

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

**Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Gouldman & Sullivan**

**Thursday**

**April 19, 2018**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Chairman Jonke who requested that Legislator Sullivan lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Sullivan and Chairman Jonke were present. Chairman Jonke stated that Legislator Gouldman is running late. He stated Legislator Sayegh will be sitting as a committee member until Legislator Gouldman arrives. (Note: Legislator Gouldman arrived at 6:45p.m.)

**Item #3 – Approval/ Protective Meeting Minutes: February 22, 2018**

Chairman Jonke stated that the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 – Approval/Budgetary Amendment (18A027)/This Amendment is to replace a Vehicle in Putnam County Sheriff's Department that was totaled December 2017- Check Received from USAA General Indemnity Company \$34,355.60**

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve and move to the Audit & Administration Meeting Budgetary Amendment (18A027)/ This Amendment is to replace a Vehicle in Putnam County Sheriff's Department that was totaled December 2017- Check Received from USAA General Indemnity Company \$34,355.60; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (18T047)/ Cover Overtime-Jail Due to running the Month of March 2018 with one Correction Officer on Family Leave Act and Two Officers on 207C (*also reviewed in Pers mtg 4/16/18*)**

Sheriff Langley stated that the person who was out on Family Leave has received approval to return to work on light duty. He stated having the officer back on light duty will help to alleviate the overtime.

Chairman Jonke questioned when the officer expected to return.

Sheriff Langley stated the officer is projected to return to light duty within the next week.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve and move to the Audit & Administration Meeting Fund Transfer (18T047)/ Cover Overtime-Jail Due to running the Month of March 2018 with one Correction Officer on Family Leave Act and Two Officers on 207C; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**Item #6 – Discussion/2018 July 1<sup>st</sup> (rain date July 7<sup>th</sup>) Town of Southeast Fireworks Event**  
**a. Letter from P. Bohrman of Southeast Fireworks Committee Dated: 02/08/18**  
**b. Memo to Sheriff Langley Dated: 04/11/18**

Chairman Jonke stated the Southeast Fireworks Committee sent him a letter dated February 8, 2018 regarding their annual event. He stated past years the County Sheriff Department has provided protection and support for the event. He stated that in past years there have been some lengthy discussions regarding this matter. He stated that he contacted Sheriff Langley and requested that he provide a projected cost to provide coverage at the event. He requested that Sheriff Langley provide an update.

Sheriff Langley stated that he believes it cost the Sheriff's Department approximately \$14,000 in the coverage that they provided for the 2017 Fireworks event. He stated upon his review of the event and looking at the posting of assignments, he projected that the cost for 2018 will be approximately \$10,000 in overtime costs, and possibly less. He stated that he will achieve this reduction in overtime cost by utilizing the Putnam County Firemen's Association Fire Police, the Brewster Fire Police and the reduction of the Emergency Response Team (ERT), which was utilized in the past. He stated he is projecting that a Drone, which the Sheriff's Department is receiving via a Grant, will be utilized to monitor the activity in the crowd. He stated if the Drone is not received in time, he will request that the State Police use their Drone. He stated that there will be a command post on site, to maintain communication between all of the agencies involved as well as monitoring other critical social media communications.

Chairman Jonke questioned how many Officers will be assigned to work at the event and secure the property. He stated in the past he believes the number was 27 Officers.

Sheriff Langley stated he believes 15 Officers will be a reasonable and appropriate number to cover the event. He stated that in addition to the Officers there will be some civilian staff members working at the command post also.

Chairman Jonke questioned if he has a projection of the number of hours will be worked by the 15 Officers. He stated that it has been reported to the Legislature in past years that there was a need to have the Officers set up and prepare for the event. He explained that it was a substantial portion of the overtime.

Sheriff Langley stated it will be done in stages. He stated setting up the command post will be the first stage, traffic control would be later.

Legislator Sullivan stated that he would suggest that Sheriff Langley look at the paper work from the 2017 event. He explained the records showed that some of the Officers spent an excessive number of hours on duty. He stated that some were in the double digit time frame, which he believed was excessive.

Legislator Nacerino expressed her appreciation for Sheriff Langley's effort to reduce the cost for the 2018 event. He stated that last year's budget and time worked seemed a little bit ambitious. She stated she would also like to commend Sheriff Langley for embracing the other agencies, which was a topic that come up in past years.

Sheriff Langley stated the problem with not utilizing our volunteers is that it causes animosity. He stated that they want to help and utilize the training they have received. He stated that the Fire Police

Volunteers are trained to work on traffic posts, which is what they are trained to do and are certified by New York State to do.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that she would like to reiterate the comments stated by her colleague Legislator Nacerino. She stated that utilizing the County's Fire Police volunteers is not going to compromise the safety of the event. She stated that is foremost on everyone's mind.

Sheriff Langley stated that is correct. He stated the Fire Police are more than capable to handle the traffic control. He stated the safety of the public in attendance at the event will be heightened by having the Officers in the thick of the event. He stated he will not be doing anything that he views as being abusive to the tax payers.

