

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Thursday, November 21, 2024



THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024, AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM WITH THE FOLLOWING IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner John W. Strate, Commissioner Anthony G. Shea, Commissioner Pat Fabian, Aaron Poole – Chief Administrator, Karen Notto – Assistant Chief Administrator, Mike Mollick – Director Emergency Management, Brigid Beatty – Planning and Development Assistant Director, Kathy Heilman – Assistant Executive Director Planning and Development, Annette Bowser – Prothonotary, James Webb – Elections Director/Chief Registrar, Elizabeth Johns – Director Tax Claim, Sarah Green – Assessment, Denise Brumbaugh – Director Domestic Relations, Frank Pitzer – Sheriff, Tammie Gaff – Controller, Paula McClure – Executive Director CYF, Amanda Hiles – Treasurer, Coby Brubaker, Brianna Bailey, Eli Sproull, Hayden Wolfe, Maria Schrieber, Diane Whitaker, Kathryn Judge, Julie Wright, Breana Irvin, Shelly Boback, SEIU/CYS, Kieran Woynicz – Leader Times, Josh Walzak – Leader Vindicator

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MEETING REPORT

Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the minutes for the November 7, 2024, Commissioners' Meeting were approved.

FINANCE REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. Notto, acknowledged the purchase orders for the week of November 12, 2024, in the amount of \$51,951.76.

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. Notto, acknowledged the purchase orders for the week of November 19, 2024, in the amount of \$3,163.10.

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged the presentation of the 2025 Armstrong County Preliminary Budget for public inspection as presented by Mr. Poole, Chief Administrator.

Mr. Strate commended Mr. Poole for his work on the budget, and stands by his recommendation. Mr. Strate stated that he is not happy about having to increase taxes, but supports the preliminary budget as presented.

Mr. Fabian also commended Mr. Poole for his work on the preliminary budget, noting when first taking office in 2016, the Board made tough decisions leading to no tax increase. He acknowledged the need to raise taxes in 2025, but feels 1.6 Million dollars could be slashed from the budget with no impact to the ability to provide services. He would bring back the Drug Task Force and enhance the Public Defender's Office. He will rely on the Department Heads and Elected Officials to assist.

Mr. Shea echoed the work performed by Mr. Poole to complete the preliminary budget. Mr. Shea noted that departments met with Commissioners to discuss cuts. Mr. Shea added he is not pleased about the need for a tax increase. He is looking forward to having discussions with Mr. Fabian about the possibility of additional cuts to the proposed budget, and is optimistic going forward.

Mr. Poole thanked the Board for their kind words.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Personnel Transactions for November 21, 2024

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Mr. Poole, approved the Personnel Transactions for November 21, 2024.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2024-42 – Burning Ban in the County of Armstrong

On a motion for discussion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners based on the recommendation of Mr. Mollick, tabled action on Resolution #2024-42 – Burning Ban in the County of Armstrong. Mr. Mollick explained that since discussions began with the local fire chiefs and Forestry Manager, the fire risk in the County, due to increased precipitation, has returned to low fire category, and a burning ban Resolution is not be needed at this time. Mr. Mollick added that adopting a County Resolution at this time would impede the work of the local Municipalities.

AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS

Quadient, Inc.

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. McClure, approved the agreement between the County of Armstrong and Quadient, Inc.

FY 2024-2025 Professional Service Agreements

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. McClure, approved the FY 2024-2025 Professional Service Agreements.

- Adelphoi Education, Inc. – Latrobe, PA
- Menta Psychological, LLC – Indiana, PA
- Sunrise Human Services – Clymer, PA

FY 2024-2025 Placement Provider Purchase of Service Agreements

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. McClure, approved the FY 2024-2025 Placement Provider Purchase of Service Agreements.

- CHOR Youth & Family Services, Inc. – Reading, PA
- Family Care for Children & Youth, Inc. – Milton, PA
- Clear Vision Residential Treatment Services, Inc. – Montgomery, PA

Armstrong County Sheriff's Department

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, with solicitor review, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. Brumbaugh, acknowledged the Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Armstrong and the Armstrong County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Fabian raised the issue of vehicle related costs. Ms. Brumbaugh responded that the General Fund would receive reimbursement for costs related to the deputy assigned to DRS. Mr. Fabian requested additional language be included related to the County Vehicle Take Home Policy. Ms. Brumbaugh noted the Agreement would need approved by the State. When questioned, Solicitor Miller stated that he would have to review the Agreement, but that County Policy would be in effect. Mr. Shea felt additional language should not be included for now.

APPOINTMENTS

Armstrong County Hospital Authority Board

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of the Hospital Authority, approved the appointment of Mr. Andrew P. Bradigan, 252 Fox Hollow Road, Kittanning, PA 16201, to Seat No. 1 on the Armstrong County Hospital Authority Board. Mr. Bradigan will serve a term commencing on November 21, 2024, and expiring December 31, 2029.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Strate stated the Board met with representatives from Orphans of the Storm who conveyed that the project is moving forward, needed funding received, and the project will be advertised for bid.

James Webb reported on the November 5 election was a success. Issues with the paper were reported, and staff corrected the issue quickly. Mr. Webb thanked everyone involved with the election process and those who assisted with the recount. Reports to the State are due on Monday.

Mr. Strate announced that Elderton Fire Department obtained a new truck, and donated the old truck full of tools to a Tennessee fire department.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Fabian, seconded by Mr. Shea, and carried unanimously; the Commissioners adjourned the Board of Commissioners' Meeting at 9:38 a.m. The next Board of Commissioners' Meeting will be held Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

ARMSTRONG COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Aaron S. Poole, Chief Administrator

Pat Fabian, Secretary