

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM #318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairman Gouldman & Legislators Gross & Wright

Tuesday

November 22, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gouldman began the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of former Undersheriff Peter Convery. He stated he was a wonderful public servant and a community minded individual.

Upon roll call Legislator Gross and Chairman Gouldman were present. Chairman Gouldman stated that he has requested that Legislator Nacerino sit as a member of the committee until/if Legislator Wright arrives. Legislator Wright arrived at 6:05p.m.

Item #3 – Approval/Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes/Sept. & Oct. 2016

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Update/Access Ability to All County Cell Phones/ITGIS Director Lannon

Chairman Gouldman stated that Director Lannon is not present to speak to this agenda item. He stated if he arrives they will go back to it. He stated if he does not arrive, the matter will be addressed at the next meeting of this committee.

Item #5 - Discussion/Bicycle Safety on Putnam County Roadways/Legislator Addonizio

Legislator Addonizio stated she was contacted by a constituent regarding bike safety along Putnam County Roadways. She stated the request proposed to her was to promote bicycle safety through road signage. She stated it was reported to her that Town of Kent Highway Superintendent Richard Othmer was contacted and confirmed that the Town of Kent will support this request and have the signs posted at no charge. She stated that David Tookmanian, her constituent is present this evening to speak to this matter.

David Tookmanian, Constituent, stated on September 13, 2016, Jim Stephens, a local resident and accomplished bicyclist as well as a race car driver, was struck from behind on Route 301 on an absolute straight as an arrow area along Route 301. He stated that there was 2/10 of a mile of clear vision. He stated that Mr. Stephens is currently in the Helen Hayes Hospital with devastating physical injuries and Traumatic Brain Injury. He stated that they, the bicyclists in Putnam County, are a very tight community. He introduced his fellow cyclists in attendance with him: Tim Curtiss, Roger Tricinelli and Charlie Muller. He acknowledged that the fact that there are some cyclists who are irritating, aggressive and rude. He stated that is not this group.

He stated they obey the laws of the road. He stated that there is an increase in the number of bicyclists coming into the Putnam County towns. He stated the bucolic surroundings are a tremendous draw. He stated bicyclists have every right to be on the roadways. He stated they believe an increase in signage will help to increase awareness to the motorists that they are sharing the roadways with bicyclists in Putnam County.

Tim Curtiss, Resident & Bicyclist, stated he along with other bicyclists met with members of the Sheriff's Department. He stated during that meeting they were told three (3) things to do to be proactive: 1- Signage 2- Designate two or three routes throughout the County, a 20mile loop, 30mile loop and a 45mile loop. He stated those routes would be printed up and provided to the different Town Stations throughout the County so the visiting bicyclist will be aware of the safest areas to cycle. 3- The Sheriff's Department committed to putting more Deputy Patrols on the three routes during the popular cycle times: Spring, Fall and during an actual bicycling event. He stated that there is a Law in New York State that requires a motor vehicle to give a bicyclist a reasonable distance when passing. He stated they would request that statement be placed on the bottom of the road signs. He stated they believe that would serve as a useful reminder to the motorist. He stated conformation that Highway Superintendent Othmer has agreed to put the signs on the Town of Kent Roads. He stated tonight they are present to request that the County agree to put signs on the County roads. He stated that they are contacting the New York State Department of Transportation and requesting that they put signs on the State roadways in Putnam County. He stated their goal is to create a safe environment for the motorist as well as the bicyclist.

Legislator Addonizio stated that she believes it critical to have a public awareness campaign as well as the signs. She stated she believes just posting the signs will not be enough. She stated possibly the County Health Department could assist with that.

Tim Curtis, Resident & Bicyclist, stated that would be great. He stated any way we can get publicity out there to communicate, this is a County that welcomes bicyclists. He stated that the bicyclists are good for Tourism. He stated both Westchester and Dutchess Cycling Clubs run events in Putnam County because of the varied terrain, the natural beauty, the reservoirs and for the most part the roadways are not that congested.

Legislator Nacerino stated that this is a common sense request, she supports the request. She stated that she likes the idea of the designated routes. She agrees with Legislator Addonizio in that the awareness needs to be raised.

Legislator Gross offered his sympathy in regards to the accident that their friend and fellow bicyclist was involved in. He stated he has concern with Route 301 being a road that bicyclists use, because in a few different areas of that roadway it is very narrow.

