



Legislator Scuccimarra questioned if Philipstown was first on the list.

Director Lannon stated Philipstown is tied for first. He stated that area is an issue as it is difficult to get a radio signal there. He stated that it is a problem that everyone is aware of.

Chairman Albano stated other municipalities have applied and received funds and we are among those who have not.

Director Lannon stated we need to meet certain criteria set by the State, and Putnam County does. He stated the program is meant to help the State, but it in turn helps the County.

Legislator Scuccimarra made a motion to approve and move the Grant Application/Round 3, State Wide Inoperable Communications Grant/ I/T & GIS Dept. to the Full Legislature Meeting; Seconded by Chairman Albano. All in favor.

**Item # 5 - Approval/Resolutions Authorizing Lease Agreements/Careers for People with Disabilities, Inc./Dispute Resolution Center of Orange and Putnam County, Inc/Putnam SCORE/Putnam County IDA**

Chairman Albano stated this is moving from 34 Gleneida to a building across the County where there is space. He stated he met with Vinny Fivali from SCORE who said the space looks like it will work.

Legislator Oliverio posed a question to the members representing the businesses in 34 Gleneida, if the move is something they pursued. He stated it does not make sense for government to get involved in a private entity. He stated he is concerned that a private agency will be housed in a governmental building. He questioned if moving from 34 Gleneida was voluntary.

A Representative from SCORE stated SCORE was asked to vacate the building, they did not ask to move.

Legislator Oliverio stated the Legislature made it clear that 34 Gleneida was not to be vacated.

Chairman Albano stated he was not in favor of selling the building, but he is in favor of consolidating if there is available space. He stated running 34 Gleneida will cost the County money it does not need to be spending.

Legislator LoBue stated she agreed with Legislator Oliverio in that outside agencies must have autonomy. She questioned if EDC and IDA were moving into the Planning Department. She stated also that if there is going to be a move made to the Planning Department, is there going to be renovations made to the space to accommodate these additional offices?

County Executive MaryEllen Odell stated this has nothing to do with the sale of 34 Gleneida. She stated everyone is thrilled with the update to the County Clerk's Office in the County office building. She stated 34 Gleneida, the building, has been around since the 60's. She further stated the building was acquired with the land when it was needed for the construction of the new courthouse.

Legislator Oliverio stated the original plan was to be a footprint for the new courthouse and then to demolish the building. He stated that the previous Administration, Mr. Bondi's, planned to demolish and then construct a new park to add to the appearance of the new courthouse. That clearly was not done. As it has been stated many time, and the County Executive stated tonight, this is a very valuable asset, with the sewer a water. Rather than demolishing the building, it was decided to use it for agencies such as SCORE and IDA.

County Executive Odell stated the building was used by the Administration a few times to showcase artifacts from the County and for events such as the Bicentennial. She stated the building is charming; however it is aging and has become a financial burden with the cost of heating, electric and security. She stated the building has gone to 100% occupancy to 80% occupancy and this due to the fulfillment of the plan made eight years ago which was for the County Clerk to consolidate their personnel into the County Office Building. She stated those who will be moved to the Donald B. Smith Campus were shown the office and they are happy with the move.

Legislator Oliverio questioned the ultimate reason for moving the agencies that had success at 34 Gleneida. He questioned if it was to sell the building.

County Executive Odell stated the intent is not to sell the building without the full support of the Legislature. She stated the building is being emptied because it is aging and it is a burden to the tax payers. She further stated the agencies that are moving from the location are being placed in offices that are state of the art.

Legislator Oliverio stated the County is being benevolent to the affected agencies. He also stated there is no plan for the building.

County Executive Odell stated a plan isn't needed at the moment since it is in the best interest of the taxpayers to shut it down until a plan is developed.

Legislator Oliverio stated his fear of the unused building will rot.

County Executive Odell stated the building is costing the County a great deal of money.

Legislator LoBue stated last year, the estimate was \$30,000. She stated there are two offices available in the Planning Department and IDA and EDC are merging. She stated there is no room for these two agencies to be together. She stated that she has seen plans that have been drawn up to create space for that location. She questioned what the cost will be for the consolidation and if it was worth the cost to save \$30,000 on the building at 34 Gleneida.

County Executive Odell stated that she is not sure what drawings Legislator LoBue is referring to. She stated possibly they were the plans that the former Commissioner of Planning was working on to redesign a better layout that he thought would be more efficient. She stated in the absence of a Commissioner, everything is on hold until a new Commissioner comes on board. She stated there are no plans for construction in the building. She stated if the IDA takes space they will assume a vacant office.

