

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

Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Gouldman, Sullivan

Thursday

5:30PM

June 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:30p.m. by Chairman Jonke who requested that Legislator Sayegh lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Sullivan and Gouldman were absent. Chairman Jonke was present. Chairman Jonke stated Legislator Sayegh would sit on the committee in their absence.

Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Meeting Minutes: May 14, 2018

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (18T109)/ Personnel Line out on Leave – Move to Overtime Line to Cover 207C/ Sheriff Dept.- Corrections Division *(also to be reviewed by Personnel Committee)*

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve and move to the Audit & Administration Meeting Fund Transfer 18T109/Personnel Line out on Leave – Move to Overtime Line to Cover 207C; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (18T125)/Bureau of Emergency Services/ Purchase Generator /Knights of Columbus/ Comfort Station

Chairman Jonke stated the funds are coming from a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grant.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the Knights of Columbus already had a generator.

Chairman Jonke stated they did not.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve and move to the Audit & Administration Meeting Fund Transfer 18T125/Purchase Generator/Knights of Columbus Comfort Station; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #6 - Update/ Radios / Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon

Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated the Federal Communications Commission has begun taking away frequencies that the County uses due to there being a lot of interference in the area. He stated the proximity to New York City and Westchester County creates a lot of interference. He stated the County will be starting to use trunking. He stated it will be used all over the County including the schools, police departments and highway departments. He stated trunking will only broadcast on open frequencies. He stated more radio towers were necessary to switch

over to the trunking system. He stated at the County has addressed that. He stated the microwave equipment has already been ordered with grant funding of \$2.4 million. He stated the local radio vendor, NYCOMCO (New York Communications Co. Inc.), is being trained to fix the equipment after it is put in place and this will save the County money. He stated currently the County pays well over \$100,000 a year for the microwave equipment that is about 12 years old. He stated there is no equipment to replace the aging equipment. He stated to make this all work there will need to be new radios used. He stated besides the County agencies an offer has been made to the municipalities. He stated for clarification, if the Towns decide to join, they will have complete privacy in their communications. He explained the County would not be able to listen on their trunking frequency. He stated an option that will be available is if a Town is on the Tower and wants communication with the Sheriff's Department, 911 directly. He stated there would also be the option to set up a trunk that all users could sign onto and there could be a group communication, which would be very helpful when dealing with storms, as an example. He stated an invitation to participate has been given to the School Districts. He stated that they have communicated an interest. He stated that he and Sheriff's Captain James Babcock have future meetings scheduled with the representatives from the School to provide more information and answer an questions they may have. He stated currently the SROs in the Schools carry multiple radios, one to communicate to the Sheriff's Department and one (1) for communication to the school they are assigned. He stated with the new system there would be a need for one (1) radio only. He stated a radio could be given to each teacher in the school so they could ask for assistance, if needed, immediately. He stated he has recommended that the school bus drivers have a radio as well.

Chairman Jonke requested confirmation that the schools, if they join, would need all new equipment to do so.

Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated that is correct. He stated the reason that this committee has requested this update is to hear what the status of the new radios is in terms of the County's Fire Departments. He stated there are two (2) different groups, the Fire Departments and everyone else. He stated the schools and Police Departments pay a monthly leasing fee currently. He stated the Fire Departments radios were leased and the County paid the fee. He stated the radios were bought out. He stated currently the County does not pay anything for the Fire Department's Radios and neither do the Fire Departments. He stated the Fire Departments were all informed this change over was going to happen and in order to communicate on the new Towers they would need to purchase new radios.

Legislator Nacerino stated she does not understand how the Fire Departments would think the County could subsidize them for this purchase. She stated that there have been many conversations regarding this matter. She stated this is not a new revelation. She stated that it has been reported to the Legislature that there has been communication with the Fire Departments recommending that they budget for this project.

Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated that is correct. He provided background of such communications.

Chairman Jonke questioned if there is a timeline when this new communication system will be fully operational.

Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated the hope is 18 – 24 months. He explained there are a lot of moving parts to this project, so that is an estimate.

Chairman Jonke stated that it was requested to Acting Commissioner Clair to set a deadline with his communications with the Fire Departments in terms of receiving requested information back from them.

Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated he and Acting Commissioner Clair are working together to collect all of the necessary information. He stated that he agrees at some point the Fire Departments need to become active participants in what is going on.

Chairman Jonke stated if there is an application to a company to purchase the new radios in bulk, he would think the price would be a discounted rate, due to the volume being purchased. He stated if a Fire Department does not provide the necessary information they will then be looking to purchase their new radios independently and very likely paying a higher amount.

Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated that is correct.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell stated there is a new twist to this conversation that involves “Shared Services” component. She stated during a Board of Directors NYSAC meeting in May 2018 there was discussion regarding what we were putting together individually. She stated that she requested that Legislator Sullivan, Co-Chair of Fiscal Vision, and Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon contact the Laberge Group, who has been hired to facilitate the Putnam County’s Shared Services Panel, with drafting a County-Wide Shared Services Plan. She explained that she wanted the question be asked if the County did purchase the new equipment, if that would make Putnam County eligible for the Shared Services Credit. She stated Nassau County submitted a consolidation of wastewater treatment plant. She stated they are to receive \$128 million matching reimbursement. She stated she believes if the County relieves the financial burden of the new radios from the Fire Departments and the Towns and assume the total cost it would result in the County receiving the discount based on the volume purchased and the County could be eligible for the one-time Shared Services reimbursement. She stated she is waiting to hear the response from Laberge Group.

Chairman Jonke questioned when the County Executive expects to receive an answer.

County Executive Odell stated there has been a lot of discussion back and forth with the representative from Laberge and Legislator Sullivan. She stated that she is hoping for a response soon. She stated she believes this runs in line with the consolidation that was done with the wastewater treatment plant in Nassau.

Captain Babcock stated that there would also be the added benefit of the interoperability component. He stated if the County can consolidate and share services with one (1) radio

system, public safety would be increased. It would be beneficial to have all of the municipalities, police departments, fire departments, highway departments and schools.

Chairperson Jonke stated it all makes sense. He stated there has absolutely been a level of frustration sensed from the updates from Acting Commissioner Clair in regards to the different Fire Departments providing necessary information.

County Executive Odell stated that Acting Commissioner Clair has been doing a great job. She stated that he continues to keep this moving forward.

Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated that he has a meeting next week to meet with the School Superintendents to give them an overview of the system.

Legislator Nacerino stated it would be beneficial if this could all be consolidated under one umbrella. She stated however if it is not, then each municipality and fire district will need to find the money in their budgets to cover their costs.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if this could be discussed at the School Board Meetings.

Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated eventually, yes. He stated initially it is the mindset of all involved that the Superintendents be provided the information first.

Chairman Jonke stated on behalf of his committee members and fellow Legislators he appreciates being provided this update to this important matter. He stated that as the updates continue, he looks forward to hearing them.

County Executive Odell stated the topic of Interoperability has been a topic on the table for years. She stated it was discussed when she served as a Legislator in 2005 and continues to be a critical topic. She stated the funding is becoming more available because of the active shooter incidents and the efforts to increase school safety. She stated she believes it is in the best interest of the County to not push this. She stated that the State Legislative Session is closing very soon. She stated she believes there will be legislation and funding coming from the Session that will be specific to school safety. She stated it may take a couple of months to see what funding is available to help with this project specific to the schools' involvement. She stated the current fragmentation of equipment and incompatibility is an obstacle. She stated the goal of this is to get all of those who are in the decision making positions to recognize the real need to have a communication systems that allows all municipalities, police departments, fire districts and our schools to interact with each other.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she would be in favor of the County taking this project on under the right conditions and through a fair and equitable process.

County Executive Odell stated she looks forward to seeing the results of the NYS Legislative Session.

Item #7 - Update/ 2018-19 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Operations Grant Application

Chairman Jonke questioned if Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon had any information the PSAP Operations Grant.

Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated he was not involved with this particular grant. He explained that he has been in the past. He stated it is a standard grant issued by New York State and it is made available on a regular basis.

Item #8 - Update/ 2018 July 1st (rain date July 7th) Town of Southeast Fireworks Event

Chairman Jonke stated that all is in place for the July 1st event. He stated the rain date has been confirmed as Saturday, July 7th.

Captain Babcock stated from the Sheriff's Department and the security side of the Fireworks Event, meetings have been had with the MTA, State Police and have addressed the plan to manage the traffic. He stated they are prepared for the event.

Item #9 - FYI/ Budgetary Amendment (18A038)/Putnam County Sheriff's Department Awarded \$5,000 Grant – Alzheimer's Foundation of America – Duly Noted

Chairman Jonke made a motion to waive the rules and approve the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #10 - Other Business

- a. Approval/2018-19 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Application/ Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Lipton**

Chairman Jonke stated that it was reported to the Legislature that this grant opportunity was received by the Bureau of Emergency Services on June 13, 2018 and had a due date of June 20, 2018. He stated that is why the application was made before coming in front of the Legislature.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the application of the 2018-19 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Application; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #11 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:10p.m., Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of The Legislature Diane Trabulsky.