

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

Wednesday

June 17, 2015

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

Item #3) Approval/Renewal of Lease Agreement/County of Putnam with Theresa Delahanty Tilly Foster Farm, Bldg #2

Legislator Castellano made a motion to approve Renewal of Lease Agreement/County of Putnam with Theresa Delahanty Tilly Foster Farm, Bldg #2; Seconded by Chairman Albano. All in favor.

Legislator LoBue requested a list of all of the improvements that have been made to the Cottage (Bldg#2). She stated as an example central air-conditioning has been installed. She stated that there has been digging around the foundation. She stated also she would like to receive a copy of a time log accounting for Ms. Delahanty's hours. She stated that she has a 9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. Secretarial Job with the County and she is also supposed to be maintaining care to the animals that are located at the Tilly Foster Farm.

Chair Albano stated that he is not sure that a log has been maintained, but they can look into it. He stated that there is work that needs to be done to take care of the animals.

Legislator LoBue stated that there needs to be a log kept. She stated she is requesting this information, through the Chairman of this Committee.

Item #4) Update/Morningthorpe Bridge Project

Commissioner Pena stated that the Morningthorpe Bridge Project is moving forward. He stated currently the survey is being completed and they are working with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and completing some requirements dictated by SHPO. He stated that the anticipated time frame to provide some alternative plans and costs analysis to the Legislature is September or October 2015.

Legislator Castellano stated for clarification, that discussions pertaining to design and structure will take place in October. He stated that the Bridge is in the Town of Southeast, outside of the Village of Brewster. He stated the nearby ball field belongs to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and they allow the Town to use it. He stated that the Town has a Soccer Organization who has come forward to repair the field; however that was put on hold because NYSEG is running a new gas line in that area. He stated it seems to him that no one has all of the details.

Commissioner Pena stated currently the gas line is attached to Morningthorpe Bridge. He stated that the County hoped that NYSEG would continue to have it connected to the Bridge and participate and share in some of the costs for the construction. He stated that after many meetings it was decided by NYSEG that in terms of safety and security the gas lines will go under the waterway. He stated that it is not on the same side as the Soccer Field.

Legislator Castellano stated that there was a letter from NYSEG, approximately a year ago, stating that the work they would be doing with the gas line will disturb the field, therefore the Soccer Organization cannot repair the field until this is settled.

Commissioner Pena stated that he would look into the matter.

Chair Albano stated that possibly the Soccer Field may be a staging area for NYSEG with the work they will be doing.

Legislator Castellano stated that the field would be an asset to the Community. He stated that the people of the community would like to hear an update. He stated that he will share what he has heard tonight. He stated in addition, could there be a meeting arranged to provide an update to the community members. He stated that it has been suggested that once the work begins on the Bridge that some sort of appropriate decorative barrier with flowers be placed to prevent any vehicles from driving over it. He stated that he appreciates this update, and stated that he believes the community members are looking forward to cleaning up the area with the construction signs and converting the Bridge into a pedestrian bridge or a covered bridge.

Legislator Nacerino questioned is there a formal agreement between the Town and the DEC giving permission for the Town to use the Field.

Legislator Castellano stated that there currently is an agreement between the Town and DEC. He stated for clarification it was the Soccer Organization that approached the Town to repair the field, however it was all put on hold due to NYSEG. He stated that the hope is that all of the work will be done in concert together. He stated that this is a pivotal spot for the Village Brewster, it is a gateway. He stated that he has also received many questions about the status of the walkway to the train station. He stated that there is a dilapidated stairwell, residents have inquired as to whether it will be repaired. He questioned if that is in the scope of the Grant funding.

Commissioner Pena stated he will look into that. He stated the whole purpose is to enhance that entire area. He stated that they are also looking into different lighting options.

Item #5) Update/Bike Path Extension Project

Commissioner Pena stated that there are design issues crossing Metro North. He stated that they have come upon some very large boulders. He stated that he is currently working with Metro

North to resolve these design issues. He stated also the Army Corps of Engineer have presented additional requirements that they want the County to abide by. He stated that once all of those matters are resolved the project will continue.

Chairman Albano questioned what time frame is projected. He questioned if the Commissioner projects some work being done in 2015.

Commissioner Pena stated yes, the County anticipates working on the bike path extension in 2015.

Legislator Castellano stated for clarification, the progress of the extension of the path from Putnam County Savings Bank to Kobacker's Market is being held up due to issues with the bridge that will go over Metro North. He questioned if there is a ball park estimate on the time frame.

Commissioner Pena stated again the County is expecting the matters involving the Army Corps of Engineer and Metro North to be completed in a similar time frame, and then getting back to work.