Legislator LoBue questioned what is happening to the EDC.

County Executive Odell stated that the EDC is not one of the organizations that is being discussed tonight.

Legislator LoBue stated Planning and Highway are the two most important departments in the County. She stated moving forward without a Commissioner of Planning is backwards. She stated that she has a business background, and none of this makes any business sense to her.

First Deputy County Attorney Andrew Negro stated the EDC lease was approved by the Legislature and it ended July 15, 2013.

Legislator LoBue questioned if three agencies were moving into two office spaces. Also there will need to be office space for a Commissioner of Planning, once that position is filled. She stated that this plan makes no sense, when looking at the current space, or there is going to be money that will need to be spent to reconfigure the space.

Legislator Oliverio stated the lack of autonomy of these private agencies troubles him. He stated that having them on a governmental campus in the proximity of other governmental offices. These are private agencies not governmental agencies.

County Executive Odell stated that 34 Gleneida, where these agencies currently are located, is owned by the County. They are currently housed in a government building.

Legislator Oliverio stated that, yes he is aware of that, however they are, at 34 Gleneida are not surrounded by other governmental departments. He also said 34 Gleneida is a valuable asset to the County and leaving it unoccupied will kill it. He stated that he also believes that these businesses have a rapport with their customers, and moving them will have a negative impact on their business. He stated when this comes to a vote; he will be opposed to this proposal.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated it does not make sense to have two businesses in 34 Gleneida given the size. She stated this is being done as a consolidation and in turn, it is saving money. She questioned if the IDA had any qualms about moving to another campus.

Neal Sullivan, representing the IDA, stated they are actually looking forward to the move. He stated that the space they are in now is embarrassing to have clients come into. It is very dated. He stated that as a business who is working to bring potential businesses into the Putnam County area, he does not believe that their current space at 34 Gleneida, creates a very positive impression. He stated that they are also looking forward to getting back into a closer working space with their sister agency, the EDC. He stated being separated has made is difficult.

Legislator Oliverio and LoBue stated that the EDC should have remained in 34 Gleneida.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she took a tour of the Planning Department last week, her third visit to the site. She stated there is plenty of space as well as a large conference room that could be utilized. She stated that she does not see a problem with this proposal.

Chairman Albano stated he spoke to Kevin Bailey who expressed no problem with the move. He stated the office space on the Donald B. Campus is already being operated with heating, air conditioning, and electricity so there would be no extra cost there. He stated adjustments will be made, but a building such as 34 Gleneida, given its age will eventually need a face lift whether it is used or not used. He also stated he is not in

favor of selling, but in the future it can be used for another purpose. However for now, it makes no sense to him to spend money to operate a space, that would not be completely occupied, when there is space within the County facilities that are currently being run with electricity, heating etc.

Legislator LoBue stated in the five years she has been part of the Legislature there has always been space issues. She stated the building is mortgage free and is an asset. She stated that she would like to see the tourism office go into the ground level of the building. She stated then having SCORE, Dispute Resolution Center and IDA and bringing the EDC back there; that makes a lot of sense. She stated having new office equipment is not going to affect the successfulness of a business. She stated that she does not agree with Mr. Sullivan's comments referring that the aesthesis image of an office space has an effect on the successfulness of the business. It really comes down to the work that that agency performs. She stated that also the current location, 34 Gleneida, located in the Hamlet of Carmel, is much more visible and convenient than the proposed locations.

Chairman Albano made a motion to move Authorization of Lease Agreements/Careers for People with Disabilities, Inc./Dispute Resolution Center of Orange and Putnam County, Inc./Putnam SCORE/Putnam County IDA to the Full Legislature Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

**Item # 6 - Approval/Request to Purchase Town of Kent TM No. 22.82-1-26**

Legislator LoBue questioned if the property is landlocked.

Chairman Albano stated no, but there are deed restrictions on the land. It is a small parcel, 40x100, no house can be built on it.

Arthur Singer, constituent, questioned if it will be merged.

Chairman Albano stated no, it will not be merged as it is a separate parcel.

First Deputy County Attorney Negro stated it can only be used as an accessory for the main lot which is located across the street.

Legislator Scuccimarra made a motion to approve the Purchase of Town of Kent TUM No. 22.82-1-26 to the Full Legislature Meeting; Seconded by Chairman Albano. All in favor.

