

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**40 Gleneida Avenue Room #318**  
**CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**  
**(Chairman Albano, Legislators Castellano & Gouldman)**

**Tuesday** **6:00PM** **July 20, 2021**  
(Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Comm Mtg Immediately Followed)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Chairman Albano who requested Legislator Gouldman to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Castellano, Gouldman, and Chairman Albano were present.

**Item #3 - Approval/ Physical Services Meeting Minutes/ June 23, 2021**

Chairman Albano stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 - Discussion/ Approval/ “Green Infrastructure” and “Complete Streets” – Climate Smart**

- a. Correspondence: Dated: 06/28/21 From: Legislator Montgomery  
Re: Complete Streets Resolution**
  
- b. Correspondence: Dated: 07/12/21 From: County Executive Odell  
Re: Climate Smart Putnam– Proposed Resolution & Exec. Order No. 1-2021**

Chairman Albano stated Legislator Montgomery had forwarded a resolution that Dutchess County passed related to Complete Streets. He stated Putnam County Executive Odell has proposed a Resolution for Putnam County for consideration by the Legislature. He stated the County began working on this in 2019, when Putnam County began on the Climate Smart Initiative. He explained Putnam County has been working on these types of actions for many years. He explained energy saving actions have been a focus of the County for many, many years.

Legislator Castellano stated this is straight forward, he noted and complimented the new energy saving lights that have been installed in the Legislature’s Conference Room, #318.

Chairman Albano stated Transportation Manager Vinny Tamagna is present and will be speaking to this topic. He stated in the County’s Transportation Department there have been a lot of positive changes made. He explained working to acquire the right size vehicles that provide transportation services throughout the County has been very positive in so many ways.

Transportation Manager Vinny Tamagna stated that the work actually began in 2017 when AMERESCO was selected through the County’s RFP process to work on the Article 9 items throughout the County. He stated they are working on energy improvement measures

throughout the County. He listed a few initiatives as an example, web-based thermostats, smart light switches, oil and natural gas conversions, new A/C chillers, air handlers, all the things that people do not see, has been or is in the process of being upgraded. He stated they went live with solar panels on the Kern building in July and two (2) more buildings are soon to follow. He explained action is being taken in every single County building to save money and to be more responsible environmentally. He stated the proposed resolutions contain great legislation. He stated he believes Putnam County Executive Odell's resolution contains more of the details related to the work that Putnam County has done, and will continue to do. He stated he believes Putnam County should feel really good that we are ahead of the curve since we have been working on all of this. He stated the Complete Streets and what has been done in transportation about right sizing the fleet, eliminating the diesel vehicles, going to smaller vehicles, and even some gas vehicles are all very positive actions. He stated the County is looking at where electric charging stations belong and do not belong. He said he has two (2) Interns dedicated to working on the Climate Smart and Complete Street matters. He stated we are hopefully setting an example that will be followed by our municipal partners. He stated he would like to mention the County Executive put her focus and began her work on these energy saving measures when she worked with NYMTC as the Co-Chair of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Counsel in 2013 and 2014.

Chairman Albano reminded everyone that AMERESCO guarantees the savings, which he believes is approximately \$300,000. He explained through this process the County is updating and improving its infrastructure.

Legislator Addonizio thanked Transportation Manager Tamagna for being present and sharing the information related to the Climate Smart actions going on throughout the County. She agrees it is important that everyone understand that Putnam County has been working on this since 2013.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated working with AMERESCO early ended up being a real positive. He explained when COVID-19 required that the County Buildings be shut down, they were able to take advantage to get their work done in the different County Buildings. He stated we are about 70% through with the AMERESCO project and the retrofits and changes to become more energy efficient.

Legislator Montgomery stated she requested the Complete Street topic and consideration of passing a resolution similar to the one Dutchess County has passed be placed on this agenda for consideration. She stated she is aware that there is action being taken throughout the County to comply with being climate sensitive. She explained the County is not recording the actions or passing resolutions to become part of any program. She stated if Putnam County passes a Complete Street resolution it will count towards many points towards being a certified Climate

Smart Community. She stated her agenda item tonight is for the Committee to consider the passing of a Complete Streets resolution.

Chairman Albano facilitated further discussion and stated he will be supporting the proposed resolution from County Executive Odell.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if AMERESCO has a check list of actions they have taken as it applies to Climate Smart.

Chairman Albano stated it can be done in the future. He stated in respect to a \$11 million Grant available through New York State, Department of Environmental Conservation, on page 5 of that agreement it states applicants need not be certified or registered to be working towards the certification to get a response. He stated Putnam County is eligible to apply for funding. He stated a lot is being done behind the scenes.

