

Physical Services Committee Meeting
Held in Room #318
Putnam County Office Building
Members: Chairman Albano & Legislators Othmer and Scuccimarra

Monday

6:30p.m

July 22, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Albano who requested Legislator Othmer lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Chairman Albano and Legislators Othmer and Scuccimarra were present.

Item #3) Discussions/Bike Path Signage Program

Legislator Othmer made a motion to accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item #3a) Tabled- Amended Proposed Resolution From July Full Mtg. Proposed Agreement with Bikepath County, Inc. was duly noted.

Item #3b) Correspondence: From: Commissioner Pena Dated: June 27, 2013 Responding to Legislator Oliverio's Memo of June 14, 2013 Re: Financial Breakdown /Maintenance Work that has been done on the Putnam County Bike Path

Chairman Albano stated that in 2012 there were over \$100,000 in expenses for the bike path. He stated that on an average, this is the anticipated amount.

Legislator Oliverio questioned when benefits started being included with contractual workers. He stated that these are included in their yearly package. He stated that without the benefits, the cost is cut in half.

Chairman Albano stated that any way you slice it, it is a high amount.

Legislator LoBue stated that she had asked numerous times for the breakdown of cost of construction and the benefits were never included in the statements. She stated that she feels the numbers are on the low end of what they truly are. She mentioned a letter that came in and questioned whether she should read it to the public.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he felt it was relevant and should be read.

Legislator Othmer read the letter from the President of BikePath Country to County Executive Odell. It said that they are interested in this kind of opportunity as it allows small businesses such as themselves to grow and that they are interested in Putnam County because they are from the County.

Chairman Albano stated that the company has now backed out and the bikepath is still a great expense and would like to somehow offset some of the costs.

- Item #3c) Correspondence: From: Legislator Oliverio Dated: July 9, 2013 Re: Mile Markers- Putnam County Bike Path** was duly noted.
- Item #3d) Correspondence: From: Deputy County Attorney Engel Dated: July 17, 2013 Responding to Chairman of the Legislature Othmer's Memo of July 10, 2013 Re: Federal and State Grant Restrictions- Bikeway** was duly noted.
- Item #3e) Correspondence: From: Physical Services Chairman Albano Dated: July 17, 2013 To: Mr. Bellotto & Mr. O'Keefe of Bikepath Country, Inc. Re: Attendance at July 22 meeting if their schedules allow**

Legislator Oliverio stated that mile markers are needed. He asked that this is moved forward immediately. He mentioned an idea that came from a constituent at the last Full Meeting to put pavers down as mile markers. He stated that these pavers pose no issue for mowing or running into as they are in the ground.

Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Adam Stiebeling presented three possible options for mile markers. He stated that the request for these markers came from the Emergency Services community, the 911 center, and the residents of Putnam County. He stated that the proposal is to have the mile markers GPS located. He stated that along with Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton, he recommended that the markers be placed every quarter mile. He stated that the first suggestion for markers was to continue the numbering on the markers existent in Westchester through the 11 miles of the bikepath, at every quarter mile. He stated that the next suggestion was to have either bronze or aluminum markers mounted in concrete as they are strong against vandalism. He suggested green materials to make the signs as well. He stated that the idea of having historical information on the markers was also suggested. He stated that for Director of Emergency Management/Information Technology Tom Lannon's IT staff to get the GPS on the mile markers and input that information in the County's system would cost about \$910. He stated that the first option, the continuation of the markers on Westchester's bikepath is inexpensive and recognizable; however there is a problem of vandalism and theft; these signs would cost \$1,904. He stated that adding concrete bases to each sign would bring the cost up to \$3,876. He stated that the next option, the bronze or aluminum in a concrete base would cost \$9,728. He stated that the estimate for double sided sign markers commercially produced is \$3,600 and would also be in a concrete base but that these markers were not recommended. He stated estimates for road crossing signs which would be \$1,000 for 25 signs and using green materials, the signs would be \$5,800.

County Historian Denis Castelli stated that he was not involved in this project and that he read about it in the paper. He stated that he would like to understand concerns about visual pollution as he would like to have markers that promote the history of the County and bikepath. He stated that he does not however promote the advertising. He stated that in his opinion, the way to absorb the cost is to include pieces into department budgets.

