



**b. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 19A034/ Finance/ Vacancy Control Factor January-May 2019**

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**c. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 19A035/ Youth Bureau/ Changes in Funding Allocations for Runaway and Homeless Youth Program per NYS Office of Children and Family Services**

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 19A035; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**d. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 19A036/ Planning Dept./ Hire Confidential Secretary Utilizing Federal UPWP (Unified Planning Work Program) Funds (Also reviewed in Personnel)**

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 19T118/ Sheriff's Dept./ Purchase New Cameras & Cables (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 19T118; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #8 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 19T120/ Sheriff's Dept./ Online Training/ 3 Online Classes for 8 Employees (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Legislator Sayegh questioned if this Fund Transfer is the same item tabled at last month's Committee Meeting.

Chairman Gouldman stated no, it is not.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 19T120; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #9 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 19T124/ Sheriff's Dept./ Corrections/ Overtime due to 3 Vacancies & 1 207C/ May 2019 (Also reviewed in Personnel & Protective)**

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #10 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 19T127/ Board of Elections/ Purchase 3 Voting Machines (Also reviewed in Rules)**

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #11 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 19T131/ Sheriff's Dept./ Cover Chargebacks**

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 19T131; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #4 - Discussion/ Proposed Resolution/ Urging the Governor and Legislature to Enact Bills (A5496, A5951, & A5954) to Enable Catskill Off-Track Betting (OTB) Corporation to Assume Operations of Monticello Raceway; Redistribute the 1100 Video Lottery Terminals Previously in Service at Monticello Raceway to up to Three Locations within the Catskill OTB Region; and Utilize Capital Acquisition Funds of the Corporation for Corporate Purposes – Continued**

Mr. Tamagna stated he heard there was an accident on the Tappan Zee Bridge, which could be why Mr. Groth is not yet present. He stated Mr. Groth has mentioned in the past that OTB is either going to grow or go, meaning they need to make money via other revenue sources. He stated the Monticello casino and the video lottery terminals (VLT) that were installed there was an initiative of Governor Cuomo. He stated as the only OTB in New York State that made money and operates as a business, the Catskill Regional OTB is requesting the ability to expand and to utilize the VLTs within the Catskill OTB region, which were bought by the State and are now warehoused. He stated the VLT would be another way to generate revenue. He stated they are behind on their payments due to most of their money being consumed by operations, which has lead them to explore new ways of generating revenue. He stated another option would be the use some of the money in their Capital Acquisition Fund (CAF), which holds about \$11 million. He stated by way of the legislative resolution that established OTBs, that money can only be used for capital acquisition, funding new sites, or renovating existing sites. He stated they have a need to go beyond those purposes and pay their County members. He stated utilizing even \$1 million could clear the outstanding obligations they have. He stated Putnam County had typically been very supportive of OTB's initiatives and they hope the member Counties send a message to the State that these requests are things they need to do.

Legislator Castellano questioned what the Catskill Regional OTB would like to see happen at the OTB locations in Brewster and Mahopac.

Mr. Tamagna stated when he speaks of expansion, he is referring to the possibility of reopening the OTB location in New York City or opening Monticello Raceway. He stated they are not looking to expand the already existing locations in Putnam County,

but they would consider placing a few VLTs in those locations. He stated they will maintain what the communities would like.

Legislator Castellano questioned if approving this resolution would allow the opportunity to install VLTs in the Putnam County locations.

Mr. Tamagna stated that is correct. He stated this would give the patrons of the OTB another option while they are there.

Legislator Castellano questioned if the OTBs in Putnam County are the southernmost in New York State.

Mr. Tamagna stated there is an OTB in Suffolk County. He stated Suffolk County OTB received a bail out from the Governor and they operate VLTs, which is another revenue stream for them.

Eric Gross, reporter, questioned if any VLTs would be placed in Putnam County.

Mr. Tamagna stated there are many VLTs that can be reallocated. He stated if the State allowed the Catskill Regional OTB to open some of the other facilities they would like to, there may not be any VLTs coming to Putnam County. He stated this would be a determination of the Board.

Legislator Sayegh questioned why the VLTs were removed from the Monticello location.

Mr. Tamagna stated the Governor's initiative was to open a few facilities to enhance the Catskill region; however the plan failed because the population was not there to support it. He stated this is part of the reason they would like to reopen the OTB in New York City. He stated the New York City location made a lot of money but was closed due to poor leadership. He stated the facility still exists; it would just need to be reopened.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated the proposed resolution references three (3) Assembly bills and their Senate companion bills. He stated considering that the Legislative Session is over and they are not talking about having a special session, it may be wise to wait until new bills are introduced in January. He stated if sent now, it could be sent in a generic form that does not reference the bills.

Mr. Tamagna stated they have sent similar requests to the State, which has previously passed both the Senate and Assembly but were vetoed by the Governor. He stated as long as he has been the Putnam County representative on the Catskill Region OTB, since about 2010, they have not had support from the Governor. He stated the purpose of the resolution would be to send a strong message from the member Counties to the Governor.