Tim Curtis, Resident & Bicyclist, stated that is true. He stated unfortunately it is the only East to West roadway.

Legislator Gross questioned if it is safer to ride in a group when cycling or as a single.

Tim Curtiss, Resident & Bicyclist, stated yes. He stated also having a light on your bicycle is recommended. He stated that there are now strobe lights that are really good. He stated also, of course, helmets.

Legislator LoBue stated she agrees with the need for a public service campaign. She stated she supports the County putting up the signage. However she believes the word needs to get out that Putnam County's roads are a shared roadway. She stated that often she hears people question why are the bicyclists on the roads, when there is a bikeway path that goes through Putnam County.

David Tookmanian, Constituent & Bicyclist, stated on the bikeway path there are walkers of all ages, joggers, people walking with strollers, dog walkers. He stated all of those recreational activities would not be suitable to be combined with a group of high performance bicyclists.

Tim Curtis, Resident & Bicyclist, stated the average speed a high performance bicyclists travels is 18-20 mph, with some getting to 34-40 mph.

Chairman Gouldman questioned Legislative Counsel as to who needs to be contacted to make this happen on the County roads.

David Tookmanian, Constituent & Bicyclist, stated again, that he spoke to Highway Superintendent Richie Othmer about this. He stated Superintendent Richie Othmer said, "you can quote me on this, I will do the installation in Kent."

Legislative Counsel Clem VanRoss stated the County's Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena needs to be contacted. He stated if Commissioner Pena wants a resolution from the Legislature he can bring it to the board.

Legislator LoBue recommend that the bicyclist members get in touch with the Putnam County Health Department and the Putnam County Tourism Office to request their assistance in the public service component.

Tim Curtis, Resident & Bicyclist, stated that he agrees the Tourism Office would be very good, because they have been looking for ideas to attract people to Putnam County. He stated more and more bicyclists in groups of 8-10 are coming up on the trains on the weekends to ride in this area.

Chairman Gouldman thanked them for bringing this matter to the Legislature's attention.

Item #6- Approval/Budgetary Amendment (16A077)/Donation from J. D. Stiwell- K-9 Vehicle /Sheriff's Department

Captain Frank Christian stated that this is a very generous donation made by a resident who wants to help in the effort to get drugs off the street.

Legislator LoBue stated she would like clarification on whether there will be an additional dog or is this donation bringing a dog into the Sheriff's Department that will replace an existing dog.

Captain Frank Christian stated the new dog will be replacing an existing dog, Duncan. Duncan is retiring.

Legislator LoBue questioned wasn't there a canine vehicle that transported Duncan.

Captain Frank Christian stated that is correct. However, that vehicle is on its last leg. He stated Mr. Stilwell wants to donate a dog and a car. He stated that Mr. Stilwell is also providing service dogs to work with people dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). He stated that he is a very generous man.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (16A077)/Donation from J. D. Stiwell- K-9 Vehicle; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item #7- Approval/Budgetary Amendment (16A080)/Funding to replace a PC Sheriff Patrol Vehicle/ Sheriff's Department

Captain Frank Christian stated a canine vehicle was side swiped and the car was totaled. He stated the persons insurance paid the claim, and Insurance Recoveries funds were used to cover the cost of the new vehicle.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (16A080)/Funding to replace a PC Sheriff Patrol Vehicle; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item #8- Approval/Budgetary Amendment (16A081)/SCAAP funds deferred from prior years to purchase new Inmate Transfer Vehicle for the Jail/Sheriff's Department

Lieutenant James Greenough stated annual funding is received from the SCAAP Grant. He stated the original plan was to use the funds for training. He stated at this time they do not need it for training, they are transferring the SCAAP funds to contribute to the purchase of a Vehicle. He stated this funding combined with the funding that is being requested under agenda item #9 will go towards the purchase of a new vehicle. Currently there are two (2) Suburban Vehicles: a 2008 with 126,000 miles and a 2010 with 120,000 miles. He stated they will be purchasing a 2017 vehicle.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if the two (2) current vehicles will be retired and replaced by the new vehicle.

Lieutenant James Greenough stated no, they will try to keep all three (3) of the vehicles in operation because they are all 4 wheel drive (4WD). He stated when there is a need to do transports up state they are good to have as backup.

