

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

**Members: Chairman Gross & Legislators Gouldman & Nacerino**

**Wednesday** **6:00p.m.** **July 8, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Chairman Roger Gross. He requested that Acting Commissioner Sutton lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Nacerino and Chairman Gross were present. Legislator Gouldman was absent.

**Item #3 - Approval/Protective Services Committee Meeting Minute/June 10, 2015**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #4 - Approval/Fund Transfer (15T115)/Sheriff's Department/ Four (4) C.O. Vacancies & Three (3) C.O. Ext. Sick Leave**

Chairman Gross questioned mathematically at what point does it become more cost effective to hire an employee rather than paying overtime.

Captain O'Malley stated they are not at that point yet. He stated calculating the fringe benefits of a Correction Officer Position, versus paying the overtime; the overtime is still the more economical path. He stated that regarding the four (4) vacancies, this past Monday, July 6, 2015, letters were sent out to eligible candidates. He stated there were originally three (3) Correction Officers (C.O.) that were out on sick leave; however as of this afternoon the number has increased to a total number of five (5) C.O. out on sick.

Undersheriff Convery stated that the candidates that they are considering for the four (4) vacancies are very good. He stated that he believes once they are employed it will help. He stated that a Part-time C.O. has recently been hired that will help with transports. He stated another candidate, a retired Sergeant who has worked in Corrections facilities, will be coming on board as well, which will help a great deal as well.

Captain O'Malley stated that the requested Fund Transfer (15T115) has a zero (0) impact.

Undersheriff Convery stated that he believes the rationale was that the video arraignment would be utilized in 2015. He stated that there is still reluctance in the courts to use it. He stated that the use of Video Arraignment will result in a great deal of administrative cost savings and transports.

Chair Gross stated documented in the attached correspondence to the fund transfer it states "The current available balance in the overtime line is \$10,875.49, this will be depleted in the next pay period". He questioned if there will be a need to move money around in the next pay period.

Captain O'Malley stated that is correct.

Undersheriff Convery stated that during the 2015 budget process there were funds placed in the Temporary Line based on the belief that the Video Arraignment process would be utilized. He stated that did not come to fruition. He stated the money is within the Department. The Sheriff's Department is not looking for additional money. He stated once the additional candidates, mentioned earlier, are employed it will help a great deal.

Legislator Nacerino questioned how long will the hiring process take for the four (4) C.O.

Captain O'Malley stated that they have already begun the process. He stated they have completed two (2) months so far. He stated that they have approximately another month worth of testing ahead.

Legislator Nacerino questioned why is there so much reluctance on the use of the Video Arraignment process. She stated that it will result in a cost savings.

Captain O'Malley stated the decision to use the Video Arraignment needs to come from the Magistrates and the Defense Attorneys and that is not happening.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that she agrees with Legislator Nacerino and Chair Gross. The Video Arraignment process needs to be utilized. She stated that there should be dialogue with the Judges and the Attorneys on this matter. She stated that the Legislature is approaching the budget process. She stated that there was discussion about Judges utilizing the Video Arraignment process in the middle of the night. Instead of a judge having to come out, in the middle of the night, they could do it from their home.

Legislator Nacerino stated that it is a financial hardship to continue with the current process.

Undersheriff Convery stated that the processes was utilized a couple of times and it worked very well. He stated that there is a financial strain as well as a drain on the manpower in the Sheriff's Department. He stated that there is also a safety factor that is to be considered in the very crowded local courtrooms.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated the Administration has met with the Judges, Sheriff Smith and District Attorney Levy regarding implementing and utilizing the process. He stated that the Administration is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Judge Scheinkman, who is the Administrative Judge for the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. He stated the Administration will request Judge Scheinkman's support to utilize this process, mainly from a safety perspective. He stated that this technology is being used around the world in multimillion dollar businesses and Putnam County has the capabilities, and it is not being used due to some issues that can be managed.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to move to the Audit and Administrative Meeting the Approval of Fund Transfer (15T115)/Sheriff's Department/ Four (4) C.O. Vacancies & Three (3) C.O. Ext. Sick Leave; Seconded by Chair Gross. All in favor.

