

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN HISTORIC COURT HOUSE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members:

Chairman Gross, Legislators LoBue & Oliverio

Wednesday

May 8, 2013

Chairman Othmer made an opening statement stating that although this meeting is being held in the Historic Courthouse it is a Committee meeting. The reason for the change in venue was to accommodate the anticipated large crowd. He stated that there are people here representing both sides to the issue. He requested that everyone respect each other and allow each other the opportunity to be heard.

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 & Chairman Gross were present.

Item #3) Approval/Protective Services Meeting Minutes/April 10, 2013

Legislator LoBue made a motion to approve the April 10, 2013 minutes as submitted; Seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

Item #4) Discussion/NY SAFE Act of 2013 of 2013

Chair Gross stated that he would like to begin this meeting by welcoming everyone. He stated that he and his colleagues have all been contacted by folks on both sides of this issue. He stated that the focus of the Legislature in passing the resolution on February 6, 2013 had to do with two critical matters: 1) the unfunded mandates related to pistol permits and related to the paperwork and the background investigations. He stated that there are 13,000 pistol permits in Putnam County. He stated to review these pistol permits every five years there will need to be additional personnel hired. He stated that he attended the New York State Association of Counties Conference, one of the main issues is the unfunded mandates, and here is another unfunded mandate coming from the State of New York. Also a huge concern is the privacy and mental health component. He stated that these two factors were the main motivators for the Legislature to take the action that they did in regards to the NY SAFE Act of 2013.

Chair Gross stated that he will be opening the floor for public comment. He requested that everyone try to keep their comments limited to a couple of minutes (2), identify yourself and the community that you live in. He stated that he wants to be fair to everyone. He stated that the goal here tonight is to be open and transparent. He stated that this Committee had a meeting in April of 2013. This was an item on the agenda. However the Legislative Office was contacted and informed that the date was a not good for the leadership who wanted to address the Legislature on this matter. Therefore the request to reschedule that agenda item was granted and that is the reason for the placement of discussion of the NY SAFE Act of 2013 being on this May agenda. He stated that this is democracy in action, and he welcomed everyone who was in attendance. He stated that he would like to have the representative

from the County Clerk's Office, the Sheriff's Department and representatives from Social Services to speak first to provide some clarity to the issues from their perspectives.

First Deputy County Clerk Bartolotti stated that he is there on behalf of the County Clerk Dennis Sant. He read a prepared statement. He reported that under the leadership of County Clerk Sant the Putnam County Clerk's Office stood firm against a blanket request for personal information of all Pistol Permit holders in Putnam County. He stated that they believed that they had the duty to protect the privacy of the unwarranted invasion of privacy and breach of safety that this kind of disclosure would have resulted in. He stated that when legislation is drafted negotiated and ratified in such a hasty manner all the ramifications of its passage are not considered. The end result is usually an undue burden and unfunded mandate placed upon local government. He stated that is exactly what has happened in this instance. He stated that the County Clerk's Office has had to address the processing, to date, of nearly 2,000 opt-out forms and have undertaken exhaustive efforts to inform the County's license owners of their Rights and Responsibilities under the Act. He continued to explain the impact on the County Clerk's Department. He stated that they have not even touched upon the possibility of "Recertification" frankly because the State Government, who instituted this Legislation, has stated that they do not know yet how they will be doing that. Therefore they cannot even begin to anticipate the ramifications of that on the County Clerk's Office Staff and ultimately the Tax Payers of Putnam County. He continued with the explanation of the impact of this new legislation on the County Clerk's Office. He stated that they are currently doing the very best that they can by shifting staff and priorities to accomplish more with less, serve the constituents in the best way possible with no additional costs. He stated that at this point they cannot guarantee that they will be able to keep up with the demand that is coming into the Office. He stated that unfortunately the County Clerk's Office may have to come to the Administration and the Legislature and request funding that ultimately comes from the Tax Payers.

Undersheriff Convery stated that he is speaking on behalf of Sheriff Donald B. Smith. He stated that the Sheriff has referred to the "Safe Act" as the "Not So Safe Act". He stated that Sheriff Smith believes that there are many provisions in the Act that put the citizens at risk. He stated that Sheriff Smith is deeply concerned that the New York State Governor and New York State Legislature were hasty in passing this law and as a result passed a bad law. He further explained that this law was passed without any input from the New York State Sheriff's Association. He stated that in a meeting of the New York State Sheriff's Association, which Sheriff Smith served as President, he conducted a meeting which included 52 of the 58 New York State Sheriffs who were in attendance. He stated that the collective group of Sheriffs, which included Democrats and Conservatives shared the same concern and came to a consensus. He stated that the opinions of the Sheriffs that came out of that meeting were documented by Sheriff Smith and assistance was offered by the Sheriff's Association to get the law corrected. He continued to express the concerns of Sheriff Smith. The Sheriff's overall concern is that the law is penalizing the law abiding citizen. He closed by stating that if anyone has any questions in reference to Sheriff Smith's position, please call the Sheriff and he will personally speak with you.

Legislator LoBue made a motion to accept the additional and waive the rules; Seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

Commissioner of Department of Social Services and Mental Health Mike Piazza stated there are some facts in the NY SAFE Act of 2013 that have implication for unfunded mandates for the Mental Health Department. He stated that when an individual is deemed by a mental health professional likely to be dangerous to themselves or others a report is made and submitted to the Director of Community Services. Then the Director must forward that report to the Division of Criminal Justice Services. At that point an investigation is done to determine if there is a legal gun affiliated with that individual and turns that information over to the State Police Unit for further investigation. He stated that there are many concerns for that part of the law. He stated that first, after the massacre in Newtown all of the discussion about gun control, a large focus was that we need to do something with people with mental issues. He stated that presented a myth suggesting that these incidents are presented by people with mental illness. Which in fact a vast majority of these incidents were not caused by people with mental illness who are in the system. He stated that this group of people are now being targeted. He stated that those who are in the system currently do not have access to guns. He stated that another concern is that those who need assistance will be hesitant to go for help due to the applications involved. He stated also there is a mental health service for Veterans, per the request of the County Veteran's Affairs Office, to address the needs of the Veterans, because their mental health needs are not being met. He stated that is another group that may be hesitant to get help. He stated that this law may serve as a real deterrent for those who need to get help from actually going and getting the help because of their concern for the stigmatism attached to being labeled as someone who is categorized as "dangerous", however in fact is not. He stated that the concern of those in the field of mental illness are concerned that those in the general population as well as those in the veteran population will not seek, due to the stigmatizing, assistance.

Legislator LoBue stated that she would go on record stating that she believes that there is a miscommunication on the timing of the passage of this resolution. She stated that there was a committee meeting scheduled in January, which this item was on the agenda to be discussed. Unfortunately due to a storm, the meeting had to be cancelled. She stated, at the direction of the County Executive the Resolution went to the February Full Meeting, where the resolution was passed. She stated that she looks forward to hearing everyone's comments this evening.

Legislator Scuccimara stated that she would like to let Alex Dubroff know that she is listening to all of the comments and feedback on this matter. She stated that there has been some mis comments made that the Legislature is not taking the on-line petition seriously. That is not the truth. She stated that she and her colleagues listen to the people of Putnam County.

Alex Dubroff (Constituent) stated that she would like to submit the petition in support of the NY Secure Firearms Act. She stated that she is pleased that the democratic system affords her the opportunity to speak tonight. She believes it would have been more appropriate to present this petition at the Full Legislative Meeting last month. She stated that is the forum which the resolution to repeal the NY SAFE Act of 2013 was first introduced and passed on February 5, 2013. She stated that she is not present to debate the validity of the NY SAFE Act of 2013. She stated that since she started the petition she has received threatening and harassing phone calls and emails attempting to bully her into reconsidering her position of support. She stated that there are eight (8) children everyday who die from gun violence in this Country. There are thirty (30) people who die every day from gun violence. She stated that since the Newtown Incident there have been 3,850 people who have died from gun violence in this

Country. She stated that she is here tonight to deliver a petition that has been signed by over 750 people, which approximately 90% are Putnam County residents. She read the statement on the position which in summary stated that they, the undersigned, were unhappy with the fact that the Putnam County Legislature voted not to support the NY SAFE Act of 2013. She stated that a poll taken in Putnam County reflected that 69% of Putnam County Residents supported Gun Violence Prevention measures. She stated that she would like to pose the question who is this Legislative Body representing. She continued to present her view on this matter. She stated that she is a stay at home Mom and while balancing her responsibilities she was able to get over 700 signatures. Imagine how many signatures she could have gotten if she had the resources and funding that are enjoyed by the special interest groups.