Chairman Gouldman questioned if there will be additional equipment or will the funds from B. A. #16A081 and F.T. #16T335 cover the total invoice.

Lieutenant James Greenough stated it is the total invoice.

Item #9- Approval/Fund Transfer (16T335)/Additional funding needed to purchase new Inmate Transfer Vehicle for the Jail (see: 16A081)/Sheriff's Department

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve (agenda items 8 &9) Budgetary Amendment (16A081)/SCAAP funds deferred from prior years to purchase new Inmate Transfer Vehicle for the Jail and Fund Transfer (16T335)/Additional funding needed to purchase new Inmate Transfer Vehicle for the Jail; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item #10- Approval/Fund Transfer (16T312)/Purchase Vehicle /Coroners' Office

Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Michael Nesheiwat stated that the Putnam County Coroners had worked out of the trunks of their cars in the past. He stated a couple of years ago office space was acquired and a used car, compliments of the Bureau of Emergency Services. He stated that car has been used for two (2) years. Recently that vehicle was brought to have repairs performed and get it inspected, but it was decommissioned by the Highway Department, because it was rusted out. He stated now another vehicle is needed. He stated a 4WD vehicle is needed when traveling in the winter, especially in the areas of Garrison and Putnam Valley. He stated that there is also a lot of equipment that is used by the coroner.

Legislator Gross questioned if the Coroner has to sometimes transport bodies.

Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Michael Nesheiwat stated funeral homes are used to transport bodies in most cases. However on the western side of the County there is only one (1) funeral home, and if they are not available, then the Coroner needs to transport the body.

Legislator Gross stated that he has seen the current vehicle and agrees it is in terrible shape. He stated that he supports this request.

Legislator LoBue questioned who uses the vehicle.

Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Michael Nesheiwat stated all of the Coroners use it, however he uses it the most; statistically he handles more cases than the other coroners.

Legislator LoBue questioned how many times this year, 2016, had he had to transport a body.

Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Michael Nesheiwat stated thank god, none.

Legislator LoBue questioned how many times did he have to transport a body in 2015.

Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Michael Nesheiwat stated none.

Legislator LoBue questioned how many times did he have to transport a body in 2014.

Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Michael Nesheiwat stated he does not see the topic as being transporting the body.

Legislator LoBue stated that was stated as justification for the request.

Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Michael Nesheiwat stated that is a possibility, but that is not the reason for the request. He stated in the case of any homicide or suicide it is not a police scene, it is a coroner's scene. He stated the body cannot be moved. He stated the Coroner must get to the scene in order to clear the scene. He stated if the Coroner cannot get to the scene because of winter weather, a police car needs to come and pick up the Coroner and bring them to the scene.

Legislator LoBue stated she does not see the need for a truck, she stated a front wheel drive vehicle she believes could be used. She stated that in the past the Coroners were reimbursed for the use of their car.

Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Michael Nesheiwat stated that is not correct. None of the Coroners ever received reimbursement. He stated that when he found out about that, that is when the current vehicle was provided. He stated unless you are a Coroner you have no idea what it is like at 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00a.m. to drive on Route 301 and continue onto the roadways in Garrison, which may be dirt roads, cliffs and even on eastern side of the County roadways are challenging. He stated he is looking for safety and a big vehicle to transport the equipment. He stated that he believes the vehicle needs to be a 4WD.

Chairman Gouldman stated that the reality is that when something happens the ambulance and fire department workers need to stay at the scene, until the Coroner arrives.

Legislator Albano stated he supports this request. He stated if there is a need to transport a body, although rare, the vehicle should be equipped for that.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she echoes Legislators Gross and Albano. She stated she supports this. She stated that she believes it is a no brainer to say that the Coroners need a 4WD vehicle. She stated the roads in Putnam County are not forgiving and time is of the essence when a Coroner is responding to a scene and it will facilitate the efficiency and effectiveness of the job that the Coroner has to do. She stated in her opinion this is not even debatable. She stated based on the purposes stated for the need of a larger vehicle, she supports the request for a Suburban.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (16T312)/Purchase Vehicle /Coroners' Office; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

**Item #11- Approval/Fund Transfer (16T342)/Purchase Furniture, Rubber Flooring-
Corrections Division/Sheriff's Department**

Captain Frank Christian stated this is to replace rubber flooring that was originally put down in 1994. He stated there was an attempt to repair some of the areas where the rubber flooring is

peeling up, however it has not worked. He stated also there will be shelving, cabinets and some chairs purchased.

