



Legislator Gross questioned if the bid list was from Putnam or from the State.

President Taylor stated it was a region bid list.

Legislator Gross stated with the State bid list, Brewster Schools were able to save money on vehicles and he questioned if this was the same situation.

President Taylor stated she was unsure; however Director Mazzotta will give a presentation at the next meeting with more information.

President Nulk stated the website allows one to search bids as well as sign up to receive emails of bids that pertain to their business.

President Taylor stated the fee for the email service is \$90 per year. She stated the website makes it very easy to find bids that interest the user.

Legislator LoBue stated this is excellent because it brings in everyone in the Hudson Valley.

Legislator Nacerino stated this is cost effective as well as a necessary compliance issue.

Legislator LoBue questioned if President Taylor would give an update on the Village of Brewster since being chosen as an opportunity area.

President Taylor stated in terms of applications being submitted, the third round of CFA funding is closed. She stated the Council is interviewing and scoring 81 priority projects that were submitted; priority projects being those that avail themselves to additional funding through the ESD Capital Grant Fund and Excelsior Jobs Credit. She stated being deemed a priority project is important because we sit within the Mid-Hudson Region, which means as a region we are competing with the other nine councils throughout the State. She stated of the ten councils, the top five are awarded \$25 million to distribute throughout their region. President Taylor further stated if we were to lose the competition for this round of funding, the remaining five councils are awarded \$25 million total, giving each council \$5 million to distribute. She stated it is important to have a large number of priority projects because if we were to lose, we would be higher on the list. She also stated on September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Council must present their plan to the State, which is what gets scored against the other councils. She stated the Village of Brewster partnered with the City of Peekskill, which is also an opportunity area, and together they partnered with Westchester Community College to devise a training program geared toward residents of the Village of Brewster and the City of Peekskill, which will be offered free of charge.

Legislator LoBue stated that she heard a particular developer was given exclusive developing rights in the Village of Brewster and questioned if that ties into this.

President Taylor stated the Master Developer agreement was signed, but it was done through the Village Board, which is separate from the projects being discussed. She also stated Putnam County has an opportunity to be included in Orange County's Foreign Trade Zone. She stated this will do nothing but benefit Putnam County and its businesses. She defined a Foreign Trade Zone as an area designated where the goods coming in are not taxed until they are leaving. She provided an example of a vacuum being imported in many parts; the separate parts are not taxed until they are put together and leaving the trade zone as a full vacuum. She further stated County Executive Odell must formally request for Putnam County to be a Foreign Trade Zone.

Legislator LoBue questioned if President Taylor could send some more information regarding the Foreign Trade Zone.

President Taylor stated she would send the information.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated this is worth pursuing.

President Taylor stated it is a good tool that the EDC can use to attract manufacturers. She also stated the EDC is holding a Gala River Cruise on October 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 9:30 which will leave from the Cold Spring dock; tickets are \$175.00.

#### **Item # 5 - Correspondence/Putnam County Chambers of Commerce/Cable Service Providers/Discussion**

President Nulk stated there is an issue with getting a message out through the cable system. He stated it is difficult because there are different cable providers throughout the County that cover only certain areas. He stated those companies are Comcast, Verizon, and Cablevision. He stated the County is trying to obtain better cable packages and access as it is hard to bring people into the area when high speed internet is not available. He stated on the other side, the cable companies are not willing to bring high speed internet to the area until there are more people there to utilize it.

Legislator LoBue stated there is a problem with the broadcasting of the Full Legislature Meetings on cable as they are shown on Comcast channel 8, however not all of Putnam County has Comcast available so in the Town of Kent they are shown on Verizon. She stated the towns hold the franchise agreement with the companies.

President Nulk questioned if there is a way to coordinate the cable at the County level rather than Town.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that Philipstown has two years left on their cable contract.

Legislator Oliverio stated perhaps a letter should be sent to all Town Supervisors to coordinate cable throughout the County.

President Nulk stated the Comcast building has left the County and is now in Danbury, and is very difficult to locate.

Legislator LoBue stated it is vital to have the numbers of subscribers to each cable company.

Legislator Nacerino stated in Patterson the only option is Comcast; therefore there is a monopoly in that area. She stated the residents would prefer FIOS, however FIOS is not interested in coming to the area. She questioned how the County would come to a coordinated effort.

Legislator Oliverio stated if the whole County stated they would like FIOS, the company may then come.

Legislator Nacerino stated a monopoly would still exist.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated in the two years until the current contracts are up, a lot could change. He questioned if anyone knew the impact of Dish.

Legislator LoBue stated the digital phone system has many kinks to be worked out.

President Nulk stated this involves more than just cable access.

Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated his department meets with the different companies and Comcast is limiting channel 8 as they do not want government to be shown. He stated Comcast is the hardest company to work with. He also stated FIOS came into Southeast and ended up pulling out because they were not getting the customers they expected. He stated the County has no authority over the company. He also stated cell phones are taking over the home phone.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated he was able to pick up a wireless home phone system from Verizon which he can take with him and his home phone will ring where ever he is.

Director Lannon stated there is a 911 concern with this. He stated if a person is in another state and they dial 911 from their home phone number, the call will be directed to the dispatcher in their home area.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated this is becoming more popular and your phone bill is reduced.

Legislator Nacerino stated technology is constantly changing so it is hard to make a decision now that will stand in the future.

**Item # 6 - Unemployment Report/FYI**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the unemployment rate is down to 5.7%.

Legislator Gross stated in January the unemployment rate was 7.3% so it has dropped quite a bit.

**Item # 7 - Other Business - None**

**Item # 8 – Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:00 p.m. Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Green, Administrative Assistant.