Legislator Albano stated he too would like to echo his appreciation for Sheriff Langley's approach to the event. He stated that he sees an event like this as a great opportunity to have all of the agencies work together. He stated that it is like a practice run, he believes this event is great for the public and serves a purpose as well.

Legislator Addonizio expressed her appreciation as well. She stated that last year the Legislators questioned the time frame that the Officers were at the site.

Sheriff Langley stated during the course of the day there are Patrol Officers assigned to the Highlands Shopping Center location as part of regular shifts.

Legislator Castellano expressed his appreciation for Sheriff Langley's approach to providing support for this event. He stated that he appreciates the Sheriff's effort to provide coverage while at the same time cutting the cost. He stated this is a great community event and it is nice to have an event where the community can mingle with the officers and the canines of the Sheriff's Department in a friendly and safe environment.

Sheriff Langley stated the uniform Police Officer is recognized by the public as being a part of their community, they belong in the crowd.

Legislator Sullivan stated that he too would like to commend Sheriff Langley for being fiscally responsible with the tax payers' money. He stated that last year there was a great deal of discussion and concern with the cost related to the coverage from the Sheriff's Department for this event. He stated the Legislature believed that the amount of equipment, hours, and staffing was over the top. He supports the Sheriff's use of the Volunteers. He thanked him.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if this is the first time the Drone will be utilized.

Sheriff Langley stated that this will be the first time using the Drone at this event. He stated it will provide additional support beyond the normal scope.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned if there is an Officer who is trained in the usage of a Drone.

Sheriff Langley stated there is an Investigator who has been identified to send for training. He stated to use a Law Enforcement Drone the operator must be FAA certified.

Lynne Eckardt, Resident of the Town of Southeast, stated that she is happy to hear that there will be a change in the militaristic feel that existed in the past years at this family friendly event. She stated she has heard that there may be a change in the Rain Date for the Fireworks Event. She stated that she believes it has been changed to July 8<sup>th</sup>. She stated the Legislature may want to confirm that. She stated that she is also aware that they are fundraising for the event currently, to purchase the fireworks.

Legislator Castellano stated that he will confirm with the Fireworks Committee on the actual rain date. He did get confirmation from Sheriff Langley that either date July 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> as a rain date will be fine with the Sheriff's Department.

### **Item #7 – Approval/Support Investigation of NYSEG's Response To Winter Storms and Register Complaint With NYS Department of Public Service/Legislator Sayegh**

Chairman Jonke stated this matter was requested to be on this agenda for consideration by Legislator Sayegh. He invited Legislator Sayegh to speak to this.

Legislator Sayegh stated that in the first 24 hours after the storm, according to the information shared on the conference calls with NYSEG, the focus was to make areas safe. She stated then after assuring the safety of the areas the actual focus and work of restoration would occur. She explained in the first 24 hours areas were not made safe. She stated she had constituents with trees and wires down, and folks were trapped in their houses. She stated that it took more like three (3) or four (4) days after the storm hit before areas were made safe. She stated then the second storm hit the Putnam County area, which pushed us backwards in terms of any progress that had been made. She explained she believes as Legislators representing the residents of Putnam County we need to document and let NYSEG know they let their customers down in this area.

Chairman Jonke stated that he would like to thank Legislative Counsel Firriolo for working with Legislator Sayegh on this matter and for his assistance in drafting the proposed resolution.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she is in support of this and agrees that the Putnam County Legislature should join forces with all of the other counties that are demanding some answers and a plan moving forward.

Legislator Gouldman stated that he is also in support of this proposal. He stated there were areas in Putnam County that were devastated and without power for days. He stated in his opinion that should not happen, it is the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we live in the United States of America. He stated that on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00p.m. and 6:00p.m. the New York State Public Service Commission is hosting a Public Service forum at the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services Auditorium. He encouraged the residents to attend and provide feedback to the service they received from NYSEG during the aftermath of the two storms.

Legislator Scuccimarra thanked Legislator Sayegh for bringing this forward. She stated that she believes that customers benefited from Central Hudson Gas & Electric's proactive tree trimming of the branches near their wires.

Legislator Sullivan thanked Legislator Sayegh. He stated he and his colleagues were all very upset with NYSEG and their poor handling of this situation. He stated however he supports that this Legislative body took their time in addressing this matter, and did not grand stand to get a lot of press. He stated that he is in support of this proposal.

Legislator Nacerino stated again, this was an uncoordinated effort on NYSEG's part. The Putnam County responders had a plan in place and carried it out to the best of their ability. She stated unfortunately NYSEG was a huge obstacle.

Legislator Addonizio stated she agrees that the tree trimming should be carried out by NYSEG.

Legislator Sayegh reviewed some of the requests and points that she included in the resolution. She stated that she would again on the record like to thank the County employees, volunteers and members of the Sheriff's Department for all of their work and effort they put forth for the good of their community and fellow resident.