Chair Gross made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Additional; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Chair Gross stated that there are members of the Town of Carmel Board present to speak to agenda Item #11 and they do have a meeting to get to. Therefore, they will move item #11 to be addressed next.

**Item #11 – Correspondence: From Chairman Protective Services Committee R. Gross To County Executive Odell cc: Town of Carmel Supervisor Schmitt Re: Clarification on Application Status for Local Government Efficiency Grant Program /To Fund Feasibility of Police Services**

Deputy County Executive Walker stated there are a lot of moving parts to this matter, therefore he understands the confusion. He stated that approximately a week and a half after the Administration received the correspondence from Supervisor Schmitt he reached out to Patterns for Progress, who secured a great deal of State Funding for Efficiency Grants and such matters. He stated approximately ten (10) days after receiving the correspondence from Supervisor Schmitt the County submitted an

application through the Department of State for an Efficiency Grant. He stated that the Department of State did nothing with it and the Administration contacted Senator Murphy's Office to request their assistance to move the County's application forward. He stated that the last update the Administration received is that the Governor has not allocated the funds for this project/grant. He stated that they are pushing to get this done. He stated that it is in the Office of the Governor and need to wait for action to come from that Office.

Legislator Nacerino stated in the event that this grant is not funded, where would that leave the Town of Carmel in terms of the Police Department's consolidation.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated the Administration will continue to identify where there is additional grant dollars. He stated that the Executive Branch along with the Legislature working with the Town of Carmel can choose not to do the review through a grant process. He stated that the decision may be to put a small team together, internally together and or hire a consultant to address this. He stated that he would like to see a time frame assigned to this. He stated that he has gotten a copy of the previous police consolidation feasibility reports that were done. He stated frankly he believes that there is a significant amount of expertise within the County.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she agrees that other options should be explored, in the event that this funding does not come through.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that we are dealing with the bureaucracy of the government. He stated that there are approximately four (4) studies that have been done on this matter over the years. He stated he believes the review process could begin with the four (4) studies, which all come to a similar conclusion. He stated or we can wait and do a fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) study if everyone believes that is necessary.

Chair Gross questioned if the studies, Deputy County Executive Walker is referring to, are the ones performed in the 70s.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated they range from studies conducted in the 70s up to the late 80s. He stated when you read through the studies, you would not know that you weren't reading a document that was printed yesterday.

Supervisor Schmitt questioned if it is possible to get copies of the Application that was submitted for the grant.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated he will get that to him.

Supervisor Schmitt questioned if the Application was submitted through the Local Government Efficiency Grant program.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated yes, through the Department of State.

Supervisor Schmitt stated that there are allocated funds in the Local Government Efficiency Grant program that is being provided to conduct these kind of studies.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that the Executive Branch and the Legislature, while working with the Town of Carmel could choose not to do this through a grant process. He stated that the Town of Carmel Police is run with a \$9 million budget, the Sheriff's Department is a budget of approximately \$9-10 million, Town of Kent, Cold Spring and Brewster may choose to put a small team together internally

and or hire a consultant, only due to the significance of the issue. He stated that he believes a time frame should be set, and if the County does not hear back from the State, he said for example August 1, 2015, regarding their application, work should begin with compiling a team to address and evaluate the feasibility of a Police Consolidation in Putnam County. He stated that there is a significant amount of expertise throughout the County to conduct a valid evaluation.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she agrees that other options should be explored if the grant application does not result in receiving funds.

Chair Gross stated that the amount of \$10,000, which is what he heard would be the grant amount, does not seem to be an adequate amount of money to fund a study. He stated the members of the Town of Carmel Board agree that a significant amount of money would be needed to do this study.

