

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM #318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Gouldman & Sullivan

Thursday

March 22, 2018

(Immediately Followed the Personnel Meeting)

The meeting was called to order at 9:15p.m. by Chairman Jonke who requested that Legislator Sullivan lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Gouldman, Sullivan and Chairman Jonke were present.

Item #3 – Discussion/ Aftermath of Winter Storms Riley & Quinn

Chairman Jonke stated that he wanted to begin by thanking all who were present to address the different items on this agenda for staying and waiting. He stated it has been a long night, and again appreciates their patience.

Chairman Jonke stated he would like to begin this discussion by stating he believes the county employees of the Bureau of Emergency Services did a tremendous job in the handling of the aftermath of the Storm. He stated that he was on the conference calls that were on going throughout the days of the storms. He stated he would like them to provide a briefing from their view point of the County's handling of the aftermath of the storms.

Acting Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services Ken Clair stated the efforts of the staff members of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) were really great. He stated that there were County Employees present from the different departments as well as representatives from the Sheriff's Department and the State Police. He stated Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena and Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully were so helpful in organizing the employees of the Highway Department and putting them into action. He stated the biggest issue was the lack of proper handling of the situation on the part of NYSEG. He explained the different obstacles that existed in trying to work with NYSEG. He stated the main function that the County needed NYSEG to serve, in order for the County to move forward with the process of moving trees etc. was to determine if the scene was safe. He explained that NYSEG brought crews in from other areas with no direction of where to go. He continued to explain what took place. He explained as soon as they were beginning to make headway after the first storm, the second storm hit. He stated that there was a projection of a possible third storm that was to hit. He explained that NYSEG was prepared and proactive. He stated that they had dedicated five (5) line crews and five (5) tree crews to Putnam County and they allowed the County to assign the crews where we wanted them. He stated fortunately that storm did not end up to be what was forecasted.

Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully reiterated that the main obstacle to dispatch the County workers was the lack of coordination from NYSEG.

Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Lipton stated that absolutely that is what the obstacle was. He stated the County services were well coordinated and did great work despite the obstacles created by the lack of support from NYSEG.

Chairman Jonke stated again he and the Legislators were part of the conferences calls and heard that the County had their part under control. He stated that he is hoping that there is a way for the representatives from Putnam County to reach out to NYSEG, to assure that a mismanagement of this magnitude never happens again.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair continued to share some of the tremendous challenges and obstacles the County had to work with. He explained that when the representative from the Governor's Office came to the County's Emergency Operations Center it was a good thing, because they saw the chaos first hand. He explained also having the Public Service Commissioner present was an advantage. He explained the Public Service Commissioner dispatched five (5) people into the field to ask the NYSEG workers sitting in trucks doing nothing, "what they were doing". He explained the workers told them they were doing nothing, because they had not received orders.

Legislator Nacerino stated she wanted to publicly say "thank you to all of the people who worked seven (7) days straight with little sleep". She stated this was an uncoordinated effort. She stated on one of the conference calls former Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Anthony Sutton stated a hundred times a priority plan was asked for from Putnam County and a hundred times it was given, however when push came to shove NYSEG had their own agenda and plan, hence resulting in an uncoordinated effort. She stated this was not an exclusive problem in Putnam County. She stated that Westchester County had the same uncoordinated effort involving NYSEG and Con Edison. She stated the message that she believes that is taken away from this experience is that it is unacceptable and can never happen again. She questioned where and how can this be coordinated to avoid such an uncoordinated effort.

Chairman Jonke facilitated further discussion.

Deputy Commissioner Highways and Facilities Tully stated he believes there is preventative maintenance that can be done to help reduce the impact of such storms in our area. He stated trimming the trees on both sides of the road that are near the wires. He stated preventive maintenance to the trees and brush he believes would be a beneficial proactive effort. Also he explained repairing and replacing outdated telephone poles should be done. He stated it is probably on NYSEG's list to do, but he would like to see that action accelerated in Putnam County's heavily wooded region.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair stated there is a lack of cooperation between the many services that are on a telephone pole. He explained a pole may have Verizon, Cable, and Electricity. He stated unfortunately there is no coordinated effort in practice between these companies.

