

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Held Via Audio Webinar Pursuant To Temporary Emergency Orders**

**Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Montgomery & Sayegh**

**Monday**

**April 27, 2020**

**6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 6:00 P.M. by Chairman Gouldman who lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Committee Members Montgomery, Sayegh, and Chairman Gouldman were present.

**Item #3 - Approval/ Support for Home Rule Legislation Authorizing the Discontinuance and Alienation of Parkland in the Town of Southeast**

Legislator Jonke stated this project is in his District and he is very excited about it. He stated it is a proposal for a baseball compound to be built on Pugsley Road in Southeast. He stated his constituents and the Town of Southeast is in full support of this. He stated the resolution tonight is to support the land swap that is necessary. He stated he has spoken with State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne and State Senator Pete Harckham who are also in support of this. He stated the local is a perfect, natural piece of land for a baseball complex.

Chairman Gouldman stated this is great news as the County could use a complex like this. He stated it would also be good for tourism.

Legislator Sullivan stated this is a terrific project and great opportunity. He questioned if there is any recourse for the County, considering these uncertain times, if the project is approved, but the investor/builder is unable to secure funds.

Legislator Jonke stated he cannot speak for the developer but their attorney, Rick O'Rourke is on the line. He noted that this is time sensitive, because the State Legislature recesses in June so it is important to send the resolution in May.

Attorney Richard O'Rourke he personally knows the people at ProSwing Sports and he has seen that there will be tremendous support financially for this project. He stated the complex in Mount Kisco has served thousands of children and the parents are very happy with ProSwing Sports. He stated the earliest this project can be fully approved is two (2) years and nobody knows where they will be in two (2) years. He stated these types are complexes are becoming very popular nationwide. He added that the location near Interstate 84 is very beneficial.

Legislator Castellano stated he supports this location and its ideal location. He stated he is really looking forward to this moving forward. He stated he has heard from constituents and they are also in support.

Legislator Addonizio noted that this property does not need rezoning. She added that it is important for the County to receive the tax revenue as well as creating jobs. She stated she is in support of this.

Legislator Nacerino echoed the other Legislators' statements and she is also in support. She stated it is a great service for the youth of Putnam County.

Legislator Sayegh stated this is an exciting project. She stated the land swap looks good from both sides. She stated she excited at the prospect of sports tourism in Putnam County.

Legislator Montgomery stated she stated this would be a great boon to tourism, especially with the new hotel in the area. She stated she has heard that there are some concerns from constituents, and she hopes they are addressed.

Legislator Jonke stated he has never gotten so much positive feedback from residents regarding anything that has come before the Legislature. He noted that it is not in a residential area. He stated he is sure that the project will be planned properly.

Legislator Castellano agreed with Legislator Jonke and noted that he has also heard from many constituents who are in favor of the project.

Legislator Sullivan thanked Attorney O'Rourke for his clarification on the financial support for the project. He stated these complexes are great facilities and this would be a recreational and economic boon for the County.

Legislator Albano stated this is a great use for land and it is in a prime location. He questioned if there can be a deed restriction for the land use.

Legislator Jonke stated after the land swap, the land would be under the control of the Town of Southeast and be dedicated as parkland.

Legislator Albano stated he is in full support.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to move Approval/ Support for Home Rule Legislation Authorizing the Discontinuance and Alienation of Parkland in the Town of Southeast to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #4 - Unemployment Report – Duly Noted**

**Item #5 - Other Business/Sales Tax Discussion/Legislator Sullivan**

Legislator Sullivan questioned if Finance Commissioner William Carlin could weigh in on the outlook for sales tax revenue, considering the pandemic.

Commissioner Carlin stated the numbers should start coming in on May 15, 2020.

Legislator Sullivan stated the NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties) website had a breakdown of different county's financial measures to combat the loss of sales tax. He stated counties are concerned with the revenue loss projections. He requested Commissioner Carlin prepare an overview of the outlook for Putnam County.

Commissioner Carlin stated there will be many variables in that. He noted that the County Executive has already put out a memorandum regarding austerity budgets in the County.

Legislator Sullivan requested something similar to what Erie and Ontario County provided on the NYSAC website.

### **Item #6 – Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 6:35 P.M., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.