Chairman Gouldman questioned why is rubber flooring used.

Captain Frank Christian stated to keep the noise down.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (16T342)/Purchase Furniture, Rubber Flooring-Corrections Division/Sheriff's Department; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item #12- Approval/Fund Transfer (16T356)/Upgrade Computer Towers in 911/Bureau of Emergency Services

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Anthony Sutton stated these are dispatch systems. He stated they have been freezing up. He stated there have been some significant issues. He stated that they need to replace the existing towers with faster towers and towers with more memory and storage space. He stated that they worked with the vendor to develop specs. He stated that this request would fund the purchase of 12 Towers. He stated in addition, currently there is not a good backup server for the server that runs all of the time at the 911 Center. He stated therefore the objective with the balance of these funds is to purchase another server that will be a mirror image of the existing server.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (16T356)/Upgrade Computer Towers in 911/Bureau of Emergency Services; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item #13 -Approval/Fund Transfer (16T361)/Replacement of Marked Vehicles/Sheriff's Department

Sergeant William Meyer stated that a marked vehicle was taken off the road after an accident in the Spring of 2016. He stated the Sheriff's Department is self-insured so they did not get all of the money back. He stated the Sheriff's Department is working to gather the funding to replace the lost vehicle.

Legislator Gross questioned if the vehicle involved in the accident was old or new.

Sergeant Meyer stated that he believes it had less than 30,000 miles on it. He stated that they are replacing it with a less expensive car.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (16T361)/Replacement of Marked Vehicles/Sheriff's Department; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item #14-FYI/Grant Application SFY 2016-2017 Police Protective Equipment Program (PPEP) Grant-Collaborative Countywide Application/Sheriffs' Department

Sergeant Meyer stated he is working on this matter. He stated the \$50,000 grant funding will be spent to purchase protective vests. A protective vest will be assigned to each Sheriff's Department car and kept in the trunk. He stated the Sheriff's Department will also provide protective vests to the Town of Carmel and Town of Kent Police Departments, Brewster and may be able to supply one to a police car in Cold Spring. He stated County wide law enforcement will benefit from this grant, not just the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Gouldman questioned how many vests can be purchased with \$50,000.

Sergeant Meyer stated that each vest cost approximately \$1,000, so there will be 50 protective vests purchased. He stated along with the vests there will be some helmets provided. He explained that the Emergency Response Team (ERT) received new helmets from the Homeland grant. He stated the old helmets from the ERT will be disbursed.

Item #15 -FYI/Grant Application 2016 Statewide Interoperable Communications/Bureau of Emergency Services

Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated that the application is due December 8, 2016. He stated this year the format has changed it is not a non-competitive application. Therefore at this time they do not know what the amount is. He stated the total amount of funding available will be divided amongst all of the Counties that apply, and there are then other parameters involved in the final formula; size of the County, population etc. He stated there is no-match amount and the funding will be used towards Radio Communication.

Lynne Eckardt, Town of Southeast Councilwoman, requested clarification as to whether the funding would be used in conjunction with the most recent Cell Tower project the County is currently involved with Homeland Towers on.

Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated this funding from this application would be applied to 2017 Interoperable Communications. He stated the Statewide Interoperable Communications funding secured in 2014 and 2015, the County is using towards microwaves and cell towers.

Lynne Eckardt, Town of Southeast Councilwoman requested an explanation of the use of 2017 Statewide Interoperable Communications funding.

Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated this would be a continuation. He stated as the microwave system is upgraded, new radios will be needed for all emergency services, car repeaters and mobiles etc. He stated this funding will assist.

Lynne Eckardt, Town of Southeast Councilwoman requested clarification that the funding would not be used towards the infrastructure costs, it would be used toward the actual radios.

Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated if it was needed it could be spent in that way.

Commissioner Sutton stated the original Statewide Interoperable Communications grant funding is being used for the ability to link the towers to each other using the microwave. He stated the

idea with this grant is to put the radio equipment at the base of the towers to turn it into two-way communication. He stated that is where radio transmitters, antennas come in. He stated the natural progression is to build out the radio system once the backbone of the microwave system is in place.

Lynne Eckardt, Town of Southeast Councilwoman questioned if the microwave transmission is line of sight.

