

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

Members: Chairman Gross & Legislators Gouldman & Nacerino

Monday

August 17, 2015

Immediately Following the Health, Social, educational & Environmental Meeting @ 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Roger Gross. He requested Former Legislator Sam Oliverio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Nacerino, Gouldman and Chairman Gross were present.

Item #3 - Approval/Protective Services Committee Meeting Minute/July 8, 2015

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 – Approval/Confirmation/Appointment/Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services/A. Sutton

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approval the Appointment of Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner/Anthony Sutton; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in Favor.

Item #5 – Update/Acting Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services

- **Discussion/Contingency Plans for Provision regarding EMS in Putnam County**
- **Proposed Resolution/For a Municipal County Wide EMS Operating Authority**

Acting Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services Anthony Sutton stated the County’s current contractor for EMS is TransCare Ambulance Service (“TransCare”). He stated he has been made aware that TransCare was failing to make payroll on multiple occasions. He stated TransCare explained there was a dispute between the parent company and the lending institution. He stated he was apprehensive in the future of TransCare not being able to pay their payroll taxes. He stated with that said, there is a concern TransCare was showing signs of not being a “healthy company.” He facilitated the discussion further in providing examples of where TransCare employees are used. He stated because of the concerns plans were created in the event our vendor is out of business. He stated the ambulance business is governed by New York State Article 30 of the Public Health Law, which states there is a requirement of a Certificate of Need (“CON”) or an operating authority for a certain geographical area. He stated currently there are only four (4) ambulance businesses that have certificates for the County (TransCare, Presbyterian Hospital System, HealthQuest, MStar), which limits the County’s options. He stated the Bureau of Emergency Services has had numerous conference calls with the State Health Department regarding their concerns with the EMS provider for the County. He stated under Article 30 to open an ambulance business a CON would need to be documented and then go before the Volunteer EMS Council to receive their approval of the competition. He stated in the backup for this item, he provided the Committee and Legislature with a draft resolution for the County to receive their own CON. He stated he requests the discussion on Item #5b (*Proposed Resolution/For a Municipal County Wide EMS Operating Authority*) be tabled because the Bureau of

Emergency Services has questions waiting to be answered by the State. He stated the Bureau would like to receive clarification from the State regarding the billing of the contractor. He stated under this proposed resolution the County would not be eligible to assign the billing to the contractor. He stated any life support agency that carries controlled substances has to have a "Part 80", a controlled substance plan. This plan established who is responsible for the medications, the quantity that will be distributed, and a restock plan. He stated under this resolution, the Bureau of Emergency Services would like to assign "Part 80" to whomever the County would have as a contractor.

Legislator Nacerino stated for clarification if it is correct to say the CON is now held by an individual town.

Acting Commissioner Sutton stated no.

Legislator Nacerino questioned what are the advantages and disadvantages of the County holding the CON for all the Towns.

Acting Commissioner Sutton stated the TransCare employee sits "behind the wheel" of a Town Ambulance, such as the Village of Brewster, but they are an employee of TransCare. He stated if the County has their own CON, they would have the ability to select from more contractors.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the County has their own CON, would they be liable for the operating certificate.

Acting Commissioner Sutton stated the County would not be any more liable then they are now with the Paramedics Service that is provided to the whole County.

Legislator LoBue stated she would like clarification from the Law Department regarding the potential liability the County would take on. She questioned if Acting Commissioner Sutton discussed this matter with all the Town Fire Departments.

Acting Commissioner Sutton stated the Town Fire Departments are aware of what the Bureau of Emergency Services is considering. He stated when this matter was first discussed he reached out to the Town of Southeast Fire Department and the Town of Patterson Fire Department. He stated he fully intends to inform all parties involved and offer to help every agency that is having staffing problems. He stated he reported the Bureau of Emergency Services proposal to the EMS Council, Chief's Association and the Fire Advisory Board.

Legislator Gross stated he believes the Legislature should support this proposed resolution. He stated it is critical to maintain coverage for the ambulance services.

Acting Commissioner Sutton stated a number of agencies in the County are impacted with this matter. He stated the Bureau of Emergency Services is trying to ensure coverage for ambulance services.

Legislator Nacerino stated this matter needs to be addressed with a regional approach.

Chairman Gross reiterated that this matter will be discussed further with the Law Department.

Item #6 – Approval/Grant Application/FY 2015 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program (CIGP) /Bureau of Emergency Services

Item #7 - Approval/Grant Application/FY 2015 Technical rescue & Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Grant Program /Bureau of Emergency Services

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Robert Lipton stated the Critical Infrastructure Grant is for the upgrades and improvements of critical infrastructure in the County. He stated the grant is in the amount of \$50,000. He stated the County would also like to apply for the Technical Rescue Team Grant, which is in the amount of \$150,000.

Legislator LoBue questioned if there is a matching component with the two (2) grants.

Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated there are no matching components for either of the two (2) grants.

Chairman Gross made a motion to approve the FY 2015 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve FY 2015 Technical rescue & Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Grant Program; Seconded by Legislator William Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #8 – Discussion/Increase in School Resource Officer Contract for 2015-2016

Chairman Gross stated due to the legacy costs for a School Resource Officer (SRO) there was an increase in the SRO Contract. He stated he and other Legislators received phone calls from the school superintendents who would like to phase in the increase of of legacy costs each year.

Sam Oliverio stated the 14% increase is extensive. He stated the schools in the County understand the legacy costs. He stated he recommends the percentage of the legacy cost be paid over a period of time. He stated the schools did not budget for a 14% increase in the SRO Contract. He stated the Putnam Valley School District put aside an extra three percent (3%) as a precautionary increase to the SRO Contract.

Chairman Gross stated he supports Mr. Oliverio's suggestion in phasing in the increase.

Legislator Castellano stated this is a 14% increase annually. He stated he does not believe it is feasible to phase in the increase as Mr. Oliverio suggested.

Legislator Nacerino stated she believed the Brewster School District was requesting a two (2) year phase in for the increase in the SRO Contract. She stated the Brewster Central School District Superintendent did not have an objection to the SRO Contract increase as he understands the rationale; but requested for the increase to be phased in to offset their budgets.

Legislator Gouldman stated he spoke to Putnam Valley School District Superintendent Dr. Wills who requested to have the increase phased in as well.

It was agreed by the Committee a letter would be sent to the Administration requesting for the 14% increase in the SRO Contract be phased in.

(Item #8 – Discussion/Increase in School Resource Officer Contract for 2015-2016- Also discussed in the August Personnel Committee Meeting 08.18.15)

Item #9 Approval/Budgetary Amendment (15A061)/Legal Aid Society/NYS Indigent Legal Services/Commissioner Carlin

Chairman Gross stated there is no fiscal impact. He stated Legal Aide would benefit from the funding.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (15A061)/Legal Aid Society/NYS Indigent Legal Services; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #10 – FYI/Budgetary Amendment (15A057)/Sheriff’s Dept./Request Use of T-Commissioner Funds to Purchase Two (2) Steam Cleaners and Two (2) Floor Autoscrubbers for Use in the Correctional Facility

Chairman Gross questioned what the T-Commissioner Funds are.

Undersheriff Convery stated they are the telephone commission that the Sherriff’s Department received funding for.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if the inmates would utilize the cleaning machines.

Undersheriff Convery stated the inmates would use them.

Legislator LoBue questioned if these machines would be replacing the current machines.

Undersheriff Convery stated that is correct.

Item #11 – FYI/Budgetary Amendment (15A060).Sheriff’s Dept./Request for Use of T-Commissioner Funds and Proceeds of Seized Assets to Purchase Scheduling Software from Visual Computing Solutions- Duly Noted

Item #12 - Other Business

a) Verbal Update/Putnam Valley Sheriff’s Sub Station/Chairman Gross

Chairman Gross stated there are some concerns with the renovations and security of the Putnam Valley Sheriff’s Sub Station. He stated this concern initiated from Legislator Gouldman. He stated the Highway Department did send a correspondence to the Legislative Office stating a plan is being developed to resolve the security concerns.

Legislator Gouldman stated he hopes that this matter can be addressed soon because it is an issue.

Undersheriff Convery would like to thank Chairman Gross and Legislator Gouldman for addressing this matter. He stated the Putnam Valley Sheriff's Sub Station is an asset to the County.

Item #13 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:40 P.M., Chair Gross made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Lisa Sommers.