

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

Members: Chairman Sullivan and Legislators Albano & Castellano

Thursday

6:00pm

March 26, 2020

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 6:02pm by Chairman Sullivan who lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Committee Members Albano, Castellano & Chairman Sullivan were present. Also present via audio webinar were Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Addonizio, Nacerino, Jonke, and Sayegh, as well as Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo.

Item #3 – Approval of Minutes – February 20, 2020

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 – Approval/ Temporary Legislative Policies & Procedures – While Putnam County is in a State of Emergency/ Chairwoman Addonizio & Deputy Chairman Sullivan

Chairman Sullivan opened the floor to any Legislators who may have questions.

Legislator Montgomery stated she had two (2) questions pertaining to this item. She stated the third paragraph refers to committees, boards, and commissions. She requested examples of committees, boards, and commissions specified by the Legislature.

Chairman Sullivan deferred to Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated the paragraph referred to by Legislator Montgomery has no effect on the policy; it is a statement currently within the Legislative Manual that refers to meetings that must be open to the public unless otherwise specified by law. He stated the policy on the agenda tonight applies to Legislative Committees and the Full Legislative Meetings. He stated it does not apply to public hearings; the possibility of holding public hearings in this manner remains open. He stated this policy is limited to Legislative Standing Committees, Special Committees if there are any, and the Full Legislative Meeting; it does not apply to boards or commissions.

Legislator Montgomery stated understanding it is not relevant to the changes being made tonight, she would like the clarification to be made at some point as to what the specific boards and commissions are. She requested an example of the wording in the fourth paragraph of the proposed policy where it states “specified in applicable law”.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that is a quote from the Legislative Manual. He stated reasons specified in applicable law would be exceptions provided for in the Open Meetings Law. He stated for example, the ability for a Committee to go into executive session is a reason specified in the applicable law. He stated this policy only changes what the Governor’s Executive Order allows for.

Legislator Montgomery stated although it is not changing anything, she was requesting clarification while it was in front of the Legislature.

Chairman Sullivan stated due to the circumstances, the meetings are being conducted in a quicker manner than usual. He requested any questions pertaining to the Legislative Manual be held for a future meeting.

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

**Item #5 - Approval/ Local Law/ NYSAC School Bus Camera Demonstration Program/
Senior Deputy County Attorney Dina DiBlasi**

Chairman Sullivan stated due to the circumstances and in order to move the meeting along more quickly, he would request that this item be tabled.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to table the Approval/ Local Law/ NYSAC School Bus Demonstration Program; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

**Item #6 - Approval/ Litigation Settlement/ Denton – Lotts v. County of Putnam/ County
Attorney Bumgarner**

Chairman Sullivan stated a comprehensive summary of this case has been sent to the Legislators from County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner. He stated the Legislators were also briefed on this matter in executive session at the February 20, 2020 Rules, Enactments, & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting.

Legislator Castellano stated this has been thoroughly explained and he has no questions at this time.

Legislator Albano agreed.

Chairman Sullivan stated this is a fair and reasonable settlement.

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

Item #7 - Other Business – None

Item #8 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:19pm, Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Beth Green.