

Legislator Oliverio's second concern is that he noticed that the County Executive has put forward a request for a proposal for the head of the EDC. The EDC is a separate Board. We do not ask or choose another Organization to come forward to us, and we look for their head of their organization. The EDC stands alone, even though he believes there is a movement in the Executive Office to make it a pawn under that authority, and he is appalled by that as we have no right to tamper in the EDC's affairs. That organization is being kicked around like a poor disowned dog, and it is wrong. It is very distasteful and he wanted to be sure that he expressed that for the record from the head of the minority party, even though he is only one. He feels very strongly about this and also knows that many of his peers also feel the same way.

Chairman Birmingham stated that he does not feel that Legislator Oliverio is a minority in that viewpoint, as Legislator Oliverio is a member of the majority.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that a lot of Grants both on the State and Federal level are drying up, and that same individual who was spoken about in the paper, last year had two major projects that was not funded. When you are looking at the Grants and looking at some of these opportunities, what the State does and what the people who give out Grants look at, is who has not had an opportunity and who may have had something the year before. They try to be (quote un-quote) as equitable as possible. Sometimes it is just the matter of how the cycle runs. As people move forward, where you leave a specific job and of course it is very easy to play not to reflect on our own self, but on others. He feels that there is some better way to do things today and that we had opportunity to do things better this year, but it didn't happen.

The reason for the development of the EDC, the quote of "separation of powers," is we should not get involved. The person who is running the EDC should not be looking at it as though any weight is being pulled by other branches. Echoing what Legislator Oliver has stated and moving forward, as the new Legislators come on, and those of us who are present, we want to make sure that we do adhere to that as there should be a third party looking in at Economic Development in Putnam County.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he wanted to just sum up that the EDC is their own separate Board that makes the recommendation as to who should run that organization, not County government. He will oppose any recommendation that comes out of County government for that position. He will not support that individual based upon the fact that we need to separate the EDC from all political concerns. He has said that and many of us have stated that before, and that point needs to be made very clear. Just like this Legislature, it is separate and distinct from the Executive Branch, and we need to make that very clear also. In history when the Legislative branch is held down by the Executive branch, you end up with nothing but a dictatorship and that is the way Putnam County should be run.

Chairman Birmingham stated that he has known Kevin Bailey for almost twenty years now, and he know the work that he has done with his leadership with the EDC. He knows that Kevin will be retiring soon of his own volition for his personal character. He wants to thank him for being a friend not only personally to him, but to Putnam County as well. He would like to make a motion from this Committee to be forwarded to the Full Legislative Meeting to express the will of the Legislature, as a vote of confidence, in our, not only in Kevin's abilities, but also that of the EDC Board.

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to express the will of the Legislature, as a vote of confidence, not only Kevin's abilities, but that of his Board. Seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

#7) Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:
Claire E. Muller
Administrative Assistant