

## NOTES FROM CARMEL TOWN HALL MEETING

APRIL 29, 2010

1. Ken Schmitt – introductory remarks. Holding off on some projects due to tough economic times. No layoffs yet, but are holding off on filling vacancies. Partnering, consolidation of services to reduce expenses
2. Dini LoBue – Creative and innovative solutions, Regional plan with County/Town and State. Services are very expensive. We need more good jobs in Putnam County.
3. Anthony Fusco – checks and balances to curtail spending. Not to pass more laws, no more spending projects.
4. Mary McGuigan – 38 year resident. Angry about school budget – 6 school districts with 21 schools for 16,704 students. Gave a handout – shows 1 superintendent in NYC schools at a salary of \$111,000 - \$170,000. No assistant in charge of Bronx. We should have consolidation of schools. She cannot vote as a commercial property owner because she lives in Carmel. She cannot even vote for the Mahopac school budget.
5. Shear Hill Road resident – commercial development plan for water/sewer – streamline the planning to make development appealing, affordable for people to live here. Costly planning department would be an umbrella.
6. Jerry Ravitsky – change is hard to do in government. Residents want excellent services and lower taxes. People want to see \$ reduction in order to change. We don't need box stores. There are many obstacles to change.
7. Carl Albano – County should invite positive growth and attract growth with good planning.
8. Tom Hanahan – schools have not been invited. Services that need to be provided – Town Recycling Center.

9. Steve Parrotta – County Executive should have term limits. Can we consolidate 2 highway departments?
10. Bob Laga – Need term limits – 20 years is enough. Blasting ordinance is needed. Economic Development Plan. What about our existing stores? Town of Carmel needs garbage collection district.
11. Mark Pelowski – Trust is down in Putnam County. Thinks CE is disingenuous.
12. Patricia Perez – Consolidation is needed. Do we need local police depts.? Mandates are to County. What mandates are to the Town? Time to start merging/consolidating. Economy is very bad. We need to reach the school districts.
13. Charles Cole – Carmel resident for 70 years. Merging size of government will increase government. Police/Highway/Schools cannot be merged due to Home Rule. Leave it the way it is. Work a little harder, share services more and think ahead. Stay out of Real Estate.
14. Tol Zimmerman – County should be a resource. Town would be basic government. Mahopac looks like it is falling apart. You get less and less for the hard earned money.
15. Chris Boryk – Patterson Assessor. Assessor's offices were not able to save money.
16. Joyce Piccone – when this information is put on website, would like to see the costs of mergers. Unemployment comparison, what are savings?
17. Ellen Riley – we need to continue these Town Hall meetings. School taxes are primary in her mind. Supports consolidation.
18. Anthony DiCarlo – what can be done short term?
19. Greg Amato – population of 100,000. Should look into consolidation of governments. Fear and concern. Consolidation should be done free of bias. Sales tax could be hurt by government takeover of garbage collection. Auto dealers provide big money to the County.

20. Anne Fanizzi – deep frustration with the way government has been going. We need change and reorganization. Cannot endure present approach to government.
21. Mike Simone – Snow and Ice – shifting money to different spot. Would take time, may not be consolidation.

## NOTES FROM KENT TOWN HALL MEETING

APRIL 27, 2010

1. Kathy Doherty – introductory remarks
2. Sheila Barrett – Lake Carmel Sanitation is great
3. Cliff Nabia - Either people are content or don't care. There has got to be a better way for people to provide input. Has to come from the people. Consolidation is very difficult. Electronic appearance – consultant helps Commission of Fiscal Vision.
4. Carla Borrelli – people of Kent do not know what is going on. Very little Services. Taxes are very high. School taxes are the largest tax burden. Protecting people is most important – fire department, police, road maintenance, education. Don't think we can afford the new Kent Senior Center.
5. Jim Kirk – would like to see a countywide consolidation of school taxes. Privatization may not work out well. Jim cited an example in NJ.
6. Joyce Mitchell – on Charter Review Committee. Would like to see a central County government. Highway tax collection, assessor. People think they have the right to a job in government. Police should be consolidated. They are wonderful! Too many elected officials. Participate by email/internet. People are exhausted by work and commuting. Don't want to go out to meetings at night.
7. James Orso – Town and County should be snow plowing business. Use private contractors. Could save a lot of money and get rid of a lot of employees. Against MTA tax, mobility tax, DMV fees. 8 different police agencies. Pensions are too rich for taxpayers. Officers should stay in physical shape for full 20 year working period.
8. Jean Noel – Western Kent. Sanitation districts not as good. County Recycling Center was closed. Assessment – towns of Carmel/Philipstown not at 100%. Leadership must outline

the plan. Jean likes Town government. County government is not as accessible as Town government.