Legislator Montgomery explained she does not like behind the scenes work. She stated she likes to see what is happening and she likes the public to be able to see what is happening.

Legislator Sayegh explained there is not a requirement to have a certain amount of points to be eligible for Grant funding. She explained she believes a wonderful job is being done here at the County with the green infrastructure and becoming more energy efficient. She stated there are 62 Counties in the State of New York. She stated she believes five (5) or six (6) of them have signed the Climate Smart pledge and there is no time frame. She explained the Climate Smart initiative works hand in hand with Title 9 (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority). She continued to speak to her support of the work being done by the County.

Legislator Montgomery stated people can go onto the Complete Streets website and see the amount of money that has been awarded to people who have followed the program. She stated she is not aware of any County or Municipality that has received Climate Smart Funding without taking the steps to adopt the Complete Streets Policy and implement a program. She stated she would like the County to put on paper, for the residents, to see what is being done to address the climate issues.

Legislator Nacerino stated in her opinion some of the objectives listed in the Dutchess County Complete Street resolution would be worth looking at as she believes they would be advantageous to the residents. She stated she would like to see the Legislature move forward in some fashion that would best serve the people in Putnam County.

Chairman Albano stated a lot of those items are included in the County Executive's proposal. He stated also a lot of that work has already been, such as addressing the sidewalks and the bike path.

Legislator Montgomery stated documentation was received from the County Executive, stating the County is on track to receive certification. She questioned Transportation Manager Tamagna as to how many points does the County have from the Task Force action items towards the certification.

Transportation Manager Tamagna that information would be available from AMERESCO.

Chairman Albano stated the work is getting done, it is evident as you go through the County facilities.

Legislator Sullivan stated the County has been working on these initiatives for many years. He stated we may not publicize or talk about it, but people are working very hard in many different areas of the County to get these green-climate smart initiatives completed. He repeated that AMERESCO is addressing solar energy where appropriate, the replacement of windows, air conditioning, boilers etc. He stated there are a lot of great things getting done with a focus on climate smart.

Legislator Nacerino explained when she hears behind the scenes, she understands that to mean, people are doing their jobs and working hard, but not looking for attention.

Chairman Albano agreed with Legislator Nacerino, the people working, skilled workers, are focused on getting the work done, and not looking for attention. He elaborated on the different jobs he has witnessed in process throughout the County.

Legislator Montgomery requested confirmation for the record that the Legislature and the Transportation Department are not interested in passing a Complete Streets Policy.

Transportation Manager Vinny Tamagna stated the resolve clause of the County Executive's proposed resolution sums it up. He stated we will continue to look for grant funding opportunities, that is a daily focus.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve "Green Infrastructure" And "Complete Streets" Program/ Climate Smart Communities Programs; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #5 - FYI/ Climate Smart Communities Program/ Putnam County Climate Smart Coordinator Lauri Taylor**

Chairman Albano stated this was addressed in the discussion of agenda item #4.

**Item #6 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A058)/ Amend the Capital Budget to Fund Paving at the County Transit Facility Utilizing Federal CARES Act Funds/ Commissioner of Planning, Development & Public Transportation Sandra Fusco**

Legislator Castellano expressed his support for this Federal funding of \$79,458.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment (21A058)/ Amend the Capital Budget to Fund Paving at the County Transit Facility Utilizing Federal CARES Act Funds; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Approval/ Lead Agency/ SEQRA Determination/ Drewville Road Bridge Replacement/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Legislator Castellano questioned when this project is scheduled to begin.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated in 2022.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve Lead Agency/ SEQRA Determination/ Drewville Road Bridge Replacement; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #8 - Approval/ Authorization for Commissioner of Putnam County Highways & Facilities to Conduct Public Hearing Related to Drewville Road (CR 36) Over West Branch of Croton River Bridge Replacement (BIN 3345550) PIN 8757.65 -Town of Carmel/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve/ Authorization for Commissioner of Putnam County Highways & Facilities to Conduct Public Hearing Related to Drewville Road (CR 36) Over West Branch of Croton River Bridge Replacement (BIN 3345550) PIN 8757.65 -Town of Carmel; Seconded Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #9 - Approval/ Lead Agency/ SEQRA Determination/ Sprout Brook Road Bridge Replacement/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated this project also will begin in 2022.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve/ Lead Agency/ SEQRA Determination/ Sprout Brook Road Bridge Replacement; Seconded Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #10 – Approval/ Authorization for Commissioner of Putnam County Highways & Facilities to Conduct Public Hearing Related to Sprout Brook Road (CR 15) Over Canopus Creek Bridge Replacement (BIN 3345690) PIN 8762.13 – Town of Philipstown/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve/ Authorization for Commissioner of Putnam County Highways & Facilities to Conduct Public Hearing Related to Sprout Brook Road (CR 15) Over Canopus Creek Bridge Replacement (BIN 3345690) PIN 8762.13 – Town of Philipstown; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #11 - Discussion/ Canopus Island Discussion/ Legislator Neal Sullivan**

Chairman Albano stated this item was requested by Legislator Sullivan. He requested he speak to this.

Legislator Sullivan stated Canopus Island (Island) is a 34 acre island located in Mahopac and it is in his legislative district. He stated the County owns almost half of the Island. He explained he is an avid boater on Lake Mahopac, he knows a lot about the Island. He stated there is no restriction to getting on the Island, but there is no easy way to get on the Island. He stated in 2017 he had the Island surveyed. He explained next he would like to have the County parcels staked out by a surveyor. He stated that will clarify the County owned parcels from the privately owned parcels. He explained he believes there is great potential to make the Island part of a day outing. He stated it would be a carry-in carry-out location to be enjoyed during daylight hours only. He stated there would not be any camping allowed. He stated he has discussed this proposal with County Executive Odell and Tourism Director Walsh. He stated recently a reporter, Dave McKay- Wilson wrote an article about the Island, he recognized Mr. Wilson who was present at the meeting. He explained in his opinion, it is a beautiful location which is owned by the County and people who are interested should be made aware of it and enjoy it. He stated as you approach the Island you must be careful with your boat because there are a lot of rocks. He stated he has heard that people were under the assumption that they were not allowed on the Island, and that is not correct and has never been the County's position. He spoke to the plan to work with the Town of Carmel and install a dock so people will have access. He stated that Director Walsh did go out to the Island along with Mr. Wilson.

Tourism Director Walsh stated that she did go out to the Island with Mr. Wilson. She stated it is important to note the County owned portions are designated as Conservation Land. She explained they are open to the public falling under the rules of Conservation Land, approved by

the Putnam County Legislature in 1985. She stated there are two (2) options for people to get to the Island. She explained people can go to either of the Marinas and pay a small fee to launch a kayak or small boat to travel to the Island and Town of Carmel residents will have the option to use the passive launch at Swan Cove. She stated like Legislator Sullivan said, the Island is open to the public. She expressed her agreement that having clear markings of what areas are owned by the County will be beneficial to avoid visitors of the Island from accidentally traveling on private property. She stated she believes it is a work in progress with a lot of potential.

Legislator Sullivan repeated that what is allowed on the Island must stay within the parameters of what is permitted on Conservation Land.

Legislator Albano questioned how the grouping of the County parcels are in relation to the privately owned parcels.

Legislator Sullivan stated the majority of the County's parcels are located on one side of the Island, and there are a couple of County parcels sprinkled in among the private parcels.

Legislator Jonke stated he knows some of the history of the Island. He stated the parcels were originally sold as building parcels. He stated as the years went by because there was no way to get emergency services to the Island it did not pan out. He stated many of the parcels the County owns were acquired through a property tax foreclosure. He stated it would be interesting to see how many properties are now in delinquency. He stated it may behoove the County to contact the owners of the privately owned parcels about an acquisition program or a donation program.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if this comes to fruition would there be a need to have a person there to monitor the property and activity. She questioned also what the liability would be to the County.

Chairman Albano stated whether there would be a need to have a person monitoring will have to be determined. He stated he believes the liability issue would be handled similar to all of the County properties.

Legislator Sullivan stated there have been discussions with the Town of Carmel, since they have a large Park and Recreation Department, in regard to them taking the day to day responsibility, while it is still owned by the County. He stated that would all need to be finalized, but that is an option.

Legislator Castellano questioned how many parcels are on the Island.

Mr. Wilson stated there are 52 parcels of which the County owns 26 of them.

Legislator Montgomery stated she supports open space. She stated her first concern is that we do not have a Marine Unit, while we promote this Island, it would put more watercrafts on Lake Mahopac. She stated the rules and regulations are not that extensive for conservation areas. She stated one thing is that it would be for Carmel residents and their guest, how would that be enforced. She stated Tilly Foster Farm is also a conservation area, we do not enforce that there. She stated she did go out to the Island, and it is very lovely. She stated there are some docks on the County property, that is a concern to her in terms of liability to the County. She stated she would like to know what the people would like to do with it.

Chairman Albano stated for the record, the Town of Carmel Police patrols Lake Mahopac. He stated Legislator Sullivan brought this forward and there are still a lot of questions to be answered.

Legislator Sayegh stated she was on Lake Mahopac (Lake) this past weekend, and she saw the Town of Carmel Officers patrolling the Lake.