## **Item # 7 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment (13A067) /Regarding preparation for Snow Season/Highways & Facilities**

Highway Commissioner Fred Pena stated they bought four new plow trucks to replace some equipment that is aging. He stated three of the Trucks were authorized for purchase through the Legislature and one truck was purchased with the County's CHIPS (Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program) funding. He stated it is better to spread out the purchases to maintain the department fleet. He stated an important aspect of the snow operations throughout the year is vehicle tracking, which is helpful during snow storms with movement and salt usage. He stated that this is what this request is in reference to. He stated the new trucks come equipped with the computer technology to track the vehicle, however, the older trucks do not have the capability. He stated that they would to equip the older trucks with the technology to so that the truck can be tracked. He stated that the tracking is valuable in terms of snow removal as well as salt distribution. Currently the County spends approximately a million dollars on year on salt usage. If we can the County could save 5-10% of that this request will be pay for itself in two years. He stated that they found in their current budget some offsets that they would like to utilize to purchase this equipment.

Legislator Gross questioned how much the snow plow costs.

Commissioner Pena stated it costs approximately \$250,000. He also stated equipment was bought to put on the older trucks to pre-wet the salt which is important when it is very cold outside and there are icy conditions. This mixture is called brine. He stated using less salt is good for the environment as well as lowering the cost.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned what the brine is made up of.

Commissioner Pena stated brine is a salt water mixture.

Legislator LoBue stated the Town of Carmel had been utilizing this process and it has been quite successful. She questioned where the trucks are being kept.

Commissioner Pena stated they are currently being kept outside, but storage is being looked into as well as wash bays. He stated the trucks must be washed after salting as it can cause damage. He stated that they are investigating many options/solutions. He stated that they are researching Inter-municipal Agreements (IMA). He stated that may be the answer, enter into joint efforts with other communities. He stated that he is very aware that washing and housing is critical to the longevity of the vehicles.

Legislator LoBue stated she is aware that there is lack of water there. There is a very low yield by the planning department, which would make it difficult to have a bus/truck wash. She stated that she would have liked to have purchased less one truck. That would have left some dollars to be spent on the solution of storing the trucks. She stated to her this approach sounds counterproductive.

Commissioner Pena stated that the Highway Department is close to the end of about ten (10) trucks useful life. He stated that these trucks date back to the 80's and they are so rusted they will not pass inspection. He stated that the only useful part of the old trucks are their motors. The frames are completely rusted. He stated that the County would be spending dollar after dollar trying to salvage and rehabilitate the current trucks.

Legislator LoBue questioned if Commissioner Pena had a price on a canopy.

Commissioner Pena stated that is being looked at and once they have an idea it will be brought before the committee.

Legislator Oliverio stated he believes it was entered into the capital projects 2014 budget.

Legislator Gross stated two trucks could be parked under the newly renovated County Building Parking Deck. He stated probably at least two of the trucks would fit under there.

Commissioner Pena stated that they could do that if they have to. He stated that they do have a wooden shed that is like an open ended. He stated that is where the trucks in the past were parked. However that is not occupied with other equipment.

Legislator Gross stated that the school districts have a company that come in and wash the vehicles and this may be a consideration in this case. He stated that it may be pricey, but it would address the water issue. He questioned if it is something that could be considered.

Commissioner Pena stated would they be able to bring enough water to handle the large trucks. He stated that there is another well that has been discovered on site. It has not been used yet. They are currently researching the yield of that well. He repeated that they are in the process of investigating options, to see what would work

best for the County. There may be an opportunity to get Federal Funding if there is a partnership that can be worked out with the transit and other Highway Departments.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated Philipstown has the same issue of having nowhere to wash their trucks. She stated that there is certainly a need out there.

Chairman Albano stated the washing of the trucks is more of a priority than the housing of them. He stated the equipment was bought when it was because they took advantage of the good bonding rates.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she appreciates lowering the salt usage as it has a negative effect on the environment.

Bernie Kosberg, political candidate for Legislative District #9, stated that he believes that there must be some cutting edge preventative maintenance out there, that the County is not aware of. He referenced United Parcel as an example. He stated that they use trucks that are sixty-seventy years old (60- 70). He questioned if any research had been done on maintaining these vehicles. Also if there is such a need for this services is there a possibility of entrepreneurship.

Commissioner Pena stated that is exactly what he and his staff are looking into. They are also looking at the latest in technology in the recycling of water. He explained some of the potential methods that may be able to be used.

Chairman Albano stated there is \$100,000 in Capital Projects for this.

Commissioner Pena stated the computer systems in the old trucks will be removed and reused in new trucks. However, he stated the screens and controls need upgrades.

Legislator Scuccimarra made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (13A067)/Regarding preparation for Snow Season/Highways & Facilities to the Full Legislature Meeting; Seconded by Chairman Albano. All in favor.

