

SULLIVAN COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

Pledge

Duane asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call

Duane called the meeting to order and took roll call,

Duane Wampler, Jerry Payne, Larry Kinnett, Tim Abrams, Nick Cullison, Logan Pearson and Curt Bedwell were all present.

Duane

Before proceeding, Duane said he had a few words that he wanted to say and some will probably hate me when I'm done. This council is a County Council for all of the taxpayers of this county. It's not for special interest groups, town boards, town council or PERF. It's for the people of this county. We've kept this county in the black, we're one of three or four. Since January, all I've heard is raise taxes and spend money. This is the worst budget Sullivan County has ever had in the 27 years I've been on the council. We are going to have to work together and get down to business or our funds will not last. We have had petitions filed in the past on the bridge fund, but never on the budget. We have one filed that we will talk about today. People want to know what's going on and all we want to do is spend money and give it away.

We'll be going through an exit audit and they have been here about four weeks longer than they should have been and we going to have to pay for it. I have been on a lot of boards over the years and a Staff Sgt., in the Army, with an honorable discharge and have never had problems like what's been going on since January 1. And yes, I chose a profession in agriculture. And I chose to run for County Council and always tried to do what was right. The council has always tried to give some kind of retirement and there are better and stiffer retirement plans out there than PERF where we don't have to pay a high fee. We're just going to have to get on the right track. I just wanted to everyone to know before the meeting started.

Tim Abrams had a question, he said when we did our budget, you didn't say you had a problem with the budget. You voted for it and we went through it. If you felt it was wrong, I would have debated it. Duane asked, do you think we did right. Tim well, if there was fat, we was missing it. You voted to accept it. Duane said, we haven't accepted it yet. Tim went on with you never said Duane said, I made the statement that we need to cut more than the

\$371,000.00 that we cut. I told you were in deep trouble over this budget and I had the letter from the state gal saying you can fund it, but you will have no operating balance and no reserves if you do this and I don't think you want to do that. If you want to do it you can vote to pass it today so go ahead, but we do have trouble.

Curt said they told him that we would be silly not to pass the budget, we would be the laughing stock if we didn't vote to pass it. Duane said that's a different story than what I got.

Did you talk to Ms. Bucy, Curt said he talked to Miranda, he said that she said we would be silly not to pass the budget. Curt said he is curious, are we technically in the meeting.

Did everyone get the minutes. Motion to approve the minutes. Jerry Payne said he had one thing, where its talking about the innkeeper's fee at the Park and Lake, it was not the

Park and Lake that was wanting the fees raised, it was Tourism. Shelly apologized and said She would make the necessary changes and thanked Jerry.

Jerry made a motion to accept the minutes with the change, Tim seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Park and Lake

Park and Lake presented a transfer of funds (see exhibit A)

All Transfers from Fund 2016; Account #15200 Health Insurance to Fund 2016 the following Accounts as listed.

Account # 21600, Account name: Printing Amount to Transfer \$1,500.00

Account # 32108 Account name; Construction Services Amount to Transfer \$10,000.00

Account # 23400 Account name: Janitorial Amount to Transfer \$3,300.00

Jerry had why they had so much excess money in the health insurance.

Motion made by Jerry to allow the transfers as stated on the Transfer Request Form. Seconded by Curt. No discussion was had. All in favor, motion passed.

Old business

Josh Reshey, Council Attorney, we have hit a little speed bump with the LIT ordinance. It was brought to my attention, DLGF called, Fred Van Dorp called, and said there is a problem with the submission. If you recall, we had a person here that gave a presentation and I believe it was in the minutes, he ran through that. We did this back in 2017, as well. The process to go about passing the LIT Ordinance. There are two different processes. One for when the County Council does it and one for when the Local Income Tax Council does it. DLGF called and said

we had done the process for when the County Council passes the LIT Ordinance, but, that it was supposed to be passed by the Local Income Tax Council. Well, that was news to me.

Basically, long story short, what we have been doing in Sullivan County, we have had essentially a Local Income Tax Council. But the County is the majority population. So, any decision the County makes, it's passed automatically. But technically, there has been a Local Income Tax Council this whole time. And when we did this back in 2017, we did not operate as a Local Income Tax Council and DLGF approved that. In fact, they reviewed those submissions and signed off on them. We did that extra thirty (30) day submission. This time they didn't accept our filing, and they said what we have to do is to send a Resolution that includes the ordinance signed to all of the towns. The towns can vote on it or not, it doesn't matter, because the County has the majority vote and you have already voted. But we have to go through that technicality, which means we have to have another meeting to pass the Resolution. We have to do that ten (10) days publication. That will delay when the LIT tax comes into effect.