9. John Tully responded to Jean Noel's comments on Recycling Centers.
10. Ann Fanizzi – consolidation of schools is needed. Taxes are very high. We need centralization of schools.
11. Michael Tierney – county Health Department mandates raised costs of water districts. Stop unfunded mandate to town.
12. Brian Fenney – approval from Town of Kent, but why does Putnam County Health Department restrict home size increases to 50%?
13. Jim Baker – do any counties in NY operate without a Legislature?
14. William Baker - the people need to take responsibility of new buildings; Firehouse, Town Halls. Roads are too small for large fire trucks. \$30 million courthouse for small county. Assessor is excellent with Town of Kent.
15. Pat Madigan – supported sharing of sales tax for many years as a councilman for Town of Kent. Would it be equal for all towns?
16. John Green – Town of Kent – public hearings should be in evening.
17. Kathy Doherty – fees for electricians are too high. Too many mandates by the Health Department.
18. Is a Putnam County Home Improvement Contractor required if it is a Pesticide Applicator by New York State?
19. Karen Mann – closing the Putnam Valley Police dept. did not save the taxpayers any money.
20. William Baker – sales tax – Supervisor should be consulted.
21. Jean Noel – local laws should be in the evening.
22. Ann Fanizzi – many options to distribute sales taxes. Sales taxes should not be tied to

23. Melissa Orga – 4 children in Carmel School districts. Only about 5 people at the School Board meetings. Special education services. Those services can be consolidated. Each district can be a specialist in a certain type of program for special Education. Not to have each district sending out of county.
24. Joyce Mitchell – barriers are great but successes are greater. Charter schools are working in NYC. Getting information to the public is important – consolidation of school districts.
25. Gary Link – Tax Assessor Town of Kent. Loves Carmel schools. Two of his children are getting scholarships.
26. Chris Boryk – Assessor Town of Patterson. Was against consolidation of Assessors.
27. Jim Kirk – consolidation starts at School Board level. Is not going to happen as the Board of Education will not go for it.

## NOTES FROM PATTERSON TOWN HALL MEETING

APRIL 12, 2010

1. Daniel Coombs – 6 school districts are too many! Pensions are up 30%. 3 Superintendents not 6! Teachers work half year or less. Property taxes are not the right source of funds for school. School buses travel too far, need to be replaced. Use biofuel, not diesel. Should have year round school year. China is taking our jobs. Foreclosures.
2. Chris Boryk – Patterson Tax Assessor. Is not for Countywide assessing. Another layer further away from the people.
3. John Boyle – do something with school taxes. Go back to Board of Supervisors. The County government is not working. Go back to Supervisors form of government.
4. Phyllis Hoenig – Tax collection in each town. School taxes should be combined into 1 payment.
5. Randi Tompkins – resident of Kent, Patterson employee. Through attrition we can achieve change, not all at once. Concerned that people might overreact and want to leave Putnam County.
6. Mike Griffin – County should get out of Assessing, let the towns handle it! Opposed to consolidating fire depts. How do we get Albany to pay attention?
7. Ginny Nacerino – many issues raised.
8. Dan Kupta – meeting wasn't published correctly.
9. Phil Capalbo – Town Highway Dept. Consolidation is good, but worried about cutting jobs.

## NOTES FROM PHILIPSTOWN TOWN HALL MEETING

APRIL 14, 2010

1. Dorothy Gilman – CHIPS program was done by her mother. Philipstown is not adequately represented.
2. Nat Prentiss (Moderator) – didn't CT knock out County government?
3. Betty Budney – assessor issue. Land for a Senior Center was looked at many years ago said John Van Tassell.
4. Town Councilman – floating DMV – to go to a different town each day.
5. Andy Merante – Board of Elections problems? Decentralization of County Government.
6. Supervisor Shea – Butterfield Hospital is something the Town board supports.
7. Andy Merante – how about a Garrison/Cold Spring Post Office all in one location at Butterfield?
8. Dorothy Gilman – sales tax sharing. Philipstown doesn't fare well.
9. Richard Shea – stormwater management - single stormwater coordinator for all of Putnam County.
10. Sandy Galef – is there a way to pull together all the courts into one location? Courthouses are not used 24 hours a day.
11. Mayor Cleary – bring more services to Philipstown at Butterfield. Satellite DSS and DMV offices.
12. Glenn Blackman, union leader stated that buildings are overcrowded.
13. Nancy Montgomery – partner with County. How do we do it? Put yourself in our shoes, vice versa to County - offered to sit down and work with us in the future.

