



now caused the seniors to stand outside of the senior housing complex, in all types of weather conditions, while they wait for the bus. She stated that residents who utilize the transportation system are used to the current schedule and therefore she believed that notification of this change needed to occur in order to make everyone aware. She stated that the Village of Brewster is a transit oriented community and there are buses coming through this area from Connecticut, the PART system and the Office for Senior Resources. She stated that when it comes to waiting for the PART bus to arrive, the comfort level for these individuals who utilize the service has decreased. She believed that with changing the location to the Donald B. Smith campus it was necessary to consider providing a shelter area for these individuals, seats and restroom facilities; outside of regular DSS hours.

Mr. Robert Palazzo, Driver for MV Transit, believed that changing the location to the Donald B. Smith Campus was “an accident waiting to happen.” He also stated that the drivers barely have enough time to utilize restroom facilities right now without adding five (5) or ten (10) minutes onto their route. He believed it made more sense to keep it at its current location, Putnam Plaza where it was easier for individuals to board and disembark from the buses. He stated that he was very concerned about the changes being made and believed it was necessary to provide appropriate restroom facilities and shelter areas for individuals who utilize the PART bus system.

Mr. William Nulk, Resident of the Town of Kent, member of the Transportation Advisory Council and President of the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce stated that the issue of readjusting the route came from the request of the management of Putnam Plaza. He believed that we have enhanced and added to the route which better serves the Department of Social Services, the Office for Senior Resources and the other agencies located in the Donald B. Smith Campus. He stated that as part of process in making a change to the routes, it was necessary to hold this Public Hearing since the buses are federally funded.

Transportation Manager, Vincent Tamagna explained that the change initiated from a request from the Putnam Plaza landlord. He stated that there will be facilities and added lighting installed at the Donald B. Smith location. He stated that the Highway Department is currently readjusting the curbing in the front of the building. He stated that the only modification is to move the hub from Putnam Plaza to the Donald B. Smith Campus. He stated that now four (4) buses will be going to the Donald B. Smith Campus rather than one (1). He stated that we will now be bringing the buses into residential senior facilities which will allow the seniors more flexibility and options instead of just utilizing an Office for Senior Resource bus at certain times. He stated that all of the safety issues have been considered with the Safety Manager.

Legislator LoBue questioned if there was an attempt to request the use of the plaza across the street from Putnam Plaza.

Transportation Manager Tamagna said, “no.”

Legislator LoBue stated that with the amount of cars that are parking in the parking lot of the Donald B. Smith Campus, she believed it did not make sense to bring additional buses into that area. She stated that with the new Transportation Contract, Transportation Manager has informed the Legislature that ridership has been down. She believed that this was an indicator that there is a problem.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated that the buses will be going through the front driveway through the horseshoe and coming back around. He stated that they would not be going back behind the building by Emergency Services. He stated that the curbs are being reconfigured in front of the Donald B. Smith Campus to accommodate the buses safely.

Legislator Nacerino questioned how late the last bus run was with respect to stopping at the Donald B. Smith Campus.

Transportation Manager Tamagna said, "8:00 pm."

Legislator Nacerino stated that she had some concerns with the area being dark and desolate.

Mr. Palazzo stated that the reason the ridership on the buses is down is because they are constantly running behind schedule, the buses breaking down and on-calls. He stated that now you would be adding another five (5) or ten (10) minutes to the route. He explained that with the new route there will also be more stop signs and lights which will add more time.

Chairman Albano stated that the County does not own Putnam Plaza and if someone has a better scenario, maybe we could look at that in the future.

Mr. Palazzo suggested polling the storeowners in Putnam Plaza to see how they feel about not having the buses in the Plaza.

There being no further members of the public that wished to speak, at 6:50 P.M., Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.