

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
Held In Room #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512
Members:
Chairman Gross, Legislators LoBue & Wright

Tuesday

May 13, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:15p.m. by Chairman Roger Gross. He requested that Legislator LoBue lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators LoBue, Wright & Chairman Gross were present.

Chairman Gross made a motion to waive the Rules and Accept the Additional; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #3) Approval/Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2014

Chairman Gross made a motion to approve the minute from April 10, 2014; Seconded by Legislator Wright. All in Favor.

Item #4) Discussion/Memorialization/Supporting Indigent Defense Legal System & Settlement of Hurrell-Harring et al v. State of New York

Chairman Gross stated this item was briefly discussed at the April meeting. At that time Legislator Wright had recommended that the Legislature contact the Putnam County Legal Aid Society and request that they provide us with their opinion of this matter. Attorney Patrick Brophy, Chief Attorney of the Putnam County Legal Aid Society, Inc. (PCLAS) is present this evening to provide us with the professional opinion of the PCLAS.

Attorney Patrick Brophy, Chief Attorney of the Putnam County Legal Aid Society, Inc. (PCLAS) stated he had given an opinion on this same proposal in 2009. Attorney Brophy stated that his professional opinion is that this would not be positive for the residents of Putnam County. He supported his opinion by listing several reasons: the County would be losing their control, the County would lose control while still being fiscally responsible to pay into the State's program. He stated the PCLAS has a great team of qualified Attorneys who are serving the people of Putnam County in a very professional manner. He stated through the assistance of Putnam County Senior Deputy County Attorney Sandra Fusco and the support of County Executive Odell PCLAS has increased their staff, bringing the caseload to a manageable amount.

Legislator LoBue stated she was concerned that this proposal would create a back log of service to the County's residents.

Chair Gross stated he was concerned as well with the issue of losing control. There was no action taken.

Item #5) Approval/Application for 2014- Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP & LETPP)

Chairman Gross made a motion to approve the Application for 2014-Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP & LETPP); Seconded by Legislator LoBue. Legislator Wright recused himself, because his son is the Assistant Director of Homeland Security.

Item #6) Approval/Appointment/Putnam County Traffic Safety Board Nomination-Guy Gentile

Legislator Wright made a motion to approve the Appointment of Guy Gentile to the Putnam County Traffic Safety Board; Seconded by Chairman Gross. One No Vote – Legislator LoBue.

Item #7) Approval/Resolution Inter-Municipal Agreement with County of Westchester Lease of 1985 Armored Personnel Carrier

Captain Velotti stated this vehicle was in Iraq. He stated it was bought and used by Westchester County. He stated Westchester County bought a new vehicle, and they offered the 1985 Armored Personnel Carrier to Putnam County. He stated that Putnam County did have a mechanic do a review of the vehicle, and it checked out fine and it runs really well.

Legislator LoBue questioned if both Westchester County and Putnam County are in a situation where they need this vehicle at the same time, who gets to use it.

Captain Velotti stated that Putnam County would get it because Westchester County has so much equipment.

Legislator Wright questioned if Putnam County will be incurring any additional expenses through this agreement.

Captain Velotti stated no, there will not be any additional expenses.

Chairman Gross made a motion to approve the Inter-Municipal Agreement with County of Westchester Lease of 1985 Armored Personnel Carrier; Seconded by Legislator Wright. All in favor.

Item #8) Discussion/Local Law # 6 of 2014/Amended Chapter 195/Code of Putnam County Entitled “Precious Metals and Gems”

Legislator Oliverio stated that he had been contacted by a constituent who had been robbed of jewelry. He explained that after their attempt to find their jewelry by going to the pawn shops constituents were unsuccessful. The constituents have requested that Putnam County consider amending their Precious Metals and Gems Law. The constituents have asked that the “hold” time retail businesses, who purchase jewelry, be increased from the current 14 days period to 30 days. He stated that is the time period the

business owner waits before being allowed to take action with the purchased item (s). He explained the heart break of having a sentimental item stolen, a piece that can never be replaced.

Director of Consumer Affairs Noel (District Attorney Investigator Henry Lopez & Sheriff's Senior Investigator Glen Jackson were at the table as well) stated that she understands the emotional side of this scenario completely. She stated that in 2013 she worked closely with the District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office and they did make amendments to Chapter 195/Code of Putnam County Entitled "Precious Metals and Gems". She stated that in 2013 she had meetings with these business owners and discussed the amendment that the County wanted to implement. She stated that, in her opinion, the changes that were passed in 2013 were critical and raised the standard of procedure for the business owners in Putnam County and the level of protection to the sellers and the consumers.

Chairman Gross facilitated discussion on whether increasing the days to a 30 day hold would really help. It was discussed also that each County has their own Local Law that presides over their retail business. It was concluded that a correspondence be sent to the Dutchess County Legislature, since it was reported that they do not have a Consumer Affairs Office, requesting they consider increasing their hold time from five (5) days to fourteen (14) days. He stated that amending to a fourteen (14) day "hold" would coincide with the holding times in Putnam, Westchester and Rockland. It was agreed that the current law has raised the level of accountability and that extending the holding time to the recommended 30 days, would be unfair to the business owners and would likely not solve the problem all together.

Chairman Gross stated that he would send a correspondence to the Dutchess County Legislature in his capacity of Chair of the Protective Services Committee. He will request that they consider amending their "hold" time.

Item #9) Other Business
a.) Discussion/Canvassing Opinion of Legislators-Regarding Potential Sheriff's Department Overtime To Provide Assistance at the Town of Southeast Fourth of July Fireworks

Chairman Gross stated that the Town of Southeast is beginning talks about holding their Fourth of July Fireworks event at the Highlands again this year. He stated that the event was a very well attended family and community event last year. He stated he promised the Town of Southeast Board Members that he would canvass his colleagues in regards to the Legislators' opinion on approving overtime for the Sheriff's Department to provide assistance at the event. He stated that it may cost approximately \$17,500 in overtime for the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he would be in favor of supporting the event.

Legislator LoBue stated that she would be in support of funding the overtime as well. She stated the event last year was a great event for the community and the businesses in the Highlands complex.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she would support the event as well.

Chairman Gross stated he will report back to the Town of Southeast the positive support from the Legislature.

Commissioner of Health Beals stated that he strongly recommends that a Sanitation and Health Plan be provided to the Health Department for review. He stated that you can send it to his attention. It would include the needed number of port-a-potties for the anticipated group size, a dumpster, food vendors, hand washing, a first aid station etc. He stated a Sanitation and Health Plan is recommended for an event with an anticipated crowd of 5,000 or more people.

Legislator LoBue questioned if this type of plan is in place for the May 18th Cycle Event.

Commissioner of Health Beals stated that he was not sure if the plan is in place for the Cycle Event.

Item #10) Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:05P.M., Chairman Gross made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

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