## NOTES FROM PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN HALL MEETING

APRIL 26, 2010

1. Legislator Sam Oliverio – “Southern” model – County superintendent. Lower taxes than Putnam County. Must start with school districts. Consolidated services – central office consolidation.
2. Supervisor Bob Tendy – 7-10% savings if schools districts were consolidated. Legal impediment can be overcome. Also, funding of schools should be changed. Should not be on baby boomer retirees.
3. Patty Villanova – government is broken from the top down. Consolidate and get rid of Town Government. Just have County Government. Set term limits. George’s Super Station at Oregon Corners owes \$600,000 in back taxes. Police consolidation did save money.
4. Onno Leyds- Westchester County Superintendents of Schools make large sums of money. Favors centralization, not decentralization.
5. Bob Tendy – Center of town needs revitalization. Peekskill Hollow Road at Oregon Corners. The County Executive spoke about delays. John Tully discussed a lot of line adjustments were needed and are being changed. Bob Tendy stated we should look into one law enforcement agency in the future.
6. Ann Spoonauer – some consolidation may not be wanted. Fire and ambulance districts consolidation. Ann was wary of any success and felt this would be almost impossible to achieve.
7. Patty Villanova – public sector salaries are not sacred.
8. Bob Cinque – government must be local so that people can have a stake in Government.

## NOTES FROM SOUTHEAST TOWN HALL MEETING

APRIL 28, 2010

1. Lynn Eckart – shared sales tax – need to be more competitive. Lower sales tax rate, consolidation is supported. Roads/School districts too. Signs at Little League field to raise money. Do residents want more money in their pockets?
2. Michael Rights – sharing sales tax revenues
3. Nancy Calfal – school districts are huge. Consolidate school districts to countywide district. We could spend less by consolidating. The silent majority is at home. Don't assume residents don't care, they are just tired after a day's work.
4. Jerry Gregory – one county scope of schools. Principal should be in charge. Increase size of classes. 40 used to be the total number of students, today it is half that size. County Highway Department. NYC has one superintendent of schools. OT should be excluded from pensions and have pensions based on regular salaries only. 8<sup>th</sup> grade was as far as most children went years ago. Superintendent makes \$250K. Para professional teachers?! Why not use them in the classroom? They are used in law offices, medical facilities.
5. Ann Fanizzi – Consolidation of schools – “CURE” – Citizens United to Reform Education. 5 citizens are meeting to discuss this issue. Salaries and class sizes are out of whack compared to NYC. We should have one County Superintendent – the way it once was. Sharing of sales tax. Should be equitable – look into different formulas for appointing sales taxes.
6. Joyce Edis – we are taxed into poverty. Limited income for retired people. Federal government just wants to tax us into poverty. Fair tax on income, not a tax on homes. Water problems - Brewster Heights Water District - \$2,000 a year! Lottery funds were

supposed to be for schools. Today why are they not using that money for schools? Why are school taxes so high? Teachers' salaries are too high!

7. Jay Ryan – 120 taxing districts for \$100,000 people. Does not make sense. We need to consolidate. County Board of Education, County Highway Department, County Taxing Authority. Need a County Emergency Services district not a local Fire Department. Town Government is responsive, but Putnam County Government can be just as responsible. Doubt we will lose our sense of attachment and local government if we consolidate at County level.
8. Renee Diaz – residential area, Meadow Lane. Would County compensate homeowners for commercial development? Depreciates value of homes (Brewster Honda)
9. Mildred Nugent – question about Humane Society land. Tony Hay answered – yes, the money from Humane Society will be replaced in the Bond Fund for acquisition.
10. Evaluation \$ amount of proposed changes – put on the ballot.
11. Alex Mazzotta – Purchasing decisions are now being made with a consolidated approval.

## NOTES FROM VILLAGE OF BREWSTER MEETING

APRIL 13, 2010

1. Mark Anderson – Zoning and Planning – Local vs. Regional Board. 6 school districts – can consolidate
2. Richard Ruchala – sales tax is higher here. Rate could rise if we share, lower the tax rate. Empire Zone and IDA - where he is a member.
3. Rich Stockberger – In these economic times, desperately need an emergency shelter. Save money in the long run. Thanks County for combined purchasing.
4. Michael Rights – how much will consolidation cost/save?
5. Mike Santos – supports CT model of government. People are happy in Brewster/Town with service at local level. Perhaps we could dedicate County roads to Town to do away with Highway Dept.
6. KC Anderson – speak to F.D. - Ambulance calls are often to get a ride to hospital. Bus is better. Favors funding for outside agencies. Lighting distance. Public transportation needs improvement. Route 9/6/301 – too desolate – paratransit. Can we ask this law to be amended?
7. Mark Anderson – taxation – can't get restriction to not expand more. Automatic cutback with economic activity fluctuations – as economy grows, spending increases. Schools have a restriction on school taxes. Outside political forces. Piggy back off of other services.
8. John Degnan – pointed out that large % of attendees to the meeting tonight were management employees. Why didn't we advertise more to get citizens who are not connected to the government?
9. Dan Birmingham – some budgets are locked in – can we do that in government?

