HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Held in Room 318
Putnam County Office Building
Carmel, New York 10512

(Chairman Oliverio, Legislators Othmer & Tamagna)

Tuesday December 11, 2012 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Oliverio. Legislator Tamagna lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Tamagna and Chairman Oliverio were present. Legislator Othmer was absent.

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to accept all additional. Seconded by Legislator Tamagna. All in favor.

Chairman Oliverio introduced Ms. Paula Clair, who is here this evening to finalize her discussion regarding Fracking from last month’s meeting, due to the fact that we had run out of time for Ms. Clair to complete her presentation.

#3) Discussion/Fracking/Paula Clair

Chairman Oliverio asked Ms. Clair where she would like the committee to go from here with this issue, as two years ago, the County did vote to put a hold on Fracking in New York State.

Ms. Clair stated that yesterday December 10, 2012, Westchester County unanimously passed a law to prohibit Fracking Waste to protect the public health and the property values of the residents there. Ms. Clair is hoping that the Committee will possibly enact a similar law as Westchester County did.

Ms. Clair introduced Ms. Ellen Weininger and Ms. Susan Van Dolson who accompanies her this evening, and stated that Sue McDonald may also be attending, who will be perhaps be speaking on this issue.

Chairman Oliverio stated that we do have another meeting after this one, and he does not wish to go over the Fracking Law piece by piece, as we already have it. When we leave this topic, he is going to ask that the topic be continued in January to give all the Legislators time to review it, and then whoever is the next Chairman of the Health Committee would move this to the Full Legislature. Hopefully by February we can enact it.

Ms. Claire gave the Committee an overview by stating the most important word in this Law is “any”. The Law basically prohibits “any” Waste acceptance into Waste Water Facilities whether they are public or privately owned. We have forty five Waste Water Facilities in Putnam County, and that is of great concern to all of us. It also prohibits any Fracking Waste materials from being spread on any roads or any real property. This also includes any sale of
Fracking Waste within the County. The spreading of Fracking Waste on the roads will result in penalties which is a $25,000.00 fine and or 30 days in jail for one violation.

Chairman Oliverio stated that he can remember as a child, they would spray the dirt roads with an oil type of material to keep the dust down. Come to find out that what they had been using was PCP, and is highly toxic.

Ms. Weininger, Educational Outreach Coordinator for Grassroots Environmental Education read information from the DEC, regarding Radioactive Waste.

Legislator Tamagna asked Ms. Weininger if she would gather the names of the people in attendance at the meeting of the DEC, as he has several questions that need to be answered.

Ms. Weininger stated she would get that information for him.

Chairman Oliverio stated that Putnam County has already taken a stand as a Legislature on the issue of the byproducts of the Fracking industry. It was voted on, and a Resolution was passed two years ago. He is requesting that this be moved to next month’s Health Committee meeting, as we are limited in time. We already have a copy of the Law from Westchester County regarding this, and he is asking his fellow Legislators to review it and come back to the committee Meeting in January and he would like to move this to the Full Legislative Meeting for enactment. Westchester County has already outlawed this.

Chairman Oliverio asked Ms. Weininger to also be in attendance at the next Health Committee Meeting.

Ms. Weininger stated she would be in attendance.

Legislator Tamagna stated that his concern is that another County has toxic materials that can become airborne.

#4) Approval/Household Hazardous Waste Grant

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve the Household Hazardous Waste Grant. Seconded by Legislator Tamagna. All in favor

#5) Presentation/Protecting People from Tobacco Marketing/Diane Moore

This item was tabled until the next, as Ms. Moore is unable to attend this evenings meeting.
#6) Other Business

a) Discussion/Putnam Humane Society/Michelle Dugan/Dr. Beals

Chairman Oliverio asked Ms. Dugan of the Putnam Humane Society and Dr. Allen Beals, Commissioner of the Putnam County Health Department, to come forward and discuss the situation with the cats that have been T&R’d, (trap and neuter and return for the feral cat population).

Ms. Dugan stated that this is a problem all over. There is just not one group that can do it all, as it needs to be shared, and have community involvement.

Dr. Beals stated that the number of Rabies treatments are dramatically down which he feels is due to the Feline Task Force. People have been much more aware of the Rabies problem due to all the publicity. With the coordination between veterinarians and our humane groups and coordination with the Health Department, the Task force is working wonderfully with no cost to the County.

Chairman Oliverio stated that we are now moving forward and that the Task Force has been very successful.

Legislator Roger Gross stated that the Humane Society does a wonderful job. They are underfunded, as well as understaffed, but still continue to move forward.

b) Re-Appointment of Member of the Board of Health/Dr. Michael Nesheiwat

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to Re-Appoint Dr. Michael Nesheiwat to the Board of Health. Seconded by Legislator Tamagna. All in favor.

c) Approval/Re-Appointment Steven Unger/P.C. Coordinating Council For People with Disabilities

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to Re-Appoint Steven Unger/P.C. Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities. Seconded by Legislator Tamagna. All in favor.

#7) Adjournment

Being no further business to discuss, Legislator Tamagna made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Oliverio.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Claire E. Muller/Administrative Assistant