Chairman Jonke facilitated further discussion regarding some of the conversation that took place on the conference calls in terms of dispatching local NYSEG workers, especially in the evening hours who would be familiar with the area.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated he is in the process of drafting resolutions that have been discussed amongst the Legislators regarding this matter. He requested that Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair speak to the topic of mutual aid calls were handled, were they called in on a timely manner.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair stated the mutual aid crews were not called in on a timely manner. He stated when the crews from Canada arrived they were very effective. He stated prior to the crews from Canada's arrival, NYSEG's representative from Binghamton arrived at the Emergency Operations Center on the day after the storm hit. He stated he was not a field worker, he worked in the public service area of the NYSEG. He stated that he was not able to answer questions on the spot, he would have to contact someone else to secure the answer. He stated that one of the NYSEG workers who was dispatched to the Putnam Valley area as a foreman was a meter reader for NYSEG. He stated a meter reader has no knowledge regarding the wires.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that there have been some positives that have resulted. He stated that NYSEG did share their portal to a software program they use after this. He stated they did respond very well to emergencies that came up. He explained there were a few trucks that went off the road and there were wires down near the vehicles, NYSEG responded very quickly to those calls.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo requested that they speak to the response Putnam County received from Central Hudson.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated Central Hudson did not have large outages. He stated Central Hudson serves Philipstown and a small part of Putnam Valley.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair stated they restored quickly.

Legislator Albano stated that it was frustrating for the NYSEG workers as well. He stated on his street there were NYSEG workers in trucks sitting and waiting for hours to get their orders on where to go. He stated he saw first-hand the lack of communication to the workers who were sent to the Putnam County area.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated Central Hudson is very proactive and aggressive in their efforts of clearing the trees, which they did in the Fall of 2017. She stated she believes that was what helped the Central Hudson customers during these storms.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair stated he agrees. He stated that NYSEG in the Fall of 2017 did tree maintenance in Southeast and Patterson, and both of those towns fared pretty well during the storms in terms of losing power.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated there are things to be learned from such an experience. She stated she has discussed with Acting Commissioner Clair regarding developing a list of vulnerable residents who live in Putnam County. She stated the Putnam County Office of Senior Resources did reach out to those they were aware of. She stated however she has heard from constituents who live in Chestnut Ridge whose Health Care people could not get to them and they were very concerned.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated the Sheriff's Department has a program "Are You O.K.". He stated during these storms the Sheriff's Department contacts the people on that list once or twice a day. He stated the residents that reached out to Legislator Scuccimarra should be encouraged to join that program.

Legislator Sullivan stated again he is thankful to all of the workers who were out there and helping. He stated it was also great to see the Putnam County residents reaching out to each other and neighbors and helping each other.

Legislator Gouldman stated that he wanted to compliment Acting Commissioner Clair on a job well done. He stated the County's team worked very well with the local Towns, their highway departments, the Supervisors, Town Boards and the National Guard. He stated a big problem with NYSEG in addition to what has already been discussed was their website. He stated people who still had working cell phones were going on the NYSEG website in an attempt to get a status of their situation to see "Assessing" or even in some cases that their power had been "restored" when in fact their power had not.

Sheriff's Department Captain Babcock stated he would like to speak to some of the positives that were noticed by the Sheriff's Department. He stated Commissioner Pena and Deputy Commissioner Tully's relationship with the New York State Department of Transportation was beneficial. He stated also the County's working relationship with New York Communication Co. Inc. (NYCOMCO) was so beneficial. He explained that NYCOMCO, free of charge, provided radios that were utilized. He stated the radios were used to update the information regarding status on different roads, and road closures etc.

Legislator Sayegh stated that she spent an entire day in the Emergency Operations Center and would like to publicly commend all of the county employees who were called into action and she was so impressed by the coordination. She stated the constituents in her District experienced some real devastation. She questioned at this point what is done about all of the wires that are down and still just lying along the roadways. She stated that there is still a great deal of debris and wires that are tied with ropes.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that the wires are not necessarily NYSEG wires. He stated it could be telephone lines.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair requested that Legislator Sayegh provide a list of roads and he will have County employees go out and assess the situation.

Legislator Sayegh stated she also heard from her constituents that there was not enough information made available as to what shelters were open and available to the residents.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair stated that there are many components of opening a shelter. He explained at a Shelter there needs to be security, a nurse, meals and cots provided. He explained it is different from a warming station.

Legislator Sayegh questioned how can the locations be made available to the residents, when there is no power.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair explained they have been discussing that the highway electronic signs be utilized for that purpose. He stated also, there will be two (2) citizen preparedness course trainings. He stated the first class will be Tuesday, April 24th @ 6:30pm. and the

second course will be held Tuesday, May 22nd @ 6:30p.m. He stated the class will be held at the Putnam County Emergency Operations Center.

Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated that there will be classes held on the Western side of the County at a later date.

Legislator Castellano stated that his entire neighborhood was humming with generators. He stated including safety tips and usage of a generator would also be important information to provide in those classes.

