

The meeting of the Sullivan County Commissioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on the above date by Chair Brian Hoffman. Attending were Commissioner Brian Hoffman, Commissioner Donna Iannone, Commissioner Darlene Fenton, Solicitor Kenneth Levitzky, Deputy Chief Clerk Hope Verelst, Sheriff Bob Montgomery, Treasurer Katrina Wilkins and Mike Hokkanen of the Sullivan Review.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to acknowledge the signing of Change Order #1 for the Covered Bridge Rehabilitation at a cost of \$525.00. Commissioner Iannone seconded the motion and it unanimously carried. The change order was signed under the Sullivan County Emergency Declaration due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve Change Order #2 for the Covered Bridge Rehabilitation at a cost of \$12,648.00 to eliminate sag in bridge. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve the encumbrance of \$20,000.00 of liquid fuels monies to be used for repairs to the Sonestown Covered Bridge rehabilitation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve Resolution # 2020-13 which accepts the proposal of C&N Bank to fix the rate on the 2013 Note, principal amount of \$2,000,000 at 1.95% for the remaining term. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried. Commissioner Iannone noted this action will lower the interest rate from approximately 3.1% and will be an overall savings to the county of approximately \$60,000.00.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to approve a lease and addendum with Dr. Erika E. Mabus for office space at the Sullivan County Medical Center beginning January 1, 2021 and continuing on a month-to-month basis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried. Sullivan County Action helped to make this possible. Dr. Mabus offers optometry services one day a week in Laporte.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Iannone to the Sullivan County Room Tax Committee for a one- year term, ending December 31, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoffman. Commissioner Iannone abstained, and the motion was carried 2-0.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to reappoint Stacy Kaufmann, Deveron Wilcox and Richard Lobach to the Sullivan County Room Tax Committee for a three- year term ending December 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to appoint Mary Blondy to the Sullivan County Room Tax Committee to fill the vacancy of Janice Walsh, with a term ending December 31, 2022 and John Shorb to replace Deb DeKrane with a term ending December 31, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried. Commissioner Iannone thanked all for their willingness to serve.

Commissioner Iannone made a motion to acknowledge the appointment of Carl Vough as Farmer Director by the State Conservation Committee with a term ending December 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fenton and unanimously carried. Commissioner Hoffman noted that Mr. Vough has played a key role on the committee and appreciates his willingness to serve.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to acknowledge the appointment of Brian Hoffman as Commissioner Director by the State Conservation Committee with a term ending December 31, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone. Commissioner Hoffman abstained, and the motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Fenton made a motion to pay current invoices in the amount of \$128,879.11. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Iannone and unanimously carried.

Under information Commissioner Hoffman noted there is always good work happening in county government; for example, DHS/OCYF completed its annual licensing inspection of Sullivan County Children and Youth Services recently. The Agency was in full compliance with no regulatory or statutory citations.

The Commissioners extend their deepest appreciation to Dev Wilcox in his role as Chair of the Sullivan County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Dev has served in this capacity for 10 plus years and recently announced his intent to resign when a replacement is appointed. Over this time-period his involvement ensured critical coordination between Sullivan County and our Local, State, and Federal emergency response partners. As a result, Sullivan County was prepared to respond to declared flooding disasters in 2011, 2016, and 2018, two confirmed tornados, and ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis responses in 2020.

Commissioner Fenton noted the county has met their obligations for CRBG CARES Grant funding and was able to distribute \$1 million to 45 county businesses and non-profits as well as provide for needed county upgrades. This was a team effort with SEDA-COG. One example of a county benefit is the WIFI upgrade at the Sullivan County Fairgrounds. This upgrade allows for mass COVID-19 testing to take place January 28 – February 1. This testing will be free to county residents. The county plans to use this location for any future mass vaccination efforts as well.

There being no additional business to discuss, Commissioner Fenton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Sullivan County Commissioners

Attest:

Brian Hoffman, Chair

Hope Verelst, Deputy Chief Clerk

Donna Iannone, Vice Chair

Darlene Fenton, Commissioner