

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Held via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders**

Members: Chairman Sullivan and Legislators Albano & Castellano

Wednesday

December 9, 2020

(Immediately following the Health Mtg. beginning at 6:00pm)

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 7:21pm by Chairman Sullivan who lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Committee Members Albano, Castellano, & Chairman Sullivan were present.

Item #3 – Approval of Minutes – November 19, 2020

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 – Discussion/ School Zone Safety Plan/ NOVOAGLOBAL, Inc./ Alan Quinn

Chairman Sullivan stated this school zone safety plan was discussed at a recent Putnam County Traffic Safety Board Meeting and he requested that the information be presented in the Rules, Enactments, & Intergovernmental Relations Committee as well. He stated the company, NOVOAGLOBAL, Inc. is based in Orlando, Florida.

Alan Quinn, Vice President of NOVOAGLOBAL, Inc., stated throughout the United States, the safety of school children, teachers, crossing guards, parents, and those that accompany kids to school is becoming more and more relevant in municipalities. He stated there are several schools and municipalities utilizing automated monitoring of speed. He stated this is a camera-based system that uses radar to detect speed of vehicles passing the school zone. The devices are positioned on the roadway, at the entrance of the school near the flashing beacons altering motorists they are in a school zone. He stated in New York, automated enforcement of speed within school zones is legal and there are pilots being run at the State level. He stated similarly to having a police presence, these devices act as a deterrent. He stated the technology itself has been around for a long time and is well proven. He stated the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has found that if a person is hit by a vehicle traveling 20 miles per hour they have a 10% chance of dying from the incident; if the vehicle is traveling 30 miles per hour the chance of dying increases to 40%; and if the vehicle is traveling 40 miles per hour the chance of the person dying increases to 90%. He stated while police officers are stationed in school zones to act as a deterrent, in the instance where they need to pull over a vehicle and issue a ticket, they are now taken away from the school zone for a period of time. He stated automating the process brings more awareness as community members would be aware that photo enforcement would be put into place. He stated the photo enforcement could be active during the beginning and ends of the school day, or for the entirety of the school day. He stated using radar, high definition video, and still imagery, the device takes an image of any vehicle detecting to be traveling 11 miles and above per hour over the speed limit. He stated this relieves the

function of the police, it acts as a deterrent, and automates the ticketing function. He stated these devices have been proven to reduce the level of speeding vehicles in school zones which in turn reduces the amount of accidents. He stated as a company, NOVOAGLOBAL, Inc. would work with municipalities such as Sheriff's Departments and Police Departments to make sure the need for these devices is justified. He stated they assist with community outreach programs to allow opportunity for public input. He stated they have found there is tremendous support for these devices, in particular when used around schools. He stated NOVOAGLOBAL would take care of all planning, civil engineering, and installation of necessary signs while working with the permitting authorities within the State. He stated the whole system is a web-based portal that filters everything via human operators in Orlando, Florida to make sure the violations are legitimate and are within the rules that each school or municipalities has in place. He stated the image taken is of the rear license plate of the vehicle and the tickets are automatically issued to the registered owner of the vehicle. He stated NOVOAGLOBAL has access to all Department of Motor Vehicles in the Country, which allows them to quickly determine who the owner of the vehicle is. He stated they also have electronic portals for payment. He stated there is no upfront cost to the municipality for these devices or the service. He stated payment works through an agreement where an agreed upon amount of the ticketing revenue will go to NOVOAGLOBAL and the remainder goes to the municipality. He stated regardless of the number of violations or the value of the tickers issues as a result of the violations, if the base cost is not met there is no liability to the municipality. He stated one thing that is required is that either a law enforcement officer or an appointee of the municipality reviews the violations in the web portal after being filtered by NOVOAGLOBAL to approve or reject the violations. He stated the primary purpose is safety. He stated this will reduce the number of vehicles speeding in school zones and it will relieve the police officers normally stationed in school zones.