Legislator Sayegh stated that she is concerned about a neighborhood in her district that has a private water district and the company is not providing a generator to give them water during a power outage. She stated that she was told that there is a critical facilities list, and she believes this neighborhood should be on the top of that list.

Chairman Jonke, after further conversation, concluded the discussion of this matter. He stated in closing, he along with his colleagues, is thankful for the fine team work and efforts that were put forward on behalf of our County, the communities and residents. He stated it makes him proud.

Item #4 – Approval/ Appointment Traffic Safety Board/ John Lord – Three (3) Year Term

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Appointment Traffic Safety Board/ John Lord – Three (3) Year Term; Seconded Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/Appointment Traffic Safety Board/ Joseph Castellano – One (1) Year Term and Neal Sullivan – One (1) Year Term

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Appointment Traffic Safety Board Joseph Castellano – One (1) Year Term and Neal Sullivan – One (1) Year Term; Seconded Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval/Appointment Traffic Safety Board/ Each for a three (3) Year Term: Nancy Montgomery, Philipstown Councilwoman, John O’Connor P.C. Project Coordinator – Safety Officer, Kevin Owens Town of Kent Lieutenant, Patrick Perry Town of Carmel

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approval/Appointment Traffic Safety Board/ Each for a three (3) Year Term: Nancy Montgomery, Philipstown Councilwoman, John O’Connor P.C. Project Coordinator – Safety Officer, Kevin Owens Town of Kent Lieutenant, Patrick Perry Town of Carmel; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #7 – Approval/Re-Appointment Traffic Safety Board Alternate Members for One (1) Year Term: Sergeant William Meyer, Sheriff’s Department and Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approval/Re-Appointment Traffic Safety Board Alternate Members for One (1) Year Term: Sergeant William Meyer, Sheriff’s Department and Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #8 – Discussion/Proposed Memorialization/Resolution Calling Upon New York State to Fund a School Resource Officer For Every Elementary and Secondary School in New York State/Sheriff Langley

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Waive the Rules and accept the Additional; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Chairman Jonke stated this request for consideration came from Sheriff Langley. He stated currently the County pays \$624,000 towards \$1.35 million total cost for the School Resource Officers (SROs) that are in the County's schools. He stated that he is in favor of this request.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated in light of what is going on in the schools throughout our country, she believes having SROs is necessary. She stated she also is in support of this proposal. She stated to get assistance with covering the costs of the SROs would be valued.

Legislator Gouldman stated in Putnam Valley the middle school and the high school share an SRO. He stated the elementary school in Putnam Valley does not have an SRO. He stated that its proximity to the other two (2) schools is not close. He questioned if there could be an effort pursued to get some form of security coverage for the Putnam Valley elementary school area.

Captain Babcock stated that he will certainly bring that matter back to Sheriff Langley. He stated in years past there have been Officers provided for the school bus release. He requested that Sheriff's Deputy Matthew Monroe speak to the current process.

Sheriff's Deputy Matthew Monroe stated there are road patrol officers that are assigned to detail that school on a rotating basis in addition to providing coverage during special types of events. He stated the coverage does vary. He stated that the Youth Bureau is run by Sergeant Szabo. He stated that currently he has been helping manage the day to day operations of the SROs. He stated there are generally two (2) Deputies in the Putnam Valley area.

Legislator Sullivan stated that the financial responsibility is shared between the County and the Schools. He stated the Putnam Valley Elementary School representatives should contact the County Sheriff's Department to work out a plan.

Captain James Babcock stated that the Putnam Valley Elementary School representatives have requested that a Special Patrol Officer (SPO) be assigned to their school. He stated an SPO is a part time position held by a person who is either a retired Police, Probation and/or Patrol Officer. He stated the Sheriff's Department is conducting interviews of candidates to fill the SPO positions in the county's elementary schools.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she is in favor and supports this memorialization. She stated that having an SRO and or SPO is a partnership between the School and the County. She stated at the Brewster School Districts, where she also works, they had elected to place an SRO officer at the John F. Kennedy Elementary School at the full expense of the Brewster School District. She stated that the SPO program, formed just a few years back, provides security at the Schools also. She stated the Mahopac School Districts has both SROs and SPOs in their schools. The SPO receives thorough

training in active shooters and they are armed. She stated the SPO are seasoned law enforcement people. She stated having the presence of the police car at a school has a very positive impact to how a school is viewed in terms of the schools on campus safety.