Supervisor Schmitt stated that there are budgeted funds allocated to have these studies done. He stated that there are multiple studies currently ongoing throughout New York State with respect to police consolidation. He stated he is curious as to why there would be no funding for this study.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that the one that the Administration applied for was in conjunction with three (3) other municipalities. He stated the intent was to build off of the work that has already been in the other municipalities, where they are actually doing the consolidations. He stated none of them are as large as Putnam County's, they were Towns or more local than that, Villages. He stated he agrees, Putnam County should receive the funding. He stated that they are working through the mechanism that has been put in place as well as working closely with State Senator Murphy and his staff, who have been highly receptive. He stated that they are researching different mechanisms to possibly secure funding. He stated that it is his opinion that the County has a lot of information, three (3) to four (4) reports that have already been done on this matter, he does not understand why the County should wait to see if the grant is received. He stated that expertise to evaluate this matter exist within Putnam County.

Supervisor Schmitt stated with all due respect, he hears what Deputy County Executive Walker is saying. However, a true independent study from an outside consultant firm is where you get the best results. He stated that he agrees that there are people in the County who could lend valuable input to the study. He stated that he believes that if the study is done with only members of the County there will be tainted opinions brought into the evaluation and preconceived thoughts. He stated that he believes that is where there could be some problems. He stated that he believes the best study would be done through an outside consultant. He stated he believes the two (2) studies that were done in the 70s, which he did read both of them, some of the opinions and thoughts that were shared in the studies he found to be problematic. He stated his concern is that it appears that we are looking to go down that road again. He stated that he will state tonight that he would be opposed to that type of study; one which is done "in-house" by County representatives or County individuals.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he is always hopeful that people can take an altruistic approach and focus to solve the problem without putting their own personal agenda in the mix. He stated that he is not suggesting that the team would be comprised of County individuals. He stated that he is suggesting that there are individuals within this County with very significant emergency services backgrounds that he believes could address this problem. He stated that he believes that the scope of the matter is even broader than the Police Departments. He stated that Acting Commissioner Sutton could speak to the challenges being faced with EMS and Fire Departments. He stated he would recommend looking at all the emergency services at one time. He stated notwithstanding the fact that there are budgetary problems in the Police Departments, which is necessitating this conversation of potential

consolidation or some plan on how to move forward, there are similar challenges in the volunteer fire departments, volunteer EMS and the paid ALS Services. He stated this is a much bigger issue than just the Police Consolidation. He stated he can understand Supervisor Schmitt's opinion of having an independent consultant to do the work. He stated that will take funding. He stated then all of the jurisdictions of the County will need to contribute a set amount of dollars, then an RFP will need to be done, he stated then realistically this is a process that will take six (6) to nine (9) months at best. He stated the other option is on August 1, 2015 hand pick from each jurisdiction people with the expertise that is needed, and there would also be the option to bring people in from other Counties, Dutchess, Westchester, and/or Orange County. He stated they would be given the task to come up with a potential solution in a month's time, and go from there. He stated that his experience with working with consultants is that they regurgitate what they have heard from the people that they interview and the people involved in the process. He stated as the County Executive has said, "we have an entire County of emergency responders". He stated he is confident that a very competent team could be put together to review this matter. He stated or we can wait. He stated that he is not a fan of waiting for New York State to solve Putnam County's problems.

Town of Carmel Councilman Lupinacci stated that Deputy County Executive Walker mention that there are two (2) other municipalities that are conducting feasibility studies; he questioned who they are.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he does not recall. He stated that they are listed on the website that Supervisor Schmitt is familiar with, the Efficiency Grant website. He stated one is from Orange County.

Town of Carmel Councilman Lupinacci questioned what the dollar amounts were.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated he does not know that.

Town of Carmel Councilman Lupinacci questioned if the two (2) municipalities were doing the study in-house or utilizing an outside consultant.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that they are hiring consultant.

Town of Carmel Councilman Lupinacci stated they are hiring a consultant, but Putnam County does not want to do that.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he presented the in-house study format as an option. He stated a consultant can be hired, however the fact remains at the end of the day someone will have to pay the consultant. He stated that in the last six (6) months it has become clearer that this problem is bigger than just the police department's consolidation. He stated that if the police department piece is addressed individually, the potential is that one (1) piece of the puzzle will be solved that integrates three (3) or four (4) other pieces. He stated that it would be his recommendation to address all of emergency services at one time.

