

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

Members: Chairman Gross & Legislators LoBue & Oliverio

**Tuesday September 10, 2013
(Immediately Following the Rules Committee Meeting @ 6:30p.m.)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Gross who requested Legislator Oliverio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Chairman Gross and Legislators Oliverio and LoBue were present.

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to accept the additional and waive the rules; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #3) Approval/Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes: August 14, 2013

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4) Update/Correspondence/Re-Electronic Appearances in Putnam County

- **Letter Dated: August 28, 2013 Fr: County Executive Odell To: Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman Re: Electronic Appearance in Putnam County**
- **Letter Dated: August 26, 2013 Fr: A. Gail Prudenti To: Hon. Alan E. Scheinkman Re: Electronic Appearance in Putnam County**

Chair Gross stated that the Electronic Appearance program is one, which down the line, has the potential to save the communities a tremendous amount of money. He stated that the Towns of Carmel, Southeast and Patterson have been given the approval to proceed with the use of the Electronic Appearance when applicable.

County Executive Odell stated that this program has been in the making for approximately five (5) years. It was born from the Commission of Fiscal Vision & Accountability. She stated that Legislator Scuccimarra, who served on the Commission, is responsible for the success of this as are all of the members of that commission. She stated that she also wanted to recognize her fellow Legislators, at that time, who supported the initiative and subsequent funding that was appropriated. She explained how they selected the three Town Courts. She stated that the use of Video Appearance will result in a number of efficiencies and result in saving tax payers' dollars. The other terrific result of using this program will be enhancing public safety. She stated that many of the local courts, especially the Town of Southeast, are very crowded courts and there are some space constraints that have caused some safety concerns. She stated that she would like to state for the record that this program is the "Electronic Appearance" NOT Arraignment. She continued to discuss different components of the

program. She stated a bonus for the County, that actually went unrecognized at the time, due to the focus on getting this project started, is the enhancement that the County's Server received. She stated that the County's Server capabilities have been boosted. The conferencing initiative can now be expanded. She stated that providing the ability to conference with Albany and other municipalities from Putnam County will serve to County employees in the County working. She stated that again this is an initiative that puts Putnam on the Map. She stated that the world is watching. She stated that Putnam County should be very proud of what we have done.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the use of the program is still contingent on the defendant agreeing to opt for the Electronic Appearance program vs going to Court in Person.

County Executive Odell stated yes it is. That is the need for the "Waiver". She stated that the "Waiver" has been crafted by the Putnam County District Attorney. She stated that the Defense Counsel representing the defendant, will counsel them on what will take place and what they need to know about it. She stated that in reference to this point, not always does the defendant want to be paraded in the Courtroom so there is feedback from the Defense Bar that their clients are actually looking forward to the opportunity.

Chair Gross stated that it is good to hear that side of the thought process from the defendant's point. He stated that he has been told that the defendants welcome the opportunity to get out of the jail setting for a time, even if it is just to go to Court.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he would like to applaud County Executive on this initiative. He stated that he remembered when she was a Legislator and brought this forward. He believes that will be a positive for the County.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she wanted to echo Legislator Oliverio. She stated that she knew as a sitting Legislator that County Executive Odell was very focused and worked diligently to bring this program to Putnam County. She explained that there are situations that can be embarrassing for the defendants as well as people, or even Children who may be in the area, when defendants are being transported to and from Court. She explained a scenario that use to happen in Patterson involving Children who were participating in programs at the Public Library. She stated that she wanted to commend County Executive Odell on her efforts of bringing this program forward.

Item #5) Update/Special Patrol Officers (SPO)

Chair Gross stated that he would like to publicly thank the Administration, the Sheriff's Department and the Legislature for all coming together to come up with a solution to a problem that emanated from the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut on December 14, 2012 at the Sandy Hook Elementary School. He stated that the solution that has been implemented in the Mahopac School District, who expressed the desire to accept the County's invitation to partner in a Special Patrol Officers Program (SPO). He stated that it is believed that the presence of the SPOs on the school campuses will serve to enhance school security. He stated that on September 3, 2013 the first day of school

for the 2013-2014 school year, the four (4) SPOs were introduced. He stated that they are all retired Police Officers. He stated that the use of SPOs will result in an approximate cost savings of \$75,000 versus the cost incurred with School Resource Officers (SRO). He clarified that the SRO program is going to remain in existence. He stated that the SROs are the onsite commanders. The SPOs will look to the SROs for direction if an incident were to occur. He stated that he would also like to recognize Personnel Director Eldridge and the fine job that he did to get the positions advertised, conduct interviews and coordinate with the Sheriff's Department to get the SPOs trained. This was a very time sensitive matter, and Director Eldridge got it all done.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she wanted to give recognition to Chair Othmer. She stated that there may have been some procedural steps missed, but his heart was in the right place. He worked to make this happen, and the safety of the children were always the focus for him.

Chair Gross stated that he agrees with Legislator Nacerino.

County Executive Odell stated that she believes that the idea of collaboration is really where the success stems from. She stated that the task force was a request. Facilitated with collaborated effort it is now a program being implemented in the Mahopac School District. She stated that she agrees that it is important, as Chair Gross stated that people understand that the SPOs are not in place of the SROs. They are in addition to the SROs.

Bill Nulk, President, Carmel Kent Chamber of Commerce stated that he attended a meeting hosted by Senator Greg Ball addressing unfunded mandates. He stated that at the meeting a reference was made to Putnam County addressing a matter on their own by implementing the SPO Program. The point of the reference was to say give the flexibility locally to come up with solutions facing the communities and stop with the unfunded mandates.

Legislator Castellano stated that his children attend the Brewster School District. They were in the school when the SRO program began there. He stated that his children never had an issue with the SROs being in the school. He stated that they like the SRO officers. He stated that he believes having officers in the schools will have a benefit on the children of this generation with how they see the role of police officers.

Chair Gross stated that he had the similar experience when he was a teacher in the Brewster School District. He stated that when the SROs first came into the schools. It was a little different. However over time the students and faculty began to work very well the SROs. He stated that the SROs were able to stop a lot of issues before they became a problem.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she also works in the Brewster School District and she too sees the benefits of the SROs program.

Item #6) Other Business

6b. FYI/Correspondence: Dated: September 9, 2013 Fr: Adam B. Stiebeling, BES To: MaryEllen Odell, County Executive Re: September 10th Protective Services Committee Meeting

Chair Gross stated that he has correspondence from Commissioner Stiebeling, who unfortunately had a conflict in his schedule that is why he is not here tonight. He stated that Commissioner Stiebeling provided a written update on the construction schedule to take place on I-84 at the Dingle Ridge Road Bridge. The work is reported to begin on Saturday, September 21, 2013. The I-84 West Bound is scheduled to be closed September 21, 2013 at approximately 4:00p.m. through late afternoon on Sunday, September 22nd. The closure of the Eastbound lanes is planned for a week later beginning on Saturday September 28th. There has been a detour route established. The traffic diversion will begin approximately 3:00p.m. on the Saturday(s). This schedule is contingent on how smoothly the work goes.

6a. FYI/Fund Transfer (13T214)/Bureau of Emergency Services/ Telephone Costs - Duly Noted

Chair Gross stated that he would like to remind everyone that there will be a showing of the movie Contagion at the Bureau of Emergency Services on Friday, September 20, 2013 @ 6:30p.m. There will be a discussion period after the movie. If you are planning to attend, you are asked to please RSVP to 845-808-1390 X43125 to reserve a seat.

There being no further business, at 8:00 p.m., Legislator Oliverio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Trabulsy, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature.