ms. Commodore stated that this is a two year agreement and that it is not to exceed \$14,850.00. She explained that this is part of the County's FY 2008 Housing Preservation Program that has been awarded \$98,715.70 for housing preservation with the requirement of a county match. The program will rehabilitate approximately 17 low income housing units at a maximum cost of \$10,000.00 per unit. The program guidelines state that lead base paint must be addressed in each home that is rehabilitated.

Amendment Dobson Cellular Systems Inc.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the amendment to the Dobson Cellular Systems Inc. agreement. Ms. Dragan stated that this is an amendment from a 2003 contract which covered four antennas generating an income of \$1,725.00 per month. Dobson wishes to improve and upgrade the existing antennas and add five more at the previously contracted price of \$125.00 per antenna. Ms. Dragan quoted a monthly increase of \$625.00, which will create a yearly increase in revenue from \$20,700.00 to \$28,200.00.

Milton Campground Lease

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the county solicitor, the Commissioners acknowledged the Milton Loop Campground Lease. Mr. Doverspike and Mr. Dunmire discussed their plans including the addition of new buildings, an enlarged camp store, improvements to and the relocation of the playground. The Board expressed their appreciation and thanks to Mr. Doverspike, Mr. Dunmire and Mr. Skamai for their efforts on preparing the lease and their work with the Army Corps of Engineers.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

CYF Advisory Committee Reappointments

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Children, Youth and Family Advisory Committee reappointments. Mr. Demangone explained that CYF is required to have an advisory committee to review and recommend policies and procedures to the Board of Commissioners and himself. He announced that the advisory committee is not limited to any set number of people serving and encouraged any interested parties to contact him. The Board expressed their appreciation for everyone who serves on the advisory committee. The following people were reappointed:

- a) Reappoint: Robert L. Engel, 950 N. McKean Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 to a two year term ending 12/31/2010
- b) Reappoint: Joy George, 503 Harrison Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 to a two year term ending 12/31/2010
- c) Reappoint: Beverley Ravotti, 743 High Street, Freeport, PA 16229 to a two year term ending 12/31/2010
- d) Reappoint: Kathy Snyder, RD #3 Box 275, Kittanning, PA 16201 to a two year term ending 12/31/2010
- e) Reappoint: Ruth Stubbs, 505 Harrison Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 to a two year term ending 12/31/2010

Armstrong County Hospital Authority Board Reappointments

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Armstrong County Hospital Authority Board reappointments.

- a) Reappoint: Michael Nagy, 425 Market Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 to a five year term ending 1/1/2014.
- b) Reappoint: Robert Engel, 950 North McKean Street, Kittanning, PA 16201 to a two year term ending 1/1/2011.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Financial Transactions for January 2009

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill, and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Financial Transactions for January 2009.

Mr. Fink stated that he is concerned for the County in regards to the increasing unemployment rate. He is waiting to see what the stimulus package will provide in relation to creating economic growth and jobs. He promised that the board will diligently work to maximize any opportunities available.

Mr. Scahill discussed the condition of the state budget and how it affects the County's ability to provide and expand programs. He referred to the Board's recent trip to Harrisburg where among other items tax increases were discussed. It may be an option for each county to individually decide to increase taxes by one percent. The increased revenue would be divided evenly between the individual county and the municipalities within. Mr. Scahill expressed any shift away from property tax is a victory.

Ms. Kirkpatrick explained the process of the Governor's proposed budget, describing it as so preliminary that no judgment should be made on it. She compared how different it is to how the county budget is processed. Ms. Kirkpatrick's experience leads her to believe that each Legislator will do their best to restore funding to projects that they have worked closely on. She remains hopeful that county human services will receive adequate funding. Ms. Kirkpatrick expressed thankfulness to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, especially acknowledging including Mr. Scahill's involvement for their work in coordinating the meeting in Harrisburg.

On a historical note Ms. Kirkpatrick described the effort across the nation to raise money for various landmarks associated with President Lincoln. "Give a Lincoln for Lincoln" is a project underway to raise money to restore several historical sites in connection with President Lincoln's life. She encouraged everyone to become involved.

Mr. Fryer questioned the likelihood of the tax increase. Mr. Scahill reiterated his earlier comments it is a preliminary plan that may never come to pass or may be totally transformed. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated she plans to wait until it is formally presented so she can research it and make an informed decision.

Ms. Kirkpatrick noted the change of date for the next meeting due to the Commissioners attendance at Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission meeting.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:07 PM until February 17, 2009 at 1:30 PM.