Chair Gross made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional (the petition);
Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Nick Castellano, Board of Director Member of Fish & Game & and resident of Putnam County for 15 years stated that at a meeting on March 22, 2013 of the Board of Directors and the Membership meeting on April 5, 2013 the 550 families of the Putnam County Fish and Game Association voted to send the enclosed message of thanks to the Putnam County Legislature for unanimously passing Resolution 45 of 2013 opposing the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act. He stated that Putnam County is in the company of another 52 New York Counties now on record for opposing the NY SAFE Act, as well as 164 Cities, Towns and Villages, 17 Law Enforcement Associations and 15 other organizations including the New York State Association of County Clerks. He stated that it has been reported that a website is being created to detail the overwhelming statewide opposition. He stated that he had a letter from Putnam County Fish & Game Association which he read. The letter was one of thanks to the Putnam County Legislature for supporting and protecting their second amendment rights.

Steve, Mahopac Resident with his daughter and her friend, who are both students at Mahopac High School stated that he supports everyone's first amendment right to allow everyone to speak. He stated that he also supports everyone's second amendment right to be able to defend themselves. He stated that he believes the United States Constitution is something that we should all work to protect. He stated that he is a retired Police Officer. He stated that in his opinion this law will do nothing to protect the honest citizens of New York State, it will actually endanger the honest citizens of New York State, as previously mentioned by Undersheriff Convery. He continued with further comment on this matter.

Chair Gross requested that the Committee accept the petitions being presented.

Legislator LoBue made a motion to accept the additional and waive the rules; seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

Rabbi Hammerman stated that earlier this year the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the United Methodist Church, and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism amongst other groups published a letter, which he will present excerpts of this evening. He stated that the incident in Newtown resulted in unimaginable loss. He stated that we share the determination to do whatever is within our power to assure that this never happens again. He stated that every person who

buys a gun should pass a criminal background check, high capacity weapons and ammunition magazines should not be available to citizens. He stated that there is no defense for the regular person to have military high capacity weapons. He stated that we need to work together to enact common sense measures to reduce gun violence that kills people of all political stripes, all religious stripes in our beloved Country.

Councilwoman and Deputy Supervisor Nancy Montgomery of the Town of Philipstown stated that she is Ms. Dubroff's representative in the Town of Philipstown. She stated that she was contacted by Ms. Dubroff and requested the proper procedure to get onto a Legislative Agenda. She stated that this has been going on for a number of months now. She stated that she would like to thank Ms. Dubroff for bringing the petition forward and for representing Philipstown and the like in Putnam County tonight. She questioned what needs to be done to be heard by the Legislature. She stated that she has heard that there was an item on the January agenda. She continued listing conflicting messages she has heard as far as the correct protocol on this matter.

Chairman Gross stated that the action on an agenda item takes place in the Committee Meeting. He stated that the Protective Services Meeting was going to address this matter at the April meeting. However the people who contacted the Legislative Office and wanted to come and address this matter, could not make that date. So to accommodate the constituents the matter was moved to this meeting agenda, May. He continued to explain that there was a January Meeting agenda item reference. He explained that there was a Protective Services Meeting scheduled to take place on January 28th that had to be cancelled due to dangerous weather conditions. He stated that a Correspondence came from the County Executive's Office dated February 1, 2013 with a copy of a proposed resolution regarding the New York State Secure Ammunition and Firearms Act of 2013. The County Executive requested that the item be added to the February 6, 2013 Full Meeting Agenda, as it was time sensitive. He stated that it is the practice of the Legislature, a special request from the County Executive is honored based on the respect for that Office and the significance attributed to the resolution by the County Executive. He continued by explaining the procedure followed by having matters addressed in the appropriate committee meeting and if approved out of that meeting, it is placed on the Full Meeting agenda. He stated that Ms. Dubroff's name was not listed on the agenda in connection with this item because this is a public meeting and it was anticipated that there would be several people who would like to speak to this matter.

Councilwoman and Deputy Supervisor Montgomery of the Town of Philipstown continued to explain her reasoning with coming forward. She stated that primarily she was at the meeting to understand the clear policy and procedures involved to bring a matter forward and address it with the Legislature. Also she stated that she wanted to know where the Legislature stands on the NY SAFE Act of 2013. She stated that she is aware that the Legislature does not like the unfunded mandates; she stated that she wants the Legislature to understand that the law will make our communities safer.

Legislator Gross stated that is the debate here tonight, the proposed safety of this newly enacted law and he thanked her for her comments.

