

Sullivan County Council of Governments  
Minutes  
July 12, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hamilton, President  
Carl Vough-Forks Township  
Bill Stasiak-Colley Township  
Steve Tomlinson-Forksville Borough  
Dave Carson-Eagles Mere Borough  
Will Bubb-Shrewsbury Township  
Jeff Hamilton- Laporte Township  
Brian Hoffman-Sullivan County Commissioner  
Ted Lowden-Sullivan County Fire Department  
Darlene Fenton-Sullivan County Commissioner  
Gary Etzel-Elkland Township  
Linda Gavitt-Davidson Township  
Robin Simpson-Laporte Borough  
Joseph Stabryla-Dushore Borough

We opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

Brian Hoffman had a presentation on EMS services. He stated that state wide getting people to volunteer for the EMS services is a big issue.

Ted Lowden talked about flares being needed for the Fire companies, they used to be able to get them from the state police and Penn dot but they are no longer supplying them. They also talked about body armor being needed for EMS. Robin Simpson stated that there ambulance came into a situation were having body armor would have been beneficial.

A conversation was held on purchasing flares by bulk and how much they would cost and possible cost sharing of the purchase. Jeff Hamilton asked if possibly the COG could purchase flares to be distributed, at this time we didn't think that would be possible the Cog doesn't have an over abundance of money to spent on flares.

Carol Vough talked about the municipalities having a fire tax. It was stated that the fire tax money is just a pass through of money it is not paid by the municipality. Brian Hoffman stated that he feels there is a need for a Fire Tax increase. Bill Stasiak stated that the Townships have to provide EMS services to all residents.

The cost of equipment has gone up so much over the past few years a fire company can no longer raise enough money through fund raisers to cover these cost.

Robin Simpson asked if the County could purchase flares in bulk and divide them up to all fire companies. Bill Stasiak asked if some of the ACT 13 money could be used to purchase flares. Brian Hoffman stated that yes the Act 13 money should be able to be used to purchase flares. It was stated

that a box of 36 flares cost around \$200. And they can use up to 18 at a time. Will Bubb suggested that there might be an alternative to flares like strobe lights.

Robin Simpson brought up about the radio systems and everyone using different systems they still have issues in some areas. Brian Hoffman stated that it would be a great advantage of everyone using the same radio. Ted Lowden said that you can tell them all to use a certain system and if they don't then you can't be responsible for their system not working correctly. The county could right up a contract and suggest that if they want the funding they must use the same radio system as everyone else. Ted Lowden state that the new radios cost around \$6,000 dollars. Bill Stasiak stated that the departments would have to apply for grants in order to purchase new radios.

Brian Hoffman agrees that there is a need for an increase in the Fire Tax.

Robin Simpson asked how the ACT 13 money is being spent. Brian Hoffman stated that one big expense is for prison being housing.

A motion was made by Carol Vough and seconded by Dave Carson to approve the minutes as presented. When put to a vote all voted in favor so the minutes were approved.

A motion was made by Dave Carson and seconded by Robin Simpson to approve the Treasurers report for April, May and June. When put to a vote all voted in favor so the motion was approved.

Brian Hoffman stated the Bill 2097 passed for 1 driver and 1EMT on all ambulance calls.

Updates on the Stream cleaning project – there were 49 applications they were grouped in clusters, every sight was visited and data collected on all. Brian Hoffman sated that 6 projects were approved a log jam in Sonestown will be the first to do. 14 contractors came through with bids and there will be an engineer on hand to make sure things are being done right.

The new price being paid for mileage is 62 and ½ cents.

Robin Simpson made a motion to pay the bills as presented and Bill Stasiak seconded the motion. All voted in favor to pay the bills.

I Clara Finan handed in my resignation as of the beginning of 2023 I will be stepping done from my job as Secretary Treasure of the COG. I have been with the cog since 2007 and have enjoyed working for you. At this time in my life I feel it is time to step away I want to thank you all for your kindness over the past years.

A motion was made for the President and Vice President to put an ad in the Sully to start looking for a replacement. Carol Vough and Robin Simpson made a motion to accept my resignation and all voted in favor so they will start looking for a replacement.

A motion was made by Robin Simpson to adjourn the meeting all approved so the meeting adjourned at 8:25.