

**AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
TO BE HELD IN ROOM #318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Castellano and Legislators Albano & Gouldman**

**Thursday**

**June 23, 2022**

**(Immediately following the 6:00PM Protective Svcs Mtg.)**

The meeting was called to order at 8:39pm by Chairman Castellano who requested Legislator Gouldman lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Gouldman and Chairman Castellano were present. Legislator Albano was absent. Legislator Sullivan sat on the Committee in Legislator Albano's absence.

**Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2022**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #4 - Discussion/ Update/ OTB/ Putnam County Rep. Catskill Regional OTB Board  
Vincent Tamagna (Rescheduled from May Mtg.)**

Putnam County Rep. Catskill Regional Off-Track Betting (OTB) Board Vincent Tamagna stated the Board is looking at remodeling OTB post-COVID to compete with online gaming that has been on the rise. He stated that OTB is a public benefit corporation and abides by the State Legislature. He stated that OTB has been able to expand in Suffolk County. He stated former Governor Cuomo did not allow for the expansion of OTB in the region. He stated that Governor Kathy Hochul has not yet done anything for OTB either. He stated OTB in NYC fell into disfunction and the Board is working to expand into other venues near NYC to generate revenue. He stated the Board is looking into bringing OTB into restaurants. He stated there are negotiations occurring with New York Officials, but for now they are in a holding position.

President and CEO of the Catskill Region OTB Donald Groth stated the Board has been working on behalf of the counties to help generate revenue from OTB. He stated it is going to take more than what they are currently generating to expand. He stated they have installed slot machines as well as video lottery terminals, which are controlled by the Governor. He stated there is a movement for more slot machines as they are much more effective in generating revenue. He stated they are waiting for the outcome of the election to proceed. He stated there has been no efforts to resurrect the NYC OTB besides the State Legislature, who has passed bills seeking to add the five (5) counties of NYC to the Catskill OTB jurisdiction. He stated there would be a lot of business done with this expansion, but the former Governor vetoed their effort to receive more money. He stated they want to have a casino project underway. He stated that sports betting has recently come to NY, which would be beneficial in generating further revenue. He stated that the intention of the OTB Board is to include sports betting,

considering that billions of dollars have already been wagered. He stated the Governor and the State receive money from sports betting while OTB is left to struggle. He stated video lottery terminal slot machines have been installed in some places, which has helped. He stated they are hoping they will not be deprived of obtaining video terminal slot machines in 2023. He stated the current Governor has recused herself from any gambling subjects and turned this project over to someone else. He stated that OTB in Suffolk County had to file for bankruptcy protection. He stated OTB in Suffolk County received 1,000 slot machines after a political deal was made between Long Island Senators and the Governor. He stated Suffolk County is now making a fortune. He stated Catskill OTB believes they are entitled to these slot machines to generate revenue for their counties, including Putnam County and NYC. He stated the current territory that OTB has jurisdiction over ranges from Elmira, NY to the Connecticut border. He stated Westchester County has most likely not passed the needed resolution to allow OTB jurisdiction because there would have been competition.

Putnam County Rep. Catskill Regional OTB Board Vincent Tamagna stated that the Governor receives a residual for the casinos set up in other counties. He stated OTB is sitting on a capital acquisition fund, which keeps going down as OTB uses their own money to pay their bills. He stated they could not spend the money allotted to them without permission from the Governor, despite being an independent corporation. He stated Catskill OTB is doing the best that they can with what is provided to them.

Chairman Castellano questioned the status of the OTB property in Brewster.

President and CEO of the Catskill Region OTB Donald Groth stated the Brewster location is not currently in operation. He stated they need permission from the Governor to reopen this OTB location.

Legislator Sullivan questioned if the OTB owns the OTB in Mahopac.