Toni Caputto (name was not confirmed) Putnam County resident for many years, an active member of the New York Revolution, a non-governmental organization that works to protect

out 2nd amendment rights, also a member of the Putnam County Fish and Game Club and a Mom. She stated that she has concerns as well pertaining to the so called "Safe Act". She stated that she has never been prouder of her Legislature and the Sheriff's Department for coming out and speaking out against this. She stated that she believes that many people have been misinformed in regards to the law. She stated that in her opinion this law makes a criminal out of law abiding firearm owners, like herself. She stated that no one has to own a firearm. However it is everyone's right to do so or not. She stated that she would urge those who are here tonight supporting the Safe Act to read it in its entirety. She stated that the Law is very ambiguous. She stated that the restrictions in the law on the magazines etc. will have no effect on criminals, as the Sheriff's Department has stated, however these restrictions will have an effect on the law abiding citizen. She stated she also does not like laws being passed in the dead of night in Albany without my Legislators reading them. She thanked the Putnam County Legislature for standing up against that. She concluded that the 2nd amendment of the United States Constitution does give the right to bear arms as a last resort to tyranny as well. It is not addressing the matter of sporting purpose. It is to protect yourself from anything; including a rogue government.

John Sperano (name was not confirmed) Board Member of the Kent Gun & Rod Club, stated that he would like to submit a petition of 649 handwritten signatures, obtained by going door to door in our community. He stated that the petition supports the Putnam County Legislature's position of opposing the NY SAFE Act of 2013. He read Resolution #45 of 2013 passed by the Putnam County Legislature at their Full Meeting.

Rachel Reagan (name was not confirmed) Town of Kent Resident, stated that she feels that the Safe Act is not safe. She stated that we should be able to bear arms, because what if a bad person comes into our homes and tries to attack one of our loved ones. She stated that we would want to protect them.

Mike Noviello (name was not confirmed) Village of Brewster Resident, stated he has been a resident of Putnam County since 1978. He stated that no matter what side of this issue you are on, everyone wants to prevent what happened in Newtown and in upstate New York, Rochester. He stated that these are the two main events that caused the creation of the SAFE Act. He stated that there are two common things that he has found that bind the two perpetrators 1) Neither one of them legally owned a fire arm 2) they each killed their own Mother before going out and killing innocent people. If you think that a gun control law that limits the amount of rounds allowed in a gun or force the magazines to be sold out of State, opening the sale to the black market so the criminals buy them more easily, that is ludicrous. He continued expressing his opposition of the NY SAFE Act of 2013. He stated that he would like to close by stating that Governor Cuomo's reference to the 2nd Amendment and that you do not need 10 rounds to kill a deer; it is insulting, in his opinion. The 2nd Amendment has nothing to do with deer hunting, it has to do with defending yourself.

Ann Fanizzi, long time resident of Putnam County, stated that she was disappointed that the usual procedure that is followed by the Putnam County Legislature was not followed with this matter. She articulated her case on her support for the NY SAFE Act of 2013.

George Baum, resident of Town of Kent, stated that he has observed that the SAFE Act of 2013 has three (3) major provisions. 1. Universal back ground checks 2. Ban on high capacity

magazines 3. Ban on assault weapons. He stated that he is in support of the SAFE Act of 2013. He stated that he believes that if another Clerk needs to be hired to cover the increased work to be done to address the unfunded mandates, then the County should do that. Also he does not see how this law can make it unsafe for the law abiding citizen, as stated by the Sheriff. He closed by stating that this law is not perfect, but he recommended that all of the parties work together to improve it.

Joyce Sarrow (name was not confirmed) resident of the Town of Southeast for the past sixteen (16) years. She stated that she works here, she has raised her family here and she is a gun owner. She stated that she is a responsible member of this community. She respects all of the opinions presented this evening. She stated however in her opinion all of the restrictions that are included in the SAFE ACT of 2013 are actually fueling a frenzy to get people out to buy more ammunition and more guns.

Margaret Yonco-Haines, resident, reiterated reports of shootings that had happened recently, and reported today. The shootings she reported happened involving law abiding citizens and/or their gun. In Florida a three year old boy shot himself with a gun he found in his Uncle's backpack, in Houston a five year old boy shot his seven year old brother while the two were taking a bath. Yesterday's paper in Houston stated twenty-one year old accidentally shot his eighteen year old brother in the face because he did not know the gun was loaded. She continued to read several more reports.

