

AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Held via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders

Members: Chairman Castellano, Legislators Gouldman & Sayegh

Thursday

6:30pm

October 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 6:30pm by Chairman Castellano who lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Committee Members Gouldman, Sayegh & Chairman Castellano were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – September 24, 2020

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Correspondence/County Auditor (Attached for Information Only)

a. Sales Tax Report

Legislator Gouldman stated September was a phenomenal month. He stated sales tax collection in September 2020 was up \$1,793,710 over the same month in 2019 and is the highest it has been in the month of September in the past 10 years.

Chairman Castellano stated September was a great month and it looks like the County is in much better shape in terms of sales tax for this year. He stated hopefully the last three (3) months of the year continue to bring in sales tax. He noted that sales tax collected from internet purchases are included.

- b. Board In Revenue Report – Duly Noted**
- c. Transfer/Revenue Report – Duly Noted**
- d. 2020 Contingency/Sub-Contingency Report – Duly Noted**

Item #5 - Correspondence/Commissioner of Finance

- a. Overtime/Temporary Report (Attached for Information Only) – Duly Noted**
- b. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 20A058/ Sheriff's Dept./ Overtime Expenses Reimbursed per Contract with Drug Enforcement Administration-Tactical Diversion Squad Task Force**

Sheriff Langley stated having a tactical field officer through the Sheriff's Department's partnership with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) has been very advantageous in many cases. He stated it helps take a lot of drugs off the street by reducing the supply and interrupting the demand, working towards breaking the cycle of opioid addiction.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is glad to see this increase in funding. She stated the Sheriff's Department is the #1 first responder to the opioid crisis.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 20A058; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

c. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 20A060/ Sheriff's Dept./ Reimbursement from ELCO Claims Services to Offset Cost of Repairing Sheriff's Vehicle

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 20A060; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

d. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 20A061/ Highway/ Reimbursement Received from Cincinnati Insurance Companies to Offset Cost of Repairing DSS Vehicle

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 20A061; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

e. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 20A062/ Sheriff's Dept./ Recognize Reimbursement Received for ERT Training Overtime Expense

Sheriff Langley stated these expenses are being covered through a Homeland Security grant.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 20A062; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

f. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 20A063/ Emergency Services/ Receipt of 2020 SICG-Formula Grant Award

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

Item #6 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T202/ Health Dept./ Vaccines for 2020-2021 Flu Season

Legislator Sayegh stated the Health Department held a drive through flu vaccine clinic last week and it was well attended and went very smoothly.

Legislator Nacerino stated she got her flu vaccine on Monday at the drive through clinic and it was very well organized.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 20T202; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Approval Fund Transfer 20T203/ Board of Elections/ General Election
2020 Mandated Post Card Mailing**

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

Item #8 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T210/ Board of Elections/ Anticipated COVID Related Printing & Supply Costs

Legislator Montgomery questioned if this cost was being allocated into the line item in the budget for COVID expenses for potential reimbursement.

Commissioner Carlin stated yes, all expenditures due to COVID are being tracked, however it is unlikely that operating costs due to COVID will be reimbursed.

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

Item #9 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T213/ Sheriff's Dept./ Cover Projected Overtime Costs in Patrol

Chairman Castellano stated this fund transfer is for \$101,192 to be added on to Patrol overtime. He stated \$530,000 was budgeted this year for Patrol overtime and this transfer will cover the cost through the end of the year. He requested Sheriff Langley provide an overview on this topic.

Sheriff Langley stated this has been an unusual year with the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest within the community. He stated the School Resource Officers (SROs) were able to fill vacancies while school was not in session, which helped reduce the use of overtime until September when schools reopened. He stated during that time they were down seven (7) officers and are currently down five (5) officers. He stated they are anticipating a spike in COVID which will create additional problems as they must maintain protocols to protect the welfare of everyone in the County, including employees, which can require quarantining officers. He stated they are also responsible for the jail and if there is an outbreak of COVID in the correctional facility, it could result in tremendous medical expenses along with litigation if due diligence is not done in maintaining the safety and security of the facility and those that are in the jail. He stated with the election coming up, he is anticipating rises in civil unrest and they need to be prepared for that. He stated he hopes they do not have to utilize all the funds.

Chairman Castellano stated since the SROs have been utilized to fill vacancies in Patrol since March when the schools closed, there should have been a savings in overtime during that time period. He stated in regard to the civil unrest, he realizes there were many protests and appreciates the Sheriff's Department being present. He questioned

if there were an increase in arrests that resulted in more overtime, or if more manpower was needed.