**Item # 8 - Discussion/Peekskill Hollow Road/Weight Restriction**

- a) Correspondence: Dated September 10, 2013 Fr: Leg. Oliverio To: Chair Albano**
- b) Correspondence: Dated September 9, 2013 Fr: Commissioner Pena To: Chair Albano**
- c) Correspondences: Dated August 30, 2013 Fr: Sheriff Donald B. Smith To: Chair Albano**

**d) Correspondence: Dated August 22, 2012 Fr: Chairman Carl Albano  
To: Sheriff Donald B. Smith Re: Request/Road Patrol on Peekskill  
Hollow Road**

Commissioner Pena stated he received a copy of a letter from a series of representatives asking how the trucks travel, how the roads are used, and what they are doing to the road system. He stated the timeliness of this matter being brought forward is perfect. It echoes the discussions that have been had about truck traffic on Peekskill Hollow Road. He stated the safety of Peekskill Hollow Road must be examined. He stated they have good grounds and authority to place a weight restriction on the road at this time until the County gets a definitive answer.

Legislator Oliverio questioned what the time scale is, regarding getting signage up.

Commissioner Pena stated he is going to speak with the Law Department to make sure a public notice is issued. He stated once that is done, signs will be manufactured and installed.

Legislator Oliverio questioned how long that process would take.

First Deputy County Attorney Negro stated it will take between two weeks to a month.

Legislator LoBue stated last month it was stated that the County did not have the authority to enforce a weight restriction. Therefore for the record is there an understanding here now that in fact Commissioner Pena can place a weight limit on the road.

Commissioner Pena stated the weight limit can be placed on a temporary basis.

Legislator LoBue stated the process should be moved forward and she would like the Legislature to move this issue to the Full Legislature Meeting.

County Executive Odell stated after numerous conversations with Mr. Tiship and other residents of Peekskill Hollow Road, a decision was made that each stressed area will be located and marked with correct signage. She stated Commissioner Pena was asked to create a map of all the signage to be forwarded to the Traffic Safety Board, the Sheriff's Office, and the Kent Police Department so they are notified of the weight restrictions on the road that must be enforced. She stated she has also discussed putting signage on the roads leading onto Peekskill Hollow Road. She stated developing a pattern is important because when a pattern is established, the root of the problem can be identified.

Legislator Oliverio stated having signage on the roads leading into Peekskill Hollow is a great idea.

Commissioner Pena stated conclusions were reached from the conversations had regarding the issues with everyone involved, including the constituents.

Victor Tiship, resident of Peekskill Hollow Road stated that it has been determined that as Highway Commissioner, Mr. Pena can impose a weight restriction.

Commissioner Pena stated that a weight restriction can be placed temporarily.

Victor Tiship, resident of Peekskill Hollow Road stated under the article addressed by Commissioner Pena, the temporary weight restriction does not exclude local deliveries. He stated the article states that any local delivery restriction must be permitted.

Commissioner Pena stated that the law is clear that a temporary restriction is stated so a community is not excluded. He stated the only thing being excluded is the transient traffic until the Highway Department can better analyze how truck traffic maneuvers itself through the County. He also stated developing a permanent trucking route is something that is going to be looked at as well.

Victor Tiship, resident of Peekskill Hollow Road questioned if heavy trucks could end up back on Peekskill Hollow Road.

Chairman Albano stated the most appropriate thing will be done and the whole County must be looked at.

Victor Tiship, resident of Peekskill Hollow Road stated he would like the Full Legislature to support this.

Chairman Albano stated he wrote to the sheriff and patrol on Peekskill Hollow Road is going to be increased as well.

Victor Tiship, resident of Peekskill Hollow Road stated many trucks are coming from Bryant Pond Road onto Peekskill Hollow so he suggested having signage at the top of the hill to deter the trucks before approaching the road.

Legislator Gross stated Route 312 should be added to the list of Roads that need to be reviewed, as far as its truck traffic.

Commissioner Pena stated an obligation of the County is going to be to identify a truck routing system that will carry the heavy traffic. He stated Route 9 and Interstate 84 should not be an issue, but there is concern with Route 6 due to the current traffic and congestion.

Ann Fanizzi, constituent stated she is glad the Legislature is memorializing this as it will eliminate any misunderstanding.

Constituent questioned if the section of law that was referred to defines how long “temporary” is.

Commissioner Pena stated that it does not.

Bernie Kosberg stated that at the last meeting the legal department stated they did not have the authority to enact this weight restriction, however now they do. He stated he would like to see the legal department come in better prepared to these types of issues.

Commissioner Pena stated what was being discussed was whether or not the Legislature had the authority to place a weight restriction.

