

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders**  
**Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Sayegh & Sullivan**

**Thursday** **June 17, 2021**  
**(Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Comm. Mtg. will Immediately Follow)**

The meeting was called to order at 5:39PM by Chairwoman Nacerino who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Sayegh, Sullivan and Chairwoman Nacerino were present.

**Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes/ April 20<sup>th</sup> & May 18, 2021**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 - Discussion/Approval/ Dispatchers & Operators as First Responders/ 911 Saves Act/ Legislator Nancy Montgomery**

Chairwoman Nacerino invited Legislator Montgomery to provide an overview of both proposals.

Legislator Montgomery stated a memorializing resolution was approved by this Legislature in December 2019. She explained the 2019 bills failed. She stated currently on the Federal level there is a State bill before the Assembly and the Senate. She stated unfortunately these bills still remain in committee. She stated she believes it would be in the best interest of the County and its 911 Dispatchers to support this legislation to reclassify their position to First Responders. She stated even though the State is not in session currently, she would like Putnam County to demonstrate our support to those who are sponsoring these bills. She stated when these bills come up for a vote they will have evidence of the support from the Putnam County leaders to make the 911 Dispatchers classified as First Responders.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated her appreciation to Legislator Montgomery and expressed her support of this reclassification.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion.

Legislator Sullivan requested Chairwoman Nacerino allow discussion prior to a vote.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she was remiss in opening the matter to discussion.

Legislator Sullivan stated his recommendation of pausing. He stated Putnam County could memorialize this proposed action, but not create a law and then having to change our law to match the State's law. He stated he is in favor of it, but he is in favor of the process and being in conjunction with all the other Counties once the State passes it at their level. He repeated he would like to pause and give the State more time. He stated we can memorialize that we support it, but then wait and see.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that is what we are proposing to do this evening. She stated the proposed resolutions are in support of the New York State legislation designating certain Emergency and Public Safety Dispatchers and Operators as First Responders.

Legislator Sullivan stated his agreement for that action, he just wanted that to be clarified.

Legislator Sayegh stated her support for the proposed memorialization.

Legislator Montgomery requested that a copy of our memorialization be sent to the bill sponsors, both Senate and Assembly, as they are not all from our district. She stated she will get the contact information of the sponsors and provide the information to the Legislative Clerk. She stated if they receive a copy, when the bill reaches the floor again, they will have it and leverage Putnam County's advocacy.

Chairwoman Nacerino confirmed her agreement to do that.

**a. Approval/ Reso/ Support For NYS Legislation Designating Certain Emergency And Public Safety Dispatchers and Operators As First Responders (A5966/ S5154)**

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve Reso/ Support For NYS Legislation Designating Certain Emergency And Public Safety Dispatchers and Operators As First Responders (A5966/ S5154); Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**b. Approval/ Reso/ Support For the Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services Act of 2021 ("911 Saves Act"), Bill H.R. 2351**

Chairwoman Nacerino requested Legislator Montgomery speak to this agenda item.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like this resolution of support to be submitted to our Federal Leaders. She repeated her support, for all the reasons that were mentioned for the previous item, agenda item #4a.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated her agreement. She stated all over America 911 Telecommunicators are currently incorrectly categorized.

Legislator Sayegh stated she is in full support of this proposal. She stated our 911 Dispatchers are our frontline to our law enforcement and our EMS.

Legislator Addonizio stated her support for this proposal.

Legislator Montgomery stated she agrees with Legislator Sullivan's comment that we at the County level should not be duplicating what the State and or Federal Government is doing. She stated these proposals have been on the table for a long time. She stated if there is no movement on the State or Federal level she believes, out of respect for the 911 Dispatchers, we should take a look at reclassifying them ourselves, if we can do that.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve Reso/Support For the Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services Act of 2021 (“911 Saves Act”), Bill H.R. 2351; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A050)/ Sheriff’s Department Awarded a 2019 Explosive Detection Canine Team Grant Through the US Department of Homeland Security passed through the NY State Homeland Security Grant Program/ Sheriff Robert Langley**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is a grant in the amount of \$20,000. She requested Captain Harry Tompkins speak to this agenda item.

Sergeant Timothy Keith stated this grant was applied for to replace the Sheriff’s Department last remaining explosive protection canine, who is approaching retirement age. He stated the current dog is 9.5 years old. He explained the grant funds will be used to purchase a new canine and send the dog and the handler to the training. He stated the \$20,000 would be broken into three (3) parts: \$8,500 for the Explosive Canine replacement, \$1,500 for particular supplies specific to the canine and then up to \$10,000 to cover over time and backfill during the period of time the Canine and the Officer attend training.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested verification that there is not a need to retrofit a vehicle.

Sergeant Timothy Keith stated not at this time, the current vehicle would be utilized.

Legislator Sullivan requested clarification that this is not to add another Canine to the Sheriff’s Department Canine unit, it is to replace an existing canine that has reached retirement age.

Sergeant Timothy Keith confirmed this is a replacement dog.

Legislator Sayegh questioned how long the training is.

Sergeant Timothy Keith stated the approximate start date would be the first week of October 2021 and it carries through to the second or third week of December 2021. He stated the Orange County Sheriff’s Office would be utilized as a training facility, as that is a certified facility, which is a requirement of the grant. He stated an alternative is to utilize the MTA, however there are no class training dates set. He stated they believe it would be in March of 2022.

Legislator Sayegh stated then it is approximately a 10-week training session.

Sergeant Timothy Keith stated give or take a week if the dog needs more work or not.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the new canine will be assigned to the same officer that currently handles the canine that will be retired.

Sergeant Timothy Keith stated that is correct. He stated there are benefits to that, which in summary are the Officer has the knowledge of handling the canine and continues to gain knowledge and the handler, because of his/her past experience, becomes a Maintenance Trainer

and is permitted to sign off on the monthly maintenance. He stated that is a positive in that the maintenance training will be scheduled in coordination with the Sheriff's Department schedule and not subject to the schedule of an outside agency.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve/ Budgetary Amendment (21A050)/ Sheriff's Department Awarded a 2019 Explosive Detection Canine Team Grant Through the US Department of Homeland Security passed through the NY State Homeland Security Grant Program; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #6 - FYI/ 2020 Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula- Based Grant (SICG) Program/ BES Deputy Commissioner Robert Lipton**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated BES Deputy Commissioner Robert Lipton would speak to this item.

BES Deputy Commissioner Robert Lipton stated the 2020 Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula- Based Grant (SICG) Program is a grant that is applied for each year. He stated the funding is used for communication equipment such as towers and leases for the towers and all the communication equipment in the towers and in the 911 Center etc.

**Item #7 - Update/ Discussion/ Blue Wing Dispatch Consolidation Assessment Report/ Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor would speak to this item.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated a feasibility study was conducted by an outside consultant, assessing the proposal of the consolidation of the Putnam County 911 Communications Center and the Sheriff's Dispatch Center. He stated the three (3) major components are that technology needs to be married up with the personnel and training.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned how the County plans to tackle these recommendations.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated one of the recommendations in the report is for the County to look at engaging a staffing study. He stated there were a number of the other recommendations made. He stated the recommendation to upgrade or replace the County's Computer-Aided Dispatch System (CAD), which is approximately 17 years old. He stated they are looking into that.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated there are Union matters that need to be addressed and resolved. She questioned in light of that and the list of recommendations from the consultant, what is the anticipated timeline for these matters to be resolved.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor explained there are two Unions involved. He stated the 911 Dispatch Center employees are in the CSEA Union and the Sheriff's Dispatchers are in the PCSEA Union. He stated there is a Dispatcher leaving

employment of the Putnam County. He stated he believes Personnel Director Eldridge will be working to have all the Dispatchers to be members the CSEA Union.

Legislator Sullivan questioned which call center was the Dispatcher working for, who is leaving the County.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated a Dispatcher from the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Sullivan stated he is interested to know the timeline of the entire project. He stated last month it was discussed the anticipated end date for this consolidation was 2021 September or October timeframe. He questioned if that is still correct. He stated also last month it was reported that there were issues with the equipment. He questioned the status with the equipment and was the Motorola equipment received.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated the equipment from Motorola has been received and is being worked on with the vendors. He stated he is not aware of the timeline for the Union change over, that is a question for the Personnel Department.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned if the list of recommendations needed to all be resolved before the implementation or can some be reserved to be addressed at a later date.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated they all rely on each other, the technology component needs to be in place, then the personnel training will be addressed all of the dispatchers need to be at a 911 Dispatcher Grade, the Sheriff's Dispatchers did not require all of that training. He stated the law enforcement side of this, E- Justice Access, needs to be in place for the 911 Dispatchers. He stated we are trying to move every piece forward as best we can.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned the report references the Dispatch Centers "culture" and "work environment", what strategies have been put in place to create a good environment.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated they are working to do training together when that is possible. He stated that it is a challenge because they are short staffed, so to accomplish the group training, it would require overtime. He stated they are trying to work through that the best they can.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if there will be a response from the County's Emergency Services related to each of the recommendations in the Blue Wing Report. She stated that would allow the Legislature to know where the process is as it moves forward.