Chair Gross stated that he was at a meeting this morning regarding emergency services and there is a definite problem that is not going to get any better.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated the problem that the County sees is progressing down a path, and has been for many years. He stated until we step back and look at it holistically he is not sure a solution will be found to address it all. He stated as past Legislator Oliverio always use to say, "it is really all about public health and safety". He stated that he believes that we need to design backwards from the end

user; the person who needs the service. He stated too often the focus is put on the jurisdictions, their budgets and their kingdom. He stated until that can be changed the problem will never be solved holistically and comprehensively.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she absolutely agrees with Deputy County Executive Walker. She stated that this is just the tip of the iceberg. She stated that there needs to be an evaluation done that projects and looks into the future to resolve some of these issues involving the critical agencies of Putnam County, EMS, Fire, Police Consolidation. She stated consolidation as a whole needs to be considered. She stated that she believes we need to think outside of the box. She stated if there is no response from the grant application in a short period of time, if the County continues to wait, the process will be delayed. She stated that she believes these matters must be dealt with head on. She stated as Co-Chair of the Fiscal Vision and Accountability Commission she has heard the obstacles of territory, domain and a little wrestling of all of that referred to. She stated that has to stop. She stated to the residents and tax payers of this County that is not priority. She stated their priority is health, safety and welfare. She stated the County needs to look to the future; the formula we currently have no longer works.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he does not believe the best job is being done with these agencies that could be done.

Supervisor Schmitt stated that his belief is a true analysis of Police Consolidation in Putnam County has to be done by an objective, independent outside consulting agency. He stated that he does not believe that a group of people can be assembled that would be totally objective and independent with their thought process. He stated that he believes that politics or favoritism will get involved. He stated that he is asking on behalf of the 37,000 residents of the Town of Carmel, (*the largest Town in the County and the County seat*) for a fair review. He stated if it has been decided that the study is not going to be done, then let's say that and we can notify the residents of that. He stated tonight what he is hearing, sounds to him as though the County does not want to move forward with this. He stated this has been going on since March, 2015. He stated that a correspondence was sent to the County Executive on March 11, 2015 and we are now in July and the matter is in limbo. He stated it cannot be that this is tied up in bureaucracy. He stated he would ask that a straight answer be given.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated with all due respect, Supervisor Schmitt has been the Town of Carmel Supervisor for eight (8) years. He stated this has been a problem for eight (8) years. He stated it cannot be assumed that neither the Administration nor the Legislature is going to allocate the cost for a study to consolidate Carmel's Police Force with the Sheriff's Department across the entire County's tax payer basis. He stated the Administration applied for a grant based on what was requested by Supervisor Schmitt within ten (10) days of receipt of his letter.

Supervisor Schmitt stated he was not notified of that.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that both the County Executive and he had a conversation with Supervisor Schmitt and told him that they were applying for a grant. He stated that he has no control over the delay at the State level.

Chair Gross facilitated further discussion on this matter. He stated that he agrees that the matter should be moved on.

Councilman Lupinacci stated that they did not see a copy of the grant application that was sent out, ten (10) days after the receipt of Supervisor Schmitt's letter, however he will take Deputy County Executive Walker's word for it. He stated however, he is confused as to the request for a \$10,000 grant to review a

potential consolidation of a \$30 million dollar work force: the Sheriff's Department, the Town of Carmel, the Town of Kent etc. He stated that ten (10) days after the Town of Carmel requested the County process the application, one was submitted for \$10,000. He stated put that into perspective; \$10,000 grant to fund the review of \$30 million dollars. He stated that the magnitude of what was requested or how it was requested; there is a disconnect.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated the Town of Carmel has not allocated any funding to do this study, therefore the County is not going to allocate funds. He stated it is the responsibility of the Town of Carmel to manage the budget for the Town of Carmel. He stated just as it is the County's responsibility to manage the Sheriff's Department's budget. He stated if the decision is not to put an in-house team together, then an option would be to each party involved allocate a portion on a pro-rata basis, he stated that he would support that. He stated then no one is stuck waiting for a grant

Councilman Lupinacci stated that is a valid option.

