

Sullivan County Council of Governments
February 23, 2010
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 by Scot Sample, President. Scot made an official welcome to our dignitary Tina Pickett along with Jason Krise.

Roy Zimmerman-Elkland Township
Linwood Myers-Davidson Township
Jim Rinier-Davidson Township
Carl Rine JR-Shrewsbury Township
Merri Montgomery-Sullivan County Des.
John R. Klus-Laporte Borough
Carl Vough-Forks Township
Ronald Smith-Hillsgrove Township
Frank Tourscher-Code Inspections INC.
Bob Getz-Sullivan County Commissioners
Walter Botsford-Laporte Township
Bill Black-Cherry Township
Britt Bassett-Bassett Engineering
Bill Scot-Bassett Engineering
Tim Brown-Colley Township
Bill Stasiak-Colley Township
Ron Decker –Code Inspections INC.
Scot Sample-Dushore Borough

WE started talking about the fold damages in and around the county, it was stated that we had approximately \$ 144,613 million in flood damages from the January flood, Merri felt that this estimate would be closer to 1.6 million due to 5 roads being significantly damaged in Davidson Township. Jason Krise stated that the deadline for paper work to be turned in ended today February 23, 2010. Colley has 4 miles of road that are closed and need repaired Davidson had a estimate form HRI saying that they have 1.5 million in damages on their roads. It was stated by Jason Krise that the amount of damages that were turned in didn't come close enough to the cap to include us in for getting flood assistance.

Jason Krise stated that the cap was set at \$ 158 million in damages to be approved for flood assistance, he also stated that he was hoping that they would allow snow removal and flood damages to be added into one lump sum to come up to this number.

Home owners with any damages should call the EMA office to let them know what they have in damages. Tina Pickett suggested that everyone should get their damage estimates sent to Merri ASAP so they can figure out a total estimate of damages.

Britt Bassett and Bill Scot gave us a handout that stated they worked with Representatives from the Borough of Benton to help them get the money they needed to fix a structure that was damaged in the January 24-25, 2010 flood. Tina Pickett stated that there must have been a pool of money to draw from in order to get the help that fast.

Bill Scot spoke also about another hand out that they passed around, he stated that for grants you must identify your needs have engineer estimates have pictures of the damages and also any pictures of the flood itself while it is ongoing. He has no idea where you can get any funding he is just suggesting that you go after any money that is out there.

Tina Pickett stated that the Federal government is who decides who gets the help and who doesn't.

Tim Brown stated that if you are redoing a road that is damaged you would have to have an engineering study done again on the roads and he assumes that Britt would be the one doing the study again.

Jason Krise talked about the dirt and gravel road projects he stated that the bids we had were 100 thousand dollars less than the money that was allocated to these projects. Bob Getz stated that 879 thousand dollars is spoken for in the dirt and road projects. Jason said that he would check to see if we might be able to apply for anymore of the remaining money.

They talked about CDBG money Bob Getz stated that at least 50% of the people on the road would have to be low income in order to get this and it could take up to a year to see any of the money.

Merri Montgomery stated that drive ways in and out of your property are not included in the flooding damages if your basement is flooded you are out of luck but if the water gets to the 1st floor than your home owners insurance will pay up to 60% of the damages.

Jason Krise stated that he would help with any assistance that is needed in getting programs around for cleaning up the stream banks. PEMA is working with the army core of engineers and the Northern Tier is looking into getting help for stream clean up. Bob Getz felt that this was something that was going to go through.

Scot Sample stated that if the wall behind the Whistle Stop hadn't been replaced this summer that they might have really had a big problem on their hands with the flood.

Scot Sample stated that having engineering done you do not have to have this job bid on. They voted on having Britt Bassett do some studies and then they would be turned into Tina Pickett and Jason Krise to help us get money for the flood damages. John Klus made the motion and Bill Black seconded it was put to a vote and all voted in favor so the motion was carried. So the County will be working with Britt Bassett to help get money for damages and get estimates on these damages so they the paper work can be sent in.

Tina Pickett stated that with Sullivan County having the most damage in the area but with the smallest population maybe we should look into having the cap for assistance dropped so that we might be able to apply for some help. Scot Sample stated that roads are one of the hardest things to get funding for.

Scot also stated that he was speaking to a gentleman named Sam who is from Bradford County he stated that he wouldn't go into bonding his roads because Chesapeake has been nothing but fair with their agreement on fixing damaged roads if their rigs have to sit then they are losing money and they can't get their jobs done.

Tim Brown asked Tina Pickett about HOUSE BILL #1500 – Tina stated that this was wrote with sizable communities in mind that are over using the state police , then the bill was rewritten to include everyone so that all communities would have to worry about the payments to the state police . Tina feels that this bill will not be passed in any of our communities.

*DEP sewer waters environmental rewriting they will be opening up classes one month after the rewritten regulations are done. Jason Krise stated that in the PA Bulletin they are changing the rates in the near future.

Tina Pickett stated that we should all watch what happens with PPL that reign will be the 1st big region to deal with the deregulation of electricity. Tina stated that the bills will still be high but with watching for the changes and shopping around you could get some good deals.

Bob Getz opted into a electric consortium, he stated that PENELEC will service the electricity they are purchasing generation. PENELEC gets a 10% savings that comes from government and they have to produce efficiency over the long term. Northern Tier has a person who will work with you on figuring out how energy affiant you business is and they can come to your place of business and help you choose the right way to go.

Tina Pickett stated that Governor Ed Rendell want's to change the sales tax to 4% and then put this tax on more items, the bottom line on this tax change is to lower the school tax. He needs 102 votes to pass this and only has 40 votes so far.

Jason Krise stated that starting in March he will be at the Sullivan County Court House on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 1:30-3:30 for any assistance that is needed just stop by.

Carl Rine JR made a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting and Carl Vough seconded the motion all voted in favor to accept so the motion was carried.

Bill Stasiak asked Merri how many frequencies are used by the emergency management she stated that they only use 4 on the list of frequencies that were passed out they have some that are marked for PEMA and we can't use them.

Carl Vough made the motion to accept the Treasurers report and Linwood Myers seconded the motion, all voted in favor to accept so the motion was carried.

Bill Black stated that he has \$ 130 thousand in repairs which are not done yet. Bill has a contractor's estimate which is just as good or if not better than one you can get from Britt. Tim Brown said that Pikes Creek will give you a fair bid for repairs. Britt Bassett will filter what the bids are; you must leave in for any contingencies and engineering. On the 1st of March the price one pipe will be going up.

As of the 1st of March Code Inspections will be doing the inspections for Elkland Township.

Frank Tourscher stated that when a person comes in to get a permit they are now required to have a 911 sign posted at the entrance of their property.

Wally Botsford made the motion to pay the bills and John Klus seconded the motion so it was put to a vote and all were in favor to pay the bills

Scot Sample made a motion to adjourn the meeting so the meeting adjourned at 8:30.