Sheriff Langley stated having the SROs available helped with filling the vacancies on the shifts. He stated the SROs are now back in school and there are still vacancies that need to be covered. He stated there are protests at the Historic Courthouse every weekend, which requires Sheriff's Department presence because it is a County property and it is their responsibility to keep the peace. He stated when there is a lack of police presence at these events, they usually become volatile. He stated there was an incident where someone was arrested for menacing protesters. He restated that the SROs are back in the schools and they are down five (5) deputies.

Chairman Castellano stated it has certainly been a difficult year. He stated there has been an increase in thefts from vehicles and questioned if there were arrests made as a result. He questioned if this could be related to bail reform.

Sheriff Langley stated it is definitely related to bail reform and could also be connected to Raise the Age, as the individuals usually involved in auto thefts are under the age of 18. He stated LPRs (license plate readers) would be extremely helpful in these cases as they would allow the Sheriff's Department to create a mapping of the incidents that can be used to better intercept. He stated there have been a few incidents where the Sheriff's Deputies have engaged the thieves, however it often gets to a point where the officer needs to disengage for safety reasons if the individual does not pull over. He stated it is not worth the risk of injury or accident to get into a pursuit for auto theft. He stated they have utilized patrols when these cases begin to escalate in an area, but it is a needle in a haystack search. He stated with bail reform it is a revolving door. He stated they have worked with the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) on those cases and have recovered vehicles.

Legislator Sayegh made a motion to table Fund Transfer 20T213 to the Protective Services Committee. There was no second. Motion fails.

Legislator Sayegh stated this is a large transfer and she believes it would be wise to have the Protective Services Committee discuss it.

Chairman Castellano stated he would like to continue the discussion before making a decision whether it should be tabled.

Legislator Sayegh questioned which protocols related to COVID attribute to the increase in overtime.

Sheriff Langley stated if there is a deputy in Patrol that is symptomatic, they must quarantine, which creates vacancies. He stated symptomatic deputies will get tested and upon receiving their negative test result and approval from the doctor, they can return to work. He stated the Sheriff's Department are the first responders. He stated there are incidences where deputies must act quickly and they do not have time to put a

mask on. He stated if they find out later that the deputy may have been exposed, they are put on quarantine and their shift then must be filled with overtime.

Chairman Castellano questioned how many members of the Sheriff's Department or individuals in the jail tested positive for COVID-19 since March.

Sheriff Langley stated they have had several officers with COVID-19 although he does not have the specific numbers with him at the moment.

Chairman Castellano stated it would be helpful to understand the whole situation. He stated he understands that when an officer needs to engage an individual, there is no time to take extra precaution.

Legislator Nacerino questioned what the amount in the overtime budget line is to date. She stated she recalls last month there was money leftover for the remainder of the year. She stated she would support Legislator Sayegh's motion to table this item as there is more information to be collected before making a decision on this item.

Chairman Castellano stated in regard to Legislator Nacerino's question of the 2020 overtime budget to date, \$408,000 of the budgeted \$520,000 has been used.

Legislator Nacerino stated there is approximately \$100,000 left to cover the overtime through the end of the year and this Fund Transfer is requesting another \$101,000. She stated the question is whether the \$100,000 that is left in the line is substantial enough to last through November and December. She stated this need should be demonstrated rather than speculated. She stated she would like to see more facts pertaining to this request.

Sheriff Langley stated patrol overtime has been trending upward over the past three (3) months. He stated this transfer has been on the agenda for several months and has not been addressed. He stated there are employees that are going to be cashing out their compensation time as well, which will impact this budget line. He stated with the overtime expenditure trending upward, it needs to be addressed now. He stated this cannot wait; it is on the agenda tonight and needs to be addressed tonight. He stated it has been on the agenda in the past and has not been addressed.

Chairman Castellano stated this is the first time this fund transfer request for overtime has been on the agenda of the Audit & Administration Committee.

Legislator Albano stated based on what has been used from the overtime line throughout the year, it seems that there should be enough in the line to cover through the end of the year. He suggested putting the amount of this fund transfer into contingency to be utilized if and when necessary.