President and CEO of the Catskill Region OTB Donald Groth stated the OTB in Mahopac is owned by the Four Brothers restaurant. He stated OTB was very successful there and they hope to open it again next spring once the politics settles down. He stated they currently have a partnership with the former Deputy Sheriff Fred Marks at the Country Inn restaurant in Kent as well as with other restaurants to help these restaurants get back in business until something else is worked out.

Putnam County Rep. Catskill Regional OTB Board Vincent Tamagna stated they also have an online presence that brings in some revenue.

President and CEO of the Catskill Region OTB Donald Groth stated they continue to generate revenue from the online presence which was never shut down during the pandemic.

#### **Item #5 - Correspondence/County Auditor**

- a. **Sales Tax Report** – Duly Noted
- b. **Board In Revenue Report** – Duly Noted
- c. **OTB Report** – Duly Noted
- d. **Transfer/Revenue Report** – Duly Noted
- e. **2022 Contingency/Sub-Contingency Report** – Duly Noted

#### **Item #6 - Correspondence/ Commissioner of Finance**

- a. **Overtime/Temporary Report – Duly Noted**
- b. **Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 22A038/ Sheriff Dept./ Reimbursement from National General Insurance to offset Cost of Repair to Sheriff’s Vehicle, Unit 45 (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 22A038/ Sheriff Dept./ Reimbursement from National General Insurance to offset Cost of Repair to Sheriff’s Vehicle, Unit 45; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

- c. **Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 22A041/ Youth Bureau/ Putnam County Youth Bureau Awarded Grant Funding- “Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding Allocation” (Also reviewed in Health)**

Chairman Castellano recognized and complimented the members of the County’s Youth Bureau for their efforts in securing this grant.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 22A041/ Youth Bureau/ Putnam County Youth Bureau Awarded Grant Funding- “Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding Allocation”; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

- d. **Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 22A042/ County Executive/ ARPA Funds on Qualifying Town and Village Projects (Also reviewed in Rules)**

Chairman Castellano stated \$5million will be allocated so towns and villages can move forward with their projects. He stated there is a total of \$19.1million dollars in ARPA funds. He questioned if they will be doing the filing for the towns and villages’ ARPA funds.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated the County must file the reporting for their ARPA funds and the towns/villages do their own separately.

Chairman Castellano questioned whether the County is matching the amount put forward by the towns and villages.

Commissioner Carlin answered no. He stated the County is helping the towns and villages get necessary infrastructure projects done.

Legislator Goldman expressed that Putnam Valley is very happy with this.

Legislator Addonizio expressed that Kent is very appreciative for the funding. She stated the towns/villages will have the opportunity to change what projects the money is going towards. She asked Commissioner Carlin for confirmation on this.

Commissioner Carlin confirmed that money can be moved around.

Legislator Jonke stated he does not understand why there is a rush to pass 6d, 6e, and 6f. He stated the towns are happy because they are receiving thousands of dollars. He

stated the contracts needed to be signed by the end of 2024 which is two and a half (2.5) years away.

Legislator Nacerino expressed Patterson is happy to receive this funding. She stated the residents will benefit from moving this forward sooner rather than later.

Legislator Sayegh stated taxpayer money from the Federal Government is being funded to our community, so Putnam County money is not being spent. She stated this funding is going to benefit everyone.

Legislator Sullivan stated it is not a requirement to share county ARPA money with towns/villages because they are receiving sales tax money as well. He stated it is his opinion that it is very generous of the county to share these funds with the towns and villages

Sheriff Kevin McConville expressed the Sheriff Department's appreciation to the Legislature and County Executive. He stated this funding will support a very critical project which they are eager to start the CAD System project, which will allow the first responded agencies to perform at a higher level. He thanked EMS and the Fire Department for collaborating with the Sheriff Department on collectively beneficial projects. He stated these new projects will benefit every town and village in Putnam County.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated there are two minor errors presented in this version at the Rules Committee that have been fixed in the updated version of this bill. He stated the 5<sup>th</sup> Resolve Clause, which resolves that ARPA funds were transferred to the following accounts to proceed with the projects set forth, was a placeholder and is supplemented by the language present below it. He stated Attachment A concerns the \$10million fund and is just an expanded version of the former Attachment A. He stated for clarification that the amended version is what this Audit Committee is considering this evening.

