

Sullivan County Council of Governments
May 26, 2009
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Scot Sample, President.

Paul Beaver-Laporte Borough
Bill Black-Cherry Township
Richard Smith-Forksville Borough/PSU EXT
Carl Vough-Forks Township
Carl Rine JR-Shrewsbury Township
Ron Decker- Code Inspections
Walter Botsford-Laporte Township
Frank Tourscher-Code Inspections
Bob Getz-Sullivan County Commissioners
Tim Brown Colley Township
Bill Stasiak-Colley Township
Jerry Plastow-Dushore
Joanne Wettlaufer-Dushore
Scot Sample-Dushore Borough

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 28th meeting the motion was made by Carl Vough and seconded by Bill Black all in favor so the motion was carried.

A motion was made by Paul Beaver and seconded by Carl Rine JR to approve the Treasurers report all in favor so the motion was carried.

The 3M grant can't be applied for through the COG so Scot asked who thought that they might like to help out by applying for grants through their municipalities Scot said that he would and Paul Beaver said they would also.

We still haven't heard any more about our tax status.

We had 4 people at the meeting who are questioning the building code laws Joann Wettlaufer did most of the speaking for the group. Joann is thinking of renting out some rooms in her home to the gas people but was told that she would need to put in a sprinkler system in her home so that her home would be up to code. Joann stated that she felt that this should only apply to new construction and that each municipality should be able to choose to make an exemption. Also Jerry Plastow would like to run a B&B from his home and feels he shouldn't have to have a sprinkler system either.

Ron Decker stated that they must go through the process of an appeal to try and have things changed that we can't just do this through the municipalities. And that to not have a sprinkler system would have to go through the labor and industry to be exempt when the new law goes in effect. To go through labor and industry this could take any were from 6 to 9 months.

The law is enforced by the UCC we can't change the laws ourselves. The land owner may apply for a Variance through the COG'S board of appeals and then come and state their case and maybe they can get things okayed for their circumstances. For the people who refuse to follow the law once they are cited they could be fined \$1,000.00 dollars a day for every day they are not in compliance with the law and this will be charged by the District Magistrate.

We talked about the people who are on our appeals board Clair Black , Rob Cope and Malcolm Eldredge plus we need to call someone to be the alternate person some suggestion were Dan Cox, Tom Anderson, and Dave Shultz. WE need to call to make sure everyone still wants to be on the board and then get the alternate set up.

Once we get an appeal we have 60 days in which to have heard the appeal from the time that the appeal is applied for. A retroactive vote was taken that anyone who agreed to be on the appeals board would be voted on the motion for this was made by Tim Brown and seconded by Paul Beaver all were in favor so motion was carried.

WE spoke about some things on the Code Inspections forms with the fairgrounds being a nonprofit organization we will be sending back the cog's portion and the Forksville portion of the fee to the fairgrounds also there is a fee that should be sent back from Aprils Code Inspections forms to the Laporte Boroughs fire company. Carl Rine JR made the motion to return the fee and Bill Black seconded the motion all in favor so the motion was carried.

The Commissioners have a signed agreement with Basset Engineering for establishing weight limits for approximately 200 miles of Sullivan County Roads. Bob Getz will be setting up a meeting with Basset for sometime in June at 7:00pm in the Courthouse. Bob also stated that the responses to the tax letters were fairly good and he still needs a few more back hopefully by July 1st.

A motion was made for the bills to be paid by Carl Vough and seconded by Walter Botsford all were in favor so the motion was carried.

Bob Getz stated that in the near future an abundance of housing will be needed for the gas people who will be coming into the area.

The Scot Sample called for a adjournment at 8:45 a motion to adjourn was made by Paul Beaver and seconded by Bill Black