

Legislator Nacerino suggested the old Hudson Valley Trust Building in Patterson, which is not used very often and is handicapped accessible.

Mr. Rohde stated that most of these centers for the Veterans are where it is accessible to everyone. Another suggestion was to make this mobile and have a R.V. to go from place to place.

County Executive Odell stated that it should be a place where people know they can always go through the door.

Mr. Rohde stated that there were several places offered that could be used on a temporary basis, but they really need something permanent.

Chairman Oliverio stated that whatever Mr. Rohde may need along the way, to please keep the Committee notified and we will be there to lend a helping hand.

Mr. Rohde stated he would.

Commissioner Michael Piazza of the Department of Social Services stated that he as well as his Department is motivated by the fact that these Veterans are not returning as just veterans, but they are returning as combat veterans. This program is not only for the veterans but for their families as well. This process is ongoing at this time.

Chairman Oliverio asked Mr. Rhode if he would please send us his power point presentation so the Committee can see it, as we were not able to see it this evening.

Mr. Rhode stated he would send his power point presentation to the Committee; it would most likely be after this Thursday.

#5) Radon Initiative/Dr. Beals

Dr. Beals stated that everyone should take a look at the board that has been set up here this evening by the Health Educators, concerning Radon and the dangers associated with it. It has been identified here in Putnam County that there are higher lung cancer rates than any other County in the Hudson Valley. The reason being that we are sitting on a rock formation that is emitting high levels of Radon and the consequence of that are many homes in Putnam County have higher levels of Radon than are healthy to have in their homes. If you are not aware of it, this is an odorless, tasteless, invisible element in the air that causes the same effect as people receiving extra x-rays. The problem is that Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after of course, cigarette smoking. When you combine Radon with smoking, you have a very serious problem. The Health Department has Radon test kits available to be purchased for \$10.00, if anyone so chooses.

Chairman Oliverio thanked Dr. Beals for bringing this information forward to the Committee.

Legislator Roger Gross stated that he believes that when property is sold at this time, the Radon testing is part of the sale.

Dr. Beals stated that whenever there is any type of public event, the Health Department will always have a table with information at that event, as this is a very serious issue.

Legislator Scuccimarra was really shocked that Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. This is a silent killer as you can't see it, smell it, nor taste it, yet it is in our homes. Legislator Scuccimarra was reading about common entry points for the Radon which one is the water supply, also crawl spaces in your homes, slab joints, sump Pumps, and brick or rock walls, as it seeps in from the earth.

Dr. Beals stated that the important issue is to identify if you have a problem, then remediation will be done.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that there is also a website (Radon.com) where you can look for more information. They also have test kits available.

Legislator Albano stated that this is also being looked at with new construction. He has seen a modular with ventilation pipes built into the house, as in many areas they are looking for this.

Ms. Ann Fanizzi also commented on the amount lung cancer deaths.

#6) Approval/Memorialization/Public Health and Safety/Indian Point Nuclear Plant

Chairman Oliverio stated that we spoke about this last month, and he stated that it would be on the Agenda for April.

Chairman Oliverio went on to state that this is a finished Resolution based upon a template we had received from some neighboring counties. Take a look at the Resolution, as it does not ask the NRC to close down Indian Point or anything like that, as we have already done that. In 2002 we passed a Resolution asking that Indian Point be closed because of our fears from 911 and terrorists getting in there and assaulting the place. This is a little more specific, it is asking the NRC and Indian Point itself to make sure that their spent fuel rods are stored in warehouse type buildings that are safe and contained. It also asks that there be full containment and independent backup electricity and cooling for the area where the spent rods are placed in, and that the evacuation area exceed the ten mile limit. They are asking to go to 50 miles. In all the studies he has ever read that distance is reasonable because you never know the force of the winds at the time and God forbid of a meltdown. If you take a look at the disaster in Japan with the tsunami hitting the Nuclear Power Plant, there is still radiation present at the site. As recently as a week or so ago, the New York Times had an article about this, as it is now the two year anniversary since the disaster in Japan. People are very frightened. That whole area is immobile at this point in time. I think that the requests here are very reasonable. I do not think that we need to adopt this tonight. I am asking everybody on the Legislature to take a look at the resolution. If you see any changes that may be necessary bring them forward. Chairman Oliverio stated that he would like to put this through the Health Committee again in April and then the Full Legislature in May. This is short and sweet, it is basically asking that the fuel rods be protected at a greater level and the area of evacuation be increased, and the containment area be improved.

Chairman Oliverio asked how many of the Legislators, especially the new Legislators, have been to Indian Point and actually toured it. He himself has been there twice and feels that the facility is very secure and he truly believes that. One thing that frightened him was (he went the summer of 2001 prior to 911) so all of the safety measures were not put into place as yet. At that time they actually took him to the area where the fuel rods were submerged under this body of water, which looks like a swimming pool. He does not believe that is all that is there now. According to some individuals who have done studies there state that it needs more containment to better protect the health and safety of the community. There are people who are in a direct track of the Power Plant if there is any sort of accident.

Legislator Albano stated there is nearly nine million people living in that area by Indian Point, and every possible safety feature should be looked at.

Legislator Gross stated that he understands that back in the 60's people called it Hiroshima on the Hudson. All this waste is still being stored there at Indian Point, it was supposed to go to Yucca Mountain but they didn't want it and the waste has been there for forty years.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that there is 15 hundred tons of radioactive waste on site.

Chairman Oliverio stated if all the seated Legislators feel comfortable, we can pass this as it is tonight, and then put it to the Full; otherwise we can take another month.

Legislator DiCarlo felt that it did not have to wait another month.

Chairman Oliverio asked that someone make a motion to move this to the Full Legislative Meeting as is.

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to move the Approval/Memorialization/Public Health and Safety/Indian Point Nuclear Plant to the Full Legislative Meeting for May, 2013. Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

#7) Approval/Re-Appointments/Putnam County Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities/Blume/Schwartz

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to approve the Re-Appointments/Putnam County Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities/Blume/Schwartz. Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Being no further business to discuss, Chairman Oliverio made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Claire E. Muller
Administrative Assistant