Chairman Sullivan thanked Mr. Quinn for his presentation. He stated this sounds like a very good program to continue looking into. He stated he would like to involve the County's law enforcement agencies and local municipalities in the discussion moving forward. He stated an issue that may come up is if a school is located on a County road versus a town road. He stated this is certainly a good program; anything we can provide that is at no cost to the taxpayer and increases the safety around schools cannot be argued. He stated from a government perspective, there is not much to do since the company handles most of the work. He stated there will certainly be some issues to be worked out including community notification, usage and storage of the data, and privacy protection of the data.

Legislator Albano stated this is a good concept that he believes has potential.

Legislator Castellano stated this was a very interesting presentation. He stated he is very familiar with Brewster schools and the issues they have there with all the schools on one campus. He stated he can see how this would be a benefit. He stated something that has been spoken about in the past is potentially having cameras on the stop arms of the school buses, which would capture any vehicles passing a stopped

bus. He stated he was very interested in that concept, he believes that is a bigger concern, at least in the Brewster School District. He questioned if this equipment is offered by NOVOAGLOBAL as well.

Chairman Sullivan stated that is another topic that has been discussed preliminarily in the Rules Committee and the Traffic Safety Board. He agreed that is a good program as well and NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties) has been promoting it throughout the State.

Mr. Quinn stated NOVOAGLOBAL offers that program as well and agreed that the safety of children getting on and off the buses is paramount. He offered to send information on this program.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would like to see more information. He thanked Mr. Quinn for his presentation this evening.

Item #5 – Approval/ Re-Appointments/ Board of Electrical Examiners/ Massaro, Morrison, & Taggart

Legislator Castellano thanked the volunteers for being part of this Board.

Legislator Addonizio thanked the volunteers for their time and dedication on the boards.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval/ Electrical Fees/ Civil Penalty Schedule Pursuant to Sections 145-7(I) and 145-22(C) of the Putnam County Code

Item #7 – Approval/ Local Law to Amend the Code of Putnam County Chapter 145, Entitled “Electricians”

Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale stated items #6 and #7 go hand in hand and he would be happy to explain them both simultaneously.

Chairman Sullivan agreed to address items #6 & #7 at the same time.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated the members of all the trades boards put in a great deal of time and effort for their volunteer position and it is an integral part of the Consumer Affairs Department. He stated their role helps to ensure the safety of the residents of Putnam County. He stated section 145-19 of the Putnam County Code refers to shelving a license. He stated shelving a license means an electrician is putting their license on hold. He stated currently, the Code only allows for a master electrician to shelve their license. He stated the Board expressed that this was an oversight when originally drafted and this proposed amendment will allow any licensed electrician to shelve their license. He stated two (2) minor changes are proposed for the Fee and

Penalty schedules. He stated the shelving fee was simplified to have a \$50.00 fee to shelve a license, and a \$25.00 fee if the shelving was done late, which varies between master electricians or journeyman. He stated the last change to the penalty schedule is the addition of two (2) paragraphs, which he believes are necessary to allow the Board to do their job properly. He stated a similar addition was also included under the Home Improvement Board, which the Legislature was in favor of. He stated there are many sections to the Electrical law and not everything that can be violated is listed on the penalty schedule. He stated the first added paragraph acts as a catch all and authorizes the Board to use their discretion to set a penalty if it is for a category of defense which is not already listed. He stated the second paragraph has to do with specific circumstances where the Board is assessing a civil penalty after an individual has been convicted of an offense that may warrant increasing or decreasing the penalty from what is listed on the schedule. He stated justice itself is not cookie-cutter, therefore this allows the Board to deviate from the schedule based on each case. He stated the addition of these paragraphs makes the fee and penalty schedules consistent across all three (3) trades boards.

Chairman Sullivan stated thanked Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale for the detailed explanation. He stated he appreciates the time and effort put into these amendments.

Legislator Albano stated he is glad to see this refinement.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution for item #6; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution for item #7; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #8 – Other Business – None

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:58pm, Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Beth Robinson.