Legislator LoBue stated that as of that afternoon, the bikepath company had pulled out and she wished he had spoken sooner as the mile markers are a priority.

Legislator Othmer stated that as the Chairman of the Legislature he is taking responsibility. He stated that with the budget coming up, he saw the advertising as a way to get funding. He admitted that he failed to research and should not have accepted it into the Full Legislative Meeting last month.

Legislator Oliverio stated that with a budget of \$136 million and a surplus of \$1.5 million safety signs can be covered. He believed that the historic signs and possible advertising can come later. He stated that he would like to have this in August.

Ms. Ann Fanizzi, resident of Putnam County, asked if the markers were going to be consistent with Westchester County.

Commissioner Stiebeling stated that the design would not be consistent, but the numbers would pick up where Westchester's leave off.

Ms. Fanizzi asked if the distance could be switched from a quarter mile to a half mile, cutting the number of signs needed in half. She stated how the Cycling Race was funded by donors and this is something to keep in mind.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell thanked the Commissioner and the Historian and stated her appreciation toward the Emergency Response Team and Emergency First Responders in their ability to problem solve. She mentioned how this issue is a high level issue and she was impressed by how feedback was turned positive and the input that came from the residents as well as the first responders. She also mentioned having Fire Department cross areas, which would make it easier for 911 to know who to dispatch in the case of an emergency.

Mr. Victor Tiship, resident of Putnam County, asked if there was any additional costs of mowing due to the raised signs or if a painted marker on the pavement was considered.

Chairman Albano stated that there are no additional costs.

Ms. O'Connor questioned if any consideration was taken for skiers.

Mr. John Teagle questioned if the markers need to be uniform.

Commissioner Stiebeling stated his recommendation is that the signs be consistent throughout the 11 mile trail.

Chairman Albano stated that action is certainly required and it will be difficult to make everyone happy.

Item #3f) Emails – From Residents Re: Bike Path Signage Program

Chairman Albano stated that he felt the emails that came in from residents were offensive. He stated that they want to do the best for the County in the most cost effective manner. He stated that they are working hard and appreciate the feedback from the public, but it does not need to be insulting.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he agreed with Chairman Albano. He stated that he found that the main problem that people were having was the process. He stated he is happy that the issue seemed to have resolved itself. He stated that he would like to move on from here and at the next meeting possibly get information on pavers.

Ms. Barbara Bamon stated her concern about having signs on the side of the pathway due to the fact cyclists sometimes need to swerve to avoid obstacles on the path.

Mr. Bernie Cosberg stated his agreement with Chairman Albano's earlier comments. He stated he would like to see the County starting with a better way rather than finishing with a better way.

Chairman Albano stated that he would like to have something in place, and nothing written in stone.

Mr. Charlie Antanopolis stated that current green signs are every tenth of a mile.

Chairman Albano stated that the County would need to maintain and police the signs if they did not have an outside company do the job.

Ms. Karen Fernandez stated that Dutchess County has mile markers and she would like to see the trails linked.

Chairman Albano stated that this had been considered and that the counties should be slightly different as it would make it easier to know where you are.

Commissioner Stiebelling stated that they had discussed the consistent mile markers from Westchester to Dutchess that morning.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that when the bikepath discussion was first started, no one thought of these expenses. She stated that in future projects, maintenance and upkeep should be taken into consideration.

Chairman Albano stated that there will probably be more expenses in the future and this is an expense that Putnam County residents will have forever.

Item #4) Approval/ Local Law/Amend Chapter 25 Code of Putnam County Entitled "Councils and Commissions"

Item #4a) Verbal Update/Transportation Task Force

Item #4b) Verbal Update/Proposed Trolley Schedule Change

Planning Department Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna stated that with this resolution, seven of the twenty-six resolutions regarding improvements to transportation

are being addressed. He stated that this establishes the official Transportation Advisory Council. He stated that the seven resolutions are for the consultant (11), modifying the trolley schedule (12), transportation of veterans and dispatching for veteran's affairs (17), renegotiation with the contract through state for Medicaid transports (18 & 19), and improving operations (26). He stated that the trolley schedule should be done by the middle of August.

Chairman Albano asked if the same people on the Transportation Task Force will be moved to Transportation Advisory Council.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated that a handicapped representative and a member with a mental disability will be added as well as two legislators.

Legislator Oliverio stated that this issue needs to go to the Rules Committee in August because it is a Charter change. He stated it should not be coming out of the Physical Services Committee.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated that a delay on the approval will have a negative impact on the proposal.

Legislator Nacerino, as the Chairwoman of the Rules Committee, stated that she will have Special Rules meeting, however she wants to keep it open and transparent.

Chairman Albano stated that this item would be moved to a Special Rules meeting on July 30, 2013.

Item #9) Discussion/Little Stony Point Route 9D-Cold Spring/Speed Limit & Pedestrian Traffic

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated his concern with safety with some stops. He then showed a video of Route 9D time-lapsed over four hours, which showed a lot of traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian. He stated he would like to come back with a resolution to make this area safer.

Commissioner Pena stated that this matter was brought to his attention by Legislator Scuccimarra. He mentioned that this is a popular spot for weekenders and locals to travel and visit. He stated that one issue is that the speed limit is 55 MPH. He stated that a reduction of the speed limit could be proposed, which will be brought to the Traffic Safety Board meeting. He also brought up a crosswalk or signage however; the board said that before any signage is put up, the parking lots must be more defined with official entrances.

Mr. Paul Elconon stated that he is a former County resident and worked for the Open State Institute. He stated that he is also Vice President of Friends of Fahnestock. He stated that he would like to expand the trolley stops to go up and down Route 9D. He mentioned that the area of 9D by Breakneck is an accident waiting to happen as people park alongside the road, while people are walking on the road, some with children and

pets. He stated that the trolley service could help reduce both foot and vehicle traffic. He stated that another initiative is to reduce the speed limits.

Chairman Albano questioned if there is an approach for keeping the trollies on the west side of the County.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated that he is working with the Village of Cold Spring and this is being looked.

Mr. Teagle stated that Little Stony Point has been trying to reduce the speed limit there for years. He stated he would like to have support from all counties as this road leads from the Bear Mountain Bridge up to Wappingers Falls. He stated that he is hoping that the Counties support a resolution to lower the speed limit. He stated he felt the video did not show the true danger and would like to have Breakneck and Little Stony Point looked at on a sunny summer day to see cars parked on both sides of the street.

Mr. Cosberg stated that there is an opportunity for tourism and it would help to look into the future.

Mr. Elconon stated that a request for a proposal just went out for a trail that will look at this. He stated that this is hoped to be finished within a year. He mentioned having parking fees to have more revenue.

David Bowman stated that there should not be parking fees.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated that he has been working regionally with Westchester and Dutchess County. He stated that he and the supervisors of East Fishkill and Philipstown are going to go on a trolley ride and figure out how they can all work together to figure out where the trolley should be and where parking should be and how they can make it the safest it can be.

Item #5) Approval/Grant of Easement from NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation Snake Hill Road Culvert Project

Legislator Scuccimarra made a motion to approve the grant of easement from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Snake Hill Road Culvert Project; Seconded by Legislator Othmer. All in favor.

Item #6) Approval/Use of WQIP Funds for Kent Sewer District Project
Item #6a) Correspondence: From: County Executive Odell Dated June 20, 2013
Re: WQIP Funds/Sewer District Project in Town of Kent

Legislator Othmer made a motion to approve the use of WQIP funds for the Kent Sewer District Project; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Town of Kent Supervisor Kathy Doherty thanked the County Executive and the Legislature and stated the project will begin in September.

Item #7) Discussion/Peekskill Hollow Road – Weight Restriction

Legislator Oliverio stated this discussion began two and a half years ago and residents of Peekskill Hollow Road presented them with petitions for the weight restrictions. He stated that the proposed restriction is 20,000 pounds, exceptions being school buses and local deliveries or services. He stated that the seated Legislature under Article 9 has the ability to regulate its roads. He strongly suggested that the weight restriction is in place for September.

Chairman Albano stated that Commissioner Pena would not have control over this and it is up to First Deputy County Attorney Negro.

First Deputy County Attorney Negro stated that he would rather have this done through a Legislative Enactment rather than Commissioner's order.

Legislator Oliverio stated that the conversation about lowering the speed limit on Route 9D would be for safety reasons, as is the proposed weight restriction on Peekskill Hollow Road.

Town of Putnam Valley Supervisor Bob Tandy stated that there are a lot of blind curves on the road and limited sight; it is a tough road to navigate. He stated he was on the road and he was coming around a curve and a garbage truck was stopped in his lane, since it is easier for them to pick up the garbage. He stated that this resulted in him almost hitting into the truck, and this has happened more than one time, however, the garbage trucks do need to be there. He stated that the issue is the large trucks that use the road as a shortcut.

Supervisor Doherty stated complaints she had gotten about Walmart trucks coming through.

Legislator Oliverio stated that can be looked into.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that as with Little Stony Point, the safety of the citizens must be considered.

Mr. Henry Boyd questioned what other road trucks could take to get to Putnam Valley.

Legislator Oliverio stated that as long as work is being done in Putnam Valley, then it is okay to use the road. He stated however, if the truck is going to Peekskill, the driver must find another way.

Mr. David Amran, a thirty year resident, stated that the trucks are speeding and called it vehicular suicide.

Ms. Barbara Bamon stated that she lives on a straightaway on Peekskill Hollow Road and her home and many other homes by her have garages that are close to the road, which requires the residents to walk by the road to get to their cars and garages. She stated that these trucks going by are speeding and she feels unsafe.

Ms. Alba Bolduc stated her thankfulness toward everybody. She stated that she hears car horns every day because the trucks are taking up more than just their lane. She mentioned how over the past 20 years the amount of trucks has increased and they are abusing local roads.

Mr. Tiship stated that he hopes the Legislature will make this happen as the trucks are deteriorating the infrastructure. He stated that he believes something should be done before there is a tragedy. He stated that Peekskill Hollow Road is not a designed truck route.

Ms. Megan Wisowski asked why the legal question is coming up now if this has been ongoing for almost three years.

Legislator Oliverio stated that it has been investigated at various levels. He stated that he is handling it with County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner directly with a creation of a resolution as of July 23, 2013.

Item #8) Discussion/Draft Correspondence To: Dean Boor, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at Cornell

Legislator Othmer stated that this program at Cornell may be closing. He wanted to send a letter to ask them not to close, but he would like to ask all Highway Superintendents in the County to do the same. He stated he would like to write a letter representing the Legislative body.

Commissioner Pena stated that Cornell had provided a connection between academics and practice for over 68 years. He stated that if another college were to pick this program up, a transition program would need to be put in place. He stated he will send his own letter out as well.

County Executive Odell stated that she would pass the letters through NYSAC as well.

Item #10) Update/Putnam County Golf Course Monday & Wednesday Twilight Special

Item #10a) FYI/Correspondence From: Chair Othmer & Deputy Chair DiCarlo Dated: July 8, 2013 Re: Request Consideration for Senior Twilight Rate at Putnam County Golf Course

Legislator DiCarlo stated that Putnam Golf Course is doing an incredible job. He attended a barbecue and could see the enthusiasm in their effort. He mentioned the \$18 per round special. He would like to set up a golf cart for seniors who would like to take advantage of this, but cannot walk the length of the course. He stated that Mr. Mike McCall of Putnam Golf Course is going to look into having a special price for seniors that would include a golf cart.

Item #11) FYI/Correspondence From: County Executive Odell To: Supervisor Shea Dated July 2, 2013 Re: Hazard Mitigation- Manitou Station Road, Garrison, NY

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that the road is sinking and people are being flooded.

Commissioner Pena stated they need to continue to pursue whatever funding sources are available. He stated the township needs to pursue funding as well.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that the County owns the property to the left.

Chairman Albano stated that looking for grants may be the way to go.

County Executive Odell stated that there is a perspective ten homes and we need to keep this in perspective. This is a million dollar project. The County clearly does not have the funds to cover that. We will continue to find every resource available.

Supervisor Doherty stated she attended a class held by Congressman Maloney where members put in grant requests.

Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker stated that grants have been applied for this project.

Item #12) Other Business: NONE

There being no further business, at 8:20 P.M., Legislator Othmer made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Green, Administrative Assistant.