Phyllis Hoenig shared a personal experience that she had with some employees from the Highways and Facilities Department involving downed trees. She stated the County employees were very professional and responsive.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Approve the Resolution Support Investigation of NYSEG's Response To Winter Storms and Register Complaint With NYS Department of Public Service; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #8 – FYI/Budgetary Amendment (18A024)/ Sheriff's request to use T-Commission Funds to Purchase Chairs to Replace older ones currently in use – Duly Noted**

**Item #9 – FYI/Fund Transfer (18T045)/ Partnership Initiatives/ To Purchase two (2) Tough Books & Docking Stations for two (2) Police Cars for Cold Spring PD and (2) Tough Books & Docking Stations for two (2) Police Cars Brewster Village PD/ District Attorney Tendy – Goes to Audit as a sign**

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that she is very appreciative that the District Attorney is purchasing the Tough Books with the money from the Asset Forfeiture Program and donating them to the Village Police Departments of Cold Spring and Brewster.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she commends the District Attorney for his use of the Asset Forfeiture funds to help other departments.

**Item #10 - FYI/ NYS Department of Public Service- Sponsoring Series of Public Statement Hearings Regarding the March 2018 Winter Storms and Resulting Power Outages, Open for Public Statement: Putnam County: Thursday, April 26, 2018 2PM & 6PM Loc: Auditorium of Emergency Operations Center**

*(Please Note: copy of NYS Dept. of Public Svc. Letter is Posted on Putnam County Website under "Latest News" on Home Page as well as on the Bureau of Emergency Services Page)*

Chairman Jonke stated that this event is the same public statement hearing event that Legislator Gouldman advocated for earlier during tonight's discussion. He explained it will be an opportunity for county residents to have their voices heard. He encouraged the residents to attend and provide their feedback.

Legislator Addonizio stated that there are several different sessions being held on different dates, if the April 26<sup>th</sup> date does not work for people's schedules. She explained residents also have the option to submit their comments in writing.

Chairman Jonke stated that all of this information is provided in the Letter and backup from the NYS Department of Public Service, which is posted on the Putnam County Website under "Latest News" on the home page as well as on the Bureau of Emergency Services Page.

Sheriff Langley requested a copy of the letter and backup be sent to his office. He stated he will have it posted on the Sheriff's Social Media Page and the Sheriff Department's web page.

### **Item #11 - Other Business**

Legislator Sullivan stated that he would also like to thank the County Executive Odell for her efforts, focus and dedication during the storms. County Executive Odell was at the Bureau of Emergency Services in the emergency operations center many days and for many hours. He stated that he believes she did a terrific job and would like his appreciation noted.

Liz Armstrong, Reporter for the Highlands Current, questioned if the agenda item #9 which addressed that the District Attorney is providing Tough Books and Docking Stations to the Villages of Cold Spring and Brewster Police Department, is a form of Shared Services, which the State is pushing the Counties to work on.

Chairman Jonke stated in Putnam County there is a lot of sharing of services that is going on and has been going on for a long time. He stated that the District Attorney is not present this evening to speak for himself. He stated he is comfortable saying that District Attorney Tandy sees a need, he has funding from the Asset Forfeiture Program and is putting said funding to good use.

Sheriff Langley explained the use of a Tough Book to an Officer. He stated the Asset Forfeiture Funds are distributed by the District Attorney to different agencies. He stated in addition, the District Attorney will buy equipment, such as the equipment being discussed tonight. He stated that it is a shared service.

Legislator Sullivan stated that he and Legislator Nacerino are co-chairs of the Shared Services Panel for the County working with the Town Supervisors and Village Mayors. He stated this is a case where the County is sharing its money to help the Towns and Villages buy equipment. He stated there are many examples of sharing services. He stated he is thankful for this question. He stated that there are, as stated, currently many actual practices going on of sharing services and they have been in place for a long time, and can easily not be noticed. He stated that he will be sure to include it with the panel.

Lynne Eckardt, Resident of the Town of Southeast, questioned, in reference to the shared services at the last meeting where the Laberge Group was and she was in attendance, she does not recall seeing anything on the Legislature's agendas, if there was money allocated for the Laberge Group \$28,200.

Legislator Sullivan stated it is in the County Executive's Budget.

Legislator Nacerino, Resident of the Town of Southeast, stated the contract is executed through the County Executive's Office.

Lynne Eckardt, Resident of the Town of Southeast, questioned if it was ever discussed.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she believes it was touched upon at the meeting when they came.

Legislator Sullivan requested clarification of Ms. Eckardt's question, where do you mean "was it discussed".

Lynne Eckardt, Resident of the Town of Southeast, stated that she will submit a F.O.I.L. if she needs to. She stated she was surprised to hear the fee Laberge Group was charging, \$28,200. She stated she just does not recall seeing those funds allocated anywhere.

Legislator Sullivan stated this is a requirement from the Governor. He explained that \$28,200 is actually a good rate compared to what neighboring counties are paying.

Lynne Eckardt, Resident of the Town of Southeast, stated she is not quibbling with the amount.

Chairman Jonke stated that he recommends for further information this is a question that should be presented to the County Executive or submit a F.O.I.L.

Legislator Nacerino stated the County Executive had this initiative to bring the Laberge Group on board and she would execute a contract.

### **Item #12 - Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 7:20p.m., Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of The Legislature Diane Trabulsy.