Chairman Castellano thanked Legislative Counsel Firriolo for that information and clarification. He stated this is a great opportunity despite the fluctuating economy to fund some important projects throughout Putnam County.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 22A042/ County Executive/ ARPA Funds on Qualifying Town and Village Projects; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**e. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 22A043/ County Executive/ Expenditure of Putnam County Sales Tax Funds on Qualifying Town and Village Projects (Also reviewed in Rules)**

Chairman Castellano stated \$5million of sales tax funds is to be shared with the county's towns and villages.

Legislator Sullivan stated the Towns have been asking for the sharing of sales tax for many, many years. He expressed he is glad the County is in a position to finally respond to the request.

Legislature Montgomery thanked the Legislature and County Executive for considering this opportunity for the towns and villages. She stated sales tax revenue has doubled since 2019. She expressed that the towns deserve these funds to be able to afford their infrastructure projects.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 22A043/ County Executive/ Expenditure of Putnam County Sales Tax Funds on Qualifying Town and Village Projects; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**f. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A044)/ County Executive/Putnam County ARPA Projects (Also reviewed in Rules)**

Commissioner Carlin stated this budgetary amendment is specific to the County's ARPA funding. He stated this is just the beginning of the process as there will be many more meetings with the Legislature to discuss projects. He stated a few examples, that are already coming to the committee meetings: School Safety, the Stabilization Center, the Radio Project, so there is still work and discussion to come in the future.

Legislator Gouldman stated he believes these projects should be separated moving forward to make an easier decision while voting.

Legislator Montgomery questioned where did these numbers come from.

Commissioner Carlin stated the numbers come from the Department Head in charge of each project. He stated as an example the Sheriff's Software amount, came from the Sheriff. He stated IT/GIS Director Lannon brought forward the requested amounts related to the Radio Project. He stated Commissioner Piazza brought forward the amount for the Stabilization Center. He stated the Department Heads have done the research and their due diligence and have presented their requests for funding these important projects.

Legislator Montgomery stated there are no proposals and no project descriptions in front of the Legislature. She stated she is not opposed to any of the projects, but the radio project had been discussed before ARPA funding was available. She stated this project is taking away from other projects that have been rejected, which were not provided, and should be taken into more consideration. She stated deadlines and rules are arbitrary and she believes the bill is being rushed.

Legislator Nacerino stated she supports this request. She stated the radio project, which ensures interactive communication throughout the County, is crucial as it affects public safety. She stated this project was never budgeted and it is important that emergency equipment is provided to all departments. She stated the cost for shelters to be put in the towers is expensive. She stated the Town of Philipstown stepped up and offered an area to assist with the radio project, costing around \$750,000. She stated this will serve Cold Spring and Nelsonville. She stated this opportunity for ultimate funding saves \$750,000 of taxpayer money per year.

Legislator Addonizio stated ARPA is funding much needed projects and benefits all. She stated school safety infrastructure project is receiving \$2million. She stated the radio

project for the Police and Fire Departments is receiving \$2.5million. She stated the Stabilization Center for Mental Health is receiving \$2.5million.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she is not opposed to public safety projects but that there are no proposals for these projects. She stated there are a lot of questions regarding the radio project. She stated there are between ten (10) and eighteen (18) other projects the Legislature is aware of that have no backup and no description. She questioned how the Legislature could approve this request with little information.

Legislature Sayegh questioned what the timeline for these projects are.

Commissioner Carlin stated the process will take time as RFP's will have to be sent out and the laws must be followed. He stated there needs to be presentations and assurance of licenses for the Stabilization Center. He stated two (2) road projects are asking for ARPA funding instead of borrowing money with increased interest rates. He stated a lot of these projects were discussed and have backup.

