

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Addonizio & Crowley

Monday

February 12, 2024

(Immediately Following the Physical Meeting at 6:30PM)

The meeting was called to order at 6:47PM by Chairman Gouldman who lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Addonizio, Crowley and Chairman Gouldman were present.

Item #3 - Acceptance of Minutes – October 10, 2023 & November 15, 2023

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 - Discussion/Update/Putnam County Business Council/PCBC President Nat Prentice

PCBC President Prentice he wants to ensure that the PCBC and the Legislature have a good relationship. He noted the PCBC was formed in 2010 as the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce. He stated it is meant to be an advocacy group for the local Chambers of Commerce, not to compete, hence why the name was changed. He stated their mission is to be a resource to the community, and the business community in particular. He stated if there are Legislative matters at the County, State, and/or Federal level, the PCBC will keep up with them and inform the local chambers. He stated the PCBC would like to be part of the overall team including, the Economic Development Corporation, the Industrial Development Agency, Tourism Department, etc. He stated they were very active through the pandemic but slowed down over the past couple of years. He stated they are looking to reinvigorate those relationships. He stated their fee schedule is meant to appeal to larger businesses so that smaller local businesses do not have to think about joining both the PCBC and their local chamber. He stated the PCBC website is very active including weekly information from the New York Business Council, a monthly blog, and podcasts. He stated they are hoping to have a big annual event in the fall and it will be similar to a trade show, with elected officials participating in a roundtable discussion. He stated he hopes to continue strengthening this relationship with the Legislature.

Chairman Gouldman thanked PCBC President Prentice and noted he has been an advocate for businesses for many years now. He stated a strong business climate equals a strong county.

Legislator Crowley questioned how the PCBC has grown to help the business community through advocacy.

PCBC President Prentice stated they were very helpful to businesses during the pandemic as far as keeping them informed of the State mandates. He stated they advocate for the businesses in legislative circles, which the businesses normally would not be involved in.

Legislator Crowley clarified that the PCBC works as a liaison to the State representatives. She questioned how many businesses the PCBC currently represents.

PCBC President Prentice stated they represent all businesses in Putnam County, as they do not distinguish member versus non-member.

Legislator Addonizio questioned what the name of their podcast is.

PCBC President Prentice stated it is called “The Voice of Putnam County Business.”

Legislator Ellner questioned what the fee structure is.

PCBC President Prentice stated they have three (3) levels: \$1,000, \$2,500, and \$5,000. He reiterated that they want to appeal to the larger businesses.

Legislator Ellner questioned if the PCBC has any comment on the recent development with New York State and FUTA (Federal Unemployment Tax Act).

PCBC President Prentice stated Assemblyman Matt Slater was a guest on their podcast last week and spoke about this. He stated the PCBC has put out a statement and will do all they can to support Assemblyman Slater’s efforts.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is happy to see the progress the PCBC has made. She stated she is looking forward to hearing more and better communication from the PCBC. She stated it is important for the small businesses to know that this resource is out there.

PCBC President Prentice stated they can do a better job of making those businesses aware that the PCBC is there to help, without a membership required.

Legislator Nacerino noted the roundtable discussions the PCBC used to have years ago. She stated it all comes back to communication and hearing the voices of the business community.

PCBC President Prentice reiterated that a roundtable discussion is planned for their annual fall event.

PCBC Vice President Bill Nulk stated PCBC President Prentice has done a great job. He stated the PCBC Board is now a younger generation who understands new technologies which are important.

Legislator Montgomery thanked the PCBC for their presentation. She questioned if there are any resources for businesses looking to come to Putnam County.

PCBC President Prentice stated their initiatives have mostly pertained to existing businesses. He stated they leave attracting new businesses to the IDA and EDC.

Legislator Montgomery questioned what data is available separated by towns and villages.

PCBC President Prentice stated his agreement for the need for that type of information.

PCBC Vice President Nulk stated some of that information is available through the towns. He noted they are looking to keep skilled workers who live in Putnam working in Putnam.

Chairman Gouldman requested that the PCBC include Putnam SCORE in its annual event, as it is a very good organization. He thanked the PCBC for their presentation.

Item #5 - FYI/Unemployment Report – Duly Noted

Item #6 - Other Business – None

Item #7 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:15PM Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn;
Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.