

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

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners Public Meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 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, Carmen Johnson - Assistant Director, Armstrong County Planning & Development, Jim Kuemmerle – Armstrong – Indiana, MH / MR Program Administrator, Janet D. Talerico – Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging, Maryanne Koleny, Armstrong County Director of Human Resources, Dave Hogue – Warden, Armstrong County Jail, Laurie Johns – HAVIN Outreach and Education Coordinator, Sonie Mervis – Armstrong County Treasurer, Amanda Hiles – First Deputy, Armstrong County Controller's Office, Joyce Traister, Armstrong County Emergency Management Agency, Honorees: Len Meneely, Karen Waugaman and Roy Cigola Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County, Tracy Mergen, Correction Officer Armstrong County Jail, Darla Bernot, Justin Stuebgen, Public Attendance by: Mary Ann Badura, Tammy Stuebgen, Gloria Misicik, William Beranty, Barry Montgomery, Angelo Bleggi, Tom Burk

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 17, 2009 Public Meeting were approved.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

McGuire Memorial Contract

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the recommendation of the director of MH / MR, the Commissioners approved the agreement for Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR between McGuire Memorial and Armstrong County. Mr. Kuemmerle stated that this contract is a new arrangement with an existing provider.

New Light Inc. Contract

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the contract for the Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR between New Light Inc. and Armstrong County. Mr. Kuemmerle explained that this is a new provider of services.

Alliance for Behavioral and Developmental Disabilities

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners approved the agreement for Armstrong – Indiana MH / MR between the Alliance for Behavioral and Developmental Disabilities and Armstrong County. Mr. Kuemmerle stated that this is new provider of services.

Mahoning Township's 2008 CDBG Grant Contract with DCED

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 execution of the County of Armstrong OBO Mahoning Township's 2008 CDBG Grant Contract with DCED. Ms. Johnson described this as a competitive grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 to be utilized to pay a portion of the construction costs of a proposed sanitary sewer line extension to the Village of Seminole in Mahoning Township. The grant will benefit 59 households with a total of 131 persons.

Pine Townships's 2008 CDBG Grant Contract with DCED

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 execution of the contract of the County of Armstrong OBO Pine Township's 2008 CDBG Grant Contract with DCED. Ms. Johnson explained this competitive grant was for \$308,000.00 to be utilized to pay the costs of the installation of the sanitary sewer laterals, including changes to indoor plumbing for the low to moderate income, owner occupied households in the Villages of Templeton, Whiskey Run and Belltown in Pine Township. The grant will help 79 of the 156 households served by this new sanitary sewer system. The Board of Commissioners acknowledged the hard work of the Planning Department in diligently seeking and achieving competitive grants.

E.L.L. Inc. Contract

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, based on the recommendations of the Kittanning Suburban Joint Water Authority, pending the review of the county solicitor, the Commissioners awarded E.L.L., Inc. the contract for the construction of the Cadogan Township Water Storage Tank Telemetry Project. They offered the lowest bid at \$65,850.00, with \$48,000.00 being funded by 2006 CDBG monies and \$17,850.00 from Kittanning Suburban Joint Water Authority.

CareerLink Sub Lease

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the approval of the county solicitor and Ms. Talerico, the Commissioners approved the CareerLink Sub Lease between Tri-County WIB and Armstrong County. Ms. Talerico explained that this contract provides office space for the older worker program within the CareerLink location.

Access Abilities, Inc. Interagency 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 Access Abilities, Inc. Interagency Agreement. Ms. Talerico stated that this is an amendment to adjust the state mandated hourly rates for attendant services.

UPMC Contract

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, based on the previous review and approval of similar agreements by the county solicitor, the Commissioners approved the UPMC Contract. Ms. Koleny described these contracts as health insurance contracts with the same language as previous years with rate adjustments. The contracts cover the employees at the Armstrong County Health Center, Children, Youth and Family Services and the County Assessors.

PROCLAMATIONS

Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year 2009

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted the Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce 2009 Business of the Year Proclamation to the Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County. The Board praised the Progressive Workshop for their accomplishments and service to the county. Mr. Meneely expressed appreciation for the relationship with the community and the County Commissioners; he also recognized the importance and value of the Board of Directors.

Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year 2009

Mr. Fink read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Fink, seconded by Mr. Scahill and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted the Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year 2009 Proclamation to Ms. Darla Bernot. Ms. Bernot summed up her commitment by sharing her personal philosophy, "Volunteering is such a wonderful way to give back to the community and to share the gifts God has given to me." The Board extended their appreciation and admiration for all the dedication and volunteer hours Ms. Bernot has given.

Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce Jr. Volunteer of the Year 2009

Mr. Scahill read aloud the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted the Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce 2009 Jr. Volunteer of the Year 2009 to Justin Stuebgen. The Board commended Mr. Stuebgen on his accomplishments, describing him as a role model to his peers. Mr. Stuebgen will be attending basic training for the National Guard this summer and plans to attend college this fall. He credits his family's support for his achievements.

RESOLUTIONS

Victims of Crime Assistance

Ms. Kirkpatrick read aloud the resolution.

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners adopted the Victims of Crime Assistance Resolution. The resolution demonstrates the Armstrong County Commissioners support for HAVIN and the services they offer. These services to victims offered by HAVIN face elimination due to decreased and withheld state funding.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Financial Transactions for February 2009

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

Armstrong County Jail Correction Officer of the Year 2009

Mr. Hogue announced the 2008 Armstrong County Jail Correction "Officer of the Year" is Tracy Mergen. The criteria for selection of the "Officer of the Year" was based on professionalism, quality of performance, attitude, dependability, safety, and commitment to excellence. The "Officer of the Year" candidate was selected from nominations by fellow officers at the Armstrong County Jail. The Board of Commissioners praised Ms. Mergen for her positive attitude and professionalism. Ms. Mergen expressed her enjoyment for her job and joked that while working with inmates she receives more cooperation than while raising her three children.

The Board congratulated all of the award winners and expressed regrets over their absence at the Chamber's Luncheon due to attendance at meetings with local legislators in Washington DC.

Mr. Fink, in discussing the Free Trade Resolution of 2007, noted the resolution was intended to protect all companies within the county, but credits the deterioration of Eljer as

the catalyst. The Board announced that attention to the resolution will reach the national level this weekend when Mr. Scahill presents the resolution before the Labor and Employment Steering Committee and will testify at the National Association of County Officials (NACo) Steering Committee. Mr. Fink extended his appreciation of Mr. Scahill's work, and offered his best wishes during what will be busy but historic trip.

Mr. Scahill discussed his plans and schedule for his time at NACo. He believes the Free Trade Resolution will bring positive attention to the plight of small counties. Mr. Scahill credited Mr. Fink with helping to gain awareness of the resolution on the state level. Mr. Scahill also talked about his recent testimony at the Fish and Game Commission hearing regarding a proposed halt to river dredging to protect potentially endangered species of mussels, of which he noted three are not found in our area. He described the untold number of jobs that would be lost if dredging were stopped. He then referred to the American Worker as the most endangered or threatened species. Mr. Scahill restated the Commissioners vow to stop job loss at any effort.

Ms. Kirkpatrick stated she is hopeful that the Board of Commissioners' efforts in promoting the resolution will prevent job loss and create economic stimulus and growth. Noting that the nation's stimulus bill has been passed, she stressed we must make it work to the county's best advantage. She urged everyone to monitor the spending associated with the bill. The website offering public access to spending associated with the bill is available at www.recovery.gov, to see the planned spending and ongoing projects specifically in Pennsylvania refer to www.recovery.pa.gov. She encourages everyone to participate.

Mr. Beranty expressed concerns about legislative money that was given to the Town and Country Transit (TACT). The Board of Commissioners responded by directing him to TACT for the answers, as it is not a county owned / operated agency. Mr. Beranty also announced that Disability Investigative Group (DIG) will be assessing the curbs and handicap accessibility of Kittanning Borough. He then inquired about several issues concerning the jail including inmate counts and costs. Warden Hogue was able to address his concerns and direct him to the county web site for daily updates. Mr. Beranty closed by expressing a concern about 911 addressing for buildings in Worthington. Ms. Traister offered to check into the matter and correct any discrepancies that may exist between county offices.

Mr. Bleggi inquired about tax revenues being spent at the jail. Mr. Hogue was able to respond to his concerns regarding revenue and expenses at the jail. Mr. Scahill described efforts by the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) to have the entire court system including the jail be covered by the Commonwealth and not paid for on the county level. Mr. Bleggi promised that, as a recent retiree, he will be helping to work on tax reform.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Scahill, seconded by Mr. Fink and carried unanimously, the Commissioners moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 2:40 PM until March 19, 2009 at 1:30 PM.