

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held in Room 318
Putnam County Office Building
Carmel, New York 10512

Wednesday

June 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m. by Chairman DiCarlo. He requested that Legislator LoBue lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Chairman DiCarlo and Legislators Oliverio & LoBue were present.

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to accept the additional and waive the rules; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #3 – Approval/Minutes – Personnel Committee Mtg. May 8, 2012

Chair DiCarlo stated that the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 – Approval/Treatment Court Coordinator Position

Chair DiCarlo stated that Judge Reitz is here tonight to follow-up on his discussion from the Protective June 11th meeting.

Judge Reitz stated that he would like to thank the Legislature again for allowing him to address the Legislators on this matter. He stated that six (6) years ago when he began serving as a Judge there were approximately fifteen (15) cases in the treatment court. He stated that based on the efforts of many people, some who are here with him tonight and others who were not able to attend tonight, the program has grown and is very effective. He stated that now they average ninety (90) cases on a daily basis. He stated that there are approximately twenty (20) cases pending that they would like to be accepted into the program. He stated that based on the budget cuts of New York State. The Court system had to give back \$170,000,000 this past budget year. He explained further the value of the program. He stated that the DWI cases are the majority of the cases. He stated that the Court system administration is pushing for the DWI cases to be removed to eliminate that aspect of Treatment Court. He stated that he does not support that. He stated this new position, being proposed, would help to keep their doors open to their existing clients as well allowing the additional twenty to be accepted into the program. He introduced others who were present who spoke in support of the program.

District Attorney Levy stated that unfortunately New York State has made cuts to programs that have been working for years and have agreed to fund programs that he does not believe in. Specifically funding will continue for the “Judicial Division Program”. He stated that it allows the Courts to allow drug dealers into treatment court, without necessarily pleading guilty. He stated that Putnam County has a tremendous drug treatment team. He continued to discuss the improvement in recidivism rate over the years and the overall effectiveness of the program. He stated to send a person to jail with addiction issues does not have a positive recidivism rate.

Chair DiCarlo requested clarification. Is it correct to say that New York State dictates what the money they provide can be used for?

District Attorney Levy stated that they do not dictate what he can do. They are not his boss, they are the Judges boss. So the Judges have to comply with their rules.

Judge Reitz stated that the most recent records he has seen show that it cost \$60,000 to house one individual in a State Prison for one year. He stated that one of the best things about the Treatment Court Program is that there are many people who have graduated who are clean and sober for years and are active productive members of society. He stated also if this program were not in place he would be putting a lot more people in the County and State jails. Preventing board-in revenue opportunity for Putnam County. Currently the County Jail has 24 board-ins. That is revenue to the County.

Inspector General Intrary stated that from January 2012 to April 2012 \$110,000 has been spent on board-out prisoners and another \$120,000 has been spent on transportation of these prisoners.

Judge Reitz stated that there are other Counties that have stepped in to assist in the funding of this program. He stated that is also the case with the Mental Health Court. That funding has been cut as well. He stated with this proposed position they would be able to take in some of the mental health cases. He stated by keeping these people out of jail it helps reduce the burden on our jail facility.

Personnel Director Eldridge stated that the salary will be between \$45,000-\$50,000 plus benefits for a full-time position. He stated that if the approval comes from this committee Commissioner Carlin will present the financials to the June 25, 2012 Audit & Administration meeting.

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to approve the position, with the budgetary amendments marked to be sent to the Audit & Administration Committee Meeting; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #5- Discussion/District Attorney's Office/Personnel-Retirement-Restructuring Dept.

District Attorney Levy stated that two Assistant District Attorneys: one has been with the County for 30 plus years and the other has been here 20 plus years, have both decided to retire and move on to doing some defense cases. He stated that he has come before the Legislature to request to be allowed to hire a Full-time Employee to fill the part-time person who is retiring. He stated that there will be a zero fiscal impact. Because they will take the salary of the retiring employee who was with the County for 20 plus years and put it towards the proposed newly hired Full-Time position. He stated with the Employee' salary who had the 30 plus years of service he would like to restructure his department. He stated that he would like to create autonomy amongst the District Attorney's Staff; again it will be a zero fiscal impact.

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to approve the hiring of a Full-Time Employee and Restructure the District Attorney's Staff with zero fiscal impact; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #6- Approval/Standard Work Day & Reporting Resolution/Required by: NYS Retirement System

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to approve the Standard Work Day & Reporting Resolution/Required by: NYS Retirement System; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #7- Approval/Fund Transfer (12T105)/Move Monies into Overtime to Cover Dispatcher Overtime/Bureau of Emergency Svcs.

Personnel Director Eldridge stated that the plan was that if the Bureau of Emergency Services had a full-time floater it would help to cut down on overtime. He stated that is what was approved for the 2012 Budget of the Bureau of Emergency Services. The full-time employee who was a "floater position" was hired and their overtime budget was cut in half. Unfortunately one of the full-time employees left, so the employee who was hired as the floater filled that position. Now it takes 3-4 months to train a person, and they do plan to hire a full-time employee who will be the floater again, but in the meantime there is overtime to be covered.

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (12T105)/Move Monies into Overtime to Cover Dispatcher Overtime/Bureau of Emergency Svcs; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #9 – Approval/Fund Transfer (12T114)/Cover Dispatcher Overtime Shortfall/ Emergency Operations Center

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (12T114)/Cover Dispatcher Overtime Shortfall/Emergency Operations Center; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #8 – Approval/Budgetary Amendment (12T113)/Transfer Funds for a Junior Eng. Position to a Sub Contingency Account/Highway & Facilities

Commissioner Pena stated that this was on the Operating Budget for 2012 and they would like to fill the position as soon as possible and begin addressing some of the gaps that they have. He stated for example they need someone to work the Pavement Management Program and inspections, data collection and input for that program. Also they would like to have someone address some of the engineer follow ups; such as the courthouse fire exists. There were some safety issues identified with that. There are some issues on Snake Hill Road and Constituent Issues that need to be addressed. He stated that the individual would also be responsible to do some of the Project Management work. He stated that there are six Roadway projects that have been funded and four have been defunded. They are sitting in limbo because there is no one available to address them.

Legislator LoBue questioned if this position had been approved.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that the Position was approved in the 2012 budget. However the funding was put in contingency depending on the hiring for this position.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that there are glaring gaps in the Highway & Facilities Department. The MS4 issues are not even being considered for this position.

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (12T113); Seconded by Chair DiCarlo. All in favor.

Item #10 – Approval/Fund Transfer (12T117)/Transfer Funds to Cover Upgrade/Highway & Facilities

Commissioner Pena stated that this individual has been taking on the responsibility of Chief Mechanic for some time.

Personnel Director Eldridge stated that his employee has been doing this position full-time and because he is blue collar he gets upgraded daily for doing the work. This would formalize this situation.

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (12T117)/Transfer Funds to Cover Upgrade/Highway & Facilities; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #11 – Other Business

11a. Approval/ Fund Transfer (12T124)/Transfer Anticipated Accrued Savings due to maternity leave/Dept. of Social Services

Legislator Oliverio made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (12T124)/Dept. of Social Services; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #12- Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:45p.m., Legislator Oliverio made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by, Diane Trabulsy, Administrative Assistant