We pushed it to get it to go into effect, I believe October 1st. This will push it back to January 1, of 2020. This resolution needs mailed out before the end of October. It has been frustrating because of the communication we had previously, that the County Council make the decision. And now, we're being told, the Local Income Tax Council needs to make the decision that way. It will delay us a little bit, but it's still going to go through. It must all done by, October 31, 2019, for it to start January of 2020. We need to make sure, that we really get that done. Josh apologized, because he should have known the process, that's my job. And I had the wrong process.

Duane said, we did it the same as in 2017, and they didn't object, identical. Josh, Yes, I know, I even asked him about that and he said, yeah, you did it wrong that time too. Fred Van Dorp, said they would not do anything about that. The whole LIT thing was new law in 2016. It was still new when we passed it. That's where we are right now.

What I need from the Council essentially is a date, about two (2) weeks out, I have the Resolution form to put in the meeting date and time and get it published, and at that Special Meeting, you all will have to vote on the Resolution. You have already passed the Ordinance. this Resolution just needs to be published. We need to have a Notice to taxpayers in order to do that.

Josh asked if there were any question about this process. Jerry wanted to know who is the Local Income Tax Board? The Local Income Tax Council is made up of the County and the city and all the towns in Sullivan County. Actually, the County having the larger population that the city of the towns has the controlling vote. But we still need to go through the formality of sending out the resolutions to the towns, even though they need to vote on it.

We have a ten (10) day window to do this in and need a meeting date.

Logan made a motion to have a Special Meeting on October 7, at 6 PM for the Council to meet on the Resolution and vote on it. Seconded by Nick. All in favor motion. Motion passed.

New Business

Mary Ann Dudley

Mary Ann stated that when she became Coroner, she was not told that Regional Hospital had a charge for autopsies and the bills went to the jail. Unfortunately, she had not received the bills. She therefore received a bill from Regional Hospital for the years of 2017 and 2018 for autopsy fees in the amount of \$8,850.00. She is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$8,000.00 to pay those fees to Regional Hospital. The bill has been paid, but doing so has made her short in Autopsy as she only has \$2,000.00 left to take her through the rest of the year. She let the county know that she has written four grants totaling approximately \$3,125.00. Duane said, he would like to take \$3,000.00 out of county general and bring her Autopsy back up some. Clark asked to tell the council that she has not done any unnecessary autopsies. Nick made a motion to give her 3,000.00, seconded by Logan. All in favor motion passed.

Henry Hayes and Lynne Steppe

Henry and Lynne are with American Senior Benefits and they are hoping to save the county money on their insurance. They cannot force anyone off of their county insurance, but they can offer them options. An example, a person 68 years old, if they went on plan G it would cost \$102.00 per month and if they wanted an extra \$34.00 for vision dental and hearing.

The employee must be on Medicare Part A and B in order to qualify. If they are married and their spouse is not age 65 yet and they are on the county insurance, they will not want to do this. We have over 40 companies that we deal with and can get the best deal for them. The total out of pocket on the G plan is \$185.00 per year. Their prescription plan will be separate and can be from \$26.00 to 70.00 depending on what they wanted. For the county it can lower your insurance costs. We just want to give the county the option. We can sit down with each employee of 65 and their spouses. Age 65 is a qualifying event and they can elect to come off of the county insurance.

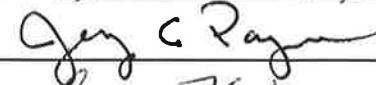
Duane asked the council can we recommend letting them talk to the Commissioners with our support. It was decided to send a letter of support to the Commissioners from the council.

Curt asked what about the Board appointment for Community Corrections. He made a motion for Tim to be on the Community Corrections Advisory Board, seconded by Logan. All in favor motion passed.

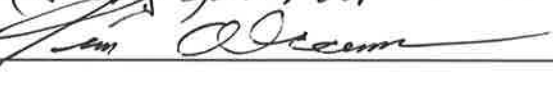
Curt made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting to reconvene into the budget hearings and seconded by Larry All in favor, motion passed

Sullivan County Council

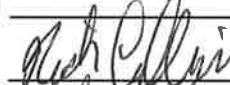
Duane Wampler 

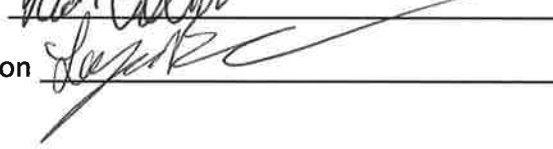
Jerry Payne 

Larry Kinnett 

Tim Abrams 

Curt Bedwell _____

Nick Cullison 

Logan Pearison 

Attest:

Shelly Hiatt Parris 

Auditor