

Sullivan County Council of Governments

Minutes for Meeting

on

June 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hamilton, President- Laporte Township

Darlene Fenton-Sullivan County Commissioner

Brian Hoffman- Sullivan County Commissioner

Scott Myers- Sullivan County Commissioner

Carl Vough- Forks Township

Wendy Davenport- Laporte Borough

Ana Rubino- Secretary Treasurer

- The Agenda will be posted 24 hours before a meeting, and if changes are made to it within the 24 hours, a copy of The Agenda will then be posted on the door.

We opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag at 6:35pm.

Google Meet was utilized for this meeting. 1- Attended

We will keep all current officers the same.

Old Business

March minutes were reviewed. Carl Vough made a motion to accept and Darlene Fenton seconded the motion all voted in favor to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

New Business

Ana Rubino's current salary was reviewed by Brian Hoffman and Jeff Hamilton both agreed to raise her pay to \$16.50. Carl Vough made a motion to accept and Wendy Davenport seconded the motion. Motion passed.

A discussion was had about the option of forming a non-profit group named STEMS of 5 municipalities-Davidson Township, Eagles Mere Borough, Laporte Township, Muncy, and Shrewsbury Township and 3 service ambulances- Eagles Mere, Muncy and Laporte.

Currently looking for help with hired part-time staff.

A meeting is being held at the high school on July 9th concerning the matter that the volunteer services are not able to perform in their current state.

The EMS tax if made will raise \$160,000.00. This will be utilized to pay our EMS personnel.

Allowing the public perceives it positively and understands the dire need for the EMS tax.

Without any help our current EMS models are under threat. So far the public informational campaign has been received well.

Authorizing EMS tax details will be:

What is the goal? How to set it up? What is our authority as a voting body? Where is EMS tax money going? Understanding fiduciary responsibilities, we'd like to see where the money goes. Draft ordinances and seeing, reading and understanding collaborative relationships to adjust the current threat on our EMS services.

The EMT position will be a full time employee with benefits assumably with STEMS-(Southern Triangle Emergency Medical Services), 2 hired employees during the day with volunteers serving nights and weekends.

Some people are being informed by attending meetings, but others who do not attend will have no idea until they receive a bill and not know the plan.

Brian asked "where do you envision the EMS tax"?

Jeff answered "To a non-profit which is totally legal and with a financial report on a monthly basis".

Wendy stated "the local government should decide where its cut".

Jeff stated that taxes are usually on County and Municipalities cooperating with each other to make it happen.

A draft set of bylaws setup.

If grants are available that will mitigate any tax.

Darlene asked "Will STEMS be under the Fire Dept.?"

Jeff answered no there will be 10 voting members on the STEMS board.

One from each municipality, 5 voting members from the 3 Fire/Ambulance companies.

It's vitally important that all municipalities go to the meetings because they are the ones paying for it. EMS issues have been a topic of municipal issues for the last 9 or so years.

Jeff was at the Laporte township meeting and the sentiment was 90% positive 10% not so.

Some were concerned if we start hiring paid employees, aren't volunteers going to want to be paid as well?

On a good note we are the furthest along with collaborating than any other municipalities in PA.

The commissioners association- younger people can now pursue the opportunity to excel in these occupations and find a career path in EMT.

Pay The Bills

Brian Hoffman motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report and Wendy Davenport seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Darlene Fenton made a motion to adjourn and Carl Vough seconded the motion the meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ana Rubino