

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
Held In Room #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members:
Chairman Gross & Legislators LoBue & Oliverio

Wednesday

February 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:30P.M. by Chairman Gross. He requested that Legislator LoBue lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators LoBue, Oliverio and Chairman Gross were present.

Item #3) Approval of Minutes-Protective Svcs Committee Mtg. December 12, 2012

Chair Gross stated that the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4) Approval/2013 Stop DWI Plan

Legislator LoBue made a motion to approve the 2013 Stop DWI Plan; Seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

Item #5) Discussion/Putnam County Schools

5a. Correspondences: Pertaining to Putnam County Schools/Safety Review

- 1. Fr: Sheriff Smith Dated Jan 2, 2013**
- 2. Fr: Putnam County New York School Superintendents Dated: December 20, 2012**
- 3. Fr: Legislator Oliverio Dated: December 17, 2012**

Chair Gross stated that he wanted to begin this discussion by stating on behalf of his fellow Legislators and himself "our youngsters are the most important resource in Putnam County". He stated that their safety, security and wellbeing is the number one priority. He stated that he has had the opportunity to work closely with some School Resource Officers. He stated that they are a great resource and asset to the schools. He invited Sheriff Smith to open the discussion on this matter.

Sheriff Smith came to address the committee, along with him was Undersheriff Convery, Chief Investigator Gerry Schrameck, Captain Velotti Commander of the Road Patrol and Uniform Division and Sergeant Kevin Cargain who commands the Youth Section and School Resource Officers. He stated that he would like to begin by picking up where Chair Gross began. Our young people, our children, our grandchildren are truly our most precious resource. He stated that there is absolutely no question about that. He stated that he has seen that as a critical theme in Putnam County since he began serving as a part of Putnam County Government. He stated that he would like to remind everyone that this item was supposed to be addressed at

the January 2013 meeting, unfortunately a severe storm prevented that from happening. He stated that on December 14, 2012, our hearts were broken. He stated that a meeting was immediately scheduled with the Putnam County School Superintendents, Public Officials and all concerned citizens pertaining to the lessons learned through the Sandy Hook Shooting to assure that follow up action was being taken. He stated that school safety is not a topic that has ever been taken for granted in Putnam County. He stated that in April 2008 the "School Resource Officer Program" (SRO Program) was being reviewed and there was a thought that the program may be cut from the budget. He stated that the Bureau of Emergency Services Building was filled with parents, teachers, students and members from the Law Enforcement Community speaking out in support of the SRO Program. He stated that wisely, in his opinion, the Schools and the County decided, at that meeting in 2008, to continue their partnership of the SRO Program. He stated that after the Columbine tragedy, school safety issues changed forever. Also after 9/11 the matter of our safety in general was heightened. He stated just like now. Friday, December 14, 2012, in Putnam County school safety and the safety of our children were on our minds. He stated that this is not a new topic to the Sheriff's Department in Putnam County. It does however add emphasis on school safety. He stated that in the past these horrific scenarios did not take place at Elementary Schools. December 14, 2012 changed that forever. He stated the purpose for tonight's meeting is to discuss "where do we go as a Community, as a County"? He stated that no one can ever guarantee a 100% success rate. He stated that this Country only has a 96% success rate in protecting its Presidents. There have been four assassinations and ten very close calls. He stated that does not mean that we should not work to do out very best and do everything in our power to protect our most precious resource, our children and our grandchildren. In Putnam County we have been doing that and will continue to do so. He stated actions have already been taken, within current resources, to step up the security at our schools. He stated that the Sheriff's Department will continue to do everything within our power to keep our schools safe. He stated that they will use the resources that they have. Tonight it is important to note, as is referenced in a memo to the Legislature, that he has received a request from five (5) of the School District Superintendents: Putnam Valley, Mahopac, Garrison, Carmel and Brewster. He stated that this is a topic that is important to all of us and he believes it is very important that a frank discussion be had tonight. He stated that he believes that it is important that it be stated that a School Resource Officer (SRO) does not equal a School Security Deputy or School Security Officer. An SRO is much more. Their role is one of an educator, a law enforcer and a counselor. He stated that the SROs have a bond of trust with the Students, Staff and Administrators on matters relating to law enforcement and behavior.

