

**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN  
TO BE HELD IN ROOM 318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Wednesday

May 22, 2013

6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Othmer who requested Legislator Oliverio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Scuccimarra, Oliverio, Nacerino, Albano, Gross, Castellano, LoBue, DiCarlo and Chairman Othmer were present. Also present was Legislative Counsel Van Ross.

Chairman Othmer stated that there was additional material which contained a proposed revision to Resolution #73 of 2013. There would need to be a motion and a second in order to entertain this proposal.

There was no motion made by the Legislature to waive the rules and accept the additional material.

Item #3 – Override/County Executive’s Veto/Resolution #73 of 2013 was first. Chairman Othmer stated that a “yes” vote would be to override the veto and a “no” vote would be to sustain the veto.

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to discuss; seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

Legislator LoBue stated that she would be changing her initial vote. She continued and read a statement which explained that she originally voted “no” because she believed the resolution was an effort to close Indian Point. However, after the Public Hearing she received new and significant information that impacted her initial vote. She stated that the nuclear disaster in Japan far exceeded the ten mile evacuation radius. She believed that an accident of that magnitude in our area could cause the release of radiation that would make the metropolitan areas, including Westchester and Putnam Counties of 22 million people, uninhabited for generations to come. Therefore, she believed that the ten mile evacuation plan recommended by Entergy would be totally unacceptable in terms of protecting the health and welfare of the people of Putnam County.

Legislator Gross stated that he would also vote to override the veto. The United States Senate has blocked the disposal of nuclear waste material being placed in the Yucca Mountain area. The Federal Government has spent millions of dollars building an area in the Yucca Mountains and the Nevada Senator has blocked that legislation. He explained that it was not Entergy’s fault that the waste over the last 40 years has not been removed properly.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she stands firm on her vote to override the veto. She stated that she took into consideration all the concerns raised at the last Health meeting

and remains confident that she will override the veto. She did not believe there was a compelling argument made by Entergy. She believed if we could cast a wider net on safety, we should do that.

Legislator Albano stated that he did not believe that even the 50 mile radius would make a difference if we were faced with a nuclear disaster. However, the resolution gives an indication of how serious this situation could be and the need to pay attention to something that has passed its original anticipated life with respect to storing the spent fuel rods. He also believed that Entergy was a good neighbor and was doing everything they needed to do.

Legislator Castellano believed that Indian Point was safe and is vital to the region. However, we can do better with respect to an evacuation plan. He believed that we also needed to take responsibility ourselves, as individuals, with being prepared. However, he believed it was the right thing to do to ask for a better plan.

Chairman Othmer stated that he had an extensive discussion with one of the engineers. It was explained to him that the people living within the 10 mile radius are the people that will need to evacuate first. It was explained to him that if you extend that to a 50 mile radius, it would touch parts of Bergen County, Northern New Jersey, Long Island, Manhattan, Dutchess and Putnam Counties. This would jam up the roads and bridges and the people that are closest to Indian Point would not be able to evacuate.

#### **RESOLUTION #116**

#### **APPROVAL/OVERRIDE/COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S VETO /RESOLUTION #73 OF 2013**

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive's veto of Resolution #73 of 2013, after Legislative reconsideration, is hereby overridden.

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: EIGHT AYES. ONE NAY – CHAIRMAN OTHMER. MOTION CARRIES.**

Item #4 - Approval/Home Rule Request/Assembly Bill A07353/Senate Bill S5151-2013 was next. Chairman Othmer explained that this is a request to extend the additional 1% sales tax for another two years.

Legislator Oliverio moved the following; seconded by Legislator DiCarlo.

Legislator Oliverio believed this was the most equitable way to raise the needed funds. The sales tax revenue that is generated goes to the County coffers which enable us to keep our property taxes low. He stated that his only concern, and this was something Legislator Birmingham brought up before he left, was that our reliance upon the sales tax seems almost like an addiction. The more we gather, the more we seem to need. Legislator Birmingham's solution was that we don't go "cold turkey" but rather reduce it incrementally in the next few years. He believed this was something the Legislature should consider in the future.

Legislator Albano stated that this extension of an additional 1% sales tax lets everyone participate, not just Putnam County residents. He believed that if there comes a day when there is extra money, it should be the property taxes that are lowered and we

should continue with the additional 1% sales tax. He stated that if we were going to save somewhere, he believed that Putnam County property owners should receive the benefit. They are the backbone of our community and it is our residents who are carrying the burden.

Legislator LoBue stated that she would be voting in favor of this resolution, however, she has spoken out on many occasions about how high the sales tax is. It puts us at a disadvantage with Connecticut and Economic Development. She stated that unless the County has a plan, as mentioned by Legislator Oliverio to make small incremental changes, she hoped that someday we would not have to vote in favor of the 1% extension, but instead drop the sales tax down to 7 3/8%.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that unfortunately our budget relies on the sales tax. She stated that once our mandates are lower, maybe there would be a possibility that we would not need this. However, right now we need every penny. She stated that she would like to eventually see sharing the sales tax with the towns.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she would be voting in favor of this resolution. She stated that ideally it would be great to lower the sales tax and property taxes; however, it is just not feasible. The County is struggling to maintain the resources and revenue that we have. She believed it would be difficult at this time to lower anything.

#### **RESOLUTION #117**

#### **APPROVAL/HOME RULE REQUEST/ASSEMBLY BILL A07353/SENATE BILL S5151-2013**

**WHEREAS, by Resolution #88 of 2013 the Putnam County Legislature requested our State Senate and Assembly members to extend the additional 1% sales tax that is set to expire on November 30, 2013; and**

**WHEREAS, Assemblywoman Galef has introduced Assembly Bill A07353 to accomplish this request; and**

**WHEREAS, the Rules Committee of the New York State Senate has introduced Senate Bill S5151 to accomplish this request; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Clerk of the Putnam County Legislature are authorized to file the annexed home rule request for Senate Bill S5151 and Assembly Bill A07353 entitled "An act to amend the tax law in relation to the imposition of sales and compensating use tax in Putnam County."**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**There being no further business, at 6:40 P.M., Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.**

**Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.**