Lou (name was not confirmed) resident of Town of Southeast stated that he is a proud owner of a gun. He stated that this past year he attend a school in Wooster Massachusetts. He stated that it is about an hour train ride from the City of Boston. The bombing that occurred at the Boston Marathon was in his backyard. He stated that he felt extremely unsafe without a firearm to protect himself in the following days. He stated that it was reported that it took approximately 500 rounds of ammunition to capture one person, and those who support the SAFE ACT of 2013 can tell him that he does not need any more than 7 rounds to defend himself. He stated that he believes a trained responsible gun owner is the safest person in the world. He stated that what was not mentioned by the previous speaking were the countless incidents where a person drew a legally owned firearm and defended themselves. Also what was not mention were the countless number gang gun violence crimes; incidents where illegal firearms were acquired and used to kill/injure/rob or rape a person. He stated that these crimes will not be stopped by any type of gun control legislation. He stated as a citizen of the United States and this County, he does not believe that he should be restricted in his means to protect himself and feel safe. He stated, his opinion, is that the NY SAFE Act of 2013 does exactly that.

Gerry Ravinsky, a Putnam County resident for the past 32 years, stated that he believes there are several areas of the law that both sides could agree upon. For example an increase penalty for gun crimes and it requires guns be stored safely. He believes those are common sense. He stated that there were statements made this evening that he does not believe were factual. He stated there is nothing in this law that would keep law abiding citizens from baring arms. He agrees with the statements made that the law was rushed through Albany. He stated that he has read that Governor Cuomo agrees with that and is working on some amendments. He stated that we need to work to keep guns out of the hands of those who are

mentally unstable. He speaks from a background of working in school psychology for 30 some years.

John Kaspar (name was not confirmed) resident of Kent of past 10 years stated that he would like to address those who are in support of the 2013 NY SAFE Act. He stated that he believes that those people think that the peoples who are in opposition of the NY SAFE Act of 2013 do not feel bad about the tragedy in Newtown. He stated that is not correct. They too feel horrible about that tragic event. He stated that he wishes that those who support the law take some time to educate themselves more about guns.

Shane Humphreys (name was not confirmed) a resident of Putnam County for the past 11 years. He stated that people talk about sensible gun laws. There are sensible gun laws in Ireland. He stated that when all the trouble began in Northern Ireland. There was a decision made that all of the gun owners were sensible with there guns. He stated that Irish Government issued a "temporary custody order". Everyone was ordered to hand in their guns within 90 days. The guns were to be returned to the owners. The guns were never returned, that was 1972. As far as the commissions on machine guns; he stated a few weeks ago he was in South Carolina where he was able to shoot full automatic no questions asked. He stated that he does not hear a lot about people being shot to death in South Carolina by machine guns. He stated that we all hate when children are harmed. However the guns in homes are one of the least dangerous things in your home. He stated that the swimming pool in the back yard of a home is far more dangerous to a small child. He stated we can all find statistics to back up our arguments. He stated it is not the guns that kill, it is the people. He continued with some further comments. His final comment was in reference to the terrible tragedy at the Boston Marathon. People have been quoted stating that we cannot blame all of the Muslims, he stated with that said we cannot blame all of the gun owners.

Vitto Livator (name was not confirmed) a resident of Putnam Valley for the past 7 years, prior to that he lived in Yonkers, NY, stated that he has two children in the Putnam Valley Schools. He is a gun owner and began shooting in grade school. He stated that something went very wrong in Newtown. However he does not put the blame on the gun or gun owners. He stated the day that the New York State Senate passed the NY Safe ACT of 2013. He stated at like 10:00p.m. – 11:00p.m. at night on the webcast they began taking the votes to pass the 2013 NY Safe ACT. He stated that he understands the frustration of those here tonight who feel that this Legislature passed their opposition to the NY SAFE Act of 2013 without the knowledge of the public. He closed by stating that he does support the opposition of the Putnam County Legislature.

Denis H. (name was not confirmed) stated that he has been living in Putnam County since 1975 and has been a member of the National Rifle Association (NRA) since 1975 as well. He stated he is a New York State Certified Instructor and a Hunter Safety Instructor. He went into specifics about different types of guns and the amount of rounds they can shoot and how quickly.

Roy (name was not confirmed) resident of Putnam Lake/Patterson area for the past 21 years stated that Governor Cuomo went out of his way to put the NY SAFE Act of 2013 on the books and in his opinion, broke a lot of rules in doing so. He stated he believes for that fact alone it should be challenged in the Supreme Court and tossed out in its entirety. He continued to

express his frustration with the process and the restrictions in the law and their negative impact on the gun owners. He closed by stating that he would like to see this law appealed and revisited following the laws, rules and regulations of the State Assembly of the State of New York.