Chair Gross stated that he did some research on his own on this matter. He stated that School Districts south of Putnam County, in Westchester County have four (4) Schools. He stated that they have two (2) SROs and they conduct roving patrols between the four (4) buildings. He stated in Emporia, Kansas they are hiring retired Police Officers. In Fontana, California they have SROs and AR-15s in their Police Cars. He stated that has not been approved by their boards formerly yet. In Wichita Falls, Texas, the Governor in Texas has endorsed this, request that anyone who works in a School District or School and has a Pistol Permit is asked to carry their gun to school. He stated that Tulsa, Oklahoma is also using retired Police Officers. He stated that he suggests that when we look at the possibility of retired Officers, the option of looking at retired Officers who have a background in handling child abuse cases. He invited comments from the representatives from the Putnam School Districts that were in the audience.

Mr. Thomas Manko, Superintendent Mahopac Central School District stated that they conducted a meeting with all of the School Board Members and the Chair of their Buildings and Grounds Committee, Mr. Bellows. There were over 100 people in the audience. He stated that the audience was assured that the Mahopac School District currently has two (2) very qualified SROs between the Middle School and High School. Therefore the focus was on how to increase the safety at the Elementary School. He stated that the audience was adamant that they wanted to see more armed uniformed people at the elementary level. He stated that there are four (4) buildings: 1 Kindergarten Building & 3 Buildings which contain grades 1st thru 5th grade. He stated that there were many different options discussed at this meeting. Such as more security cameras, push button door locks from the inside of the class rooms, etc. He stated that one immediate change they have made, since December 14th, is the part-time School Monitors at the sign in desk are now covered with full-time School Monitors. He stated that many changes will be implemented to improve the security in the Mahopac Schools. He stated that Mahopac is looking for a Law Enforcement Presence on each of the Elementary School Campuses. He stated that the person would be in uniform and carrying a side arm. He stated that as a School District through the auspices of the County the Mahopac Schools would like to have "Special Police Officers" (SPO) hired and trained by the County. He stated that all of the expenses would be paid for by the School District. He continued with a broad over view of how the Mahopac School District is considering adding safety features to their school day and campus.

Donald Beverly, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources-Asst. Supt for Pupil Personnel Services/Informational Technologies stated that he met with Putnam County Director of Personnel Eldridge on this matter. During their review and discussions the topic of SPOs came up. He stated that currently the cost for the two SROs is split with the County. He stated the County's resources were not planned to take on additional SROs. He stated that they do not have the resources either. He stated that the option of having SPOs give almost all of the benefits of an SRO, except for the trainings. He stated it would satisfy the presence on the school grounds that the parents have expressed that they want. It seems to be an affordable solution.

Legislator Oliverio questioned if the current SROs would stay on.

Superintendent Manko confirmed that they would stay. He stated that a long term commitment has been made to the SRO Program and the plans are to fulfill that commitment.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he works in the Putnam Valley High School and they have a terrific SRO that the Students have really responded to. Her presence on the campus is a true asset in terms of prevention.

Superintendent Manko stated that there are tentative plans being considered in the Mahopac School District to move their Kindergarten Program out of the Mahopac Falls Building and into the three other Elementary Buildings. As he said it is not a done deal, it is something being reviewed. That would reduce their need for SPOs by one. He stated to clarify, this year they would be looking to have four (4) SPOs. In September, depending what is decided with the Kindergarten Program, they may only need three (3) SPOs.

Chair Gross questioned if the SPOs would be hired by the School District or through the Sheriff's Department.

Superintendent Manko stated that they would jointly interview, but would be hired by the County, he is assuming. He stated that he is not sure of how that would work.

Legislator Othmer questioned if Superintendent Manko was speaking on behalf of all the School Districts, or just Mahopac.

Superintendent Manko stated that he is speaking specifically for the Mahopac School District.

Chair of their Buildings and Grounds Committee Mr. Bellows stated everyone knows that the School Budgets are stretched to the limit, also there is the added stress of the 2% Tax Cap has also created a problem. Therefore the evening, after the December 14th tragedy, he stated that business would no longer be as usual. He stated that he is aware that SPOs are utilized in the County. They are at the front desk of this County Office Building and the Board of Elections. He stated that he looked into the pay for the SRO. He learned that they are paid between \$21, \$22 per hour. He stated that approximately the cost for one (1) SPO for a single school year would be \$30,240.00. He stated that there would be no benefits paid to an SPO, other than Workers Compensation, which he stated that he believes they get. He stated financially it would be doable. He stated that the Schools would be getting a Law Enforcement presence in the buildings and on the school campuses.

Chair Gross stated when he worked at the Brewster High School, he had experiences with the SROs who worked there. He stated that the SROs absolutely stop issues that are happening on the School Campus.

