

Sullivan County Council of Governments

Minutes for Meeting

on

June 25, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hamilton, President- Laporte Township
Brian Hoffman-Sullivan County Commissioner
Scott Myers- Sullivan County Commissioner
Carl Vough- Forks Township
Wendy Davenport- Laporte
Steve Tomlinson- Forksville
Ana Rubino- Secretary Treasurer

We opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag at 7:01pm.

Old Business

March minutes were reviewed. Brian Hoffman and Carl Vough made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

New Business

We plan to have ZOOM as an option for our upcoming meetings.

A discussion about Frontier's internet service and possibly establishing a new internet provider. Brian asked if the COG building gets PenTeleData coverage (Blue Ridge). Ana will contact Blue Ridge to see if they do cover the COG building area, and inquire with Alan about the monthly cost to acquire it as an option for COG's internet provider.

Scott Myers discussed the Broadband Champion Development in Sullivan County, and how we have 8 municipalities already and are currently waiting to hear from 5 municipalities. Scott will re-email the municipalities.

Brian Hoffman discussed that the County Commissioners are aware of the Fire Dept. discussing ordinances for rental and weekend properties. To be properly inspected by officials making sure they are up to code. This is aimed at preventing another electrical fire. Like the one which happened in Dushore that was not up to code. Where 4 families were displaced. Ordinances will be done annually on a recurring basis to set standards. Steve Tomlinson mentioned how Forksville has a lot of rental properties.

Scott also added that in Bloomsburg there is a checklist that Hud uses to inspect properties annually. County Human Service- Mark Roenike has a list of Certified rental properties that he's inspected.

Brian Hoffman updated that this week we entered a contract to build the Communications Tower on Schlock Rd in Mildred, PA. The tower will have apparatus attached to it. It will improve communications in the North East part of the County. He answered Wendy's question of what will it do? With how It will help First responders better communicate through use of a UHF Radio (hand held) System. It will be available for all County personnel to utilize.

Brian Hoffman discussed applications for the County tax rebate. All First Responders that meet minimum standards will be submitted by Fire Chiefs and by applicants who have paid local taxes. Rebates can not be more than they paid. The sole purpose and intention for the tax rebate is to help with recruitment and retention. For example- If a volunteer is not on the deed but resides there they do not qualify. This will help with the diminishing help in volunteers and EMS. An explanation was given about who pays for this and it was stated that if the individual or Fire Dept. pay they are reimbursed by the County Government with a check. Which then covers the cost of the volunteers. Now Textbooks and transportation The Lions club covers such fees. Minimum courses for Fire Fighters I & II training are covered by Eagles Mere Lions Club and they cover the fees forward for use.

Brian stated that a resolution rather than an ordinance so it's done every year. Like the Homestead exemption is a resolution.

The County Government Board of Commissioners would like to set up a formal regional meeting with the Municipalities, Fire and EMS in benefits of finalizing Fire and EMS services. That would help in call sharing and hire EMS vs. volunteering. Regionalization would require the Municipalities to work together instead of receiving more help from outside and then having more restrictions set upon us.

Pay the Bills

The Treasurer's Report and Bills were reviewed. Wendy Davenport and Brian Hoffman made and seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills. Motion passed.

Meeting was Adjourned at 7:56pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Ana Rubino