

Sullivan County Council of Governments

Minutes for Meeting

on

March 26, 2024

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
Barry Garverick- Penn-Dot
Rick Rexer-
Ana Rubino- Secretary Treasurer

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

Old Business

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

Bidding for Materials

Jeff Hamilton looked over the bids with Barry Garverick (PENNDOT) and Rick Rexer.
1st Bid- Dushore Materials. 2nd Bid-Vestal.

A discussion was had about prices and how they vary from season to season. The bid prices are based on averages. After the observation of the bids, Jeff Hamilton found it acceptable to proceed with the 2 current bids.

Carl Vough and Darlene Fenton made and seconded a motion to approve the Bids.
Motion passed.

Rick Rexer explained that the supplier pays for the bond the whole year.

New Business

A moment of silence was acknowledged for Michael Joseph Rouse, local well known dairy farmer and Forks Township Supervisor.

Scott Myers discussed the Board of Commissioners upcoming meeting with Kalie Snyder and Jesse Suders of the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority in Laporte at 2pm on March 28th. Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority will hit on key issues about the upcoming developments in the Sullivan County area. Brian Hoffman added that this is Broadband's first visit to Sullivan County, thanks to available funding which happens to cover our area. Jeff Hamilton stated that there was a big spending budget in Pennsylvania.

A discussion about the First Responders member applications for the end of the tax year rebate. It was stated that the Fire Chiefs will verify that applicants met the minimum volunteer standards. The Assessment Office will verify if applicants are residents. Then the County Government will issue a tax rebate to each the applicants of \$200.

Further discussions included the Fire tax and imposing an EMS tax. From the County's perspective we want to have a positive input on our Fire and EMS services.

Cell phone fees have gone up from \$1.65 to \$1.95 in support of the Commonwealth's 911 Fee. This additional revenue should help reduce the amount of County real estate tax funds used to provide 911 services.

Transportation has been doing well with a fixed route 2 days a week. The number of rides provided has grown. In January 2024 there were 579 fixed route rides, 232 shared rides, which is 861 in total. That number of rides in one month is 15% of our total population (5,840).

Pay the Bills

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

The purchase of a computer through Amazon was discussed in order to receive a sales tax exempt status, and we will not be purchasing a speaker phone.

All voted in favor and the motion was passed.

Meeting was Adjourned at 8:07pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Ana Rubino