Legislator Oliverio stated as a Legislator, his big concern, which he knows is the concern of some of his colleagues and Sheriff Smith, is the security of the school buildings. He stated that also he believes that having a Police Car on the campus acts as a natural deterrent. He stated that he is also concerned with the legacy costs: health insurance and retirement. He stated that it is not the salary, necessarily, that is the concern. He stated that recently he had a discussion with Commissioner Carlin about the legacy costs. He stated that Commissioner Carlin reported that the dollar amount goes into the millions upon millions of dollars over time. He stated that if a solution that involves strictly salary based employees, with good individuals, he would be very confident with that as a seated Legislator and as an Educator.

Sheriff Smith stated that he would like to point out that an SPO would not have a Police Car. He stated that they are not Deputy Sheriff's they are stationed at a specific area fulfilling specific duties.

Legislator LoBue questioned how many SROs are currently throughout the County.

Sheriff Smith reported that there are eight (8) current SROs. He stated that seven (7) are being shared by the County and the School District. He stated that there was an emergency request for an SPO. That one SPO is being fully paid for by the School District. That SPO is not part of the 50/50 shared financial agreement between the County and the School Districts.

He stated that the breakdown of SROs in the Putnam County School Districts is as follows: 2- Mahopac, 2- Carmel, 1-Putnam Valley and 3- Brewster.

Legislator Albano stated that he agrees that the SROs do a fantastic job. He stated that we need to be cost effective. He stated that he agrees that the presence of a Police Vehicle is valuable deterrent. Also he would like to see technology utilized. Such as video cameras, additional locks etc. there are no additional costs associated once they are purchased and installed. He stated that he supports hiring the retired Police Officers. He stated that there are a lot of Officers retired who are 40 – 50 years old. They are qualified people.

Superintendent Manko stated that they have made a commitment through the Buildings and Grounds Committee and to the Board that there would be many more security cameras installed over a period of time. He stated that they have an application that is on his iPad that allows him to plug into all of the security cameras in Mahopac. He stated that one thought they have had is to give an iPad to each SPO with this application. That way while they are patrolling in one area that can be viewing and checking on all the other areas.

Legislator DiCarlo stated kudos to all of the SROs and the great job that they do. He stated that while he was at Lakeland School District, he brought the SRO program in and had them work with the State and it was an incredible program. He stated that the one thing he does not want to short change, and he does not know what the discussions exactly involve in the districts, but please do not forget that your School Buildings are opened at the end of the School Day with after school activities. He strongly recommended that each school district give attention to that affect.

Legislator Othmer stated for clarification, the School Districts plan to keep their current SROs even though the part-time officers may be hired.

Superintendent Manko stated absolutely.

Sheriff Smith stated that clearly this is on part of the problem solving process. He stated that technology has been discussed. He stated that there is clearly more to this whole picture. However the heart and soul of it will be the issue of having someone there to protect the children. He believes it is best to have law enforcement on the school campuses with a plan.

Dr. Jane Sandbank Superintendent, Brewster School District stated that this is her seventh year at the Brewster School District, and they are blessed with their SROs. She stated that they have been extraordinary in so many instances over the years. She stated that she and other Superintendents met with the Newtown Superintendent. She stated that there was a lot of discussion about the incident and the tragedy and what could be done in schools moving forward to prevent something like this from ever happening again. The Superintendent of Newtown reported that Law Enforcement and First Responders were at the School within three minutes, twenty-six people died within the first three minutes. She stated that the Sandy Hook Elementary School had done everything right. The day before the incident, they had gone through their safety drill. They had security cameras, they had the best lock in, the best technology, but what stopped the shooter was the fact that he was confronted by law enforcement, who shot him. She stated the Brewster Campus contains, within the area of a ¼ mile, 3,400 students and 1,000 employees. She stated that if there is ever a situation in one

