

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held In Room #318**  
**PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**  
**CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members:**  
**Chairwoman LoBue & Legislators Albano & Othmer**

**Tuesday**

**July 17, 2012**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Chairwoman LoBue. She requested that Legislator Othmer lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Othmer & Chairwoman LoBue were present. Legislator Albano was absent

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

**Item #3) Approval of Minutes-Physical Svcs Committee Mtg. June 19, 2012**  
Chair LoBue stated that the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4) Approval/Request to Purchase Town of Kent TM #22.75-1-21/Sisto's**  
Legislator Othmer stated that he worked with First Deputy County Attorney Negro on this request. He stated that Mr. & Mrs. Sisto contacted him. They live in the Town of Kent and expressed an interest to purchase this piece of property which is adjacent to their property. The property will now go back on the tax role.

Chair LoBue made a motion to approve the Purchase of Tax Map No. 22.-75-1-21/Town of Kent; Seconded by Legislator Othmer. All in favor.

**Item#5) Discussion/Hill & Dale Project**

Chair LoBue stated Commissioner Pena will provide a financial breakdown of the \$45,000 that has been requested to complete the Hill & Dale Project.

Commissioner Pena stated that this project is tied to the storage facility for the County Clerk Office. He stated that there is an estimated cost of \$20,000 for I/T, \$10,000 for fiber optics to be connected to our local server and \$15,000 for a fence.

Chair LoBue stated that between tonight and the July 30, Audit & Administration meeting Commissioner Pena has committed to giving a more detailed breakdown of the I/T cost - \$20,000 and the Fencing cost-\$15,000. She stated that will be reviewed at the Audit & Administration meeting. She stated that the requested \$45,000 is going to be bonded.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that in the beginning of July the cost estimate was \$30,000, now that amount has increased \$15,000. He requested that be explained.

Commissioner Pena stated that two factors caused that increase. One, the fiber optics and second the fencing cost was higher than planned.

Legislator Oliverio questioned if this bonding has been included in any previous bonding.

Commissioner Pena stated it has yes.

Chair LoBue stated that the \$45,000 would be in addition to what has been previously requested. *(Note: R#113/2012 Intent to Bond there was \$6,000 dedicated to the Hill & Dale Project)*

Legislator Othmer stated that the building is a real bargain and it is providing the space needed for the records center.

Chair LoBue stated that she wanted to publicly give the credit to the former Director of Real Property George Michaud who was the person who brought this property forward to be used by the County.

Inspector General Intry stated that he wanted to thank County Executive Odell and Chair LoBue for their foresight on this project.

Legislator Othmer made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment -12A059 for \$45,000; Seconded by Chair LoBue. All in favor.

**Item #6) Discussion/Morningthorp Bridge/Correspondence Fr: T. Hay**

Chair LoBue stated that there was correspondence received from Supervisor Hay recommending that the Morningthorp Bridge in the Town of Southeast, which has been closed since 2008 due to safety concerns, be converted into a covered bridge and turn 200 yards of the roadway into a walking park.

Legislator Gross stated that it would be a great enhancement to the area. Currently the closed bridge is a real eye sore. He stated that possibly there would be grant funding available.

Chair LoBue stated that Director of Tourism Pataki sent a memo dated July 5, 2012, which was received in the Legislative Office today. It states that she is interested in meeting with Supervisor Hay to discuss this proposal .

Commissioner Pena stated that there may be an opportunity with the utility company to serve as a funding source. He stated that can be researched down the line, but wanted to mention it.

**Item #7) Discussion/Tax Assessment Coalition to Achieve Equity in Real Property Tax Assessments**

Chair LoBue stated that this was an item that was presented by the County Executive at the State of the County Address in March 2012.

County Executive Odell stated that she has been discussing the topic with the Town of Carmel Councilman Jonathan Schneider. The Town of Carmel is one of two Towns in Putnam County that is not in compliance with the 100% Tax Assessment. She read a letter that she had received from Councilman Schneider. Essentially the Town of Carmel is researching and evaluating if now, when the real estate market is not at its strongest point, is the correct time to do a re-evaluation.

Chair LoBue stated in the proposed resolution in the eighth “WHEREAS” clause it references the Geographic Information System (GIS). She stated in a discussion that she had with former Director Michaud he stated that the GIS had not been updated since 2003. She questioned what has been done internally to address this matter.