Cliff Narby, resident of Town of Kent, stated he believes people should have the right to own guns if they want to be used for sport, hobby or to protect themselves. However they are dangerous in the hands of human beings. There needs to be restrictions on firearms. He stated that he supports the Legislature's efforts to improve the proposed law and to enforce the laws that are in place. He stated that we need to express ourselves as a County as one who will work to improve this matter.

Susan Berman, resident of Town of Southeast, he was born in Minnesota, stated that those, like the women who spoke earlier who have passed the background checks to carry a hand gun, should be allowed to carry them. However she does not believe that any other type of gun, she does not support people being allowed to have. Her daughter is in the military and instructs on the use of assault weapons. She stated that she believes that is where those guns belong.

Laura Johnson, resident of Town of Kent past 17 years, stated that she is a firearms instructor. She stated that she teaches, primarily kids, on how to handle firearms safely so that there are no accidents. She stated, as a child, she was taught how to safely handle a firearm and therefore was never involved in an accident. She stated that to the best of her knowledge the forty (40) some kids she has taught have never been involved in an accident. She stated that it really comes down to the person with the firearm, not the equipment. She stated that we could debate the pros and cons of the NY SAFE Act of 2013 for the next five years. In her opinion there are problems with it and there are good things with it. The Constitution that we all hold in high regard was written in a time when the men and women who were writing it were coming out of a horrific time and wanted to ensure it never happened again. They put into place a series of check and balances with the government to be held accountable by the people. She stated deliberately circumventing the Constitutional procedures that are in place by our State and Federal Laws to pass the NY SAFE Act of 2013 is reason enough to repeal the Law and bring it back for discussion and review. The people need a voice and their representatives need to be able to understand what they are voting on. She stated that Legislation needs to represent the rights and the wishes of the people; not some knee jerk reaction to a horrible tragedy.

Steve Dubroff, resident of Cold Spring, stated that he supports gun ownership. It is in our Constitution. He stated that the Constitution is a living document. There are no absolutes in this world. He stated that the NY SAFE Act of 2013 was passed in the middle of the night and that was wrong. However the Legislature passing a non-binding resolution to repeal this law in the middle of the night was wrong also. He stated that he would like to see this Legislature lead by example. Find out what the constituents think make sense.

Shelmur (name was not confirmed) resident of Dutchess County, stated he does not believe that anyone who supports the NY SAFE Act of 2013 is really concerned about saving the lives of children and adults. He stated that if that was really the concern you start petitioning the Legislators to do something about the assault vehicles on the road every day. He stated that

it has become so common people do not even read about it anymore. He stated one move in that direction would be to petition the Governor to lower the speed limits. He continued with his recommendations to increase driver safety measures.

Phil (name was not confirmed) resident of Poughkeepsie, stated that he believes those who voted for the NY SAFE Act of 2013 and circumvented the constitutional process are criminals.

John Taylor, Town of Kent resident for the past 38 years, also a citizen of the United States of America. He stated that he is impressed with both sides who are here. He stated that folks have some very important things here tonight. He stated what needs to be changed is our society. He stated that he has been affiliated with law enforcement for twenty-years of his life. He stated that we keep calling for common sense and due process. That is what we need here. He stated that he wanted to thank County Clerk Sant for standing up to protect the privacy of the residents of Putnam County.

Robert Fariolo (name was not confirmed) stated he is a resident of Carmel and his business is in Carmel. He stated that he wears many hats. He stated he can speak as a concerned parent, certified firearms and personal protection instructor etc. tonight he would like to speak from his position as an Attorney. He stated he has been an attorney for over twenty years (20). He stated that he has experience with Firearms Laws. He has litigated them etc. He stated that the night that the bill was finally released to the people, it took him hours and hours to read through the entire law. He stated that the people who voted for this law did not know what was in it. He highlighted some of the inadequacies of the approved 2013 NY SAFE Act. He stated in closing he would like to address his teaching of "citizenship" in the Boy Scouts of America. He stated that in that he focuses on the democratic process and how laws are made and how representative democracy works. He stated that he watched the New York State Rules meeting on the night this law was passed, the democracy process was not followed. He stated that the non-binding resolution that was passed by the Putnam County Legislature does not address taking away rights of anyone in this room. Whereas the New York State Legislature law took away the law abiding citizens' rights all across New York State. He stated that he wanted to thank the Committee and the Legislature for passing the resolution and for recognizing the burdens that were being place on this County and on the tax payers and addressing the fraud and subversion of democracy that the Bill really was.