Legislator Castellano questioned if the projection is to have this leg of the extension completed by the Fall of 2015 or Spring 2016.

Commissioner Pena stated that is to be determined. He explained that there is a very marshy area and there is a need to bring in very large cranes for the project, so there are design decisions to be made in terms of brining the crane on the work site.

Legislator Castellano acknowledged the information presented by Commissioner Pena. He questioned once this particular extension is complete, will the next extension be the last part of the bike path and will it go from Kobacker's Market towards Brewster Honda. He stated he received some calls that some trees had been brought down; he requested confirmation that was done for the purpose of the bike path extension.

Commissioner Pena stated that is correct.

Legislator Castellano questioned if the final part of the extension will be done before the section that will go over Metro North and end near Kobacker's Market.

Commissioner Pena stated currently they are scheduled on similar time frames; by 2016 Summer both extension are scheduled to be completed.

Legislator LoBue requested if there is a copy of the entire bike path, showing from Westchester through Putnam.

Commissioner Pena stated that he will get a copy to the Legislature.

Item #6) Discussion/Bike Path- Maintenance & Safety

Chair Albano questioned if the people who are in the Alternatives To Incarceration Program (ATI) are assisting in the maintenance of the Bike Path.

Commissioner Pena stated they have not used the members of the ATI. He stated that the maintenance is becoming a challenge. He stated the County is spending time and money on employees addressing the asphalt repairs, tree roots, tree trimming and grass cutting. He stated that all of that adds up to be a significant cost. He stated the maintenance for the Bike Path is included in the Highways & Facilities budget.

Legislator Castellano stated that the mile markers are a great addition. He stated that he has only seen one, in his district, that has been vandalized with spray paint.

Commissioner Pena stated that Parks Superintendent Chris Ruthven does a great job of addressing those situations as soon as it happens. He stated that they are using a paint that makes them more difficult to spray paint. He stated that the paint is expensive but it does work.

Item #7) Discussion/Putnam County Agricultural District/Propose Change Inclusion Month for Putnam County Agricultural District

Putnam County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board Liaison Lauri Taylor stated that when this Agricultural District (District) was formed in 2003 the State required a month be chosen as a time period for “Inclusions”. She stated it is a time period when applications to be considered to be in the District are reviewed. She stated that she is not sure why the month of November was selected for Putnam County. She stated when it comes to Agriculture the months of November, December, January are not ideal to go out on site visits to farms. She stated in the last few years the members of the District who conduct the site reviews have run into severe weather issues, in addition to the obstacle of the holidays in those months. She stated that the Board Members have been discussing changing this time frame and would like to recommend that the month of April be designated as the Inclusion Month for Putnam County Agricultural District. She stated the field work will be done then in May and then the entire process can be completed before the Legislature is involved in the October Budget process. She stated that she did speak with New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and they said the selection of the month is entirely up to the County. She stated that the only requirement to change the month is to do so by resolution.

Chair Albano made a motion to approve the Change of The Inclusion Month for Putnam County Agricultural District from November to April; Seconded by Legislator Wright. All in favor.

Legislative Counsel stated for clarification, the implementation of April will begin in 2016.

Putnam County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board Liaison Lauri Taylor stated that is correct. She stated in 2015 they will move forward with the month of November. She stated that when the legal notice is published for 2015, there will be a note included stating that the 2016 Inclusion month will be April.

Item #8) Other Business

- a.) Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (15A045)/County Facility Renovations- \$1.5 million utilizing funds received from NYMIR to offset the Deskovic matter/Commissioner of Finance – **Not Accepted by the Committee.** It will be addressed at the July Physical Services Committee Meeting.

Chair Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the Other Business (agenda item #8b), Fund Transfer (15T092) Balance of Allowance Portion of MV Transportation Contract/Planning Transportation Manager Tamagna; Seconded by Legislator Castellano.

- b.) Fund Transfer (15T092) Balance of Allowance Portion of Contract/Planning Transportation Manager Tamagna

Legislator Wright questioned why on the second page of the backup does it show that the payment was “deferred”.

Chair Albano stated that he has no problem passing this and it will go to the June 25th Audit and Administration Committee meeting. He stated that any questions can be addressed at that meeting.

Chair Albano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (15T092) Balance of Allowance Portion of MV Transportation Contract/Planning Transportation Manager Tamagna; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Legislator LoBue stated that the information she requested at the beginning of this meeting, pertaining to the renovations made to the Cottage on the Tilly Foster Farm and the Time Log, all be provided in time for review at the Audit and Administration June 25th meeting.

Item #9) Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:55P.M., Chair Albano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Trabulsy, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature.