

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders**  
**CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**  
**(Chairman Albano, Legislators Castellano & Gouldman)**

**Thursday** **May 20, 2021**  
(Immediately Followed 6:00pm Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Mtg)

The meeting was called to order at 6:45p.m. by Chairman Albano and he led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Castellano, Gouldman, and Chairman Albano were present.

**Item #3 - Approval/ Physical Services Meeting Minutes/ March 23 & April 15, 2021**

Chairman Albano stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A040)/ Required to Properly allocate Electric Costs Between Funds/ Commissioner of Finance William Carlin**

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment (21A040)/ Required to Properly allocate Electric Costs Between Funds; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Conveyance of Tax Map NO.: 22.80-1 -24/ Town of Kent/ First Deputy County Attorney Andrew Negro**

First Deputy County Attorney Andrew Negro stated this is conveying the parcel of land that is not buildable to the neighboring property owner. He stated this is the best-case scenario for an unbuildable parcel. He stated the property will be merged with the neighboring property and the taxes will be paid.

Legislator Castellano stated he agrees this is the best-case scenario for this type of property. He stated it is a positive that the property will be put back on the tax roll.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve Conveyance of Tax Map NO.: 22.80-1 -24/ Town of Kent; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #6 - Approval/ Application for Grant Funds Available through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") Discretionary Grant Program/ Planning Commissioner Sandra Fusco**

Planning Commissioner Sandra Fusco stated formerly the funding for big projects came from US Department of Transportation from its TIGER program (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery). She stated now it is RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity). She stated it is highly competitive nationwide funding for large capital infrastructure projects. She stated at this time Putnam County does not have a proposed project that meets the parameters. She explained however, in accordance with the Putnam County Code (Section 5-1(D)(1) they are requesting Legislature approval to submit an application for RAISE grant funding, in the event there is a suitable project.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve Application for Grant Funds Available through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") Discretionary Grant Program; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Approval/ Putnam County's Proposed Program Plan in Conformance with and as Required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and Title VI Regulations/ Planning Commissioner Sandra Fusco**

Planning Commissioner Sandra Fusco stated the County receives US Department of Transportation funds through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding and/or financial assistance. She stated therefore the County is required to keep certain policies and procedures in place. She stated Title VI (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) is one of the requirements. She stated they have been in front of the Legislature in the past (Reso# 102/19) for approval of the plan, which is a three (3) year plan. She stated it is now time to renew and update the plan.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve the Putnam County's Proposed Program Plan in Conformance with and as Required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and Title VI Regulations; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #8 - Approval/ Putnam County's Proposed Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan in Conformance with and as Required by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Final Rule (49 C.F.R. Part 673)/ Planning Commissioner Sandra Fusco**

Planning Commissioner Sandra Fusco explained this is another one of the policies that the County must have in place in order to receive funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). She stated this is the first Putnam County Plan, because this is a new requirement from the FTA. She stated this plan will be required to be renewed annually.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve Putnam County's Proposed Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan in Conformance with and as Required by the U.S. Department of

Transportation's Final Rule (49 C.F.R. Part 673); Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #9- Update/ Presentation/ Southeast/Danbury Rail Link Feasibility Planning Study (R29 of 2020) / Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna**

Chairman Albano made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Additional; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor

Chairman Albano stated there were questions presented by Legislator Montgomery about the Southeast/Danbury Rail Link Feasibility Planning project. He stated therefore he requested Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna, who is serving as the liaison for the County on this project, to provide the Legislature with an update.

Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna gave a brief powerpoint presentation (copy attached to the minutes). He stated it is a collaborative effort with other stakeholders: Putnam County, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Metro North Railroad, Housatonic Railroad, NYMTC, City of Danbury, Western Connecticut Council of Governments. He stated this is federally funded through NYMTC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He listed the people on the Study Advisory Group. He stated they plan to meet six (6) times in 2021. He stated that he and Commissioner Sandra Fusco are representing Putnam County on the board. He continued to speak to what they plan to study in the consideration of this project. He stated among other things this could result in relief of the current travel demands on Routes 84/684. He stated a reduction of the vehicular traffic would result in improved air quality. He concluded his presentation by stating the projection is to have a final plan ready to present by March of 2022. He stated he is happy to provide an update anytime the Legislature would like, and he would be available to the Southeast community and the Legislators who represent the Southeast area. He continued to speak to the work they plan to do.