Lynn Berkley (name was not confirmed) stated that she wanted to thank all of the people who came forward this evening on both sides of the issue and expressed themselves, and thank you to the Legislature for giving us the chance to have this discourse. She stated that she implores everyone to maintain respect for one another.

Chair Gross stated on behalf of the Putnam County Legislature, he thanked everyone for attending the meeting and voicing their opinion and concerns.

Legislator Oliverio stated that the issue this evening was not really about the SAFE Act of 2013, it was about how this Legislature passed interpretation of the SAFE Act, of which I am against, I believe it is a very much flawed legislation. He stated that a valid point was brought forward tonight that we too, did not allow public discourse and that troubles me. This is what we should have done. He stated that he has been a lifelong Putnam Resident. He stated that he vowed to be transparent and to hear both sides of every issue before we take a vote. He

stated that he let himself down and each one of you down. He stated that what Governor Cuomo did was dead wrong. He stated that he did not make the Democratic Party proud, and neither did this Legislature make this community proud passing our resolution the way we did.

Legislator LoBue thanked everyone for coming out tonight. She stated that she also supports the resolution passed by this Legislature, she is a staunch 2nd Amendment supporter. However she too is embarrassed that the committee process was bypassed. She stated that will not happen again. Thank you so much.

Item #5) Approval/ AutoMon-Caseloader Explorer Case Management System/Probation Department

Director of Probation Funicelli stated the system that they currently are working with is extremely outdated. He stated that the new format is in contract with the State. He stated fifteen (15) other Counties are already using this new system. He stated Putnam County's Probation Department should really get on board with this to meet the requirements. He stated also in the terms of efficiency the system currently being used results in duplication of work in terms of data entry.

Legislator LoBue stated that the cost of the AutoMon is \$75,000 and change (*\$75,758.00 as stated in backup*). She stated that there is a five (5) year lease and the annual amount would be 17,000 (*\$17,017.30 as stated in backup*). She requested that be confirmed.

Director of Probation Funicelli stated that the County would pay a total of \$75,000 through annual payments of \$17,000 for five years. He stated that a lot of new changes and requirements have come forward that this new system would really facilitate it coordinating all of them.

Legislator LoBue questioned if he has money in his budget line for this.

Director of Probation Funicelli stated no. He stated that he spoke to Deputy County Executive Walker pertaining to this and he is not positive how it would be funded. However he can say that Deputy County Executive Walker was in favor of this. He has also discussed this with Director of IT Lannon, and he also stated that he believes this would be the way to go.

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to move the AutoMon-Caseloader Explorer Case Management System Purchase to the Audit and Administration Committee for review; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #6) Discussion/Procedural Review/Items on Legislature Agendas

Chair Gross stated that this item was discussed during the discussion of agenda item #4.

Item #7) Correspondence: memo Dated April 12, 2013 To: Putnam County New York Schools Superintendents/Re: Enhancing Safety in Putnam County Schools/Update

Undersheriff Convery stated that he would like to point out that there is a time element to be aware of. He stated that there needs to be enough time allowed to get the complete training done. He stated in order to be ready for the 2013 – 2014 School Year, a decision needs to be made soon, by the Legislature and the County Executive.

Legislator Gross stated that there will need to be a contract drawn up. He stated that he has reached out to Personnel Director Eldridge today to request an update on the review process of applicants.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he would like to move forward that this Committee send a letter to the County Executive requesting that the funding required to get this process started be put up front by the County, and have the County be refunded by the School District. Which he believes it is only Mahopac School District that is interested in this proposed Special Patrol Officer Program (SPO) Partnership.

County Executive Odell stated that she has received information that the Brewster School District did reply that they were interested. They replied after the deadline. She questioned the position of the Putnam Valley Schools.

Legislator Oliverio stated that their School Superintendent has just announced that she will be leaving her position as Superintendent. Therefore there is no action being taken by the Putnam Valley School District to partner at this time.

County Executive Odell stated that an addendum can be added to the School Contract to include Mahopac and Brewster School Districts as being members of the SPO Partnership with the County. She stated as far as startup funding, it was her understanding at the Taskforce Meetings that the Schools would be taking the financial responsibility of the uniforms. Therefore she does not see the need for the County to supply the seed money, startup funding.

Legislator Oliverio stated that it was his understanding that the County agreed to cover the training.