Captain James Babcock stated there was a meeting last week with I/T Director Lannon, Deputy Commissioner Lipton, Personnel Director Eldridge each of the recommendations were discussed and a strategy to address them. He stated the technology part will be the doable part, the Union issues will be worked through. He stated the issue will be the staffing level study and what we determine will be feasible. He stated from the County's perspective what will be seen as

reasonable/feasible. He stated they believe the staffing study will determine that there is a need for more staffing. He stated if that is not a feasible option, then we need to reevaluate how far we will dig into this.

Legislator Sayegh stated in the Blue Wing Report recommendation #16 Dispatch Center Peer Review is listed. She stated it is described as communicating with other Counties or Departments to learn how they have dealt with challenges, to avoid re-inventing the wheel. She questioned if that has been done.

Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated they are reaching out to the neighboring 911 Centers, to see how they do things. He stated also they put into place the QA QI System (Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement). He stated the Dispatch Supervisors are using the QA QI System with the Dispatchers and it enhances the Dispatchers performance.

Chairwoman Nacerino expressed her opinion in the importance of focusing on creating a culture and work environment that is positive.

Legislator Sayegh stated most of the calls coming into the 911 Center are from wireless callers. She stated that stresses the importance of investing in our infrastructure in Putnam County and getting the cell towers in. She stated if you are in a dead zone, then you would not have access to 911 services.

Chairwoman Nacerino agreed that is a very valid point. She stated especially since many people are eliminating their land lines.

Legislator Sullivan stated he would like to point out the purpose of this consolidation is to provide better service to the public, which includes reducing the lag time and the passing of calls from a dispatcher in the 911 Center to a Sheriff's Department dispatcher. He stated overall having all of the dispatchers together will improve the response time for the public and make it a much better experience for everybody. He stated the savings will come over time.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that was well said, and yes that is the objective behind this consolidation.

Legislator Montgomery questioned the cost of the Blue Wing Report, she did not recall the amount.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated he believes it was around \$3,200.

Legislator Montgomery questioned how much the staffing study will cost.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated he does not have the cost yet, he is still looking into that.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there is a firm that is in mind.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated not yet, they are looking at a few options.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there was a hard finish date.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated there is not, there are a lot of moving parts. He spoke to the some of those moving parts. He stated in conclusion there is no hard date yet.

Legislator Montgomery she stated she is concerned about the matter of staffing and the comment made that we are "short staffed" which was made earlier. She stated she is concerned with the health and mental health of the Dispatchers. She questioned if there is any plan to hire new people soon.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated he believes that will come up in the staffing study.

Legislator Montgomery explained she believes that process will take a long time, she is wondering if steps can be taken now to start the process of hiring. She stated we are down Dispatchers and that takes a toll on the existing Dispatchers, and she is concerned with their health and well-being. She explained the cost of the staffing study, and the Blue Wing study could have been reimbursable under the local governmental efficiency grant opportunities, which she proposed over two (2) years ago. She stated that funding has come and gone. She stated currently there is funding available, grants are due July 30<sup>th</sup> for the local government efficiency grant. She stated there is \$4 million available for projects just like this. She stated she is disappointed that an important consolidation such as this, which involves the health and safety of our Dispatchers, and our citizens is being piecemealed together like this. She stated she tried to provide resources to the County having had experience in dispatch and a relationship with the Department of State and having initiated one of these studies herself when she was on the Town Council. She stated there is funding available to help recoup some of the expenses. She stated currently she is concerned with the status and morale of the Dispatchers. She stated she would like to plea that more Dispatchers are hired in the meantime. She stated it was mentioned earlier, per a recommendation in the Blue Wing report that research be conducted to learn what other municipalities have done. She stated she did send the Albany County and Schenectady County Feasibility Studies. She stated she believes there is information in them that would be valuable.

**Item #8 - Update/ Discussion/ Putnam County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) Report/ Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services requires this report be updated every three (3) years. She stated Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor would speak to this.

Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor stated every three (3) years this plan is revisited with the NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services. He

stated the representatives from the towns and villages and representatives from their emergency service departments and public works are invited to be involved. He stated Putnam County has been faced with many weather-related storms. He stated during the three (3) year review the history of the past weather storms are looked at and our strengths and vulnerabilities in the response to the incidents. He stated the report itself is classified for official use only, and therefore cannot be made public. He stated in summary the County is getting more resilient and better at responding to incidents we are faced with, and in mitigating our hazards before they occur.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she respects and understands that some of the salient points of the report cannot be shared. She stated she is appreciative to Director O'Connor for providing an update this evening.

### **Item #9 - Discussion/ Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol/ Chairwoman Nacerino**

Chairwoman Nacerino explained she wanted to preface this discussion by stating during the 2021 budget process the Legislature made it abundantly clear that \$75,000 was being left in the Marine Patrol Overtime line to provide coverage to Lake Oscawana only. She stated during the budget meeting discussions regarding the Marine Patrol of Lake Mahopac and the Hudson River it was clearly determined that both bodies of water would be adequately patrolled. She stated the Town of Carmel added additional funding to their budget and ensured us they were adequately covered for the boating season. She stated the Hudson River has multiple agencies covering the river. She stated the Putnam County Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol served as a support services agency, not a primary agency to these bodies. She stated it was determined by the Legislature that having the County's Marine Patrol on Lake Mahopac and the Hudson River was an unnecessary duplication of services. She stated the decision to seize patrols on the two (2) bodies of water in no way jeopardizes the safety and welfare of those on those water ways. She stated it would be foolhardy for anyone to think that the Legislature would make a move which would create a perilous situation. She stated it was the decision of the Administration and the Legislature that the Marine Patrol Units on Lake Mahopac and the Hudson River would not be funded in the 2021 budget. She stated budgetary requests were submitted for tune ups on the vessels in question. She stated the requests were denied. She stated as it was discovered the Sheriff's Department put vessels on both the Hudson River and Lake Mahopac and removed the Angler vessel from Lake Oscawana, which was the vessel that was assigned there. She stated we were wholly disappointed to be apprised that the intent of the County Executive and the Legislature was blatantly defied by the Sheriff's Department. She stated the County Executive has had communications with Mr. Fallon of the New York State Marine Services Bureau in New York State's Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation. She explained the County Executive has requested the Proline and Brunswick vessels be returned and that the revocable Marine Equipment License Agreement be terminated. She stated it is the County Executive's sole power and authority to terminate any agreement entered into by the County in accordance with section 3.02 of the Putnam County Charter in the Code of Putnam County and New York State Law. She stated that the Putnam County Sheriff was copied on all of the correspondence. She stated the vessels will be picked up on July 1, 2021. She stated it is her understanding that Mr. Fallon has spoken to the Putnam County Sheriff about the matter and all Putnam County equipment will be removed from the vessels along with submitting to the County Executive keys

and State-owned equipment and accessories that must be turned over to the State prior to July 1, 2021.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Waive the Rules and accept the Additional; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated County Executive sent a letter dated today, June 17<sup>th</sup>, to the County Executives of Rockland, Westchester, Dutchess and Orange County. She read a portion of the letter, “Accordingly, in the spirit of inter-governmental cooperation I write to all of you to continue a conversation many of us have already started concerning a mutual aid arrangement(s) with respect to the provisions of marine unit emergency responses in the Hudson along the shores of Putnam County. Of course, this would be in addition to the existing patrols already performed by those State and Federal Agencies”. She continued to speak to the need to focus on applying resources to the war on drugs, domestic violence, mental health and proper training and continue to seek out redundancies and duplications of efforts. She stated this will ensure taxpayer dollars are appropriated in the best interest of the taxpayer. She stated the over funding in the 2021 budget was encumbered with the intention of Lake Oscawana patrol. She stated this Legislature would be unlikely to approve any supplemental appropriations if the Sheriff’s Department expends the funds on any other activity. She stated since the boats will be returned on July 1<sup>st</sup>, we do not think that will necessarily be the case moving forward.

