

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
BUDGET MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM 318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512  
(Chairman Albano, Legislators Castellano & Scuccimarra)**

**Thursday**

**October 12, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Albano who requested that Legislator Scuccimarra lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Chairman Albano and Legislators Castellano and Scuccimarra were present.

**Item #3 – 2018 Budget Review**

Chairman Albano stated the review will begin with the Planning and Development Department's budget, page 199.

Legislator Jonke questioned on page 199, 10802000 52650 Motor Vehicles what is the \$25,000 going to be used for.

Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Development Sandra Fusco stated the department needed another vehicle to provide transportation for the Veterans. She stated the vehicle bought with the \$25,000 is going to be used to reduce para transit transportation. She stated by going with a sedan versus a bus it will result in a cost savings for the County. She explained they will be going from \$3.41 per mile to \$1.97 per mile. She stated not everyone can ride in the sedan that uses paratransit. She stated those who are mobile can ride the sedan.

Legislator LoBue stated that she has seen a white vehicle with "Veterans" written on the side of it.

Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Development Sandra Fusco stated that is the MV1 Vehicle, it is a smaller vehicle resulting in lower fuel cost, but still accommodates a wheel chair.

Legislator LoBue requested that the calculations be provided that support the purchase of this vehicle.

Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Development Sandra Fusco stated currently the County spends \$30,000 - \$40,000 a month on paratransit costs.

Legislator LoBue questioned if it is anticipated to save \$25,000.

Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Development Sandra Fusco stated at the very least.

Legislator LoBue stated again, she would like a copy of the supporting calculations.

Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Development Sandra Fusco stated the cost to transport the Veterans has been reduced significantly. She stated in 2015 the cost to transport the Veterans was \$86,370, in 2016 it was reduced to \$40,580 and in 2017 as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, the cost is \$1,061. She stated that is what she is hoping to do

with the Paratransit system. She stated it is one of the most expensive transportation services, which the County is required to provide.

Legislator Nacerino questioned where is the budget line for the Lawlor Building, which is where the County's Planning Department will be moving to.

Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Development Sandra Fusco stated it is on page 199 budget line 10802000-54383. She stated the 2018 budget is \$26,400, which includes the rent fee and the utilities.

Legislator LoBue questioned if a resident of the County calls to get transportation to an appointment in the Bronx, for example would that person be able to get transportation via the Paratransit service to the Bronx.

Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Development Sandra Fusco stated no. She stated services are provided to Veterans and residents who are registered to receive the Paratransit service.

Legislator LoBue stated that the County is providing transportation for a specific group of people with tax payers' money. She stated that there are a lot of people in Putnam County who need transportation assistance, especially with getting to and from medical appointments.

Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Development Sandra Fusco stated that type of service is not provided. She stated that they do receive phone calls like that, and the question is asked of the individual, if they are Paratransit eligible, because she and her staff sympathize with the people.

Chairman Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Chairman Albano stated that Auditor Sharkey had submitted two (2) administrative changes that needed to be made in the 2018 Budget. The first is to Decrease 10802000 54354 Heating Oil \$50,000 and Increase 95630000 54354 Heating Oil \$50,000. The second is in Park Maintenance & Repairs move \$15,000 to Sub contingency Maintenance & Repair 10199000 54985.

Chairman Albano led the discussion with Commissioner of Highways and Facilities Fred Pena.

Commissioner Pena stated that the 2018 budget for his department is a very solid budget. He stated there are many capital projects that are going to be worked on. He stated that they were careful not to request funds that were not directly accountable or needed.

Legislator Sullivan requested an estimated cost to the County for the maintenance of the Bikeway.

Commissioner Pena stated an estimation calculated during the clean-up after super storm "Sandy" hit Putnam County, October 29, 2012 came out to be in the \$100,000 range.

Legislator Sullivan questioned what the RR Station Maintenance "County Contribution" budget line on page 129 is for.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated that years back, in the late 90s, the State Legislature stated that there was going to be a formula created that would generate a Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase every year that the County would have to pay for railroad maintenance. He stated that expenditure is what the County must pay in 2018 towards maintenance at all of the MTA Train Stations. He stated the County has no input as to the work that will be performed, it is completely run by the MTA.

Legislator Jonke stated he went on a tour of some of the MTA Stations with Legislators Castellano and Nacerino. He stated the conditions of some of the stations are very poor. He stated it did not appear that there was any maintenance being done in either of the Brewster or Southeast stations. He stated Neal Zuckerman Metro North Senior Director of Corporate Public Affairs for the MTA was on the tour as a liaison.

Legislator Nacerino stated the purpose of the site walk was to identify maintenance issues at the various stations. She stated the MTA has funding to allocate towards needed maintenance. She stated that she is confused as to why the County is paying almost a million dollars towards maintenance.

Chairman Albano stated that is a good point. He stated that he believes the MTA representatives should be invited to a committee meeting, in the future, to provide insight to this matter.

Deputy Commissioner of Highways and Facilities John Tully stated that Mr. Zuckerman is a great resource. He stated the fact that he was present at the site visit, he suspects that phone calls have been made on behalf of the County.

Chairman Albano facilitated discussion regarding the revenue and expenditures related to BOCES and Tilly's Table on page 184 and 185 of the Tentative 2018 Budget.

#### County Road Fund Accounts (pages 218-221)

Commissioner Pena stated that the County did the work on the Turk Hill project. He stated the job was well managed and completed before school was back in session. He stated by the County's workforce doing the job it saved a significant amount of money.

Legislators Jonke and Castellano both stated that they have constituents in the area of that project and they have received great feedback and appreciation for a job well done.

Legislator Sullivan questioned when Route 6 will be completed in the area of Reed Library down past Putnam Plaza.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated representatives from NYS DOT have reported that the work is on their docket, weather permitting. He stated they project the work to be done by the end of this season or early next season.

Chairman Albano stated that he was told by a member of the NYS DOT that the projected time of completion is the end of 2018. He stated that he has been in contact with the NYS DOT regarding the portion of Route 52 that runs in front of the County Office Building. He stated the he was told that it is on their list of projects to be worked on.

Legislator Gouldman requested a status on the work being done on Oscawana Lake Road.

Commissioner Pena stated there is still some shoulder work that needs to get done.

Legislator Castellano requested a status on the Sodom Road Bridge work.

Commissioner Pena stated the Sodom Road Bridge work is on budget and on schedule for 2019. He stated the Morningthorpe Bridge project is moving forward. He stated the work will begin early 2018.

Legislator Sullivan questioned in regards to the winter storms and roads, does the County only use salt on the roads.

Commissioner Pena stated the County uses salt and brine on the winter roads.

Chairman Albano questioned if a reduction in the amount of salt used could be achieved.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated for the past three (3) years as the County has been replacing the trucks, the spreaders are being replaced as well. He stated the new technology allows pre-wetting and grinding of the salt so that the salt does not spread beyond the white lines.

Commissioner Carlin reminded the Legislature that Road Salt is the only item in the County Budget that an emergency purchase can be made, without coming to the Legislature first. He stated in a case of the County not having enough road salt, the road salt is ordered and then the funding is submitted for approval by the Legislature. He stated the reason for that is that it falls under the "health and safety" of the residents.

Legislator Sullivan questioned if there are any plans to renovate the men's room at the Putnam County Golf Course.

Commissioner Pena stated the County has been looking into that. He stated there are some ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) matters that must be addressed. He stated if there are other renovations that are desired to be done, they could be added to the Capital Projects list. He stated the funding to do the work on the ADA projects was approved by the Legislature, earlier this year. He stated if there are additional projects/renovations that are agreed upon, the scope of the project would need to be done and funding secured.

Chairman Albano stated that the ADA matters are priority. He stated also the roof work and the air conditioning work needs to be done.

Commissioner Pena gave an overview of the ADA projects that need to be done at the Putnam County Golf Course: the restrooms, the exterior door near the pro shop, cleaning up between the lower parking lot and the entrance in the back of the building, adding handicap parking spaces in the lower lot, the path from the lower lot needs to be repaired, the front sidewalk, and add lighting in the lower parking lot.

Legislator Nacerino stated those are many projects. She questioned if there is enough funding to cover all of this projected work.

Commissioner Pena stated that they will look at that, but to date they are within budget.

Legislator Jonke questioned the status of the County's conversion to LED Lighting.

Commissioner Pena stated that they are working to combine the LED Lighting with the Article 9 work, which is energy savings type of work. He stated combining all of the work will result in a cost savings for the County.

**Item #4 – Other Business**

There being no further business, at 7:15pm, Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of the Legislature, Diane Trabulsy.