County Executive Odell stated that the County agreed to cover the training as far as whatever the Sheriff's Department would need to would be done from their process.

Legislator Oliverio confirmed that the schools would then be responsible for all of the other costs.

County Executive Odell stated that Personnel Director Eldridge was crafting the personnel requisition for posting. He was offering to facilitate the interview process, and work on the workers compensation part of it. She stated that now that we have confirmation from the School Districts who want to be a part of this the County Law Department will begin work on an IMA (Inter Municipal Agreement). She stated that Personnel Director Eldridge was already instructed to begin.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he proposes that this committee write a letter to the School Districts to confirm the amount of SPOs they are looking to have on their campuses. He stated it is not clear that the Brewster School District is a definite.

Chair Gross stated that the Brewster School District's School Board will be have a meeting coming up, Tuesday, to discuss, their final decision as to be a part of the SPO partnership or not.

Undersheriff Convery stated that the Sheriff's Department has a very thorough procedure that must be followed in the hiring process. There will be a very thorough background check performed on each candidate. The hiring process will be done by the Sheriff's Department.

Chair Gross stated that the Schools have stated that they want to be at the table for the interview process.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he believes that the School Superintendents want the opportunity to meet the candidates.

Legislator Othmer stated that he would like to say that he believes that Chair of Protective Services Gross did a great job with this. It was a really hard project to move forward, however it worked out really well. He stated that there was a speaker tonight who brought up the point that there is something wrong with our Society. Unfortunately something like this could happen again. He stated that now that Putnam County has this model in place he believes in five (5) years every district will want to be a part of this.

Chair Gross stated that it was a collaborative effort with Sheriff Smith, County Executive Odell and the Legislature who all came together for the good of the public.

Undersheriff Convery stated that he would like to confirm that there will be a law enforcement supervision set up to work and oversee the SPOs. He stated that is currently in place with the School Resource Officers (SROs) who are on the school campuses. The SROs are checked every day by a Supervisor. He stated that currently Sargent Kevin Cargain is responsible for the oversight of the SROs. He stated that there may be six (6) more people hired as SPOs who will need to have oversight. He stated that this was an item that was discussed during the Task Force discussions.

Legislator Oliverio stated that couldn't the SROs be the point of contact for the SPOs.

Undersheriff Convery stated that this is a consideration that was discussed during the Task Force meetings and just wants to make mention of it again. He stated that it would not be advisable to have the SROs oversee the SPOs.

Legislator LoBue stated that she is concerned as to what we would be approving. There are no details.

Legislator Oliverio stated that we will move forward and send a memo asking for confirmation of specific needs by the School Districts.

Legislator LoBue stated that she would like a memo to be sent to the Law Department requesting that we see the contract that is being prepared.

Legislator Nacerino questioned what is plan “B” if this process is not completed by September. She stated that she would not want promises to be made that cannot be met.

Chair Gross stated that he will contact the Schools, County Law Department and the Personnel Department to confirm the facts.

Legislator Nacerino stated that no criteria has been created yet to allow for a job posting.

County Executive Odell stated that Personnel Director Eldridge has begun formulating the criteria, in anticipation of exactly what is being address, the timeline. She stated that he is really ready to go. She stated that they are waiting to hear the final report on what School District wants to be a part of this partnership. She stated that she recalls, from conversations at the meetings, that Superintendent Manko and the Mahopac School Board Members want to manage the scheduling of the SPOs. She stated that she also recalls that there was discussion about supervision of the SPOs, but it was agreed that the County could not afford to fund another position, for monitoring another 4 – 5 positions.

Legislator LoBue stated that if the Legislature does not receive some of these missing pieces, within a week, we need to take action.

Legislator Oliverio stated that we will be ready. We just heard from the County Executive that Director Eldridge is ready to go. The delay is to hear from the Schools.

Legislator Nacerino requested clarification regarding the Sheriff’s Department concern for the oversight of the SPOs.

Undersheriff Convery stated that as this organization is being expanded from the current SROs, you need to consider the need for oversight of the new SPOs.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if there will be overtime in the cases of being present at sporting events and or concerts.

Undersheriff Convery stated that the SPOs would cover the school hours at the Elementary Schools. An SRO would handle the special events and or after school events. The SPOs will be hired technically as Peace Officers; there are restrictions to the roles that they can play at the schools.

Item #8) Other Business: NONE

Item #9) Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:30P.M., Legislator Oliverio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature- Diane E. Trabulsy