

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

Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan

Thursday

6:00 p.m.

May 16, 2019

(Economic Development Mtg. to Immediately Follow)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairman Jonke who requested that Legislator Nacerino lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Nacerino, Sullivan and Chairman Jonke were present.

Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ April 9, 2019

Chairman Jonke stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Chairman Jonke stated he will be going out of order. The Committee will be skipping over agenda items #4-8 and begin by addressing agenda item #9 first and proceed from that item forward. Currently there is no representative present from the Sheriff's Department to provide details to items #4-8 which have been submitted from the Sheriff's Department.

Item #9 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (19T102)/ Purchase SCBA Carbon Cylinder Bottles for Fire Training Center/ Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Clair

Legislator Sullivan questioned what an SCBA is.

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated an SCBA is a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. He explained they are used during the fire training. He stated that they have a shelf life of 15 years.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve and move Fund Transfer (19T102) Purchase SCBA Carbon Cylinder Bottles for Fire Training Center to the Audit and Administration Meeting; Seconded by Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #10 - Approval/ 2018 Technical Rescue & Urban Search and Rescue Grant Program Application/ Deputy Commissioner Lipton

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

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated there needs to be a correction made to the amount that is listed that the County is requesting \$150,000. He stated originally they believed the County could apply for \$225,000, but that is not the case. He explained that an application can be made for \$75,000 per Technical Rescue & Urban Search Team. He stated that Putnam has two (2) teams, as they have partnered with Westchester. He stated the total is \$150,000 that the County will be applying for. (** see below)

Chairman Jonke questioned the type of equipment that would be purchased.

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated ropes and some advanced equipment and advanced training through the State. He explained the training is for technician level 1 and technician level 2, which is related to low and high angle rescues.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Application for the **amended amount of \$150,000, 2018 Technical Rescue & Urban Search and Rescue Grant; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #11 – Approval/ FY2019 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)/ Bureau of Emergency Services/ Deputy Commissioner Lipton

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated the County receives this funding, \$274,920. He stated the same as last year, the amount of this grant was reduced by \$80 and he is not sure why. He stated the funding is divided, the Sheriff's Department is given \$100,000, which is used to support the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and the balance of the funding \$174,920, is used by the Bureau of Emergency Services to support the Fire Investigation Team the Hazardous Materials Team, the Fire Police Team and Communications Team.

Chairman Jonke questioned if there are matching funds.

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated there are not. **He stated for the record there are no matching funds on the previous grant (agenda item #10).

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Application for the / FY2019 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP); Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #12 - Approval/ 2019- 20 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant/ Deputy Commissioner Lipton

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated that this grant does have a 25% match. He explained the match is paid by In-Kind Services with volunteer services. He stated the funding is used to pay for a simulated exercise. He stated the simulation will be of a tractor trailer traveling with hazardous materials involved in an accident on I-84. He stated the simulation is done at the training center, not on I-84. He stated an outside company comes in and stages the simulation drill.

Legislator Sullivan questioned who attends that training.

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated the three (3) HAZMAT teams, sometimes the local Fire Departments, the Sheriff's Department and local Police Departments are invited. He stated in these types of situations all of the agencies need to work together. He stated sometimes they will have the State Department of Transportation (DOT) join them so the DOT can provide their input on how they would react to this kind of a situation.

Legislator Sullivan questioned if it is a one (1) day training session.

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated that is correct.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Application of the 2019- 20 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

**Item #13 - Approval/ 2019-20 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Operations Grant/
Deputy Commissioner Lipton**

Chairman Jonke stated there are no matching funds and questioned how much is the grant funding.

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated the amount is not given until an application is submitted.

Chairman Jonke questioned historically what the County has received with this grant.

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated historically the amount has been reduced from year to year. He stated six (6) years ago, approximately \$135,000 was awarded. He stated last year the County received \$114,000. He stated he believes the amount this year will be around \$110,000.

Legislator Nacerino questioned the status of Next Generation (Next Gen).

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated the equipment was purchased approximately seven (7) years ago. He stated with the advancements in technology the County has to go through a full update of the equipment to allow the use of the Next Gen.

Legislator Nacerino requested that Deputy Commissioner Lipton please speak to the potential uses of Next Gen.

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated the plan is to start with the ability for people to text 911. He stated there is a process of Next Gen you go one step at a time. He stated the first step will be to allow text messages to be sent to the 911. He stated once that is smoothed over and working properly then they will advance to allowing photos to be sent to 911, next will be the acceptance of videos. He stated there will need to be an upgrade to the phone system and the dispatchers will require training.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if there is a possibility that there will be additional grant money available to offset that costs.

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated he applies to every grant he can find. He stated also the hope is that the interoperable grants continue. He stated currently

that funding goes towards the County's Towers project. He stated once that project is completed that funding from the interoperable grants can then be used for this purpose.

Legislator Nacerino recognized Deputy Commissioner Lipton for his diligent efforts in finding and applying to all of the grants he brings forward to benefit the Bureau of Emergency Services. She stated that the grant work is very time consuming and extensive. She stated the funding is so valuable to the County.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve 2019-20 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Operations Grant; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #4 - FYI/ Budgetary Amendment (19A029)/ To Cover Overtime Expenses which will be reimbursed through the Drug Enforcement Administration –Tactical Diversion Squad Task Force/ Sheriff Langley

Chairman Jonke stated that Sergeant Meyer from the Sheriff's Department is now present, therefore they will address the agenda items related to the Sheriff's Department. He stated they would be beginning with agenda Item #4.

Sergeant Meyer stated this is related to the Sheriff's Deputy that is assigned to the FBI Taskforce. He explained the Deputy receives overtime and it is reimbursed by the Federal Government.

Legislator Sullivan questioned if it is just one (1) Deputy.

Sergeant Meyer confirmed that is correct.

Legislator Sullivan stated the Sheriff is on this agenda, he questioned if Sergeant Meyer knows why he is not present. He questioned if Sergeant Meyer was asked to come in his place.

Sergeant Meyer stated he has no idea.

Chairman Jonke questioned if the Deputy works with the FBI or for the FBI.

Sergeant Meyer stated the Deputy works with the FBI.

Chairman Jonke questioned how much can Sergeant Meyer speak to about the position.

Sergeant Meyer stated that is about it.

Item #5 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (19T081)/ To Cover OT Expenses due to Four Vacancies and One Employee on 207C/ Sheriff Langley

Chairman Jonke stated this is the overtime for March. He stated this is perpetual until these vacancies are filled in the Correctional Facility. He questioned if the Sheriff's Department is any closer to filling the positions.

Sergeant Meyer stated there has been one (1) hire. He stated that there may be a transfer in the works right now. He stated the candidates on the list are not making it through the background checks.

Chairman Jonke questioned how often is the test given.

Sergeant Meyer stated he believes the current list of candidates needs to be exhausted, and the Personnel Director deems it no longer viable. He stated generally it can be one (1) to four (4). He clarified that four (4) is the maximum number of years.

Legislator Addonizio questioned what is the age limit for taking the Correction Officer test.

Sergeant Meyer stated he does not believe there is an age limit for Corrections. He stated for a Police position the age limit is 36 years old.

Legislator Albano questioned the approximate starting salary for a Correction Officer.

Sergeant Meyer stated approximately low \$40,000.

Legislator Sullivan stated with all of the overtime they do pretty well.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Approval/ Fund Transfer (19T081)/ To Cover OT Expenses due to Four Vacancies and One Employee on 207C; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (19T085)/ To Cover OT Expenses due to Vacancy/ Sheriff Langley

Chairman Jonke questioned if this is overtime for Road Patrol.

Sergeant Meyer stated that is correct. He stated the Deputy that used to cover DSS has retired. He stated the position has not yet been filled. He stated that this request is to move Personnel money into the DSS Overtime budget line.

Chairman Jonke requested clarification that no officer has been assigned to the position.

Sergeant Meyer stated not yet. He explained it is a Monday through Friday position. He explained when a Deputy is pulled out of the rotation and assigned to the DSS more overtime will be generated. He stated there are two (2) new hires that are on Field Training that should be done by the end of this month. He stated then the position at DSS will be filled. He explained it is a State reimbursed position; the County does not pay the salary on that position. He stated he is not sure if the State or the County pays the overtime.

