

Public Comment
Sullivan County Legislature
Management and Budget Committee
Thursday, July 18, 2024

Good morning.

I am Martha Scoppa from Liberty.

I am also a member of the Senior Legislative Action Committee.

I had planned to speak at Public Works Committee meeting because that committee has a resolution that pertains to my comment, but because of delays and rescheduling of meetings, and because I'm not able to stay past 12:00 noon, I will speak now.

At last week's meeting of the Planning and Community Resources Committee there was Public Comment and then a heated discussion about the air-conditioning issues at the Care Center at Sunset Lake. For some reason, the new air-conditioner units sitting on the roof of the building cannot be installed without the help of a crane, and there is no crane company available. I think the crane issue has been going on since last year. In that same timeframe, there have been resolutions for HVAC preventative maintenance at other government buildings, but the Care Center has not been so lucky.

I don't pretend to know the particulars of this situation, but I'd like someone to teach me. I'd like answers to a few questions: 1) Why are the air-conditioners at the Care Center a low priority? 2) Why is it so hard to hire a crane company? 3) Where does the responsibility lie?

I don't do well in heat and humidity, and I have never liked summers. Last week I worked outside for a while, weeding, and started to feel funny, so I came back in the house to cool down. My face was beet red, and my stomach was off. I have always hated the heat and humidity, and it has always made me uncomfortable, but this was new and different. I drank water, put a cold face cloth on my pressure points, turned on fans, turned on a room air conditioner, and rested until I felt better. I tell you this because it made an impression on me. I am 73 and independent with smarts and resources, yet the heat got to me. What about people living at the Care Center who are frail or elderly? They are there to be taken care of because they are vulnerable. They should have working air-conditioners, don't you think?

So, I will repeat my three questions: 1) Why are the air-conditioners at the Care Center a low priority? 2) Why is it so hard to hire a crane company? 3) Where does the responsibility lie? We all know that the County is the operator of the Care Center, but who is responsible for the new air-conditioner units sitting on the roof waiting for a crane? Is it the County Manager? The Department of Public Works? The Chair of the Legislature? The Chair of the Public Works Committee? The Sunset Lake LDC? I'd like someone to answer my questions.

Thank you.

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