

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**December 19, 2024**



THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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, Cathleen Beere – Chief Assessor, Elizabeth Johns – Tax Claim, Chad Gradwell – 911 Coordinator/Operations Manager, Tammie Gaff – Controller, James Webb – Elections Director/Chief Registrar, Tim Miller – County Solicitor, Regina Liermann – tax payer, Dennis Phillips – 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 December 5, 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 December 10, 2024 in the amount of \$32,748.12.

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 December 17, 2024 in the amount of \$9,493.88.

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Mr. Poole, adopted the 2025 Armstrong County Budget as presented. Motion passed 2 to 1. Mr. Fabian opposed.

Mr. Fabian stated that while Commissioner, he has been fiscally responsible in not having to raise taxes and promising tax payers he would not raise taxes unless necessary, adding that there is no doubt that a tax increase is needed for 2025. He appreciated his Co-commissioners willingness to meet and discuss his ideas. He added that he was not happy about an increase, and the need for tough decisions. He asked Commissioners Strate and Shea to agree to reopen the budget in January in an attempt to lower the tax increase amount.

Mr. Strate commented on the work Mr. Fabian did in reviewing the budget, and would be willing to take a second look as he requested. Mr. Strate agrees with the budget presented today by Mr. Poole.

Mr. Shea conveyed his unhappiness with the need to increase taxes, but there is nothing more to cut. He added that Cares Funding helped, but is no longer available. Revenue needs generated by growth, and he is dedicated to growing the county.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

### **Personnel Transactions for December 19, 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 December 19, 2024.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution 2024-44 Municibid – Public Works**

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners based on the recommendation of Mr. Poole, adopted Resolution #2024-44 Municibid Public Works to dispose of the Kawasaki Mule.

### **Resolution 2024-45 Marcellus Legacy Allocation – Gilpin Leechburg Recreational Authority**

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners based on the recommendation of Mr. Poole, adopted Resolution #2024-45 Marcellus Legacy Allocation – Gilpin Leechburg Recreational Authority.

### **Resolution 2024-46 – Extension of Deed Contingency for the Orphans of the Storm Property**

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners based on the recommendation of Mr. Poole, adopted Resolution #2024-46 Extension of Deed Contingency for the Orphans of the Storm Property.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **Ordinance #2024-02 – Establishing the Real Estate Tax Millage Rate for the Tax Year 2025**

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, the Board of Commissioners based on the recommendation of Mr. Miller, adopted Resolution #2024-02 Establishing the Real Estate Tax Millage Rate for the Tax Year 2025. Mr. Miller explained the Ordinance is required under the Tax Act and County Code, when there is an increase in the tax millage rate. Motion passed 2 to 1. Mr. Fabian opposed.

## **AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS**

### **Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute**

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 agreement between the County of Armstrong and Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute.

SBM Electronics, Inc.

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Mr. Gradwell, approved the Agreement between the County of Armstrong and SBM Electronics, Inc.

OnSolve, LLC.

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Mr. Gradwell, approved the Agreement between the County of Armstrong and OnSolve, LLC.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania State Police

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Mr. Gradwell, approved the Agreement between the County of Armstrong and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – Pennsylvania State Police.

Tyler Technologies

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. Beere, approved the Agreement between the County of Armstrong and Tyler Technologies.

Jeffrey S. Jessell

A motion was made by Mr. Shea and seconded by Mr. Fabian, to table action on the Agreement between the County of Armstrong and Jeffrey S. Jessell. Motion carried unanimously. No action taken.

Robert Arturo

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 Agreement between the County of Armstrong and Robert Arturo.

Horizon Information Systems, Inc.

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. Gaff, approved the Agreement between the County of Armstrong and Horizon Information Systems, Inc.

Scott & Scott Attorneys at Law LLP.

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Ms. Gaff, approved the Agreement between the County of Armstrong and Scott & Scott Attorneys at Law LLP.

Travelers Insurance

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 Policy Renewals between the County of Armstrong and Travelers' Insurance.

International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union No. 538

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, the Board of Commissioners, based on the recommendation of Mr. Poole, approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the County of Armstrong and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union No. 538. Motion passed 2 to 1. Mr. Fabian opposed.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Tri-County Workforce Development Board

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 appointment of Ms. Kerrie DeChurch, PA Department of Labor & Industry, 1647 Sassafrass Street, Erie, PA 16502 to serve on the Tri-County Workforce Development Board, State Employment Service category, for a term to commencing on December 19, 2024, and expiring on September 30, 2027.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Shea would like to meet for a January goal session before the end of the year.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Fabian, and carried unanimously; the Commissioners adjourned the Board of Commissioners' Meeting at 9:40 a.m. The next Board of Commissioners' Meeting will be held January 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

ARMSTRONG COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Aaron S. Poole, Chief Administrator

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Pat Fabian, Secretary