County Executive Odell stated that there is a synergy between MS4, Mapping and GIS that the Administration is looking to accomplish. She stated that Deputy County Executive Walker is working on this project. She stated that the vacancy of the position of Director of Real Property has been posted. She stated that the Administration will be back to provide the Legislature with a look at the plan they have for the future of that Department. She stated that as a result of Mr. Michaud’s departure there was a temporary position line put in that Department. Currently there is a college intern assisting Lisa Johnson, who has stepped up to take on the responsibilities of the Director of Real Property. She has been doing an excellent job. The transition has been seamless. The Department has what they need to get the County through the upcoming tax season.

Legislator Tamagna stated that he does not believe that Putnam County puts an adequate amount of focus on I/T. He stated that he believes it is critical in the upcoming budget process to put the appropriate amount of focus on the needs for funding for that department. He stated that originally the I/T Department used to be in the purview of the Planning Department. However when the E-911 requirements came along it was put with the Bureau of Emergency Services.

County Executive Odell stated that she would like to have the resolution passed on this item.

Chair LoBue stated that she believes this is an internal matter to update the GIS program and as far as the 100% evaluation the County does not have the authority to make that happen. That is a Town issue. Therefore she doesn’t believe this matter requires a resolution.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he believes a resolution should be passed. He stated that it has been discussed that the County may assume full assessment for the Towns. He stated since that is a possibility he supports moving the resolution proposed at the State of The County to the August Full Meeting.

Chair LoBue stated that she has heard from the Town Assessors that they do not support the consolidation of the function of the Town Assessors to the County.

County Executive Odell stated that she worked with the Town Assessors in the creation of the proposed resolution because the Coalition of Assessors is very much in favor of 100% evaluation. It is a resolution to assist in a funding mechanism that is why the Administration is asking that this resolution be passed. This is also an act to show the County’s support for the new Coalition of Assessors.

Chair LoBue questioned where the funding mechanism is for this proposal.

County Executive Odell stated this is an affirmation. She stated the County would be moving along with the Towns to get parity and equity. She stated that she is a Town of Carmel and Putnam County Resident. She stated that the goal is to obtain a single unit that will be used

for assessing. She stated that is what the Office of Real Property & Tax Services (ORPTS) and Albany want. She stated it proves equity along with efficiency.

Legislator Tamagna stated he would like to thank County Executive Odell and John Tully for the work they have done on this. Initially he did not support the consolidation. However what he has seen since the last assessment, particularly in the Town of Philipstown and the Town of Carmel is disasters in terms of maintaining their tax rolls. He stated that the Towns probably do not have all of the resource or capability to do what needs to be done. He stated that the County probably handles it much better. He stated that this same conversation was had when the consolidation of the Board of Elections occurred.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that this is a political issue. If New York State wants every Town to be assessed at 100%, then make it a Law. He absolutely supports getting all of the Towns to 100% it will in the long run help the School Districts, Towns and the County. He stated that he would like the elected officials in Albany to take the stand on this and make it a New York State requirement.

Legislator Tamagna stated that he believes the Supervisor of the Town of Philipstown supports going to the 100%. He stated that George Michaud had a plan, which I am sure that he shared with County Executive Odell. With a collaborative effort and volunteers the Towns that are not at 100% could get there with very little funding. He stated that he agrees that the County needs to show their support by the way of a Resolution. He stated that the Towns will then know that the County is in full support of this effort.

County Executive Odell stated that she would like to emphasize that the Resolution in front of this board tonight for consideration, initially presented at the March State of the County, was drafted with the new Assessors Coalition. They requested the County's support, which is the intent of this Resolution. It affirms their position.

Legislator Othmer made a motion to approve the Tax Assessment Coalition to Achieve Equity in Real Property Tax Assessments Resolution; Seconded by Chair LoBue. All in favor.

**Item #8) Update/Adopt-A-Highway Program/Corres: Dated: April 27, 2012 Fr: Chair Phys Svcs LoBue To: County Executive Odell Re- Adopt-A-Highway Program**

Chair LoBue stated that there was information that was requested back in April that has not been received on the Adopt-A-Highway Program. She stated that late this afternoon there was a list sent to the Legislative Office.

County Executive Odell stated that it is her understanding that the County no longer has an adopt the road program. She stated that is the information that she was given by Rob Morris of the Putnam County Health Department and from the County's Legal Department. She stated that the Legislature at some point in time decided to discontinue the program. She stated that there are no new applicants in the program since 2012. She stated that the list that was sent to the Legislature today, were names from old records of previous participants of the program.