Legislator Sullivan stated that he also sees the Town of Carmel Officers patrolling the Lake.

Stacey Dumont, Town of Patterson resident, questioned the accessibility to Canopus Island, for those who do not own a boat or kayak. She stated the proposal of Canopus Island as a tourism destination, sounds lovely. She stated she hopes consideration will be given to provide a way for those who do not have a water vehicle to be able to access the island.

Legislator Sullivan stated there are two (2) marinas on Lake Mahopac who do rent boats, so that is an option.

Sheriff Langley, spoke as a Resident of Garrison, stated he has served with the Mahopac Fire Department. He stated he wanted to make sure that people are aware there is a mine shaft on Canopus Island which could be a hazard. He stated he is concerned that this will be public access land, but not accessible to all. He stated a lot of people take advantage of public access land that cannot afford to rent a boat to get out to Island. He questioned if the County will provide a ferry service. He questioned if there will be a limitation to the number of boats permitted to the dock at the Island. He stated he has a concern regarding safety and accessibility for everyone.

Chairman Albano stated they are valid points. He stated this is a preliminary discussion, but those are things that would need to be looked into. He stated he agrees that safety is the priority.

Sheriff Langley, spoke as a Resident of Garrison, he stated he is not saying he is for it or against it. He explained he enjoys public access land, but believes there are things to be considered in this situation.

Chairman Albano stated he believed good information was shared and it was a good discussion.

**Item #12 - Update/ Security at County Buildings/ IT/GIS Director Thomas Lannon**

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated work on the security system for the County Office Building, 40 Gleneida Avenue, is expected to begin in the next couple of weeks. He stated members of his department will be sharing some of the labor with the Highways and Facilities Department employees. He stated that has been confirmed with Deputy Commissioner John Tully. He stated this is a challenging building to work in. He stated the County taking on some of the labor will help to reduce the overall cost. He explained a big obstacle today is getting the parts. He stated he is aware that some of the parts are on back order, but expect them to arrive soon.

Chairman Albano stated \$35,000 was the expected cost. He questioned if that is still correct.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated \$35,000 is the minimum. He stated they are also looking at updating the Security System at the Putnam County Golf Course. He stated the sound system and television system need to be replaced at that County location also. He continued to speak to a couple of open Purchase Orders that need to be completed.

Chairman Albano stated in terms of sound systems, he requested confirmation that the Historic Courthouse, where the Legislature's Full Meetings are held, sound system is being investigated.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated that is correct.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the system for this building, 40 Gleneida Avenue, will it be security for the exterior and the interior.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated it will be both exterior and interior.

**Item #13 - Update/ Bike Path Signage/ Chairman of Physical Services Carl Albano**

Chairman Albano stated there are some matters to get settled related to some of the property that is owned by the MTA and NYSEG. He stated there are meetings being scheduled with them to discuss this matter. He stated there is tremendous potential with this project and they continue to move forward.

Legislator Castellano stated Westchester County has Bike Path Signage along their bike path. He stated that he lives near the Brewster Village Train Station and sees people coming off the trains on the weekend to go on the bike path. He stated the signs will be a huge benefit to the users of the path. He stated he believes it will be a benefit to all of us. He stated the signs will also be a helpful to people identifying where they are, if a need for 911 occurs.

Chairman Albano stated he is in full agreement.

Legislator Sullivan stated he is in support of the signs along the bike path for all the reasons mentioned, safety being the primary reason, as Legislator Castellano stated. He stated he fully supports this program moving forward.

Legislator Sayegh stated she agrees there is a need for the signage, and she spoke to her reasons. She stated that she will have additional as the project moves forward, but for now agrees the signage project will be a great addition to the county's bike path.

Lynne Eckardt, Southeast Resident, stated she is in support of the sign, but wanted to make sure they are not using the signs for advertisement. She stated that was discussed the last time this topic came up and the public was very clear that they did not want a bunch of advertisements along the bike path.

Chairman Albano stated advertisement is the lowest priority. He stated the kiosk will work with cell phones and identify where an individual is on the bike path. He stated the plan is to make them as user friendly as possible.

#### **Item #14 - Other Business**

##### **a. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A068)/ US Route 6/202 at Farrington Road Highway Reconstruction Project**

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

Chairman Albano stated this is a time sensitive matter in relation the Route 6/ 202 at Farrington Road project. He stated this budgetary must be approved to keep the process moving. He spoke to the process.

Legislator Jonke stated he is in favor of this project, it is in his Legislative District and addresses vehicular safety.

Chairman Albano stated the area of the County this is in, has a great deal of potential.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (21A068)/ US Route 6/202 at Farrington Road Highway Reconstruction Project; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #15 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 6:56 PM Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.