Legislator Nacerino questioned what is required in relation to when an Officer needs to notify the Department that he/she is retiring.

Sergeant Meyer stated it is a minimum requirement of two (2) week requirement. He stated usually people give more notice than that. However there cannot be a new hire brought in until that personnel line is cleared. He further explained they have a good list of eligible candidates for the Deputy Sheriff positions. He stated the challenge is filling the Correction candidate positions.

Legislator Nacerino stated is she understanding that the Legislature will not be receiving an overtime request related to the coverage of the Deputy at the DSS Officer next month.

Sergeant Meyer stated that there will be a request that will be submitted to cover the overtime for the month of May. He stated the projection is to have the position filled at the start of June.

Chairman Jonke questioned if the State Mandate requires that the DSS position be covered by a Deputy Sheriff or could two (2) Special Patrol Officers cover the position. He stated it would be a more economical approach.

Sergeant Meyer stated he does not have the answer to that question.

Legislator Castellano stated that there was a tragic incident at a DSS Office upstate. He stated after that New York State made it mandatory to have a Deputy Sheriff at the DSS Offices. He stated that Westchester County has two (2) Deputies at the DSS Office at all the times during the working hours.

Chairman Jonke stated the County does receive reimbursement, but it would be a more financial approach to have SPOs at the post.

Legislator Nacerino stated she believes that option of assigning SPOs to that shift should be researched. She stated an SPO is licensed to carry, fully trained for an active shooter situation and they receive additional training. She stated she believes therefore unless it is mandated to have a Deputy it may be a matter to be reviewed and considered to utilize SPOs.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve and move to the Audit & Administration Meeting Fund Transfer (19T085)/ To Cover OT Expenses due to Vacancy; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #7 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (19T090)/ To Cover OT Expenses due to Four Vacancies and One Employee on 207C/ Sheriff Langley

Chairman Jonke stated this is to cover the April Overtime for the vacancies, as discussed with agenda item #5 which is to cover the March Overtime.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve and move to the Audit & Administration Meeting Fund Transfer (19T090)/ To Cover OT Expenses due to Vacancy; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #8 - Approval/ Grant Application – FY18 Explosives Detection Canine Team Grant Program/ Sheriff Langley

Chairman Jonke requested that Sergeant Meyer speak to this request.

Sergeant Meyer stated that he believes the title of the grant includes 2018 as the year, because that is when the funding is received from the Federal Government. He stated the Sheriff's Department has two (2) Explosives Detection Canine (EDC) dogs that were purchased with grant funding in 2014 and 2015. He stated the \$100,000 was awarded on two (2) separate grants. He stated the funding was used to build an EDC Team. He stated that included the dog, the vehicle and the training. He stated currently one (1) of the dogs is eight (8) years old and the second dog is seven (7) years old. He stated the requested grant would run for three (3) years. He stated the Sheriff's Department would like to replace the eight (8) year old dog, that has some health issues, within the year, and the seven (7) year old dog, before the grant expires in three years; as well as equipment and training.

Chairman Jonke questioned what the amount of the grant is.

Sergeant Meyer stated the maximum awarded amount is \$50,000. He stated the Sheriff's Department is applying, he believes for \$22,000. He stated they are still working on putting together the application.

Chairman Jonke questioned what the health issue is that the dog has.

Sergeant Meyer stated he believes it is an issue with the dog's back. He stated the dog cannot do any patrol work anymore. He stated the dog is only doing bomb work currently.

Chairman Jonke questioned when a dog retires who covers the expenses, such as the food, veterinarian et al, for the retired dog.

Sergeant Meyer stated the retired dog's handler adopts the dog. He stated the dog is then that person's pet and that person covers all the expenses.

Chairman Jonke questioned does Putnam County need two (2) bomb dogs.

Sergeant Meyer stated that his answer is yes. He stated that is how he has secured the grants to purchase the dogs. He stated in his application for the grant, he wrote in this day and age these dogs are indispensable. He stated having the dogs save thousands of dollars in overtime. He stated when a bomb threat is made the dogs are brought to the location to determine if it is a real situation and the bomb squad needs to be called in.

