

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Held via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders

Members: Chairman Nacerino and Legislators Jonke & Montgomery

Wednesday

April 15, 2020

(Immediately following Protective Services Committee beginning at 6:00pm)

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 7:23pm by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislator Jonke lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Committee Members Jonke, Montgomery, & Chairwoman Nacerino were present.

### **Item #3 – Discussion/ Update on Upgraded Sergeant Position in Youth Aid Bureau/ SROs & SPOs**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated at the March 5, 2020 Full Legislative Meeting an upgrade to a Sergeant Position in the Youth Aid Bureau was unanimously approved. She stated prior to that decision there was some trepidation by a few of her colleagues voicing concerns should there be a reduction in the oversight needed for SROs (School Resource Officers) and SPOs (Special Patrol Officers) in the schools due to budget reductions or other factors. She stated there was no way to anticipate schools would be closed shortly after the March Full Meeting. She stated now with the impact of the Coronavirus, she would like to know the status of the Sergeant position, if someone has been appointed and since schools are not in session where have the SROs and SPOs been deployed. She stated finally, she would like to hear if or how this crisis is impacting the Department as a whole.

Sheriff Langley stated he did put a request into the Personnel Department for a certified list of candidates that could be interviewed for the Sergeant position. He stated to date, he has not yet received a certified list, therefore no one has been interviewed for the position. He stated under the current circumstances of our national crisis, dealing with the Corona Virus and the SROs not working in the schools, because the schools are closed, he does not believe it to be prudent to proceed by filling the Sergeant position at this time. He stated the SROs are being utilized on patrols and are supervised by the current Patrol Supervisors. He stated they will keep the funding for the Sergeant position in reserve and re-evaluate the situation as we get closer to the School season beginning in the Fall. He stated the SPOs that were at the schools are not working and collecting unemployment. He stated in total there have been 33 members affected by the Coronavirus. He stated the primary responsibility is to protect the safety of all the employees and inmates of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department and Jail.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned if it is fair to say you will suspend appointment to the Sergeant position until further notice.

Sheriff Langley stated at this time that is their intent, to suspend the appointment. He stated the upgrade currently is not a necessity since the Schools are closed, and the SROs are on Patrol and supervised by the Patrol Sergeants.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she believes we all wholeheartedly agree. She stated it does not reverse the Legislature's position with the approval moving forward and can be addressed once schools are back in full session. She stated again no one could have predicted the circumstances that have occurred. She stated we are all in a "work in progress" with a focus on moving forward in the most positive fashion possible. She thanked Sheriff Langley for providing his update and providing his feedback.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the recent acquisition, which came into the Legislative Office for a car; is that for this position.

Sheriff Langley stated no it is not for the Sergeant position.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she believes it was agreed the vehicle for the upgrade Sergeant position would be a retired vehicle from BCI. She stated if there is any change to that, she requested that the Sheriff contact the Legislature to provide notification of such.

Sheriff Langley confirmed he would do that.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is grateful the SROs are on Patrol, helping to share the responsibility during these difficult times.

#### **Item #4 - Other Business**

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to waive the Rules to accept Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

- a. Approval/ Budgetary Transfer (20T077)/ Funding for the 2020 Salary and Benefit Costs Pursuant to the Ratified Contract Settlement Putnam County and CSEA- Dispatchers Positions/ Commissioner of Finance William Carlin**

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Transfer (20T077)/ Funding for the 2020 Salary and Benefit Costs Pursuant to the Ratified Contract Settlement Putnam County and CSEA- Dispatchers Positions; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

#### **Item #5 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:34 PM Chairman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.