building, it jeopardizes the lives the 3,400 students and 1,000 employees. She stated that the Brewster Campus is surrounded by woods. She believes that Schools are one of the last institutions, as is Law Enforcement, that parents trust, even after all of this, to take care and educate their children. She stated in this economic climate, not one parent or constituent complained about taking on the full cost of the third SRO that was brought onto the Brewster Campus. She stated that usually she is on the same page with her Colleagues, but with this issue she is not on the same page. She stated that she does not believe that a retired Law Enforcement person could come close to achieving the same benefit and benefit to the children as an SRO does. She stated that she hears Legislator DiCarlo on the exposure of the open Schools after School Hours. That matter has been discussed. However it comes down to the fact that you cannot do everything for everyone, her prime concern is when the 3,400 children are in School. She stated that she will work with each agency that uses the building after school. They are working collaboratively with constituents and neighbors. She stated that the presence of an SRO on the School campus gives parents that feeling that there is that extra safety. They are in fear, everyone is in fear and there is a real sense more safety is needed in the Schools. Parents know that SROs are an enormous deterrent to other incidents and prevention of crime. She stated that she believes that the training specifically of the SROs to be in a school and work with students is so significant and important. She stated that she is very fearful of someone who does not have that training and understanding and connection to kids coming into a School. She stated that her staff has expressed that they understand that there are cuts coming down from the State, but they have expressed that they do not want the SRO Program to go.

Legislator Oliverio stated that if one District vies for SPOs and one District vies for SROs in the minds' of the members of the Communities there is going to be a disparity. He stated that we are not suggesting that the current SROs be removed. He stated the thought is to supplement the current SROs with individuals who are trained, but will not carry the legacy costs. The legacy costs are what is killing the School Districts. He stated that if we go with the SROs, in his opinion it will ultimately bankrupt the Schools and then the County. He stated that he knows that money cannot be the only consideration in this case. However, he believes that our kids can be protected, that way it has to be done, but not incur the Legacy Costs that last forever.

Brewster Superintendent Sandbank stated that she is revisiting the contracts in her School District. She stated that the models that have been lived with for years are no longer sustainable in moving forward. She stated that she believes that the Unions are seeing that as well. She stated that ultimately it will be up to the residents when they vote for the School Budgets.

Legislator Othmer stated that we are not going to take away the SROs. There is talk to doubling the manpower. You will have the SRO, and a roving patrol. He stated that in his opinion pretty much everyone in this room is in agreement that this is a really good way to go. He stated that he would like to make this happen as soon as possible. He stated he would like the members of this Committee to come up with a plan to get to the next step. He stated that there are details that need to iron out.

Legislator LoBue questioned Dr. Sandbank if the three (3) SROs at the Brewster School are part of the 50/50 split with the County.

Dr. Sandbank stated only two (2) of the SROs are part of the split with the County. She stated that the School funds the third SRO 100%.

Legislator LoBue stated for her, she is not ready to make any decisions tonight. She stated that she has questions pertaining to liability, who would be responsible for what, who would be training etc. She stated that this all sounds good on paper. However there are many details that must be considered. She stated the December 14th shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School was horrific. She stated that in her opinion tonight this is a fact finding mission. She stated that she needs to have all the facts before making a decision. She stated that we all are struggling with our budgets. She stated that she too is concerned with the perception of inequality between the schools based on who has three SROs and who has one, two, or no SROs.

Sheriff Smith stated that he would like to address Dr. Sandbank's comment about there being a difference between having an SRO and having a Security Officer on school grounds. SROs are specially trained, the selection process is very strict. The officers selected to fill the position of an SRO must be a perfect fit for the particular School District. He complimented Sergeant Cargain on his skills in running the SRO program. He stated that the Sheriff's Department is here tonight to listen. He stated that they have an open mind and are listening. He stated that in listening it is clear that the Brewster and Mahopac School Districts have two completely different scenarios. Sergeant Cargain and the entire Sheriff's Team have always worked to accommodate each school and their needs. He stated that the SRO learns to fit into the culture of the School that they are assigned to. He stated that there are differences in the funding scenarios of each of these schools. He stated that when it gets down to looking at the training and liability that must be considered, he requested an opportunity to address that. Legislator LoBue's question about liability is a question that needs to be addressed when fully discussing this matter.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that it is obvious that both options need to be looked at, a cost benefit analysis conducted. He stated that it is March. He would like to recommend that the School Districts contact their State Elected Officials quickly. The State wants to approve their budget by April 1, 2013. He stated that any amount of money that the State could contribute would be helpful. As a County we cannot continue to give people services with a 2% cap. He stated that he has been saying this over and over. Until we come to these crisis points, and people start going to Albany, the State will not help us. He stated in his opinion the State of New York, from an educational point of view, wants to see School Districts come to their knees and consolidate. He stated at the end of the day the money comes out of the same pockets, the tax payers. It doesn't matter if it the School Tax that is raised or the County Tax raised. He stated the tax payers need to start coming to meetings and having themselves heard. He stated as the Legislative Body, we control the purse strings of the County. He stated that we all are in agreement that we want to do something, but now is the fact finding piece of the process.