Legislator Addonizio stated that she is in favor of this memorialization.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Memorialization/Resolution Calling Upon New York State to Fund a School Resource Officer For Every Elementary and Secondary School in New York State; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #9 – Approval/Budgetary Amendment (18A021)/Adjust Budget for the Receipt of the 2017 SICG Formula Grant Award \$454,708 *(Under NYS 2017 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant Program 2017 SICG-Formula)*

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment (18A021)/Adjust Budget for the Receipt of the 2017 SICG Formula Grant Award \$454,708; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #10 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (18T025)/ Transferring Personnel Line Funding to Cover Overtime Lines for the Patrol and BCI Departments/ Sheriff's Department *(Review at 3/22/18 Pers. Mtg. also)*

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment (18T025)/ Transferring Personnel Line Funding to Cover Overtime Lines for the Patrol and BCI Departments; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #11 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (18T041)/Cover Overtime for Officer out on Family Leave/Sheriff's Department *(Review at 3/22/18 Pers. Mtg. also)*

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Approve Fund Transfer (18T041)/Cover Overtime for Officer out on Family Leave/Sheriff's Department; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #12 – Approval/FY2017 Technical Rescue & Urban Search and Rescue Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA)/Deputy Commissioner Lipton

Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton stated this is an annual grant that the County submits an application for a few years back when the Rope Rescue Team was formed in Putnam County. He stated there is a joint application submitted along with Westchester County. He stated the update on the formation of the Rope Rescue Team is that a Putnam County Technical Rescue Team, has been officially formed. He stated there have been two (2) 7 x 16 Trailers purchased. He stated each Trailer will have a ten (10) person team and the Trailer has been outfitted with necessary equipment. He stated one Trailer will be kept at the Bureau of Emergency Services and one will be kept on the Western side of the County, hopefully at the Cold Spring Highway Garage that has not been finalized yet. He stated that the balance of the grant funds from the previous grant funding award is being used to train the team.

He elaborated on the schedule of the training that is coming up. He stated the balance funding is due to run out at the end of August 2018. He stated this is a competitive grant.

Chairman Jonke stated the application deadline is April 17, 2018.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how long does a rescue rope last.

Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton stated once a rope is used to rescue an individual that rope is taken out of use. He stated a rescue rope can last in stock, as long as it is not used, 5 – 10 years.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve FY2017 Technical Rescue & Urban Search and Rescue Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA); Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #13 - Approval/ Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: Calling on the State of New York to Fully Reimburse Counties for District Attorney Salary Increases that are Set and Controlled by the State

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: Calling on the State of New York to Fully Reimburse Counties for District Attorney Salary Increases that are Set and Controlled by the State; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #14 - Approval/ Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: Calling on the Governor and the State Legislature to Provide Funding for the State Mandate Pertaining to Inmate Supervision/ Drug Overdose Precautions at County Operated Correctional Facilities

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: Calling on the Governor and the State Legislature to Provide Funding for the State Mandate Pertaining to Inmate Supervision/ Drug Overdose Precautions at County Operated Correctional Facilities; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #15 - Approval/ Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: In Support of Efforts to Improve Probation and Alternative to Incarceration in New York State to Protect the Public and Reduce Reliance on Prisons, Jails and Detention

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: In Support of Efforts to Improve Probation and Alternative to Incarceration in New York State to Protect the Public and Reduce Reliance on Prisons, Jails and Detention; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #16 - Approval/ Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: Calling on the State to Reimburse Counties for the Temporary Detainment of Parole Violators at Local Correctional Facilities

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: Calling on the State to Reimburse Counties for the Temporary Detainment of Parole Violators at Local Correctional Facilities; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #17 - Approval/ Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: Calling on the Governor Cuomo and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Interoperable Communications, to More Equitably and Efficiently Release the Interoperable Emergency Communication Funds Authorized

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Memorialization NYSAC Resolution: Calling on the Governor Cuomo and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Interoperable Communications, to More Equitably and Efficiently Release the Interoperable Emergency Communication Funds Authorized; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #18 - Approval/ Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: Urging New York State to Fully Fund New Costs Incurred by Counties Related to Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility, Invest in Provider Capacity to Ensure Appropriate and Meaningful Services and Diversion Programs are Available, and to Develop a Comprehensive Transition and Waiver Process as Counties and New York City Begin Implementing the Law

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Memorialization/ NYSAC Resolution: Urging New York State to Fully Fund New Costs Incurred by Counties Related to Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility, Invest in Provider Capacity to Ensure Appropriate and Meaningful Services and Diversion Programs are Available, and to Develop a Comprehensive Transition and Waiver Process as Counties and New York City Begin Implementing the Law; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #19 - Other Business - None

Item #20 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:30p.m., Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of The Legislature Diane Trabulsy.