Legislator Castellano expressed his appreciation for the presentation. He stated he would like to see a light rail system; not a train that will come from Danbury and travel through Putnam County on its way to Grand Central Station. He stated he is hoping for a system that would go back and forth between Putnam County and the Connecticut area. He stated a light rail system that could become a tourist attraction, stopping in the Village of Brewster, is something that he is requesting be considered in this plan. He stated currently it sounds like the train stop would be in the Southeast Trains Station as opposed to the Village, which is a bit problematic. He stated a beautiful light rail system, like ones that are seen in other parts of the Country, he believes would become a tourist attraction and get a lot of use by the members of the community. He stated it could also serve as transportation to the Connecticut College and shopping in the Connecticut area as we would hope some of the Danbury residents would come and shop in the Brewster

area. He stated he hopes this project goes more in that direction versus just creating a train rail that will go right through Putnam County to Grand Central. He stated he looks forward to seeing the presentation to the community and hearing their feedback.

Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna stated he believed all of Legislator Castellano's points were very valuable. He stated they can be worked into the plan, they are just in the discovery phase at this time. He will bring Legislator Castellano's comments back to the board members. He stated currently the plan does have the rail terminating at the Southeast Train Station. He stated it is considered as a "light rail" system. He stated there are opportunities for stops all the way through Putnam County. He stated they will continue to explore the downtown Brewster Village area that Legislator Castellano mentioned.

Legislator Castellano stated he believes Markel Park (correction made further in discussion, Wells Park) could serve as a stop for the Village of Brewster. He stated it has some parking and it is a short walk to the Center of the Village.

Legislator Jonke expressed his appreciation for the presentation. He stated he looks forward to this project. He stated the projected rail line runs not only through his Legislative District, it is about ¼ mile away from his house. He stated there was mention of quality-of-life improvements and quality of life issues and make it a speedier way to get around. He stated to him it appears most of the quality-of-life improvements are for Connecticut residents. He stated he is hoping when the study is conducted some emphasis is put into the study to determine how this can improve the quality of life for the Southeast residents. He stated the Route 6 corridor is under utilized both in an economic way and in travel. He stated even during rush hour, drivers do jump on Interstate 84 to the Interstates 84 and 684 inter change. He stated he hopes we can show the positive impacts this project will have on the residents of Southeast.

Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna stated he will note all of Legislator Jonke's comments to the board. He stated he believes in future presentations there will be many more benefits for Putnam County. He stated the obvious benefits were included in the initial presentation.

Legislator Castellano stated he wanted to make a correction in the name of the park. He stated he meant Wells Park would be a great place for a train stop, not Markel Park. He stated Wells Park is also on the bike path and train line.

Legislator Nacerino expressed her appreciation for the presentation and thanked Transportation Manager Tamagna for his commitment to bringing the feedback of her colleagues, who are legislators in the Southeast area, back to the board to be addressed at future meetings. She stated she believes there is great potential here with this project.

Chairman Albano expressed his appreciation for the presentation and the work that Transportation Manager Tamagna is doing. He stated he looks forward to how this all works out.

**Item #10 - Approval/ Use of Capital Reserve (21CP02)/ Sheriff's Department/ Correctional Facility Replacement Doors \$65,000/ Highways & Facilities**

Legislator Castellano stated this looks to be a necessary replacement and improvement in the long run. He stated he is in favor of this request.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve Use of Capital Reserve (21CP02)/ Sheriff's Department/ Correctional Facility Replacement Doors \$65,000; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #11- Approval/ Use of Capital Reserve/ Amend (20CP03) Water Systems/ Putnam Valley Senior Center, William Koehler Senior Center & Putnam County Golf Course/ Adding \$70,000/ Highways & Facilities**

Legislator Gouldman stated the water situation at the Senior Center in Putnam Valley is very challenging. He stated he is happy to see action being taken to address it. He stated that he is in support of this request.

Legislator Nacerino stated she agrees with Legislator Gouldman. She stated this is very necessary.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Use of Capital Reserve/ Amend (20CP03) Water Systems/ Putnam Valley Senior Center, William Koehler Senior Center & Putnam County Golf Course/ Adding \$70,000; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #12 - Approval/ Use of Capital Reserve/ Amend (19CP08) Demolition of "Blue House" to include Demolition of "Austin Road House"/ Adding \$40,000/ Highways & Facilities**

Chairman Albano stated these two (2) properties were condemned and could be a liability to the County.