10. Jane Meunier – forming “We the People of Putnam” Committee

11. Bill Carlin – promoting website – best way to communicate.

## NOTES FROM VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING MEETING

APRIL 21, 2010

1. County Executive and Legislative Chairman gave introductory remarks.
2. Seth Gallagher, Mayor of Cold Spring – recycling with rest of county – in unity we could get best price available. Sales tax sharing.
3. Mike Armstrong – what are the costs or savings if we consolidate courts? It makes sense, but no hard data is available. ¼ of Valley's budget is Police. County should pick this up. Do we need local control of Police? Local control with County paying the Bill!
4. Catherine Fabio – Catherine's Restaurant on 301 in Cold Spring. How do you provide that consolidation can save money? Would love to see one school district, consolidate 2 into 1.
5. Ming Wong – had question on Septic System for Rob Morris from Health Dept. – NYS Section 75A Code.
6. Mike Gibbons from Garrison, on Philipstown Planning Board. Orange County has alternative septic fields. Why not allow alternative systems from the outset? We allow them for replacement at present. Putnam is way behind the curve.
7. Peter Henderson – We should not have our present government. Too much taxes, too much duplication, difficulty is what steps to take to get to pooling of resources.
8. J. Ralph Falloon – Village Trustee. Who is going to make hard decisions? Who is going to give up control? When will revolt occur?
9. Sandy Galef – gave a regional perspective on consolidation with review of State laws which allow for Referendums. Local Consolidation legislation. Public can start this!
10. Orenus Serradas – Village Trustee, Chair of Haldane Audit Committee. 80-85% is school taxes! Revenue sharing by County Meeting – was it the Sales Tax meeting of Legislation? Consolidation is something he supports. Post Office – Butterfield Property. Collect rents, have Senior Center, Fire Dept. consolidation, Police would be at Butterfield. Nelsonville,

Cold Spring/Philipstown can all be set up in one location. Trustee of Cold Spring – local bids on vehicles.

11. Mr. Robertson – what is going on in the East side of Putnam? What are the issues?!!
12. Mike Armstrong – electrical license to allow Westchester County electricians to practice in Putnam County. In Westchester County, they license at Town level so it is very difficult to consolidate with each town government. Should there be an economic hurdle to practice in Putnam County?
13. Seth Gallagher – re-assessment issues discussed in Garrison. Large estates are assessed at very low amounts.
14. Catherine Fabio – would like to have two assessors with back-up capability.
15. Peter Henderson – goal: reduce taxes. We should not just do small consolidation, we need professional consolidation. ID the big ticket item. Not just identifying the small issues, ie. police is a big issue. Likes the local touch, serve at local level.
16. Ming Wong – other states are looking at other ways to raise money. Not just property taxes, young people can't afford to come into Putnam County to live. Income Tax! User Tax!
17. Mike Gibbons – oil consumption prices, can they be lowered, by cooperative purchasing. Yes, per John Tully.
18. Mike Armstrong – income taxes for School System.
19. Sylvia Wallen – studies are a waste of money by schools. County should do the outside funding of consolidation.
20. Judith Edelson - Supports studies. Suggests we don't start with schools, but maybe courts.
21. Catherine Fabio – start with large items!

## CONCLUSIONS FROM TOWN HALL TOUR

1. Putnam County can be the pilot county for consolidation. Governor's office is very receptive. Governor is not in favor of status quo.
2. NYS – can they change laws for Putnam County?
3. County vs. Town government – field trips to Connecticut/deep South
4. Schools have not been represented but they should be invited! No elected Superintendents.
5. Office of Emergency Management
6. Assessors consolidation – why are we considering it today
7. Need information on cost savings.
8. Communication to residents to get the best for Putnam County
9. Put all of these meeting videos on the Internet, in addition to all comments, positive and negative.
10. Complete survey which targets many who were not able to attend the meetings.
11. Field trips to Albany and other states for models.