Commissioner Sutton stated it is line of sight. He provided further explanation to some questions presented by Councilwoman Eckardt regarding the physical tower to be erected in the Town of Southeast at the Kern Building site.

Lynne Eckardt, Town of Southeast Councilwoman, stated on January 19, 2017 the Administration is coming to the Town of Southeast Board Meeting (Board Meeting) to make a presentation regarding the Kern Building Cell Tower. She questioned how far along will the project be. She requested the presentation be given at the Board Meeting on December 1, 2016 or December 22, but that date did not work because there is a Holiday County party, and then there is an earlier meeting of the Board in January. She stated again by the January 19, 2017 will it be a moot point by then.

Commissioner Sutton stated both the Kern and the Bureau of Emergency Services sites were moved at the last meeting of the Legislature. (December 6, 2016 Full Mtg.). He stated he can answer your questions either off-line or at the Board Meeting on January 19th. He stated the locations have been selected in order to provide the best coverage.

Lynne Eckardt, Town of Southeast Councilwoman, requested a copy of the coverage maps, they were not included in the packets.

Commissioner Sutton confirmed he will get that information to her.

Lynne Eckardt, Town of Southeast Councilwoman, stated some confusion she had in reviewing the calendar on the Legislature Web page.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she would like to voice her support for any grant money that can be secured to improve the county's Interoperable communications.

Item #16-FYI/Fund Transfer (16T314)/Purchase Body Armor (6)/Sheriff's Department

Pat Butler, Sheriff's Department Fiscal Manager, stated this funding transfer is being done at the request of Deputy Commissioner of Finance Anita Gilbert, moving funding for Body Armor to the "Other Equipment" budget line.

Item #17- FYI/Fund Transfer (16T332)/Cover Overtime to Y/E/Sheriff's Department – Duly Noted

Item #18- Other Business

a. Discussion/Act of Bravery-Cullen Malzo

Chairman Gouldman stated recently there was an act of bravery by a young man in Putnam County (Cullen Malzo). He stated that he would like the Legislature to recognize him and his bravery in some way.

Legislator Nacerino stated that a Proclamation will be addressed at the December 6, 2016 Full Legislature Meeting in honor of this young man. The Clerk of The Legislature has contacted him, unfortunately due to his academic schedule, he is unable to be in attendance at the meeting. The document, after it is addressed at the December meeting will be mailed to him.

b. Discussion/Sheriff's Department Vehicles

Legislator LoBue questioned if the glass in the Sheriff's Department Vehicles is bullet proof.

Sergeant Meyer stated that they are not.

Item #4- (Con't) Update/Access Ability to All County Cell Phones/ITGIS Director Lannon

Legislator Nacerino requested since Director Lannon did not appear at this meeting, please table the matter to another meeting of this committee. She stated that she believes there is a need to have Director Lannon present to clarify what it is that the Legislature would like an answer to.

c. General Discussion/Patterson Cell Tower

Legislator Gross questioned if the matter of the Cell Tower to be placed in the Town of Patterson is still on going.

Legislator Nacerino stated that it is. She stated a 180 foot Cell Tower is to be erected by Metro North. She stated the residents had absolutely no say in the matter. There were several meetings with Metro North. She stated the message was that they have the ability to erect the Tower based on their need for communications. She stated that the bottom line is what Metro North needs supersedes any overture of the Town. She stated that there needs to be recognition given to the vital need that the Tower will serve to emergency services. She stated Putnam County is not that far from New York City. She stated she does recognize and acknowledge that. She stated personally she does not agree it is the only conducive spot for the Cell Tower. She stated especially looking at the amount of people who will be impacted by their current designated site.

Legislator Albano stated that it is puzzling that in today's world or technology the trains do not have WiFi.

Legislator Nacerino stated airplanes have WiFi.

Legislator Wright encouraged Legislator Nacerino to keep on track with her fellow residents in voicing their opposition.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to table Agenda Item #4 Update/Access Ability to All County Cell Phones/ITGIS Director Lannon to the next Protective Services Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

- d. **FYI/Senator Schumer Press Conference: Trucks-Speed/Rest Stop on Route 684, November 23,2016 @ 10:30a.m./Reporter Eric Gross – Duly Noted**

Item #19 -Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:00 p.m., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trabulsy.