Legislator Castellano stated this appears to be a necessity. He stated in the long run he is confident it will improve the area and the property. He stated he is in support of this request.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve/ Use of Capital Reserve/ Amend (19CP08) Demolition of “Blue House” to include Demolition of “Austin Road House”/ Adding \$40,000; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #13 - Approval/ Use of Capital Reserve/ Amend (19CP09)/ Roof Replacements at three (3) County Facilities/ Adding \$20,000/ Highways & Facilities**

Legislator Gouldman questioned which three (3) locations are getting Roof Replacements.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated the three (3) County locations are Bureau of Emergency Operations Center and two (2) roof repairs at the County Highway Department Campus, 842 Fair Street.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve/ Use of Capital Reserve/ Amend (19CP09)/ Roof Replacements at three (3) County Facilities/ Adding \$20,000; Seconded Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #14 – Approval/ Authorization for Commissioner of Putnam County Highways & Facilities to Conduct Public Hearing Related to Fair Street Reconstruction Project PIN 8756.09/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Chairman Albano made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Additional; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated there have been delays with Albany in relation to two (2) of the County’s Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP). He stated part of the cause for the delays is related to Public Hearings for each of the projects. He stated they have had public meetings and public hearings. He stated with that said the County has agreed to hold another Public Hearing on both projects, in order to satisfy the requirements of New York State.

Chairman Albano recognized the amount of work and time that has gone into the projects by Commissioner Pena and his team. He stated it is certainly unfortunate that this delay has come about, but he supports the approach of the County to conduct another Public Hearing.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve/ Authorization for Commissioner of Putnam County Highways & Facilities to Conduct Public Hearing Related to Fair Street Reconstruction Project PIN 8756.09; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #15 - Update/ Road Construction Projects/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities  
Fred Pena**

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the County is fortunate that it has secured Bridge New York Funds. He stated it is very important to improve, update and rehabilitate our infrastructure. He stated he will be preparing a presentation on how the County keeps its largest asset in a state of good repair. He stated preservation of the County's infrastructure is a priority. He stated they are exploring different techniques that have been recommended. He stated all of this equates to the fact that there will be construction work being done all around the County. He listed the projects that will be or are currently in progress: Bikeway-Maybrook II Phase B, Fairfield Drive, Sodom Road Bridge, Peekskill Hollow Road and a bridge in the Gypsy Trail area. He stated some of the road projects that are being finalized for pavement rehabilitation are: Haviland Hollow Road, Haviland Drive, Towners Road, Drewville Road and there are a number of boxouts being done on Ludingtonville Road. He stated there will be a section on Upper and Lower Road used to do a test preservation technique on.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if Commissioner Pena would come and speak at the Putnam Valley Town Hall again about the Peekskill Hollow Road project, before the work begins this summer. He stated he is aware that a presentation was given over a year ago. He stated however if Commissioner Pena could come and speak to the upcoming project, he believes it would be much appreciated by the residents and present them with an opportunity for him to address their questions and concerns. He stated the residents ask him many questions, he does not have the answers to, but is confident Commissioner Pena does.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated he is open to that. He stated Peekskill Hollow Road is a very important project and there has been a lot of time spent on this project to bring it back to the surface. He stated they will discuss with the community what is currently on the table for the project. He stated there are some early meetings scheduled with the Contractor to detail out his plan and time frame throughout the project. He stated he is not sure he will have all of that information in time for the Putnam Valley Town Hall meeting in June, but there will be information related to the first phase of the project that could be communicated to the members of the community.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if there is a projected timeline for the project and start date.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated in the contract it is estimated to go through the winter season and finish in the following spring.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if there is a start date.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the notice to proceed has been issued. He stated they will be meeting with the Contractor and will obtain more information, which will include the start date.

Legislator Nacerino requested Commissioner Pena to define more clearly what he meant by the “preservation” of the roadway.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated it is all about preserving your asset, the roadways. He stated this comes from Cornell local roads, in their approach to how to keep good roads good. He stated you invest in methods of preservation early on and it will extend the life of the pavement. He stated currently signs of distress begin to show through on pavement 10-12 years. He stated the goal is to preserve the roads out to 20 years. He continued to speak to this matter.

**Item #16 - Update/ Maybrook Bikeway II Phase B Status of Bridge Connection/  
Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Chairman Albano stated you did touch on this in your update of agenda Item #15.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated there is a culvert that needs to be addressed. He stated they are finalizing the details and have minor change orders. He stated everything is working well on the project.