Dr. Jambor President, Brewster Board of Education stated that there were many good points made tonight. He stated that a number of years ago he was here on a similar topic of funding for the SRO Program. Today his School District is facing a 3.1million dollar deficit moving forward. He stated that will not deter him from saying what he came to say tonight. You get

what you pay for. He stated that he is worried about that. I agree with Legislator DiCarlo that the State and Washington should be helping financially. However that is a different topic. He stated he believes in putting the kids first and figuring out how to pay for it later. They are terrific people the SROs who have been sent to the Brewster Schools. He stated that the crisis that is before us in the Country is a "Mental Health Crisis". He stated it is the truth. This is a multi-sided argument. He stated that he sees SROs as part of the solution, for Brewster.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he agrees that SROs are excellent. However he does represent constituents who are worried and struggling to keep their homes.

Dr. Nuzzi Superintendent, Putnam Valley School District stated that they have an excellent SRO at their school that is invaluable. She stated after the tragedy in Newtown there was a meeting in Putnam Valley with over 100 parents who were in attendance. The SRO addressed the audience, and after they heard from her the parents felt very good about what was being done in our school. She also addressed the parents on the future security measures that will be put in place at the Schools. She stated her approach and professionalism gave the parents the confidence that their children are safe in the Putnam Valley Schools. She stated that they hope to be able to get another SRO for the Putnam Valley Schools.

District Attorney Levy stated that he was at the 2008 debate over the SROs. He stated that the main concern that night was that the programs just keep going; there was no concern about who would pay for it. He stated that he too supports the value of the SROs. They have assisted his District Attorney's Office on several cases. He state the issue here tonight, is can we protect our children in Putnam County with either an SRO Program or an SPO Program. He stated that he would like to inform Superintendent Sandbank that he has been involved in the prosecution of and representation of Child Victims for over twenty (20) years. He stated that he has seen and worked with some of the most fantastic Investigators in the State. He stated that he does not want Superintendent Sandbank to sell short the idea of one of those retired Investigators. Whether it be a man or a woman who would welcome the opportunity to come in and continue their work protecting children in our Schools as a part-time employee. It takes a special type of Investigator to choose to go into the work of Special Victims. He stated that these qualified retired Investigators are out there and would love to continue the work that they did for their agencies. He stated that he does not want to get into politics. He stated that this needs to get done. He stated as elected officials here in Putnam County we need to get our children protected. He stated that the retired Investigators are also qualified forensic interviewers. He stated that in instances of Child Abuse of young children, these specially trained Investigators are trained to instill trust in the child to speak to them. He stated Putnam County is a County of first responders. He stated you will find these specially trained retired Investigators, you just have to look. He stated that Superintendent Sandbank should not think that going with the SPOs would be selling the children short. Because you would not be doing that at all. Rather you would be giving the best, brightest, the most dedicated and best trained. He stated what would be done about the training, insurance, liability; he does not know, but it can all be worked out. He stated as far as anyone's concern that the kids would be less protected with a retired detective or investigator from a type of special Victims Unit, it would be absolutely wrong and he would be willing to bet his reputation on that.

Legislator Albano stated that we are not trying to grow government. He stated he looks at it this way, if we can hire one person with the legacy costs for the same price as hiring three (3)

qualified, quality people that is the way to go. He stated that there is a real need to be creative in using different ways to utilize limited funds.

Chair Gross stated that he respects each District's opinion and their desired plan for their schools. He stated that the County needs to research how we can best support the school districts in safety terms as well as keeping an eye on the funding as well.

Legislator Othmer stated that he would like to clarify himself as to what he meant by he thinks we should act immediately. He pointed out that Legislators Gross, Oliverio & DiCarlo are all Educators. He stated that he believes a Task Force should be formed immediately. He stated that the Sheriff, District Attorney, Administration and the Superintendents of the Schools see what it is we want to do with this. He stated that he would ask Chair Gross or Legislator Oliverio, also a committee member, to make something happen.

Chair Gross stated that we need a plan. He wants to respect what the different School Districts want to do and then make a decision on how the County can best support them.

Legislator Oliverio stated that wherever this goes it will be a joint effort between the County and the Schools. He stated that the School Districts are going to play the bigger role in choosing the type of Security that they wish to have on their campuses. He stated we cannot fight home rule. He stated Dr. Sandbank was correct, if Brewster decides to go with full-time SROs, they can do that. He stated that he is not sure if all the other School Districts can afford that. He stated that the County wants to join in an equitable fashion whatever it is the Districts need. He stated the common factor at the end of all of this is the safety of our Kids.

Legislator Othmer stated that Legislator Oliverio has more years on the Legislature than all of the Legislators in the room added together, and he has the insight as an educator. He stated that he is looking to Legislator Oliverio to lead them on this and organize it.

Legislator Oliverio stated that this is really up to the School Superintendents. He stated that a meeting can be called where their needs are examined. They can then come in and notify the County of what it is that they need on their campuses. He stated then the County would review what can be offered through the Sheriff's Department and through shared expenses. He stated that the County cannot dictate what the Schools will do. He stated that he does not believe this is cut and dry.

Legislator Othmer stated then he wants to know who will lead here.

Legislator LoBue stated that she would like to hear what there is to say on the liability matter. Also she invited anyone who would like to speak, who hasn't done so, to do so.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that the quandary for the Superintendents and the School Boards is that they are in their Budget Cycle. They want to know what direction to go in. He stated that to answer Legislator Othmer the County needs to hear from each School District, like by tomorrow, as to what they need and want for their District. Then the County can move from that point.

Superintendent Manko stated again for clarification that Mahopac is not interested in SROs.

He stated they would hope to be able to come to the County to receive help with the interview process. Also once the SPO is hired they would like the County's help to train them, certify them and make sure that they are the best of the best. He stated if they are told they cannot rely on the County, they have researched other options to consider. He continued that they believe that SPOs would cover their needs.

Chair Gross stated then he would like to recommend that each School District be asked to communicate via correspondence what it is that they want.

Legislator Othmer stated that he would like Chair Gross to get a memo out to each School District requesting that information.

Legislator Oliverio noted that there was no representative at the meeting from the Garrison or Carmel School Districts.

Chair Gross stated that a letter will be sent to each of the six (6) School Districts.

Earl Bellows stated that he did make contact with the National Association of School Resource Officers. He stated that they indicated that SPOs in their retired mode could get some of the same training that the SROs receive. He stated that they are trying to think outside of the box.

Sheriff Smith stated that in reference to the liability issue. The Sheriff's Department lives in the world of high liability. He stated their focus is always to limit that liability the best way possible. He stated that he does not want anyone leaving here tonight with any misconceptions. He stated that there is a very important role that the SROs serve and they should never be eliminated. He stated that there may be some situations that were brought up here tonight by the District Attorney for SPOs. He stated that he believes it is important to note that one way to limit liability is through training. He stated it is important to note that the Sheriff's Department is looking at 80 hours of training prior to deployment to a school, he clarified that we are referring to people who have had training. He stated that it would include, Firearm Training, Taser Training, Active Shooter Training. He stated that there will be a cost associated with getting an SPO prepared to take on this assignment. He stated that it is a minimum cost, especially when you look at legacy costs. He stated that the Sheriff's Department does not have that funding to cover those costs. He stated that a physical, psychological evaluation and drug test would need to be done. There would be a need for equipment to be purchased and Uniforms. He stated that approximately it would be a cost of \$4,208.00 per SPO. He stated that he does not want anyone leaving tonight without true disclosure. Also remember there would need to be continuous training. In closing, prior to the Sandy Hook incident, let it be known that the Putnam County Sheriff's Department has worked with the School Districts on a daily basis. He stated that all Police Agencies are working together to make the schools as safe as possible. He wants to work to get the best plan in place for each School District.

Chair Gross stated he would like to thank everyone for their input tonight. The focus remains to be our children. He stated that a memo will be sent out tomorrow morning to each School District requesting that they notify us of what they want to see in their School Districts.

Legislator Othmer stated that he would like all of the financials from the Sheriff's Department pertaining to the cost of the SROs that are in the school districts currently.

Sheriff Smith stated that if the SPOs are decided as the course to be taken he stated that there may be a need for an addition employee to monitor the SPOs. He stated this would be a step in reducing liability. He stated that this is not insurmountable, but he just wanted to point out all of the facts that he can.

Item #6) Update/February 6th Traffic Safety Board Meeting

Sheriff Smith stated that constituent Victor Tiship was in attendance at the February 6th Traffic Safety Board Meeting. Mr. Tiship was present to hear and provide input on the topic of Peekskill Hollow Road and whether the County has the authority to enforce a weight restriction on that roadway. He stated that Mr. Tiship did have a chance to address the board members. The Traffic Safety Board is seeking a legal opinion from the County Law Department on this matter.

Item #7) Other Business

Item #8) Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:10p.m. Legislator Oliverio made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature- *Diane E. Trabulsky*