Legislator Nacerino suggested sending this resolution to the State now and then resending it in January when the State Legislative session begins.

Legislator Castellano stated the OTB in New York City, which was located by Madison Square Garden, was always packed when it was open. He stated the OTB in Brewster seems to have the same group of people there, and it is only really packed on big race days such as the Kentucky Derby. He stated his concern about installing VLTs in the Brewster location. He stated he believes the VLTs would be a better fit in the New York City location if it were to reopen, since there are many more people that would utilize them.

Mr. Tamagna stated he would bring Legislator Castellano's concern to the Board and he is confident that if there is any pushback to placing the VLT in a location, the Board will not place them there. He stated he anticipates the VLTs to be a commodity, therefore they will not run out of places to put them.

Legislator Castellano stated he would be interested to see how much revenue the VLTs bring in.

Mr. Tamagna stated he could provide the numbers from Suffolk County as an example.

Legislator Castellano stated the whole casino concept has gotten overblown and now the casinos that have recently opened are failing.

Legislator Albano the ability to gamble online has an effect on the physical casinos as well.

Mr. Tamagna stated online betting has certainly had an impact. He stated fantasy sports will factor into this as well.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is hesitant to send a message from Putnam County to expand OTB while gambling addiction is a serious problem. She stated she is unsure if Putnam County would see any of the additional revenue brought in as a result of expansion.

Mr. Tamagna stated the support to expand OTB would be in relation to the Catskill Region OTB Corporation, not only here in Putnam County. He stated if there is additional revenue coming in to OTB, Putnam County would see more as well.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if any of that revenue is used toward programs that educate and combat against gambling addiction.

Mr. Tamagna stated problem gambling has always been a concern since the inception of OTB. He stated he is sure the State has a gambling addiction program.

Chairman Gouldman stated he would like a resolution drafted for approval at next month's Audit & Administration Committee Meeting.

**Item #5 - Correspondence/County Auditor**  
**c. OTB Report – Continued**

Mr. Tamagna stated the quarterly meeting of the Catskill Region OTB Board is tomorrow. He stated he will receive a full report, which he will share with the Committee. He stated in March, only two (2) locations were operating in the positive.

**Item #12 - Other Business**

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to waive the rules and accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**b. Approval/ Transportation/ Support of Continuing the Putnam County Parking & Transfer Program and Support/Approve Supplemental Agreement to Operate the Croton Falls Commuter Shuttle**

Vincent Tamagna, Transportation Manager, thanked the Committee for adding this item to the agenda under Other Business. He stated the County has been receiving this grant funding from New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) since October of 2002. He stated the funding reimburses snow and electrical maintenance of the five (5) park and rides within the County. He stated it also fully reimburses the County for the Croton Falls Shuttle. He stated the reason this item needs to be approved now is because the funding is for 2019 and there are some retirements scheduled in NYSDOT and he would like this to get there so those familiar with it can handle it before they retire.

Legislator Castellano questioned if the garage being built in Croton Falls will affect this at all.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated no, it will not. He stated the Croton Falls Shuttle is not only in response to the parking issue, but it is done for congestion management and air quality reasons. He stated the continuance of the Shuttle is contingent on ridership. He stated without ridership, the grant will be lost, which is what happened with the Putnam Valley Shuttle.

Legislator Castellano stated he has been in Croton Falls when the Shuttle comes and it is fantastic; there are many Mahopac residents utilizing it.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated they will also focus on getting people to park at the Mount Hope park and ride, which is relatively unused.

Legislator Sayegh stated people are currently parking in the Temple Beth Shalom parking lot to get to the Croton Falls Shuttle. She questioned how many parking spots are in this lot compared to the number of spots at the Mount Hope park and ride.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated he believes there are about 18 people that use the Shuttle that park their regularly and there are about 40 spots at the Mount Hope park and ride. He stated he is looking for grant money to improve this lot; there was an issue with the pavers used there. He stated last year there was money left over from this grant and they applied for a no-cost extension for the unused portion of the money.

Legislator Sayegh stated she spoke with Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully who stated as soon as they get approval for the product, they can begin the resurfacing project. She questioned if there is any movement on this.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated the product they are waiting on approval of is Flexi-Pave. He stated the issue is that New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) has approved the product, while the New York State Department of Environmental Protection (NYS DEP) has not. He stated the product is completely pervious; a tanker of water can be emptied onto it and it just disappears. He stated he heard the NYS DEP may begin to allow it, and that is what they are waiting on.

Legislator Albano stated that product worked out for the Putnam County Golf Course as well.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated it is used in every park in Disney as well.

Legislator Albano stated Flexi-Pave also has the ability to trap phosphorus and work to break it down.