Bernie Kosberg stated that initially the question was posed to whether the Commissioner of Highways & Facilities had the authority.

Chairman Albano stated the matter was kept in discussion because it can be complicated.

Legislator Oliverio stated this is an issue that Commissioner Pena stayed attentive to, and wanted to make sure that he proceeded within his authority. It was stated earlier that he did have authority, but he needed sound reason to go ahead and enact the restriction.

**Item # 9 - FYI/Correspondences:**

- a) **Dated: September 5, 2013 Fr: County Executive Odell To: Chairman Othmer Re: Butterfield Site**
- b) **Dated: September 5, 2013 Fr: County Executive Odell To: Congressman Maloney Re: Butterfield Site/Cold Spring Post Office**

Legislator Oliverio stated he received a letter from Senator Gipson regarding the interest to get the Post Office up and running in the Butterfield Site. He questioned when the Village and Town were going to decide on zoning issues.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated it is currently before the Planning Board and it has to wait for the SEQR to go through. It will then go to the Village Board and they approve the zoning change.

Legislator Oliverio questioned if this was dependent upon the County.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that no, it is not.

#### **Item # 10 - Discussion/Bike Trail/Intersection at Putnam Avenue**

Chairman Albano stated the Village of Brewster set up a few parking spaces at the end of the bike trail however it is not right at the end. He stated that there have been inquiries made and concerns reported by the bike path users, They are looking for a pathway between the trail and the parking lot. He further stated a path was not in the plan nor was the parking area. The parking was set up on a temporary basis to allow for the continuation of the Bikepath. He stated the County is not going to place a path at this location, and if one must park closer to the trail there are other locations where parking is available.

Legislator DiCarlo stated there are parking spots that are not too far from the Bikepath, but the danger is then riding a bike on the road from the parking spot to the trail.

Chairman Albano stated the road is a Town Road so the County has no control over it.

Legislator Castellano stated that at a Town of Southeast meeting the question on this matter was raised. He stated that there is a safety concern by some of the people who utilize the path and parking area.

Commissioner Pena stated that when he looked into this matter he found that the parking area on Route 6 near the intersection of Route 312 is the official Parking lot for the Bikepath.

Legislator LoBue stated when the Bikepath was designed it was unknown which entry points were going to be popular.

#### **Item # 11 - Update/Snake Hill Road**

Chairman Albano stated the opening of the road was delayed because a guard rail was being waited on.

Commissioner Pena stated the road is scheduled to open on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned about the stone wall on Walter Hogan's property.

Commissioner Pena stated they are moving forward with the wall.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned if a mason was found to do the work.

Commissioner Pena stated the contractor who did the Snake Hill work will do it, as a change order.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned if this will impact the stream.

Commissioner Pena stated the goal is to be done with the work before the stream closes. He stated the stream (Trout spawning stream) will be closed from October 2013 to April 2014.

**Item # 12 - Discussion/Lake Gleneida:**

- a. Vegetation Plan Status**
- b. Identify Dead Trees/Shoreline**

Commissioner Pena stated this plan is the first of its kind to be considered by DEP. He stated they are in the last phases of establishing an agreement about vegetation management to eliminate invasive species and to have more natural species. He stated this will also include a height limit for the plants.

Chairman Albano questioned if anyone from the Law Department was involved in this.

First Deputy County Attorney Negro stated the work started by Danielle Harris has been picked up.

Chairman Albano stated it would be great to identify and mark trees that need to be trimmed in the winter time.

Commissioner Pena stated he will reach out to the DEP about marking the trees.

**Item # 13 - FYI/Tilly Foster/Capital Improvements and Fiscal Report**

Legislator LoBue stated she asked for a record of all expenditures by the County from the time the lease was signed in 2009 to the present. She stated that the report that has been provided is not clear. She stated that there is a report that shows a lists of projects. It is not clear if it is a list of projects that need to be done, or have been done. She stated that she is only interested in what has already been done at the site. She stated the lease on this property is up for renewal in 2014 January. She stated the person/foundation that holds the lease, as she sees it, is not in compliance.

Chairman Albano stated his agreement with Legislator LoBue. He stated before moving forward, a record of the costs and revenue must be obtained.

Legislator Oliverio stated this is an opportunity to re-examine the agreement. He stated the Legislature has asked for a representative from the Board or the entire Board be present to answer questions, yet they have not come.

Chairman Albano stated the Legislature should put their questions into writing and ask the representative to address them when they come to a meeting. He stated since there are so many questions, everyone needs to be on the same page.

Legislator Oliverio stated this is the third month of the discussion and there is no resolution. He stated the renegotiation of the agreement is coming up and the Legislature is unprepared.