Chair LoBue stated that there was correspondence from County Executive Odell dated December 22, 2011, that Chair LoBue read into the minutes. Essentially the memo listed points of concern with safety, liability and finances in relation to the Adopt-A-Highway Program. The correspondence ended requesting that the appropriate Legislative Committee review this matter. She stated that the matter was addressed by the Legislature at the March Physical Services Committee meeting. She stated at that time it was agreed in committee to take no action. She stated that she was asked to place this matter back on the agenda because some of the Legislators had been approached by constituents who supported the program. She stated that was the reason behind the information that was requested in the April 27, 2012 correspondence to County Executive Odell.

Legislator Othmer stated that his main goal was to prevent Politicians from using Adopt-A-Highway as a means of self-advertisement. He stated that there was a Politician who had a sign. However on more than one occasion the County's Litter Patrol employees were out cleaning that roadway. The commitment made when you get a sign in the Adopt-A-Highway program is for the person whose name is on the sign to clean the roadway surrounding the sign. He stated that his main goal is to prevent abuse of the program.

Deputy County Attorney Negro stated that he would like to provide some clarification on the legal aspects of this matter. The Adopt-A-Highway program is a State Program. He stated that it is administered through the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). He stated that Putnam County Employee, Walt Thompson, when he worked for the County was administering the program for the NYSDOT. He stated that the County Road Program is using State Applications. At this point the County does not have jurisdiction over the State program.

Legislator Oliverio stated that his concern is the safety and liability concern of those on the roads picking up the litter. He stated that he believes people will pick up the litter on their own. He stated that he agrees with County Executive Odell to discontinue the program.

Legislator DiCarlo questioned if it is decided that the program will be discontinued, what happens to the signs that are currently up, that needs to be addressed.

Resident Barbara Scuccimara stated that litter is an environmental problem for this County. She stated that this has been a very effective program in Philipstown.

Chair LoBue stated that unfortunately that is not the case in other areas of Putnam County.

Resident Steve Rosario stated that he is from Philipstown and is only aware of State Roads that have the signs. He requested confirmation that the program will continue on those State Roads regardless of the decision that is made by the County.

Chair LoBue stated that is correct.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that the issue is the enforcement of the program. The County Employee, Walt Thompson, who ran the program is no longer with the County and that position was not filled when Mr. Thompson left.

Legislator Tamagna stated that if the sign is on the County Road and the program is not working and the people are not doing the job they promised to do the signs should come down. He stated by leaving the signs up on the County Roads of people who have defaulted on their commitment to the program is a mockery against the organizations who are part of the State program and committed to making the program beneficial to our environment.

Chair LoBue restated that the County Executive will have the Highway & Facilities Department take down the signs on the County Roads.

Deputy County Attorney Negro stated that there needs to be attention given to promises made in the agreements with the participants. He stated that the agreements will be reviewed and the County will move forward accordingly.

**Item #9) Verbal Update/Highways & Facilities Updates/Commissioner Pena**

- a) **Carmel Landfill-** Commissioner Pena stated that the project is just about complete. There are some punch list items remaining, he projects final completion in approximately two (2) weeks, and reported that the project has been within budget.
- b) **Carmel Sidewalk Project -** Commissioner Pena stated that the scheduled completion date is July 31, 2012. He stated that he believes it will be more like the first week in August 2012, and the project is within the budget.
- c) **Parking Deck-**Commissioner Pena stated that it is about 15% complete. He stated there is a projected completion date of August 31, 2012 . He stated definitely by the first week in September 2012.

Legislator Othmer stated that it was recommended, during a previous Pyysical Services Meeting, that if a canopy could be installed; make it a covered parking deck. He questioned if that has been pursued.

Commissioner Pena stated that he is aware of that. They have not yet looked into that. He stated that it makes a lot of sense and does plan on looking into it.

**Item #10) Other Business – None**

Resident Wilma Baker stated that the Town of Carmel had the chance to bring their assessment up to 100% at the same time the other Towns were approached. The State gave an incentive to do it. The Town of Kent took advantage and did it along with three other Towns. The Town of Carmel would not do it. She stated that it is not fair that the people have to go through all of this again.

Legislator Oliverio stated that the residents in the Towns who are already at 100% will not have to do anything. He stated that this resolution passed tonight is to get an updated mapping GIS system for the County so everyone is on a level field.

Chair Conklin stated that if the County is going to looking to put a canopy/roof on the parking deck there should be some preparations put in place in the structure now so it could be easily accomplished if the decision is to put one on.

Legislator Tamagna stated that the structure originally was built and designed to take a second deck if needed.

Commissioner Pena stated that he does not think any additional pylons would be needed. The current structure appears to be adequate.

**Item #16) Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 7:13 P.M., Legislator Othmer made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Chair LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature- *Diane E. Trabulsy*