Legislator Sayegh stated that these projects would cost taxpayers more money if it were to be borrowed as opposed to using the ARPA funding.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if a project that was turned down could be brought back up. He questioned if presented projects that have not yet been approved could have a second chance.

Commissioner Carlin stated turned down projects cannot use ARPA funding. He stated NACO and NYSAC both recommended not using ARPA funding for projects that require a lot of manpower and resources because the ARPA funding is a one time funds. He stated some of the projects that were denied the ARPA funding could be funded in different ways. He stated some mental health projects could be funded using the opioid settlement money. He stated a project could be brought back up through the normal budgetary process.

Legislator Nacerino stated this money is a gift and a blessing to Putnam County. She stated all these projects are necessary and there is plenty of time to make ample changes. She stated ARPA funding eliminates the burden from the taxpayers.

Legislator Sullivan requested clarification from Commissioner Carlin on the following, there is a set amount of funding that will be allocated. He stated we cannot add to the allotted amount, correct.

Commissioner Carlin stated that is correct.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that more money cannot be allocated but money from one project can be used for a different project.

Legislator Montgomery reiterated she is not opposed to these projects. She stated she wants to know where the numbers for these projects are coming from and would like to see the paperwork.

Chairman Castellano questioned how far \$1million will go with the Peekskill Hollow Road project.

Commissioner Carlin stated the \$1million is part of the \$10million budget and prevents borrowing money.

Sheriff McConville stated the Sheriff Department provided a detailed proposal on the CAD and JMS systems. He stated these systems will enhance and improve the safety and security of all the deputies in the department. He stated that the systems will provide location as well as ETA of backup and it will report any history that may have occurred previously. He continued to explain the benefits of this request.

Jim Manuela, Resident, questioned what highway equipment is entailed in the \$2.5million budget. He questioned how the numbers were decided. He stated the money is being rushed out the door and problems will arise. He stated he does not see the backup for these projects. He stated he agrees with the comments made by Legislator Montgomery, that there should be backup that breaks down what is being proposed. He stated he as a tax payer should be able to easily access that information.

Commissioner Carlin stated it is \$600,000 for the Highway. He stated the money will mostly go to big trucks and a list of roads. He stated this will go through the Physical Services Committee. He stated there is a time limit and the money will not be used all at once.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A044)/ County Executive/Putnam County ARPA Projects; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**g. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A045)/ Highways & Facilities/ Sprout Brook Road Bridge & Drewville Road Bridge/ Adjust the Capital Budget (Also reviewed in Physical)**

Commissioner Carlin stated this budget adjusts capital agreements and funds through the local share. He stated that ARPA money will be used instead of bonds.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A045)/ Highways & Facilities/ Sprout Brook Road Bridge & Drewville Road Bridge/ Adjust the Capital Budget; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**h. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A046)/ District Attorney/ Asset Forfeiture Fund to Replace Damaged Furniture & Worn Carpeting in the District Attorney's Office (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairman Castellano stated there will be no fiscal impact to the County Budget.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A046)/ District Attorney/ Asset Forfeiture Fund to Replace Damaged Furniture & Worn Carpeting in the District Attorney's Office; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**i. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A047)/ Highways & Facilities/ To Account for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Funding under New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC)**

Chairman Castellano stated this is Federal Aid funding there is no fiscal impact.

Commissioner Carlin stated this money is formula funding.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A047)/ Highways & Facilities/ To Account for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Funding under New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC); Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 22T103/ Highways & Facilities/ To Cover Overtime Expenses in Administration & Facilities (Also reviewed in Personnel)**

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 22T103/ Highways & Facilities/ To Cover Overtime Expenses in Administration & Facilities; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #8 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 22T105/ Health Dept./ Funds to replace Old Trailer. Trailer will be used to Store & Transport POD/Clinic Supplies (Also reviewed in Health)**

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 22T105/ Health Dept./ Funds to replace Old Trailer. Trailer will be used to Store & Transport POD/Clinic Supplies; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**Item #9 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 22T109/Finance/ Fully Fund MTA Railroad Station Maintenance Costs- Pursuant to Section 1277 of the Public Authorities Law (Also reviewed in Physical)**

Chairman Castellano stated \$102,767 will be taken out of contingency to cover the costs.

Commissioner Carlin stated an estimated increase of 2% was budgeted and the actual increase was 7%.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 22T109/Finance/ Fully Fund MTA Railroad Station Maintenance Costs- Pursuant to Section 1277 of the Public Authorities Law; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #10 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 22T098/ Health Dept./ Reclassification: Public Health Sanitarian Trainee to Public Health Sanitarian (Also reviewed in Personnel)**

Commissioner Carlin stated the person has met the qualifications for the job and is no longer in training.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 22T098/ Health Dept./ Reclassification: Public Health Sanitarian Trainee to Public Health Sanitarian; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.



**Item #11 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 22T114/ Health Dept./ Reorganization – Early Intervention/ Preschool Personnel Changes (Also reviewed in Personnel)**

Chairman Castellano stated money will be moved around to cover the salaries. He stated there will be a fiscal impact of \$3,402 in 2022 and a fiscal savings of \$30,072 in 2023.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 22T114/ Health Dept./ Reorganization – Early Intervention/ Preschool Personnel Changes; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**Item #12 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 22T121/ Finance/ To Reclassify Fish & Game Status to Outside Agency due to 501C (3) Incorporation**

Chairman Castellano stated the Putnam County Federation of Sportsman Club will become Putnam County Federation of Sporting Clubs Incorporated. He stated money will be moved to create a more efficient process and there is no fiscal impact.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Ray Merlotto for all his hard work and dedication.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 22T121/ Finance/ To Reclassify Fish & Game Status to Outside Agency due to 501C (3) Incorporation; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**Item #13 - Other Business**

**a. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 22A048/ Highway & Facilities/ Amend the 2022 Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) County Capital Project Budget**

Chairman Castellano made a motion to waive the rules and approve other business: agenda Item #13a- Budgetary Amendment 22A048; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Commissioner Carlin stated that this is a budget adjustment to reflect what the NYS budget allocated.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 22A048/ Highway & Facilities/ Amend the 2022 Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) County Capital Project Budget; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**b. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 22A049/ Sheriff's Dept./ Request the Use of Inmate T-Commissioner Reserve Funds- Purchase Protective Disorder Control Equipment for the Correction Officers and Deputies (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairman Castellano made a motion to waive the rules and approve other business: agenda Item #13b- Budgetary Amendment 22A049 to other business; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 22A049/ Sheriff's Dept./ Request the Use of Inmate T-Commissioner Reserve Funds- Purchase Protective Disorder Control Equipment for the Correction Officers and Deputies; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

### **Other Business Continued**

Chairman Castellano stated this is not an item that needs approval by the Legislature, he just wanted to mention it. He stated there will be a July 3<sup>rd</sup> event in Southeast that the Sheriff's Department will provide security at. He stated the Sheriff will provide information on grant funding that will be used to cover the costs of the services provided by the Sheriff's Department on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Sherriff McConville stated funding was received through a Homeland Security Grant Program and State Homeland Security Program to support select operational expenses associated with increased security measures for certain authorized events. He stated they applied for the money for the Southeast event. He stated that any town can approach the Sheriff's Department to apply for this type of funding for large-scale events, as well. He stated the money will be placed in contingency. He requested the money be returned to the Sheriff's department to cover the costs incurred, by providing the necessary Sheriff's Departments patrol as the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Southeast event. He stated that way there will be no fiscal impact.

Legislator Gouldman questioned what the criteria is for the money use.

Sheriff McConville stated the money can be used for public gatherings and events, high-profile threats, counterterrorism, and religious purposes.

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

There being no further business, at 9:59pm Chairman Castellano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Legislative Intern, Eden Barone.