**Item #17 - Update/ 2021 Lake Gleneida Shoreline Maintenance/ Commissioner of  
Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully stated the mowing of the Lake Gleneida Shoreline has started. He stated the County Executive was instrumental in working out a recent issue with the NYC DEP (Department of Environmental Protection). He stated Superintendent of Parks Chris Ruthven is working with the DEP to schedule the next trimming. He stated as soon as he has more information on that he will share it via another update or phone call.

Commissioner Pena explained the section of trees Superintendent Ruthven is coordinating is the area leading to the Whipple house on Lake Gleneida.

Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully stated the County has commitments from the DEP that they are going to work with the County on that section.

Chairman Albano facilitated further discussion on this matter.



Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully stated they are very encouraged with the working relationship the County currently has with the members of the DEP. He stated he is comfortable in saying he believes there will be some strides made this summer on the maintenance of the shoreline. He stated some of the environmental issues and activities related to Lake Gleneida are also mentioned in the County's MS4 Report. He stated it is available online if anyone would like to review it. He stated he wanted to share that information and put in on the record that he mentioned the MS4 Report in a public meeting.

Chairman Albano stated he is glad to hear that. He stated however he does hear from his constituents who have concerns with the Lake Gleneida area and the Belden House which is under the jurisdiction of the NYC DEP. He stated he appreciates all that the County is doing and requested that the Legislature be kept up to date on activity along the lakeshore area.

**Item #18 - Update/ Maintenance 34 Gleneida/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Chairman Albano stated that he did notice and was very happy to see there was some painting done to the outside of 34 Gleneida.

Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully stated yes there was a cleanup effort, land scaping and painting done at 34 Gleneida. He stated if there are other cosmetic things that can be done, to be a good neighbor the County is willing to them.

Chairman Albano questioned if that includes the columns at the front of the Historic Courthouse.

Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully stated yes, a product has been identified that is believed to work to repair the columns.

**Item #19 - Update/ Barn Renovation at Tilly Foster Farm & Financials/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully stated the renovation in the main barn, on the Tilly Foster Farm (Farm) property, is almost complete. He stated the ADA compliant public restrooms are open and the minor interior renovations are also complete. He stated the HVAC System is in place and ready for use. He stated estimates have been received to install spray foam insulation to comply with the energy code and improve the efficiency of the space. He stated in the animal barn renovations to the office and breakrooms, for use by the employees, have been completed. He stated the office is a secure space to maintain records as well as necessary animal related medical supplies. He stated there is a scheduled walk-through

tomorrow, May 21, 2021, with the Code Enforcer, Commissioner Pena and others from the County's Facilities Department in the Creamery area, after which time that area will be sheet rocked and painted, while more detailed plans are finalized. He stated the Soil and Water project is being finalized and will be integrated into the final plans. He stated the Farm's Manager Office is undergoing renovations that will allow it to be used as a satellite office by the Putnam County Tourism Department. He provided the following financials: \$71,724.66 available for the remaining work mentioned. He stated year to date we have expended \$42,594.94 and have an additional \$28,669.05 encumbered directly related to the expenses involved in the renovations mentioned. He stated the expenses will include plumbing, electrical, flooring, drywall, hardware, paint, adhesives, tile, fixtures, doors and other supplies and materials used in the renovations. He stated as far as future efforts that are on the books such as the spray foam installation estimates range from \$35,000 and \$45,000 and the renovations to the office area are expected to cost less than \$10,000. He stated they continue to scope all the efforts and will be prepared to provide updates in the future.

Chairman Albano thanked Deputy Commissioner Tully for the update. He stated the work that has been done at the Farm by the County employees is great. He stated there is such potential for that space, he believes it will serve to be a tremendous asset to the County. He requested after this work is completed, please notify the Legislature of any projected future plans, so we are all updated on this County property. He stated again, the work done to date at the Farm, looks fantastic.

#### **Item #20 – Other Business**

##### **a) Approval/ Drewville Road/ Stoneleigh Avenue – Public Hearing Schedule/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Chairman Albano made the motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena explained this is the same scenario as discussed earlier related to the Fair Street construction project (agenda item #14). He stated the County has agreed to comply with the directive from Albany to hold a Public Hearing for this project, the Drewville Road/ Stoneleigh Avenue project.

Chairman Albano made the motion Approve Drewville Road/ Stoneleigh Avenue – Public Hearing Schedule; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

#### **Item #14 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:47PM Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn;  
Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.