

MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING
February 17, 2009

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners' Public Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room with the following in attendance: Commissioners Patricia L. Kirkpatrick and Richard L. Fink, George J. Skamai – Chief Clerk, Mitch Fryer – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator, Carmen Johnson – Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Sally Conklin – Planning Coordinator, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Maryanne Koleny – Director of Human Resources, Armstrong County, Julie Nortrup- Clerk, Armstrong County Voter Registration, Jessica Schaub – Farmland Preservation Coordinator, Armstrong County Agricultural Preservation Board, Public Attendance by: Mary Ann Badura

Mr. Scahill was absent due to his attendance at a conference call with NACo.

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously, the minutes for the February 5, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

Modification of the County of Armstrong OBO Kiskiminetas Township's FFY 2005 CDBG Program

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the modification of the County of Armstrong OBO Kiskiminetas Township's FFY 2005 CDBG Program. Ms. Johnson explained the excess funds would be transferred to the Jackson Drainage Project.

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"Hard to Recycle Day" Tire Contract RFP Waste Tire Collection

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the "Hard to Recycle Day" Tire Contract between RFP Waste Tire Collection and Armstrong County. Ms. Conklin explained that a contract is required to receive DEP reimbursement. RFP Waste Tire Collection was the only agency to respond to request from the planning department. Ms. Conklin stated the event averages approximately 900 tires.

Public Defenders Agreements

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously based on the recommendation of the County Solicitor and Ms. Koleny, the Commissioners approved the agreements between the Public Defenders and Armstrong County. Ms. Koleny explained that the increased pay was based on the general pay increase that was put into effect across the county.

Assistant District Attorney Agreements

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the county solicitor and Ms. Koleny, the Commissioners approved the agreement between the Assistant District Attorneys and Armstrong County. Ms. Koleny stated that District Attorney Andreassi reviewed the contracts. She explained that the increased pay was based on the general pay increase that was put into effect across the county.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Armstrong County Agricultural Preservation Board Reappointments

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the Armstrong County Agricultural Preservation Board reappointments. Ms. Schaub recommended the re-appointment.

- a) Reappoint: Paul Stubrick, 291 Cravener Road, Kittanning, PA 16201 to a three year term ending 3/1/2012.

RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the resolution.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the 2009 resolution on the Spending of Federal Economic Renewal Grants to the County of Armstrong. Ms. Kirkpatrick expressed the hopes of the Commissioners to increase monies spent, from the stimulus package, on commodities from within the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Kirkpatrick announced that February 17, 2009 thru March 10, 2009 is the timeframe for anyone interested in running for local or county office to circulate and file petitions. A list of those offices up for election is posted on the County's website. Anyone interested can either stop in the elections office and pick up a packet or call the office to request that a packet be mailed to them.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Fink spoke about the stimulus package. He feels that not only Free Trade but Fair Trade is needed. He stated that in August 2007 the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania adopted a "Free Trade" resolution. Mr. Fink applauds the United States Congress for taking quick and decisive action on the stimulus package. He is looking forward to the benefits of the stimulus package on the economy, especially in regards to putting Armstrong County citizens back to work.

Ms. Kirkpatrick expressed concern that the stimulus money will be used carefully to be effective and beneficial to the economy. She described it as a significant debt that is being passed on to future generations. She stated that as a Commissioner she was not on the voting committee, but she remains cautiously hopeful that the stimulus package will be effective in improving the economic state of our country.

Ms. Kirkpatrick noted the significance of today for twelve students in a South Park elementary school who will have the opportunity to speak with Astronaut Michael Fincke while he is in space orbit. She said she thinks the technological advances and how they are used today is quite significant. She reflected back to when her husband's class was going to watch the televised launch of the shuttle when Christa McAuliffe, a teacher was scheduled to enter space. Ms. McAuliffe along with the six astronauts aboard the space shuttle Challenger were killed in an explosion during lift off on January 28, 1986. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated she is anxious to hear what the students ask of the Commander, and see how it may inspire them in their lives. Commander Fincke is from Emsworth, and as Mr. Fink noted a Steeler Fan.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Ms. Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 1:50 PM until Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 1:30 PM.