

Sullivan County Council of Governments
Minutes
January 24, 2023

The meeting was called to order by at 7:05pm by Jeff Hamilton, President.

Present:

Carl Vough – Forks Township
Robin Simpson – Laporte Borough
Jeff Hamilton – Laporte Township
Dave Carson – Eagles Mere
Brian Hoffman – Sullivan County Commissioner
Steve Tomlinson- Forksville Borough
Darlene Fenton – Sullivan County Commissioner
Linda Gavitt – Davidson Township
April Gavitt – Summit
Kathy Worthington – Summit
Mary Baumunk Blondy – Summit
Amber Strain – Summit
Heather Burke – Summit
Jessica Pennella – Summit
Clara Finan – Secretary Treasurer
Ana Rubino – Secretary Treasurer In Training

We opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Jessica Pennella introduced Mary Baumunk Blondy, President and Founder of “The Summit”. Mary Baumunk Blondy shared her vision for the new gym on a 70 acre’s will encompass the site form the summit in Laporte, PA. It will be an indoor/outdoor wellness center, complete with pool, fitness center, amphitheater and indoor track. It’ll cost about \$30 million - \$20 million for the building and \$10 million for an endowment to keep the center running. The project will take several years.

They are moving forward on the engineering design and development of the half-mile driveway with the \$220,000 they received from corporations under the DCED Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program. Mary is looking to find funds to actually construct the driveway. This project is estimated to be just over \$1 million. She received a grant from Endless Mountains Heritage Region and Sullivan County Recreational Association to make their first trail - The Summit Loop - which they plan to have ready in late spring. They elaborated more on these plans.

Robin Simpson expressed concern on staffing to run the facility with suitable prospects. Discussion was held about possibly hiring two or three full – time employee’s and several part – time employees to staff the facility. Transportation using Best Transit Company for the elderly is

being looked into. Financial assistance funds are being reviewed for those who can't afford the sign up fees.

Clara Finan and Ana Rubino presented the December minutes along with some changes suggested by Jeff Hamilton. This matter was discussed among the attendees and Robin Simpson recommended wording about what she stated remain the same. Steve Tomlinson made a motion to accept the minutes as Robin stated the same. All other changes were made accordingly. When put to a vote all voted in favor.

A motion was made by Robin Simpson to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Carl Vough seconded the motion. When put to a vote all voted in favor.

We discussed making changes to our minutes in a timely fashion. Jeff Hamilton advised that a Draft Copy be made prior to the meetings and all changes will be made at the meetings. A motion was made to approve by Dave Carson and seconded by Robin Simpson. When put to a vote all voted in favor.

Dave Carson made a motion to accept the 2023 Proposed Budget and the 2022 Ending Budget, Robin Simpson seconded the motion. When put to a vote all voted in favor.

In New Business – The County Commissioner had a discussion about meeting with Frontier on December 14th, 2022. They communicated that they have in the works a plan for fiber optics in Sullivan County.

Carl Vough went to a Quarterly Emergency Meeting and stated that the State is pushing for all Emergency Coordinators be certified in 5 years. Carl expressed it is hard now and would get harder for them to continue in Emergency Service. He suggested that maybe someone in the County receive the certification required. County Commissioners will look into this more.

A motion was made by Steve Tomlinson to pay bills as presented, and seconded by Robin Simpson. When put to a vote all voted in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14pm