

RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Held In Room 318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislators Gouldman & Scuccimarra

Thursday **6:30pm** **November 12, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Chairwoman Addonizio who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Chairwoman Addonizio was present. Legislators Gouldman and Scuccimarra were absent. Chairwoman Addonizio requested that Legislator Albano sit on the Committee in their absence.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – September 17, 2015
October 13, 2015

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/ Appointment/ Putnam County Home Improvement Board/ Korin

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move the appointment of Steven Korin to the Putnam County Home Improvement Board to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/ Reappointments/ Putnam County Home Improvement Board

Legislator Albano made a motion to move the five (5) reappointments to the Putnam County Home Improvement Board to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Chairwoman Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/Appointment/ Putnam County Veteran's Memorial Park Advisory Board/ Simon

Legislator Albano made a motion to move the confirmation of appointment of Richard Simon to the Putnam County Veteran's Memorial Park Advisory Board to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Chairwoman Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #7 - Discussion/ Taxi & Limousine Commission/ Letters to be Sent to Towns and Villages

Chairwoman Addonizio stated there are many questions in regards to a Taxi & Limousine Commission that have yet to be answered. She stated Westchester County has had a Taxi & Limousine Commission since 1997 and they have a Commissioner

who is appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Legislature for a seven (7) year term. She questioned how this would work in Putnam County.

Putnam County Chambers of Commerce President Bill Nulk stated Putnam would not necessarily have the same set up as Westchester County. He stated the County first needs to obtain permission from the State before looking into how the Commission would be set up. He stated some sort of County-level regulation is preferable.

Chairwoman Addonizio suggested establishing a board rather than a commission.

Mr. Nulk stated the possibility of a taxi and limousine board was discussed by the Transportation Advisory Council.

Legislator LoBue stated a Taxi & Limousine Commission was discussed in 2012. She suggested obtaining a legal opinion from the Law Department to find out if the County can start a Commission without approval from the State. She stated going through the State is a very long and arduous process. She stated State Senators should be contacted as well.

Legislative Counsel Clem Van Ross stated as it stands now, under State Law, the power to regulate taxi and limousine services is with the Towns and Villages. He stated in order to have the County regulate, the State Law would need to be changed. He stated on the agenda is a proposed letter to the Towns and Villages asking if they are in favor of a County-level Taxi & Limousine Commission, which is the first step. He stated if the Towns and Villages are not willing to go along with this, the State will probably not be either. He stated this Commission was vetoed by the State the last time the County pursued it.

Mr. Nulk stated the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce spoke with the Towns and Villages in early 2014 and received verbal consent from each Town and Village for the County to pursue approval from the State. He stated their ultimate consent would depend on what type of regulation the County would establish.

Legislator Albano stated he would like to send the letter to the Towns and Villages. He stated he does not want to create another layer of government, but rather do something relatively simple where insurance and licenses are checked.

Director of Consumer Affairs Jean Noel stated if part of the regulation was a background check, the County does not have the authority to do that.

Legislator LoBue stated she agreed with Legislator Albano. She stated if written consent was received from each Town and Village, the County could then follow a process through the State.

Legislator Albano stated rather than establishing a Commission, the County could look into a more simple way to regulate taxis and limousines.

Legislator Gross agreed with a simple regulation. He stated insurance, vehicle inspection, and driver's licenses should be checked. He questioned how Ms. Ayala-Quezada, Owner of Carmel Taxi felt about a more simple regulation.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated simple regulation is done in small Towns. She stated for example, Mount Kisco checks insurance cards and registration and they would provide a sticker to be displayed on the vehicle. He stated the driver is required to have a Class E license issued through the Department of Motor Vehicles and a social security card. He stated Westchester County has a more complex Commission where they require things such as drug testing. She stated Bedford and Mount Kisco no longer license drivers as they require drivers to have a Westchester County license.

Legislator LoBue stated Putnam County should have a requirement for fingerprinting and background checks.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated an option would be for Putnam County to require drivers to have a Westchester license, knowing those steps have been taken.

Legislator Albano stated the details of what will be required can be gradually chosen throughout this process.

Legislator LoBue stated her concern regarding possible liability. She stated the sticker displayed on the vehicle is important because it is the first sign that the taxi is legitimate.

Mr. Nulk stated another aspect to be mindful of is the growth of ride share services. He stated with services such as Uber and Lyft, the taxi and limousine business is evolving beyond what it has been for so many years. He stated is it rumored that Uber is looking to expand Statewide. He stated there may be some functionality in the possibility of the State enacting some sort of regulation.

Legislator Gross stated substitute teachers are required to have their fingerprints on file, but they must independently have them taken. He stated perhaps the County could ask that the drivers or companies obtain fingerprints on their own.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned how the letters to each Town and Village should be sent out.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated the letters could be sent from the Rules, Enactments, & Intergovernmental Committee.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated Legislator Nacerino was unable to attend tonight's meeting, however she did express that she would like any letter to be sent to the Towns and Villages to come from the Legislative Representative(s) of that Town or Village.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated some Towns and Villages have multiple Legislative Representatives, which would require that some letters be signed by multiple Legislators.

Legislator LoBue stated it would be simpler for each letter to be sent from the Committee.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated she would like to send the letters out from the Committee.

Legislative Clerk Diane Schonfeld questioned if each Legislator needed to be in agreement.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated if the letter is coming from the Committee, only the Committee needs to be in agreement.

Legislator LoBue suggested putting a time frame within the letter to ensure feedback from the Towns and Villages. She stated perhaps the end of December would be appropriate. She also suggested having each Legislator contact their respective Towns and Villages regarding the letter as well.

Legislator Albano made a motion to approve letters to be sent to each Town and Village from the Rules, Enactments, & Intergovernmental Relations Committee; Seconded by Chairwoman Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #8 - Litigation Report/ FYI

a) **July 3, 2015 – October 6, 2015** – Duly Noted

b) **October 7, 2015 – November 5, 2015** – Duly Noted

Item #9 - Other Business - None

Item #10 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:55pm Legislator Albano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Chairwoman Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.