County Executive Odell stated she had written a letter to Meredith Whipple stating that the County needed to hear from them now that litigation had been adjudicated. She stated that she asked them to let the County know what their needs were, what their capital projects needs are. She stated that she wrote stating that the County needs to sit down with their Board and discuss these matters. She stated it was irresponsible of the Board to leave the Whipple Family in charge of everything. She stated the question is where the Farm will go from here. She stated in her opinion, the Farm is a jewel and a destination for our Tourism Director to promote. She will send a letter inviting their Board at the request of the Legislature. She asked if the Legislature would like to address this matter before or after the budget process.

Chairman Albano stated he believes we should do it as soon as possible. He stated that we need to see the math and to see if the numbers work.

County Executive Odell stated having struggled with Putnam National , now known as Putnam Golf Course, for the past few years, looking at the financial structures and different management agreements; it was when we focused, as a group, that we were

able to untangle ourselves from the way that the property had been refinanced. She stated that we are mindful that the Putnam Golf Course is the taxpayers property and there is opportunity for revenue. She stated she would like Tilly Foster to be the next project that is looked at as a group and evaluate if it is being handled as it should be.

Legislator Gross stated there is an expense page on the last page of the report; however it is not very complete.

Legislator LoBue stated this situation is different than the golf course. She stated the Tilly Foster lease is clear. Since 2009, Mr. Whipple has not been in compliance. She stated he has been renting out properties on the Farm with no leases, which he is required to do under the agreement with the County. He is generating revenue. She stated there is no consistency in terms of the financials and he has come before the Legislature only a fraction of the times he was supposed to, per the terms of the agreement with the County. She stated she does not want a feel good meeting to discuss future initiatives; she wants Mr. Whipple to come in either alone or with the Board to clearly explain the expenditures, revenues, and the leases involving the Tilly Foster Farm. She stated that there was a Tag Sale held at the farm. In her opinion that diminishes the value of the farm. She stated that there are people there leasing facilities on that property, and someone is generating revenue and we do not have a record of it in this report.

Legislator Oliverio stated he is in agreement with County Executive Odell in that the responsibility should not fall on Mr. Whipple as there is a Board. He stated it may be difficult to approach the Board with written questions as the conversation may spur further questions and he does not want to be limited by not having a face to face conversation.

Chairman Albano stated he agrees there would be more questions, but the list is for a starting point and it would give Mr. Whipple and his Board an idea of what things we, the Legislature, want to have addressed.

Legislator Oliverio questioned if the letter was sent to the Law Department requesting that they research to see if there have been violations in terms of the lease. He stated that he has never heard of a renter having all expenses and rent for free.

Legislator Castellano stated he wrote the letter to the Law Department.

Ann Fanizzi, constituent stated the reason for her presence at the meeting is to help Tilly Foster reclaim its historical legacy. She stated that the County Executive speaks of

tourism, it has not happened. She stated she would like to return the proper home of the Bloomer Benedicts, which was taken over by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She stated it was promised to be removed in order to honor the historic legacy of Tilly Foster. She read a mission statement that had been created by the Tilly Foster Advisory Board. She stated that Mr. Whipple promised that he would honor the historic legacy of the Tilly Foster Farm. She stated the history of Tilly Foster is intertwined with the history of the Town of Southeast and the County of Putnam. She had with her a pair of pants that belonged to a Scandinavian Immigrant who came to America and worked on the Farm. The pants were donated by the man's daughter for the museum at Tilly Foster. She stated it is important for children to be able to see items such as these pants and to understand the values that made Tilly Foster and Putnam County what it is today. She stated that this community was created by hard working families. Much like the community that exists today in Putnam County. She stated that she believes that it is important to present that fact and history. She stated if Mr. Whipple would like to have a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, that is fine but it should not be on the Farm. She stated the six rooms currently being used for the Rock and Roll Museum should be designated for Farm related items such as the pants that belonged to the immigrant. She stated she received more artifacts from Tilly Foster on August 2, 2013. She stated that there are pictures, cups and all kinds of different things. She stated these items should be housed on the Farm property. She stated in 2011, in the presence of an attorney Mr. Whipple stated he would give up the lease and signed an agreement. She stated Meredith Whipple promised that she would carry out everything promised by George Whipple, yet this did not happen. She stated we have a chance to make Tilly Foster a gem. She stated they, the Whipplés, have another agenda. She stated that in reference to the Board. She stated that the primary control belongs to George and Meredith Whipple. She further stated her basement and garage are filled with oral records of the previously mentioned immigrant's daughter and the second manager to the Farm, John Gadelli. She stated this would make a wonderful oral history. She then read a letter that she had written to Legislator Othmer from November 13, 2008.

John McCaron, constituent, stated Tilly Foster is a place that draws people into the County. He also stated he tried to have an event there, yet when he went to the Farm to inquire about hosting an event there, he could not find anyone to help him and the property appeared to be messy and in disrepair. He stated once he was there, there was no reason to stay. He stated that he would have liked to have hosted an event there, but ended up not doing so.

Legislator Oliverio stated the original vision of Tilly Foster was to preserve it from developers. He stated in 2008 there was great discussion of whether the County should

keep running the Farm, or bring someone in to do so. He stated his vote was “no” because of a fear of once you have put the business in the hands of an individual you are no longer doing governmental work. He stated government in a separate entity for the health and safety of the people. He stated he agrees with Ms. Fanizzi; the Farm was not created for a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He stated he is looking for the country store, the bed and breakfast, the museum, the old time carriages and farm implements they are nowhere to be found. He stated he was at the Farm recently and it was a ghost town, there was no one to be found. He stated Tilly Foster is better in government hands.

Ed Kenny, constituent, stated he used to work at the Tilly Foster Post Office. He stated he is ashamed of what has happened to the Farm. He stated when the County gets involved in these projects, there is no business plan. He continued to offer his opinion of the Tilly Foster Farm facility, past and current.

Ann Fanizzi, constituent stated she would like to see the capital improvements that are listed. She stated speaking about the lodge and the painting is speaking about the person that did that work and that person is her. She stated she did and is responsible for the majority, if not all, of the renovations at the Farm. She stated that she did them with Mr. Whipple because he stated there were certain things that the Farm needed. She stated after the lease in 2009, there was no more accountability.

Ed Kenny, constituent stated Legislator Othmer stated Mr. Whipple would take care of it. He stated the property is not being utilized properly. He stated that there does not seem to be any fiscal accountability of the dollars being spent or brought in at the farm.

Legislator Othmer, who arrived at 8:15 stated Legislator Oliverio is the only sitting Legislator who was there when the property was purchased. He stated the County Executive, Legislator LoBue, Legislator Oliverio and himself were the ones who inherited the Golf Course and Tilly Foster Farm. He stated this needs to be re-evaluated.

County Executive Odell stated the information that came and is in the backup came at her request to Meredith Whipple.

Legislator Othmer questioned if Meredith Whipple was asked to attend the meeting.

County Executive Odell stated Ms. Whipple was not asked. She stated the potential of a private/public partnership should not be dismissed as they can be quite successful. She stated the private sector and government can and do work well together when

there is a business model that answers both their needs and when there is good oversight and accountability.

Ann Fanizzi, constituent, stated she made a suggestion, prior to George Whipple coming onto the Farm and while he was here, of utilizing the model based on the Central Park Conservancy. The conservancy is accountable to New York City Council, who holds a tight reign over them. She also stated there is no appointment of each other to the Board. She stated that she believes that this could serve as a great model to be looked at.

Legislator LoBue stated she would like to dovetail what Legislator Othmer stated earlier. She stated inheriting Tilly Foster Farm was positive and when it was happening, there was much excitement around creating it into a destination. She stated she worked closely with Mr. Whipple, who was also very excited about the project and its potential. She stated that she worked with him very closely for approximately two (2) years. However she realized that he had lost interest in the property. She stated this agreement may not be the best for the Farm. She stated that she is not making disparaging comments towards the Whipple's; they have a long history in this County and they are great people. Sometimes we need to be strong enough to hit the reset button. She stated that we need to step back and take a breath and devise a plan for the property. She stated first and foremost she would like to see a breakdown of the money contributed by the County and a breakdown of revenues and expenditures. She stated that she does not ever want to see a Tag Sale held there ever again. She also stated she received a phone call from someone who had been to the Farm who reported the animals did not seem to be in good condition. She suggested that the County Executive send a representative from the County Health Department to go to the Farm to look at the situation the animals are in.

Arthur Singer, constituent directed his question to Legislator Othmer asking what is the Legislature going to do to get the financial information that was requested at the last Audit meeting (August 27, 2013).

Legislator Castellano stated he had sent a letter to the County Attorney to review the agreement.

Arthur Singer, constituent questioned what will happen next.

Legislator Othmer stated it will take some time. He questioned if County Executive Odell would ask as well.

County Executive Odell stated she spoke with Meredith Whipple and expressed the concern and asked if she was in compliance with her responsibilities as far as the fiscal report. She stated Ms. Whipple assured her that she was current and up to date pending the October deadline. She stated she asked Ms. Whipple to forward that information to her.

