

**PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE
2013 TENTATIVE BUDGET
AND
REPORT OF THE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Tuesday

October 23, 2012

7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairwoman Conklin who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Tamagna, Oliverio, Othmer, Albano, Gross, Birmingham, LoBue and Chairwoman Conklin were present. Legislator DiCarlo was absent. Also present was Legislative Counsel Van Ross.

Item #3 – Reading of the Public Notice by the Clerk of the Legislature. Chairwoman Conklin requested the Clerk read the Public Notice (attached).

Item #4 – Public Comment

Chairwoman Conklin stated that anyone who wished to speak should come up to the microphone and state their name and the town in which they reside.

Barbara Scuccimarra, Town of Philipstown, congratulated the Legislators with the task of reviewing a difficult budget dealing with the many New York State mandates. She stated that taxpayers are frustrated with the escalating gasoline prices. She stated that sales tax revenue to the County is high because of these gasoline prices. She questioned if the County would consider reducing the County's portion of sales tax revenue by a few pennies. She believed this would be a positive impact on so many people.

Lonna Kelly, from Putnam Independent Living Services stated that she was very impressed and happy that the Legislature reinstated the \$650,000 dollars for the Transit System. Instead of cutting transportation, she would love to see it expanded.

Regina Morini, President of the Board of Trustees for the Mahopac Public Library, thanked the Legislature for realizing how much work our unique libraries do for the County residents.

Alice Walsh, Trustee of the Mahopac Public Library, stated that this budget reflects support for the libraries. The increase in electronic media has increased the need for library services and training of library staff members who can help assist individuals on the computers which are necessary resources for everyday life. She stated that she is very grateful that the budget reflects support for the libraries and these electronic resources.

Martin Miller, former President of Patterson Library Board, thanked the Legislature for supporting the libraries. He stated that libraries have taken on more responsibilities and provide more services which support our citizens.

Carol Donick, Director of the Desmond Fish Library in Garrison, also thanked the Legislature for their support. Librarian's jobs have gotten much more complex and demanding with new technology. They assist the residents in many different areas.

Joe Bravo, Putnam Independent Living Services, thanked the Legislature for reinstating the funding for the Transportation Services. The issue of ParaTransit for the elderly and disabled individuals is critical in this County. For many it is the only form of transportation which allows people to be independent and to be part of their community. He felt that this may be an ongoing issue every year. He believed that the community wanted to work with the County in terms of looking at other options or alternatives that could work to be able to continue to provide this service that is extremely needed.

Steve Unger, Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities, stated that he addressed the Legislature on October 18th, via a letter, which outlined the Council's concerns regarding the reduction in Transportation Services. He stated that many people were relieved last week after the actions taken by the Committee members and the Legislature to reinstate these services. He stated that transportation is very vital especially for people with disabilities. He stated that if transportation is going to be an ongoing issue, it is necessary that all voices be heard and requested that all stakeholders be brought into the discussions.

Judy Terlizzi stated that she utilized the Carmel and Patterson bus routes for one year. They gave her the ability to continue working at her job. She saw many individuals utilizing these same services. She stated that if she was not able to work, she would have been on public assistance. The bus service is an extremely important service for many people in Putnam County. She thanked the Legislature for putting it back into the budget.

Frank Mastroianni thanked the Legislature for the van being utilized and shared by the Veterans and the disabled. However, he felt that public awareness regarding programs that are available to the public and who is eligible, is lacking. This key area needs to be addressed in the future; how to get information out to the public.

Steve Rosario, Resident of Philipstown, also thanked the Legislature. He wanted to recognize and acknowledge the Legislature for standing up and opposing the draconian cut to the transportation budget line and put the money back in. You gave voice to those who needed it. As a Legislative body you stood up, eliminated unnecessary positions and saved the taxpayers money in the process. You should be acknowledged and commended.

At 7:19 P.M., Legislator Birmingham made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a litigation matter; seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

At 7:47 P.M., Legislator Birmingham made a motion to come out of executive session; seconded by Legislator Tamagna. All in favor.

No action was taken.

There being no further business, at 7:47 P.M., Legislator Birmingham made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.