Chair Gross facilitated further discussion on this matter. He concluded the discussion by suggesting that the Town of Carmel representatives should meet with the Administration soon to work out the details and come to some kind of conclusion.

**Item #5 – Approval/Fund Transfer (15T114)/Bureau of Emergency Services/Cover Cost of Personnel Reimbursement for ERT Training**

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve and move to Audit & Administration Committee Fund Transfer (15T114)/Bureau of Emergency Services/Cover Cost of Personnel Reimbursement for ERT Training; Seconded by Chair Gross. All in favor.

**Item #6 - FYI/Fund Transfer (15T108)/Sheriff's Dept./Purchase Rifle Sight & Storage Equip.- Duly Noted**

**Item #7 - Discussion/Haldane Central School District/Utilizing the Special Patrol Officer Program or the School Resource Officer Program (to be continued)**

Chair Gross stated that this matter has evolved. He stated that the Haldane Central School District does not have a police presence in their District currently. He stated that they are requesting an SRO (School Resource Officer). He stated in the financials that were provided by Commissioner of Finance Bill Carlin, it demonstrates that an SPO (Special Patrol Officer) is the best way to proceed.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that Deputy County Executive Walker will speak to this matter. She stated that there has been a change and the decision request is for the County to provide funding for an SRO to be assigned to the Haldane School District. She stated that the Haldane School District representative met with members of the Sheriff's Department. She stated that the recommendation from the Sheriff's Department is for an SRO.

Chair Gross stated that he will move on with the other items on the agenda and will resume this item when Deputy County Executive Walker returns.

**Item #8 Update/Deputy Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton- Duly Noted**

- a) Assist with 4-H Fair
- b) Hazard Mitigation Plan Notification to Towns & Villages on following process
- c) Assisting in Carmel Fire Department 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- d) Radio System Installed & Running in Putnam Hospital Center - Assisted by ESSAB

**Item #9 – FYI/Correspondence: Re: Sale and Use of Sparkling Devices (Local Law#4- 2015)**

**a.) Correspondence: Date: May 22, 2015 From: Robert McConville, President, Firemen’s Association of The State of New York**

**b.) Correspondence: Date: June 12, 2015 From: Susan Dao, Secretary Mid-Hudson New York State Building Officials Conference & International Code Council**

Chair Gross stated that the Legislature approved the sale and use of Sparkling Devices at specific times of the year. He stated that there was discussion from many viewpoints. He stated that he believes folks need to take responsibility in regards to educating their children on the use of fireworks and safety. He stated that the Legislature has been contacted by some agencies that are not in favor of the resolution passed by the Legislature, the correspondence are attached.

**Item #10 – Update/Correspondence: Response From Sheriff Smith Re: Request for Running Record of Automobiles in the Sheriff’s Department be provided to the Legislature**

Chair Gross stated that the Legislature is getting the information as it is needed.

**Item #12 - Other Business**

**a) Sheriff’s Department Support over 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend**

Undersheriff Convery stated that the many 4<sup>th</sup> of the July events that took place over the past weekend that the Sheriff’s Department provided support to all went very smoothly. He stated that the Bureau of Emergency Services Acting Commissioner Sutton and the President of the Fire Chiefs Association all worked together. He stated that the success of Putnam County is all about people coming together and working together. He stated the Sheriff’s Department, when asked, helps the Towns. He stated that they assist the Town of Carmel with many different areas, because they have asked. He stated that the Sheriff’s Department has agreed to take over the patrolling of Lake Mahopac.

Chair Gross stated that the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Fireworks event in the Town of Southeast at the Highlands shopping center went very well. He stated that the cooperation between the communities, the Legislature, the Administration, the New York State Police, and the businesses DeCiccio, Winwater etc. it all went really well. He stated in reference to the Sheriff’s Department pitching in, when requested in 2014, the Sheriff’s Department agreed and took on the patrol responsibility of Lake Mahopac.

Undersheriff Convery stated that Supervisor Schmitt spoke to Sheriff Smith regarding his concern for safety on Lake Mahopac in reference to Friday evenings. He stated that the Sheriff’s Department added a Friday evening patrol to their schedule.