Legislator Sullivan questioned what the daily activities of the dogs are. He questioned how many bomb threats are made in a year in Putnam County.

Sergeant Meyer stated the dogs do not only work when a bomb threat is made. He explained they are used to clear an area. He stated they are brought to the schools on a regular schedule to

make sure no one has planted an explosive in the school. He stated at public events they are used to sweep a public event before the people assemble. He stated most recently the dogs were used to sweep the area before the Travis Tritt Concert at the Tilly Foster Farm. He stated the dogs do not only respond to actual threats, they are used to do pre-emptive work.

Chairman Jonke questioned if there are logs kept of where and when the dogs are used on a daily/weekly basis.

Sergeant Meyer stated there is a Federal Program that the handlers input the information to track the work the dogs do.

Chairman Jonke stated that he would like for that information to be shared with the Legislature before the June 4, 2019 Full Legislature Meeting. He stated that is information that would support this request.

Sergeant Meyer stated he will speak to the handlers to ask about providing a copy of that information.

Chairman Jonke questioned if the dogs have ever detected a bomb.

Sergeant Meyer stated they have not detected a bomb. He stated the dogs can be used to locate guns. He stated one (1) dog cannot sweep an entire school. He stated it takes multiple dogs, as is the same case with the drug dogs.

Legislator Sullivan stated he looked through the grant application. He stated it is extremely comprehensive in terms of the questions related to the dogs. He stated it speaks to “our jurisdiction” of where the dog is used. He questioned what is considered our jurisdiction.

Sergeant Meyer stated the Sheriff’s Department jurisdiction is Putnam County. He explained that they are aligned with Westchester County’s bomb squad. He stated if any adjoining regional agency requested to use a dog, we would provide that service. He stated that is a condition of the grant that if you are awarded the funding that you will be mobile with the asset, in this case the dog.

Legislator Sullivan stated the application also included that a history be included of the explosive related activities that the dog has been to it was labeled “A History of Explosive Related Incidents”. He stated so there is a log that must have been submitted with the application.

Sergeant Meyer clarified that the application does not require a log. He stated the requested information is to list areas the dog has been used at.

Legislator Sullivan questioned the cost of the training. He stated there are two (2) different training courses, MTA , which is 12 weeks and training at Cooperstown for 20 weeks.

Sergeant Meyer stated those are two (2) different training sessions. He stated the bomb dogs usually go to the MTA training. He further explained if it is a new dog with a trained handler, it is a shorter training period of time.

Legislator Sullivan questioned if the handler is at the training the entire time.

Sergeant Meyer stated the handler and the dog are at the training.

Legislator Sullivan requested confirmation that the grant does not cover the overtime that is incurred by the handlers' shift being filled during the training time.

Sergeant Meyer stated that is correct. He reiterated that the training will be much less in this situation, because the handler is experienced.

Legislator Sullivan questioned who the Deputy will be taking the retired dog and who will be getting the new dog.

Sergeant Meyer stated Sergeant Tim Keith.

Legislator Sullivan questioned who the other Deputy is who has the other dog

Sergeant Meyer stated Deputy Chris Tompkins.

Chairman Jonke stated he will make a motion to move this forward to the June Full. He stated he would like a copy of the logs for the dogs.

Sergeant Meyer questioned if he could provide a copy of the grant application. He stated he will provide a copy of what he is exactly sending to Homeland Security.

Legislator Sullivan stated that would be great, there was a lot of information requested.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Grant Application – FY18 Explosives Detection Canine Team Grant Program; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #14 - FYI/ Memorandum: Putnam County Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board (ESSAB)/ Chairman Jonke

Chairman Jonke stated he is the Legislative Representative on the Putnam County Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board (ESSAB). He stated he was asked by the ESSAB to send a letter to the Town Supervisors and Village Mayors of Putnam County requesting that they all agree to unify the penalty fee schedules on all false alarms throughout the County. He stated additionally they are requesting that the owners alarm permit application information related to the insurance policy be provided. He explained the reason for that is if the penalty fees are not paid, they would like the ability to contact the insurance companies, because if you have alarms you receive a discount. He stated the letter is self-explanatory and a copy is attached.

Item #15 - Other Business - None

Item #16 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:35 PM Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn;
Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.