

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 4, 2021



THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER ON THURSDAY, MARCH 4 AT 9:00 AM IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM WITH THE FOLLOWING IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Donald K. Myers, Commissioner Jason Renshaw, Commissioner Pat Fabian, Aaron Poole – Chief Administrator, Karen Kintz – Assistant Chief Administrator, James Webb – Administrative Assistant Commissioners' Office, Jeff Boarts – Armstrong County Community Action Agency, Paige Hockenberry – Armstrong County Community Action Agency, James Healey Jr. – Citizen, Nicholas Vercilla – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator

Commissioner Myers announced that Nicholas Vercilla, Leader Times was recording the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MEETING REPORT

Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Fabian, seconded by Mr. Renshaw, and carried unanimously, the minutes for the February 18, 2021, Commissioners' Meeting were approved.

FINANCE REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Renshaw, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. Kintz, acknowledged the purchase orders for the week of February 23, 2021, in the amount of \$12,655.62.

On a motion by Mr. Fabian, seconded by Mr. Renshaw, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. Kintz, acknowledged the purchase orders for the week of March 2, 2021 in the amount of \$12,575.56.

Financial Transactions for February 2021

On a motion by Mr. Renshaw, seconded by Mr. Fabian and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, acknowledged the financial transactions for February 2021.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Personnel Transactions for March 4, 2021

On a motion by Mr. Fabian, seconded by Mr. Renshaw, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Mr. Poole, approved the Personnel Transactions for March 4, 2021.

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation #2021-02 County Day of Prayer

Mr. Renshaw read the proclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Renshaw, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners adopted Proclamation #2021-02 County Day of Prayer.

AGREEMENTS / CONTRACTS

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) – Armstrong County Community Action Agency

On a motion by Mr. Fabian, seconded by Mr. Renshaw, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Mr. Boarts, approved the Emergency Rental Assistance Program Plan and appointment of the Armstrong County Community Action Agency as service provider.

APPOINTMENTS

Tri-County Workforce Investment Board

On a motion by Mr. Renshaw, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Mr. Poole, approved the Revised appointment of Ms. Crystal Jack, Executive Director Armstrong County Community Action Agency, 705 Butler Road, Kittanning, PA 16201, to the Tri-County Workforce Investment Board. The revised appointment, which commenced on December 17, 2020, will extend the term expiration date to September 30, 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Fabian announced that after a meeting with the Department of Health and Governor Wolf's office, Armstrong County would receive vaccines on a more consistent basis. Mr. Fabian commented that Armstrong County can now receive shipments of the Pfizer vaccine as Armstrong County Memorial Hospital and Klingensmith's Drug Stores have invested in the freezer units necessary to store the Pfizer vaccine. Mr. Myers added the Department of Health apologized for the lack of communication with the County.

In light of the recent announcement regarding the creation of a Regional Health Department, Mr. Fabian stated that, although Armstrong County is not mentioned as being involved, the Board of Commissioners are having discussion on the issue. The Board of Commissioners are weighing out

long-term utilization of such an agency outside the current pandemic, and the impact of the cost attached to the County budget. Mr. Fabian also pointed out the County is currently associated with other regional agencies who provide support and assistance in critical situations. Mr. Myers added the Commissioners must consider the big picture and how the current Board's decisions will affect future Boards and the financial impact on the taxpayers. Mr. Fabian explained that communication with Governor's Office and Department of Health is a big issue and suggested the appointment of a physician who could be a single-point contact with State agencies as an alternative to a Regional Health Department. Mr. Fabian continued noting the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) has explored and determined that a Regional Health Department would not be cost effective for Counties. He reiterated that the public should not assume Armstrong County officials are not involved in discussions, simply because there is no indication in print.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James Healey Jr. voiced his concerns about several issues surrounding the pandemic and how the Commissioners handled handling various items. Mr. Healey particularly noted the advertising of business grant opportunities; DA investigation into personal care home relating to COVID deaths; classification of Armstrong County as a Second Amendment Sanctuary County; and voting laws changed by Governor Wolf. Commissioner Myers and Commissioner Renshaw each commented briefly on the classification of a Second Amendment Sanctuary County. The Board of Commissioners invited Mr. Healey to remain after public meeting in an effort to thoroughly respond to his concerns and be conscientious of other attendee's time and schedules.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Fabian, seconded by Mr. Renshaw, and carried unanimously; the Commissioners adjourned the Board of Commissioners' Meeting at 9:30 a.m. The next Board of Commissioners' Meeting will be held March 18, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Aaron S. Poole, Chief Administrator

Pat Fabian, Secretary