Legislator Othmer stated the Legislature has not been receiving required quarterly reports. He stated perhaps "resetting" is something to really be considered. He stated that when Mr. Whipple and Ms. Fanizzi were working side by side that was a really good combination of effort.

County Executive Odell directed Legislator Othmer's attention to correspondence stating financial reporting will be submitted by October 15, 2013 and other information is available on the internet.

Legislator Othmer stated this should be printed and sent to the Legislature rather than put on a website for the Legislature to have to go and find.

Ann Fanizzi, constituent, stated she had sent an inquiry to the Attorney General regarding whether or not they received the IRS Form 990s (Form 990 is an annual reporting return that certain federally tax-exempt organizations must file with the IRS. It provides information on the filing organization's mission, programs, and finances) for 2012. She stated it was reported by the State that the Society is not in compliance and have not submitted the fees. She stated when she asked for the 990s from 2011, she found they were not submitted until 2013. She stated in 2011 she was up at the farm almost daily. With that said, when she reviewed the 990s from 2011 she personally could not rectify it. She stated a credible CPA signed off on the forms, but she is unaware of where the numbers came from.

Legislator LoBue stated this has gone on now for two plus years and she suggested putting a chain across the entrance way to the farm to get Mr. Whipple's attention.

Chairman Albano stated his agreement with the County Executive's statement on public/private partnerships, however at this moment the County is stuck. He stated the cost of the Farm being empty must be weighed against the cost of the Farm when Mr. Whipple is there. He stated it is important not to grow government; getting people from the private sector can work as long as the County keeps track of what is going on.

Legislator LoBue stated there is a current lease that is in effect, which should be the focus.

Legislator Othmer stated that he would like to speak as the Chairman of the Legislature. He stated that the citizens are speaking here, he questioned if the Legislature should ask for a forensic audit.

County Executive Odell stated a forensic audit will not get the County where it wants to be. She stated what should be done is to get the financials. She stated that she will ask again, tomorrow, based upon the discussion at this meeting. She will stated that the County needs the financials, pending the October 15, 2013 deadline.

Legislator Othmer stated the County not only needs it, but it demands it.

Legislator LoBue stated Legislator Othmer, as Chairman of the Legislature, has the authority to require an outside auditor.

Legislator Othmer stated he would like to bring this up a level before taking drastic measures. He stated that he will send a letter from the Legislature in addition to the County Executive contacting Mr. Whipple.

Chairman Albano stated he would like to see the cost to the County.

Legislator LoBue questioned who has ownership of the animals on the Farm. She stated there are bills for animal food and veterinary visits for animals that the County does not own. She stated that she believes that there is revenue being generated at the farm and being used to care for the animals at the farm.

Chairman Albano stated that he agrees that there needs to be something done.

#### **Item # 14 - Other Business**

Chairman Albano made a motion to accept additional and waive the rules; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

##### **a)Discussion/Putnam Golf Course/Course Rates**

Ed Kenny, constituent stated he is over 80 years old and has not played golf on the course in over 5 years. He stated he was glad to find out that the course was purchased by the County. He continued to provide his personal overview history of the purchase of the County golf course. He stated the price increased from the Twilight fee of \$16 to \$36 and he had not played since this change occurred. He stated one of the few things he, and others like himself, can do for recreation is to play golf. He stated it

is ridiculous that residents of Westchester County can come and play golf for the same rate as a resident of Putnam County. He suggested a maximum fee of \$24 and a requirement to show one's identification upon payment.

Chairman Albano stated on Mondays and Wednesdays the fee is \$18 to play and walk. He also stated there are a lot of changes happening at the Golf Course right now as they County is making it more attractive to people.

County Executive Odell stated the Grand Opening is on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and there are Friday night barbecues that have been quite well received and profitable for the County and the Taxpayers. She stated that she has received very positive feedback from residents regarding their experiences, since the new management has taken over. She stated the County is on the right track. She stated that the course has also undergone tremendous drainage improvements.

Ed Kenny stated his concern is over playing golf.

County Executive Odell stated the course itself has gone through great improvements.

Chairman Albano stated he has also received positive feedback from people who have been to the facility and played on the course. The golf course is moving in the right direction.

Legislator Othmer stated there is a new group running the Course and it is being renovated.

Legislator LoBue stated that the Hill Agor property was vandalized two months ago and she requested that the Highway Department go over to re-board the building and it is still not done.

Chairman Albano stated he would take care of this issue.

### **Item # 15 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 8:55 P.M. Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Green, Administrative Assistant.