Legislator Jonke stated he would support tabling this item to the Protective Services Committee. He stated this has not been entertained prior to tonight. He stated

discussions were had in March and September with the Sheriff about overtime to make sure it was staying on track. He stated in September he asked the Sheriff if he could foresee, within reason, any additional expenses on the overtime line and he assured the Committee that he should be able to stay on track. He encouraged the Committee to table this fund transfer to the Protective Services Committee. He requested that Sheriff Langley be prepared to provide the cost of the protest in Brewster, the cost of the overtime due to the protests outside of the Historic Courthouse, and the number of arrests made since March due to what the Sheriff is referring to as "civil unrest".

Legislator Sullivan agreed with Sheriff Langley that it has been an interesting year, especially with cashless bail, the decreasing population in the jail, and COVID-19. He stated cashless bail has significantly reduced the cost of the jail. He stated the Fund Transfer being considered is requesting to transfer funds in excess of \$100,000 from the jail budget to the Patrol overtime budget. He questioned why the jail was budgeted similarly for 2021 if so much is able to be transferred out this year. He stated in the first few months of COVID, there were much less cars on the road as most people were staying home. He stated with the schools being closed the SROs were able to be utilized to fill vacancies rather than having to rely on overtime. He stated these are big reasons why the overtime expenditure should be lower than it is. He requested information on arrests that are driving the overtime. He stated he is not anticipating a big spike in COVID as the Sheriff mentioned. He stated he has not seen any civil unrest in Putnam County; most of the protests have been very peaceful. He questioned if any arrests have been made at any of the protests. He stated there has also been support from the Carmel Police Department and the State Police, therefore he does not believe this has been a big driver of additional overtime. He questioned how it is known where the numbers are trending and requested supporting statistics. He stated he has not seen any reports and this is the first time this request has been made to the Legislature. He stated there are many questions left to be answered. He stated frankly, the Sheriff seems to be driving fear into people about problems going on. He stated he has not seen proof of this in any data or personal experience, so it is important to have the information. He stated he is in favor of tabling this item tonight to allow time to collect that information. He stated the overtime to date and the remaining amount of money in the budget do not justify transferring this large sum of money at this point in time.

Sheriff Langley stated if they do not have the finances to support the overtime line, it will reduce police services and response times to emergencies and jurisdictions that do not have police departments. He stated he would like to be clear; Is it the Legislative intent to reduce the current number of patrols provided to the jurisdictions that rely on the Putnam County Sheriff's Office for emergency and police services? He stated failure to move forward with this transfer could result in a reduction of police services. He stated again, he wants to be clear: Is it the Legislative Body's intent to reduce the current number of patrols provided to the jurisdictions that rely on the Putnam County Sheriff's Office for emergency and police services?

Chairman Castellano stated he does not believe that is what is being discussed right now. He stated the regularly scheduled patrols are being done, this discussion is about

the overtime. He stated he believes overtime would be used in unexpected situations or arrests. He stated the main focus of the Legislature is the financial side of operations, and he believes the Committee is doing the right thing by going through the numbers. He stated there is currently \$100,000 in the budget for the remainder of the year. He stated any patrol officer that is entitled to be paid will be paid. He stated they are just taking a close look at the numbers.

Legislator Jonke stated he takes exception to the Sheriff's statement. He stated throughout his time on the Legislature he has been a proponent for providing the Sheriff's Department all the tools and money they have needed to keep Putnam County safe. He stated he was the one who advocated for the increases in overtime for the Road Patrol in both the 2020 and 2021 budgets. He stated to make a statement that the Legislature is trying to cut the service and jeopardize public safety is absolutely false and he takes exception to it.