Legislator Sullivan thanked Chairwoman Nacerino for that very concise and comprehensive summary of events. He added during the 2021 budget process it was made, as Chairwoman Nacerino stated, very clear during the Personnel and Protective Services meetings that the Legislature was reducing the overtime line and the Marine Patrol was being restricted to only Lake Oscawana. He stated he finds it unprofessional to disregard the intent of the Legislature. He stated he believes the Sheriff’s Department deciding it was important and went ahead and put a boat in the Hudson River, even though it was made abundantly clear we did not want that action, constitutes an unauthorized use of County property. He stated the Putnam County Charter specifically provides the County Executive has sole power to make, sign and implement all contracts on behalf of the County. He continued by citing a section of the New York State Law. He stated the agreement and lease signed by the Putnam County Sheriff violates both the New York State Law and the Putnam County Charter and therefore have no legal force and effect. He stated it was recently brought to his attention that the Cold Spring Fire Department has a Marine Unit and a boat in the Hudson River. He stated in fact, it is parked in the marina right next the Sheriff’s Department boat. He stated he is very disappointed that fact and information was never shared with the Legislature. He stated instead there were the comments made that the Legislature was defunding the police and leaving people without service, it was disingenuous not to have provided the information that there are other services on the Hudson River right in the Village of Cold Spring. He stated he is glad the County Executive has helped to make the Legislature’s intent possible and that we will be moving forward with returning the boats to New York State where they can be used more effectively by the State. He stated this will help to put some control over the costs and redirect our focus on the issues that really are of concern to our residents, such as mental health and drug addiction. He stated they are the challenges that really face our constituents, not a Marine Patrol and a S.W.A.T. Team. He stated he wants to pay attention to the needs of the people and what the issues and problems are in our

community, and how do we address them. He stated he looks forward to focusing on them, in the coming budget process and reallocate our resources to where they are really needed and still provide a cost-effective budget to our constituents.

Legislator Sayegh stated consolidation is important and efficiency is important, but the most important thing about this discussion is the safety of our constituents and those in our communities. She stated it is well documented that there are many law enforcement agencies patrolling the Hudson River and when these decisions were made during the 2021 budget process, that is what she made her decision based on. She stated the budget decision made is not endangering the safety, they are well patrolled. She stated she reviewed reports provided by the Sheriff's Department, and she is comfortable with this decision at this time. She stated she agrees our resources need to be concentrated on areas that are more vulnerable and on policing.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated people are entitled to their opinions, but the facts remain these bodies of water are well patrolled by various agencies ensuring the safety and welfare of boaters and our residents.

Legislator Montgomery stated she appreciates the sentiments that our resources should be going towards where people are most vulnerable. She stated public safety is certainly part of that. She stated it is interesting that we would say that yet raise the rent on the only mental health provider in the County during the 2021 budget process and deny a request for funding for a new mental health provider. She stated most of the surplus funding went toward renovations at the Tilly Foster Farm and the County Golf Course. She stated she did submit a memorandum and requested it be part of backup for this agenda item. She stated unfortunately it was not included. She stated her memorandum was written in response to the County Executive after receiving a copy of her letter to the four (4) Counties that patrol the Hudson River, the letter was dated June 17, 2021. She read her response dated June 17, 2021 to the County Executive in response, "As it was your initiative and the eight members of the Legislature who voted to defund the Putnam County Sheriff's Marine Patrol Unit (I being the no vote), I am assuming that your office has established a mutual aid program with Rockland, Westchester, Dutchess, and Orange Counties as well as the United States Coast Guard prior to defunding the Putnam County Marine Patrol Unit. As you may be aware, when the Cold Spring and Garrison fire boats are dispatched on the Hudson River, the Sheriff's Marine Unit is also dispatched as part of the Putnam County Mutual Aid protocol. In order to be better prepared for tonight's Protective Services Committee Meeting I would like to have documentation of the mutual aid arrangements with Rockland, Orange, Dutchess, and Westchester Counties on hand for reference. I would also like to understand what happens when the Putnam County mutual aid arrangements with Cold Spring and Garrison Fire are not met." She stated there was an incident on the Hudson River tonight. She stated Cold Spring and Garrison were dispatched and responded. She stated it is unfortunate that the volunteers should be taxed with this service over and over again. She stated the Sheriff's Department investigate incidents, just as they do on the Road Patrol. She stated now the volunteers, who are restricted with what they can do, will be taxed. She stated the Coast Guard Commander was alarmed that the County was discontinuing this service. She stated again this is a case of putting the cart before the horse, no hard data was ever provided. She stated she made a request, in light of the majority approval to not provide the funding, to keep the Marine Unit Patrol on the Hudson River. She explained she wanted to keep a boat on the Hudson River that

could be used on the busy holidays, such as July 4<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day and Labor Day. She believed that would have been in the best interest. She stated again she is disappointed that we defunded the police without data and statistics and made a decision, in her opinion, that left our citizens vulnerable. She stated according to the Coast Guard they anticipate more boat traffic this summer on the Hudson River, as a result of barges in connection with the Wind Farms being built upstate and a projected increase in recreational boating due to COVID and people opting for outdoor activities.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she disagreed with the use of the terminology “defunding the police”. She stated this is reallocating resources where we think the priorities are. She stated in the County Executive’s letter, referenced earlier, it was asking merely for a conversation, it was not implied that mutual aid was set up.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would have hoped mutual aid was set up and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was set up before the County discontinued safety on the Hudson River. She stated there are no agreements in place, but we have defunded the County’s Marine Unit on the Hudson River. She stated as Legislator Sullivan stated it is the sole obligation of the County Executive to enter into these agreements, not the Sheriff’s.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the purpose of this discussion is not to debate that issue. She stated she was told Putnam Deputy 19th Battalion Coordinator Ralph Falloon stated there were no expectations for the Sheriff’s Department. She stated there are multiple agencies taking care of and satisfying the need of the patrolling of the Hudson River.

Legislator Albano stated in the past he requested statistical data to support the need to have the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department patrol the Hudson River. He stated he has not seen any past reports or information that justifies the need.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the agenda item tonight is to discuss the Marine Patrol, and the determination and establishment that the boats will be returned and picked up. She stated we are not here to go backwards and debate the issue.

Legislator Sullivan stated for reference, the Cold Spring Fire Department and the Garrison Fire Department both have boats on the Hudson River. He stated they are ready to respond faster and have more people readily available to do that, than the Sheriff’s Department. He stated the Sheriff’s Department boat was never a 24/7 operation. He stated it was strictly used on the weekends during the day. He stated the County does not have the capabilities and never had the capabilities to perform some of the things that some of the people have mentioned. He stated he has not heard about any accident. He agreed with Legislator Albano we were never provided with any data or information that substantiated the need for having a boat on the Hudson River. He stated as a reference, 911 Calls do not require a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or agreement with any other County or entity. He stated when 911 calls are received agencies are dispatched and they go and do their job. He stated the Hudson River has a tremendous amount of security on it and personnel within the Towns, Counties and Fire Departments readily available to meet any need along the Hudson River.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated further discussion between the Legislators on this matter.

Captain Harry Tompkins requested to make comment on the matter. He stated he would like to point out a few things. He explained the adequate coverage mentioned, seems to be vastly different from the conversation that he has had with the U.S. Coast Guard and all of the other Police Agencies on the Hudson River. He stated they were very appreciative of the Putnam County Sheriff's Patrol on the weekends, when there is higher volume of boating traffic. He stated the adequate cover that has been referenced by the New York State Police and other agencies, in light of the area they are located and the miles that need to be covered, that is not necessarily an accurate statement. He stated also the Sheriff's Department never put a boat on Lake Mahopac, that was misinformation provided to you. He stated they have had a boat at the Cold Spring Dock, on the Hudson River, in case of emergency. He stated that is a decision that was made by the Sheriff, and he believes it to be the right decision. He stated if there is a call for service where there is an emergency there would be a vessel there for the Sheriff's Department to respond with. He stated Legislator Sullivan did reference the Cold Spring Fire Department, which is a volunteer department of Garrison and Cold Spring. He stated they do a tremendous job, however they are volunteers, which he believed was a point that needed to be brought up. He stated he hoped there would have been more working sessions about this matter, but that never happened. He understands this is a done deal, Mr. Fallon, the Director of Marine Services, will have the marine vessels picked up. He stated the whole story has not been heard. He stated they have received correspondence from the Town of Carmel, already, looking for assistance on Lake Mahopac and the Sheriff's Department is unable to provide it. He stated he believed to express information as fact, when it is not, is unprofessional and disingenuous. He stated he is not looking to get into an argument and respects their opinions.

Legislator Sullivan requested that a motion be made to adjourn the meeting. He believed the conversation was going nowhere and there was no vote needed for this agenda item. He continued speak to his opinion.

Legislator Montgomery believed this was a point of privilege, as there was noise when Captain Tompkins had the floor.

Chairwoman Nacerino explained she took offense to comments made by Captain Tompkins. She explained the fact remains, the boats will be picked up July 1, 2021, all the equipment will be removed, and accessories and keys are to be returned to the County Executive. She stated in the future if there is some demonstration of the need to revisit this, then we will revisit it. She stated for now she feels very confident, and very secure in the decisions made and we do not feel in any shape or form that the health, safety, and welfare of any resident are being jeopardized. She expressed her belief that both bodies of water are being carefully, efficiently and effectively patrolled.

**Item#10 - Other Business - None**

**Item #21- Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:01pm Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn;  
Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.