Chairman Goldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**a. Approval/ Fund Transfer 19T133/ Dept. of Social Services/ Use Personnel Line Savings to Purchase Office Furniture & Training**

Commissioner of Department of Social Services Michael Piazza stated there is a \$24,000 savings due to a vacancy in a Victims' Advocate position and the new employee came in at a lower salary. He stated they have gotten approval from the State to utilize that savings toward office furnishings, to send an Investigator to training for computer crimes, and for an Office of Victim Services approved speaker to come and do a training on victim services.

Legislator Sayegh clarified that the Department of Social Services received approval from the grantor to utilize this money for these purposes.

Commissioner Piazza stated yes, they received approval and there is documentation pertaining to this in the backup material.

Legislator Sayegh questioned how long the position was empty.

Commissioner Piazza stated the position was vacant for a few months.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

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Mr. Groth arrived at 6:06pm.

Mr. Tamagna updated Mr. Groth on the discussion earlier this evening.

Legislator Sayegh questioned why the VLTs failed in the Monticello casino. She also questioned why the VLTs might be successful elsewhere.

Mr. Groth stated a lot of work went into deciding where casinos would be opened in New York and originally the plan was to have three (3) however there are now four (4). He stated the casinos began losing money rapidly and as a scapegoat for the failing casino, it was decided to get rid of the VLTs without study or review of the outcome. He stated now that these VLTs are not being utilized, the Catskill Region OTB Corporation would like to place them in their locations. He stated there is an effort to get the VLTs in Orange County near Woodbury Commons, which only Orange County and Sullivan County would receive revenue from. He stated if Putnam County makes a statement, some of that revenue may come into Putnam as well.

Mr. Tamagna requested that Mr. Groth speak to how helpful the VLTs were to Suffolk County OTB.

Mr. Groth stated bringing in \$200 per day per VLT machine is great. He stated the VLTs in Monticello were only bringing in about \$92 per day. He stated the Suffolk County OTB has 1,000 VLTs which are bringing in \$600 per machine per day.

Legislator Castellano clarified that Suffolk County OTB is bringing in \$600,000 per day via the VLTs. He stated his concern for the possibility of overwhelming the Brewster location especially because of the poor traffic pattern in and out which would have to be addressed.

Mr. Groth stated there is no way VLTs would be placed in the OTB in Brewster. He stated the machines will be placed in appropriate locations.

Mr. Tamagna stated Putnam County has a great relationship with OTB and if the County did not want VLTs placed within the Putnam locations, the Board would respect that decision. He directed Legislator Montgomery's earlier question regarding funding for problem gambling to Mr. Groth.

Mr. Groth stated yes, the OTB provides funding for problem gambling programs. He stated some programs allow individuals to block themselves from accessing gambling websites in New York State. He stated there is also 12 step program similar to other addiction programs.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Mr. Groth for that information. She questioned if the local municipalities where OTBs are located will be able to give their opinion on whether or not their local OTB should have VLTs. She stated such a change could be drastic and she believes this is something the Town Boards should provide an opinion on as well.

Mr. Groth stated the Southeast Town Board has been supportive of the current operation. He stated if it turned out that the Town was against the VLTs, they would not be placed there.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the Towns receive revenue from OTB.

Mr. Groth stated the County receives the revenue, which is sometimes used for the Towns.

Mr. Tamagna requested that Mr. Groth speak to the OTBs desire to utilize the money in the Capital Acquisition Funds.

Mr. Groth stated the growing competition of sports betting, casinos, and machines has resulted in a decrease of revenue from horse betting. He stated because of the decreased revenue, the OTB would like to utilize the Capital Acquisition Fund. He stated currently, this funding cannot be used without the Governor's permission. He stated they have asked the County to send their support of this request to the State.

Legislator Castellano questioned if the VLTs that were in Monticello are now in storage.

Mr. Groth stated it is unknown where the VLTs are currently. He stated they belong to the New York State Lottery, which is run by the Governor.

Legislator Castellano requested clarification on the VLTs being placed in Orange County and revenue disbursement from them.

Mr. Groth stated the New York State Legislature approved the VLTs being placed in the Orange County OTB by Woodbury Commons. He stated the revenue will go Orange County and Sullivan County as well as each Town and Village within Orange County.

Legislator Castellano stated when this has been discussed in the past, the reopening of the New York City location was desirable as it would help the entire region.

Mr. Groth stated the New York State Legislature twice passed the reopening of the New York City location, however the Governor vetoed it.

Mr. Tamagna stated the County would have received revenue if the New York City OTB were opened.

Mr. Groth stated betting is still taking place in New York City, some illegally. He stated people in New York City are also traveling to New Jersey to bet because sports betting has been legalized there. He stated the bill that allowed the casinos to open in New York stated that if sports betting were ever legalized, it could only take place within those casinos. He stated the problem with this is that the casinos are all located upstate, which makes it very inconvenient for the millions of people that live in New York City to bet on sports while remaining in the State, which is why many of them choose to go to New Jersey.

Mr. Tamagna stated as discussed earlier, a resolution will be drafted for consideration at next month's Committee meeting.

### **Item #13 - Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 6:35 p.m. Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.