**Item #7- Discussion/Haldane Central School District/Utilizing the Special Patrol Officer Program or the School Resource Officer Program (continued)**

Chair Gross questioned Deputy County Executive Walker if the decision has been changed to fund an SRO instead of an SPO.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that is correct. He stated there was a meeting with County Executive Odell, Sheriff Smith, Undersheriff Convery, Captain Velotti and himself. He stated that they have also working with Legislator Scuccimarra on this matter. He stated the needs of Haldane School District were presented and an analysis of the differences between an SRO and an SPO were reviewed. He stated that they came to a solution, which would require Legislative approval. He stated the recommendation provided is an SRO be assigned to the Haldane School District at the start of school, September 2015. He stated that the recommendation is to take the Deputy Sheriff Position that was allocated to come in the 2015 Budget for October and fill it with the SRO position. He stated the line would be converted from a Deputy Sheriff Position to an SRO position and moves it into the 2016 Budget. He stated that the funding is already allocated in the 2015 Budget in the beginning of October.



He stated because of the necessary training for the SRO the recommendation is to roll back for funding to July 15, 2015. He stated that Commissioner Carlin is working through the details in regard to the additional funding necessary for the two (2) weeks in July, August and September.

Chair Gross questioned if the 50/50 split would apply to cover the cost of the SRO.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated it is going to be a 10-12 split 50/50 on a time. He stated that the cost of the fringe benefits is being calculated. He stated Commissioner Carlin is going through the analysis of the 10-12 split 50/50 on both the fringe benefits and the day to day cost.

Chair Gross stated that there is a proposal that is documented in a correspondence from Commissioner Carlin dated July 2, 2015 to the County Executive Re: School Resource Officer-Proposal-County Fiscal Year 2016 that has not been mentioned.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that is a piece that will be addressed as they move forward. He stated that the goal is once all of the costs are compiled, the Administration will have a meeting with all of the School Superintendents and have a conversation regarding the costs.

Chair Gross questioned if the SRO will have a police car in the front of the Haldane High School building.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that is the intent. He stated that he believes it is important to the Haldane School District as well as it is important to the overall operation, particularly to the western side of the County. He stated that Route 9 serves as a drug corridor between Peekskill and Poughkeepsie. He stated Haldane School District is right in the middle of that. He stated that the County is taking the position of being proactive as opposed to being reactive.

Chair Gross stated this is an interesting surprise. He stated that he thought that the Haldane School District was going with an SPO, which is a very successful program and there is a good pool of candidates to fill the SPO positions.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated given the fact of what is being dealt with in terms of the Drug Crisis, it is her opinion, that it behooves the County to move forward with an SRO. She stated that an SRO has a stronger presence in the Schools.

Chair Gross stated that he agrees with that, and Haldane did not have an SRO, but that was because they did not want one when the SRO program was implemented.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that is true. She stated that there is a new Administration at the Haldane School District and times have changed. She stated as Deputy County Executive Walker mentioned the drug corridor, which has been proven, the Sheriff's Department has assigned extra Deputies to that area because of this fact. She stated that the Haldane School District is in the middle of it.

Legislator Nacerino stated she has serious concerns about this. She stated a complete about face has occurred regarding the whole rationale that was proposed as a County, financially sustaining the SRO vs SPO. She stated the County implemented the SPO program that has been tested and proven to work very well. She stated that it is documented in Commissioner Carlin's memo of July 2, 2015 that the County cannot sustain business the way we were doing it. She stated that there were numerous discussions regarding the Haldane School District in the Spring. She stated this was not on the table. She stated that she is surprised that there is a whole different rationale being brought forward and taking place and this

has reversed itself completely. She questioned how the County brings on an additional SRO while planning to ask the School Districts with the SROs currently to cover 57% and the County's portion will be 43%. She stated in her opinion this proposal will shoot the plan down completely. She stated that the County was on a path to implement the SPO Officers. She stated SPO Officers are being utilized affectively, they are well trained and there are no issues. She stated that the additional Sheriff's presence was assigned to the Western side of the County for the same reasons cited tonight. She stated in her opinion there is an embellishment of the magnitude of problems that may occur there. She stated that she does not support this proposal.

Chair Gross stated that as Legislator Scuccimarra stated when the Haldane School District opted not to have an SRO in the schools, they were different times. He stated the issue of terrorism was not an issue back then either.

Legislator Nacerino stated this discussion took place four (4) months ago, the same set of problems and scope of information was before us and the mind set was totally different.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he agrees with the comments made by Legislator Nacerino. He stated in the initial discussion he was one of the ones preaching the SPO be assigned to the Haldane School District. However, one of the facts that they became more aware of, when the discussion of what was the Haldane School District looking to have done by this additional position, particularly in the High School. He stated that it has been determined that the SRO is the right fit for the High Schools and an SPO is the right fit for the Elementary Schools. He stated that the significant difference that has not been discussed is the rights, by law, of the capabilities are in regards to an SRO, which is a sworn Deputy as opposed to an SPO who is a peace officer.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is fully aware of the difference between the capabilities of an SRO versus an SPO. She stated that she works in a school.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated there are significant differences and from a liability perspective from the County, because they are County employees, and how we go forward with obtaining and acquiring information that may subsequently be used in other cases there are some legal differences that warranted that a recommendation for an SRO be made.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she is very cognoscente of those differences. However, from a fiscal standpoint and from a planning standpoint moving forward with an SRO, she believes the County will be sabotaging the plan that is in place. She stated if the Haldane School District believed that their current need for an SRO was a priority they should have paid for it. She stated as the Brewster School District did. She stated that the Brewster School District paid 100% for the Officer they deemed necessary. She stated this proposal brings the County back to the old formula and still absorbing all of the healthcare and legacy cost moving forward.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated he may not have articulated clearly earlier, that in regards to the funding the Administration is looking to do the 10-12 split on the healthcare costs as well. He stated today we do 10-12 some of the time, but do not allocate for the health properly, the Administration is looking to do the 10-12 50/50 split. He stated that would reduce the costs to the County going forward with the legacy cost.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if that proposal has been discussed with the members of the Haldane School District.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated the numbers have not, because they just received the new medical cost numbers. He stated this will be across all of the schools.

Legislator Nacerino stated this is a whole reversal from the discussions that have taken place.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated he does not believe it is a reversal. He stated that he believes it would be fairly provincial for the County, with better information, not to make the best decision.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she had personally spoke with the County Executive about this matter of moving forward with SPOs versus SROs in the Putnam County Schools, numerous times.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated in the last conversation that was had on this matter with the Administration and the Sheriff, took place yesterday for two (2) hours.

Legislator Nacerino stated that the position of the Sheriff was one which supported assigning an SRO. That has been known since the beginning. She stated however that was not the position, at that time, of the Administration or Legislature.

Chair Gross stated there is nothing wrong with changing minds. He stated that there is one critical difference between the SRO and the SPO, which he believes is important. He stated that if there is an SPO at Haldane, there will be no police car parked outside. He stated that serves as a big deterrent. He stated he does not want to take any chances, in light of what is taking place in this world today.

Legislator Nacerino stated that the safety measures being spoken about that are to be implemented are going to be limited to a High School, where in fact the same thing can happen in a Middle School that does not have a police car outside of it. She stated either the County should have one mindset or another mindset. She stated that there is a waffling of the mindset here. She stated that in the previous conversations we had regarding this matter we stated that the County would move in a direction that would fiscally accomplish and meet the needs that were believed to be important. She state that is when the SPO program was implemented and they worked effectively and continue to work effectively. She stated now there is a reversal of our rationale, a police car outside the school is a priority and the SRO is a priority. She stated the Haldane School District never wanted an SRO or SPO, and now the County is looking to provide the funding.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he believes there has been a significant change in leadership in the Haldane School District which has precipitated their request for an SRO.

Legislator Nacerino stated she understands that and is fine with that. She stated however they should pay for it.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that they will pay the similar costs that the other school districts pay.

Legislator Nacerino stated that the County wanted to defray those costs not keep them going.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated the 10-12 split is because there is no school, but then the County as the benefit of having the Deputies available for emergencies etc. He stated that he understands the points and concerns that Legislator Nacerino has raised. However based on the risk that has been identified and potential liability issues and based on what the County desires the SRO to do is really what the basis is for this recommendation.

Legislator Nacerino stated her point is that these are all of the same concerns that were brought forward four (4) months ago, and at that time it was believed that the County could accomplish its goal with an SPO. She stated this conversation did not happen two (2) hours ago. This matter has been going on since Spring 2015. She stated that the SRO program becomes financially unsustainable when the County has to pay \$381,114.00 in health insurance premiums. She stated when making these decisions they cannot be middle of the road or arbitrary when making these decisions it either has to be standard or not. She stated that is her opinion.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he does not know if there is a one size fits all. He stated that his understanding is, he is not speaking for the Sheriff, however his understanding is the Sheriff does not support SROs in the Elementary Schools. He stated therefore he is not sure that there is a one size fits all approach. He stated then where there is the need, the higher skill set and higher legal capability, is assigned, which is with the SRO. He stated the same benefits to the County are not attainable with an SPO.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she is not diminishing the importance of an SRO. She stated she is merely pointing out that it was not the discussion or priority at the initiation of this conversation, when everyone was cognizant of those same realizations and importance. She stated the Newtown tragedy occurred in an Elementary School with babies. She stated no one can specify which group of children require an SRO versus an SPO. She stated in her opinion that defies logic.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that she understands the objection presented by Legislator Nacerino. She stated that she believes this program is evolving. She stated that times and situations are changing. She stated that she believes every High School in Putnam County has an SRO except for the Haldane High School. She stated that they are coming in late with their request. However, she requested that they not be penalized.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she is not penalizing the Haldane School District that is an inaccurate statement.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated if you sit and speak to the Sheriff about the program, you will come away with a different perspective, as did the County Executive and Deputy County Executive, regarding what is being addressed. She stated that the need for the SROs in the high schools is to address the drug issues. She stated if the County can defer some of their legacy costs to the Schools, she is sure that the Haldane School District would be open to that. She stated that just because there was a position taken four (4) years ago does not mean that we cannot change our minds.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is aware of that. She stated the purpose of tonight is to vet this out. She stated the purpose of the points she has raised tonight is that the same priorities and concerns that were set forth to support the need for an SRO were always there, this is not a new revelation. She stated that she works in a high school and she knows the value of an SRO and the difference between an SRO and an SPO. She stated as she sits here as an Elected Official and Legislator, her concerns are the fiscal concerns of how will the County be able to continue to sustain the SRO program. She stated that it was stated that the County would move in a different direction to defray some of those costs. She stated if the Haldane School District is willing to come to the table to support what they value and deem as priority in the name of the children in the name of the District, that she would support.

Chair Gross stated that Commissioner Carlin's recommendation will come forward at some point and will defray some of the costs down the line. He stated the main thing is this is done. He stated that there will

be an SRO at the Haldane High School. He repeated that times have changed, the drug issues are recent in terms of the over does etc. He stated that he does not want the County to be penny wise and pound foolish.

Undersheriff stated all of the Schools except for the Haldane School District have trained Police Officers (SRO) and in the Elementary Schools there are trained Peace Officers (SPO) who work with the trained Police Officer. He stated that the Haldane Schools: High School, Middle School and Elementary School are all located on one campus, it is a standalone campus. He stated it is his opinion that there is a need for an SRO at the Haldane School District. He stated that 9D is also an active roadway for drug traffic.

Chair Gross stated that several years ago he was invited to an executive session at the Brewster School District. He stated that they were emphatic about having another SRO at the JFK Elementary School. He stated that he made the recommendation of an SPO to them and explained that the SPO program was working well in other School Districts. He stated that they wanted an SRO, so they are paying 100% for the JFK Elementary School SRO program.

**Item #13 – Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 7:15P.M., Chair Gross made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trabulsy.