Legislator Montgomery stated in regard to the comments made about civil unrest, she would like to make her colleagues aware that there is civil unrest within Putnam County. She stated there have been multiple instances of escalating violence. She stated there is a real need for public safety and she does not believe her colleagues on the Legislature are aware of that based on comments made at a previous meeting about visitors coming into the County and the comments being made tonight; there is great civil unrest. She stated also, out of respect to the public, she would like to point out the correspondence the Legislature has received from the public because they have not had an opportunity to be heard on audio since the beginning of COVID. She stated on October 16, 2020 Sheriff Langley received an email from Vinny and Tanya Brahimi voicing their support of the Sheriff's Department and having more police on staff, which he forwarded to the Legislature. She stated on October 15, 2020 the Legislature received a letter from a resident of Brewster, Lynne Eckardt, regarding public safety in Putnam County and voicing her support for funding of the Sheriff's Department in the 2021 budget. She stated also on October 15, 2020 the Legislature received a letter from the Village of Cold Spring Mayor, Dave Merandy, regarding the dramatic increase of visitors to the Village of Cold Spring during the COVID pandemic, which is expected to continue. She stated Legislator Nacerino questioned at a previous meeting how this can be allowed. She stated visitors are welcomed and does not believe they can be turned away. She stated tax revenue from tourism will continue to flow regardless of COVID-19 and with the small budget in the Village of Cold Spring, help from the County is desperately needed. She stated in regard to overtime and the need for more patrol, we live on the train line between two (2) highly visible targets, the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and the Bear Mountain Bridge. She stated no other department is micromanaged in this way. She stated she trusts that the Sheriff will tell us what he needs in order to keep the community safe. She stated as evidenced in the comments by the public, Sheriff Langley is doing a good job. She stated the Sheriff deserves the opportunity to discuss changes to his budget before it is published.

Legislator Nacerino stated it is not the role of the Legislature to determine where patrols are needed. She stated that she did not say visitors should not be allowed; the intent of

her comment was pertaining to the concern of a large public gathering when it was stated that 2,000 people visitors were in the Village of Cold Spring over a weekend. She stated she emphatically honors and respects the Sheriff's Department. She stated as a Legislator, she has a fiduciary responsibility for oversight of the taxpayers' money and is entitled to have gainful understanding before making any decision. She supports tabling this Fund Transfer tonight and she would support putting this funding into subcontingency to be relinquished based upon need. She stated what she is hearing from the Sheriff tonight are hypothetical situations that could require additional funding for overtime. She stated these are not fact based, they are speculative, and she believes she is doing her job to the best of her ability by asking the appropriate questions.

Legislator Albano stated the Sheriff has identified approximately \$100,000 of monies that could be available for overtime. He stated he would also support tabling this Fund Transfer to the Protective Services Committee or placing the money into subcontingency. He stated in November it will be easier to predict what will be needed through the end of the year. He stated the money will still be there once the supporting information is provided.

Sheriff Langley stated he was emailed the information regarding COVID cases within the Sheriff's Department. He stated they have had 55 exposures that required quarantine and five (5) employees tested positive. He stated early on in the pandemic, tests were not being returned in a timely manner therefore the turnover in the beginning was more drawn out than it is now. He stated thankfully, the Sheriff's Department has not had any losses. He requested that Legislator Nacerino clarify her statement of support for the Sheriff's Department. He also requested clarification on comments made at a previous meeting about him having made a statement pertaining to moving money from the jail, which he does not recall.

Chairman Castellano stated COVID testing is coming back faster, which is reducing the number of employees needing to be quarantined. He stated at his day job there was an individual who tested positive, which resulted in a few people having to be quarantined, and 70 employees were tested, all coming back negative within 24 hours. He stated we are certainly in a much better place than we were in April. He stated the five (5) Sheriff's Department employees who tested positive surely had an impact on the Department with associated employees having to quarantine.

Legislator Nacerino stated her question to Sheriff Langley at a previous meeting was why monies were not appropriately allocated into the overtime line. She stated she cited another department head who had done that for the 2021 budget in an effort for their overtime line to be open and transparent. She stated the Sheriff's Department is now taking funds out of the Jail fund to cover overtime when those funds could have been properly appropriated. She stated each department plans and proposes their budget. She stated she would have liked to see this done in a more open and transparent manner. She stated Sheriff Langley stated the money needed to be reserved because it was unknown what the jail would look like in 2021. She stated now

a short time later, money is being taken from jail budget lines for overtime and it begs the question. She stated as far as her comment of support for the Sheriff's Department, there needs to be a separation between her professional and personal stance. She stated the #1 function of the Legislature is the budget and making sure it is being done right for the taxpayers of Putnam County and this is a responsibility she takes very seriously. She stated in no way does this undermine the work that the Sheriff's Department does; she places a strong value on the Sheriff's Department and all of law enforcement. She stated still and all, she has a job to do and she must do it the way she deems fit. She stated \$700,000 in overtime is an awful lot of money when small businesses are closing and residents are unable to pay their bills with no stimulus in sight. She stated people are hurting and the sky is not the limit; costs need to be kept under control. She stated the overture needs to be made to understand the need, to plan accordingly, and to get a handle on expenses, part of which is demonstrating the need for additional funding.

Sheriff Langley stated he did prepare and submit a budget. He stated rather than having an opportunity to discuss changes made by the Administration, he had a 15-minute meeting with the County Executive where he was told what was being changed. He stated had a discussion been allowed, the Sheriff's Department could have made the changes. He stated he was not given the opportunity to make additional amendments, going against past practice. He stated this raises the question: Was this an unfair labor practice by the Office of the County Executive? He stated this has never been done before and is not normal practice.

Legislator Montgomery agreed that it would be great to have more detailed information across the board with this budget. She stated she is seeing raises being given without justification. She stated there are some increases of 20.3% and she questioned the justification for this. She stated when pennies are pinched, deputies' lives are put in danger. She stated a deputy was stabbed earlier this year. She stated if the Legislature is going to pay attention to the budget and request justification for increases it should be done across the board.

Legislator Sullivan stated this is the third budget that Sheriff Langley has prepared as the Putnam County Sheriff. He stated he is aware that the Administration met with all departments and all departments are encouraged to come up with ways to be more efficient and to save money. He stated unfortunately, he does not believe those kinds of ideas were brought forward by the Sheriff's Department, especially with the jail. He stated with the cashless bail and bail reform resulting in a lower population, that is where new solutions would be expected. He stated there needs to be a collaborative effort to come up with solutions to make the County more effective and efficient, which is how other departments in the County work with the Administration. He stated he would like to express his gratitude for all law enforcement professionals. He stated as a Legislator he has a responsibility to the residents and law enforcement personnel to provide public safety. He stated as part of that responsibility, Legislators are the stewards of the taxpayers' money and given the financial strains that the COVID pandemic has placed upon us, law enforcement is being supported in the most efficient

and effective manner possible. He stated nothing is being cut, the discussion is pertaining to adding more money than was previously budgeted. He stated the characterization of anything other than that is improper.

Legislator Sayegh stated there is a lot more to discuss here.

Legislator Sayegh made a motion to table Fund Transfer 20T213 to the Protective Services Committee; Seconded by Chairman Castellano. By Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Motion carries.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to address items #10, #11, & #13 together; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #10 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T216/ Sheriff's Dept./ Overtime Expenses from July

Item #11 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T218/ Sheriff's Dept./ Overtime Expenses from August

Item #13 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T221/ Sheriff's Dept./ Overtime Expenses from September

Chairman Castellano stated he appreciates that these expenses have been broken out by month. He stated overtime expenses were as follows: July - \$3,292; August - \$7,154; and September - \$17,874. He stated in July, there were SROs available to fill vacancies and keep overtime lower. He stated the description on all three (3) transfers are the same, that the overtime expenses are due to deputies being in the academy, on military leave, and on 207C as well as staffing losses due to COVID and the protests being held in the County.

Sheriff Langley stated he is glad that the way it was broken down is a better way to see the overtime. He stated he would like to point out that year after year the overtime budget has been reduced from what it was when he came into office.

Legislator Sayegh stated the budget for the Sheriff's Department increases each year. She stated she also appreciates how this was broken down by month.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolutions for items #10, #11, & #13; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #12 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T220/ Law Dept./ Risk Management/ Cover Excess Liability Coverage Invoices for November & December due to Rate Increase

Commissioner Carlin stated this covers the time from of August through December; the premium year.

Continued – Item #10 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T216/ Sheriff’s Dept./ Overtime Expenses from July

Continued – Item #11 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T218/ Sheriff’s Dept./ Overtime Expenses from August

Continued – Item #13 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T221/ Sheriff’s Dept./ Overtime Expenses from September

Legislator Sullivan questioned why items #10, #11, & #13 were moved forward when item #9, which also pertained to Sheriff's Department overtime was tabled.

Chairman Castellano stated the difference is that the overtime in item #9 was a projected cost, where items #10, #11, & #13 were from past months.

Legislator Sullivan stated his point is that there is ample money in the budget to cover July, August, and September. He stated money is being moved into there, which coincides with the same argument why money should not be moved to cover until the end of the year. He stated the 2020 budget should be exhausted before any more money is transferred into the line.

Continued – Item #12 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T220/ Law Dept./ Risk Management/ Cover Excess Liability Coverage Invoices for November & December due to Rate Increase

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

Item #14 – Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T223/ Highway/ Veterinarian Services through Year End

Legislator Montgomery questioned how much was budgeted in 2020 for veterinarian services. She stated horses were purchased for about \$37,000 and a promise was made that the care for these two (2) horses would cost about \$15,000 per year. She stated \$9,500 is now being transferred for just veterinarian services. She stated as she pointed out during discussion when the horses were being purchased, she thought it was irresponsible to spend so much on the care of just two (2) animals on top of the others. She stated in her opinion, horses are being valued more than the deputies.

Chairman Castellano stated the need for the veterinarian services is detailed in the backup information. He stated he was at Tilly Foster Farm last week and he saw the animals and how delighted the children were to see them. He stated when the responsibility of the Farm was taken on by the County, residents voiced their opinion about wanting to see animals there.

Legislator Albano stated many meetings were held about what people wanted to see at the Farm and the majority wanted to see animals there. He stated the animals are unique and they draw attention to the Farm.

Legislator Sayegh stated she was at a lot of those meetings about the Farm and one of the prominent requests was to see horses there. She stated when the horses became available, they were a gift and the expense was for certain supplies that were needed. She stated the Farm is beautiful and people visiting love to see the animals.

Chairman Castellano stated in regard to Legislator Montgomery's question, \$17,000 was budgeted for veterinarian services in 2020. He stated due to some unfortunate events with the animals needing additional care, this transfer is now in front of the Committee for consideration. He stated the Farm has improved so much over the past few years and is bringing in tourism to the County.

Legislator Nacerino echoed the comments about how wonderful the Farm is and what a great amenity it is for the residents of Putnam County. She stated different considerations should be kept separate from one another. She stated the Farm provides great passive recreation for residents and visitors.

Continued – Item #9 – Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T213/ Sheriff's Dept./ Cover Projected Overtime Costs in Patrol

Legislator Sullivan stated he would like to have Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo weigh in on the charges made by Sheriff Langley in regard to labeling the County Executive with unfair labor practices.

Chairman Castellano suggested that Legislator Sullivan send a memorandum to Legislative Counsel Firriolo with that request. He stated the Committee is not discussing this topic right now.

Legislator Sullivan stated if Sheriff Langley is still on the line, he would request an explanation of his statement and why he is labeling the County Executive as participating in unfair labor practices.

Chairman Castellano stated Sheriff Langley has no more items on the agenda and is off the line.

Continued – Item #14 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T223/ Highway/ Veterinarian Services through Year End

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 20T223; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #15 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 20T225/ Board of Elections/ General Election 2020 Staff Overtime

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

Item #16 - Approval/ Ratification of the 2020 Real Property Tax Sale

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

Commissioner Carlin stated the live auction scheduled for April was rescheduled due to COVID to an auction held over the internet in September. He stated the County team did a great job to get this done. He stated there are 175 properties being sold, however some will inevitably fall through. He stated the sales should gross about \$1 million and those properties will be back on the tax rolls. He stated normally, this approval would have been considered by the Physical Services Committee, but in order to close as many properties as possible by the end of the year, he is requesting that the Legislature hold a Special Full Legislative Meeting to approve this. He stated this way, the tax bills will be in the names of the new owners. He stated sales go to the highest bidder and if any sales fall through, they do down the line to the second highest bidder and so forth.

Legislator Gouldman requested that the towns where the properties are located be included on the list in the future.

Commissioner Carlin stated yes, and he can send that information tomorrow.

Chairman Castellano questioned if the addresses that begin with "0" are vacant properties.

Commissioner Carlin stated he believes they are vacant.

Legislator Addonizio stated she is glad that the auction was finally able to be held. She stated she is proud to have brought forward the change to the auction process in Putnam County.

Commissioner Carlin stated the auction process was enhanced by Chapter 31 which put certain properties that met criteria through the MLS process to maximize their value. He stated the County is now getting the best of both worlds with how these properties are being sold.

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

Item #17 - Other Business

- a. **Approval – SEQRA- Negative Declaration – Stoneleigh Ave. & Drewville Rd. Intersection Project**

Chairman Castellano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Chairman Castellano stated this item would have normally gone before the Physical Services Committee, but there is a necessity to move this forward as this is a major intersection in Putnam County. He stated this project will address the issues in this intersection.

Legislator Albano stated Putnam County is declared lead agency on this project and it is necessary to keep this project moving forward.

Chairman Castellano stated he is looking forward to seeing the improvement to this intersection.

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

Item #18 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:57pm, Chairman Castellano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Beth Robinson.