

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET MEETING
Held via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders**

Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan

Thursday

October 15, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:22PM by Chairman Jonke who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Nacerino, Sullivan and Chairman Jonke were present.

Item #3 - 2021 Budget Review

Coroners – Account 1185 (10-11)

Chairman Jonke stated he is going to start with the County Coroners' Department. He stated there is a proposed resolution, which is to change the way the Putnam County Coroners would be compensated. He explained the old methodology of the per diem method did not work as planned. He stated the proposed resolution being considered would rescind resolution #279 of 2014, which was the resolution that authorized the use of the per diem method. He stated there is no other change proposed in the resolution.

Legislator Nacerino stated she supports the proposed resolution.

Legislator Montgomery stated at this time she is opposed to this. She stated she would like to see an accounting of the dispatching of the cases to the Coroners. She stated that it has been reported in past discussions that there is not a balance of cases between the Coroners. She stated it has been said there are some Coroners that carry most of the cases. She stated with that being reported she does not see this proposal as being fair. She stated there are three (3) Coroners and some go to more calls than others.

Legislator Nacerino stated these are elected officials. She stated she believes the salaries should be set accordingly and equally.

Chairman Jonke stated he consulted with Commissioner of Finance Carlin today, who explained this is a way to make their payment easier and equitable.

Legislator Sullivan stated he agrees this change will alleviate a lot of tedious work for the County's Accounting Department.

Legislator Albano stated it is obvious that some of the Coroners do more work than others. He stated he does have some second thoughts on this proposal.

Chairman Jonke stated keep in mind it looks like there will be a new Coroner come January 1, 2021.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if this stipend gets added to the State Retirement funds of the County Coroners who also have a position in the County.

Chairman Jonke stated the Putnam County Coroner position is an elected position. He stated if the person chooses to have this go towards their New York State Retirement, that is their right, just like any other employee of the County or elected official.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Resolution Putnam County Coroners; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

Roll Call Vote: All in Favor

Judicial Expenses (Cty. Share) 1162 (3)

Legislator Nacerino questioned the increase on page 3 - Supplies and Mat (54410).

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated that is money that the County puts forward to the Courts for Operational Costs. He stated the County will be reimbursed through State Aid.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the reduction on page 3 – Janitorial Supplies (54419).

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin explained that is a calculation done based on usage.

District Attorney 1165 (4-6)

Legislator Gouldman questioned why there was a drastic increase in budget lines Computer Equipment (52130) and Office Supplies (54310) on page 4.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated he cannot speak for District Attorney Tandy. He stated however from the Administration's position, the District Attorney's proposed budget for 2021 was very lean.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if any balance in the District Attorney's Asset Forfeiture budget at the end of the year gets carried over to the next year.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated a reconciliation is done at the end of the year with the District Attorney's office and said funding is put into the Reserve Fund. It does not go into the County's General Fund. He stated that is all done through the Asset Forfeiture Reserve.

Legislator Sayegh confirmed the funding stays in the District Attorney's budget.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated that is correct. He stated then the District Attorney can allocate said funding as he sees fit.

Legislator Sayegh questioned what falls under the Partnership Initiative budget line (54936) on page 4.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated that budget line holds funds the District Attorney wants to use and give to other agencies to purchase needed equipment such as bulletproof vests, computers, etc. He stated the District Attorney does adhere to the County's purchasing procedures.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to confirm that the funding for the ALPRs has been taken out of the 2020 original budget and rolled over to 2021.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated he would have to check into that. He repeated if the money was not spent in 2020, it does not go into the general fund. He stated it goes back to the Asset Forfeiture fund to be re-appropriated by the District Attorney.

JP & Constables 1180 (9)

Commissioner Carlin explained this is an annual charge back from the State Comptroller's Office. He stated each year the amount the County is required to pay is approximately \$4,000.

Bureau of Emergency Services 3989 85-92

Chairman Jonke stated next he would be addressing the 911 Call Center Consolidation. He confirmed Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Ken Clair, Sheriff Robert Langley, and Captain James Babcock were all on the Audio Webinar.

Commissioner Clair began the discussion. He stated for the record, he had his EMS Director Casey Quake with him on the call. He stated this project began in 2018. He stated the County Executive is anxious to get this consolidation of services completed. He stated the budget reflects six (6) dispatchers from the Sheriff's Office going to the Bureau of Emergency Services Dispatch budget line. He stated now is the right time to get this done. He stated that measures are being taken that will allow members of the community to text to the 911 Center. He stated the new consoles are in service. He stated there are three (3) additional consoles sitting empty. He stated the County will need to purchase the equipment for the other three (3) Dispatchers. He stated additional money will be coming from homeland security budget funding to complete the consoles and the wiring. He stated he believes the layout of the 911 Center in the Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) is the right place for this to take place. He stated the Dispatchers who currently work at the BES are trained telecommunicators. He stated they are certified in call handling, law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical services, telecommunications, CPR, several of them are EMT and or Paramedics. He stated the goal is to provide better service to the taxpayers, with no lag time due to transferring calls between the Sheriff's Department and the BES. He stated additionally, per the plans and discussions in 2018 having everyone under one roof will save the County money.

Chairman Jonke stated he would like to give the Sheriff an opportunity to speak. He stated this is an important project consolidation. He stated the County does not want to sacrifice the safety and security of our residents. He stated we would like to make it more efficient and hopefully it

will result in a savings for our taxpayers. He stated he would offer the Sheriff the opportunity to speak to this matter if he would like to.

Sheriff Langley stated he will make a brief comment. He stated he supports this move. He stated it does need to be done the right way, so that there is no disservice to our community and only increased service to our community.

Captain Babcock stated he agrees with Commissioner Clair and Sheriff Langley. He stated they have met a couple of times speaking to the logistics of making it happen. He stated the timing and the staffing are issues that still need to be worked out before the tentative budget is approved. He stated putting this into play in late 2021 will provide them enough time to continue forward. He stated there are still technical issues, personnel issues, training issues, and Union issues that all still need to be worked out.

Chairman Jonke stated he agrees. He stated he does not believe anyone expects the consolidation to be up and running January 1, 2021.

Legislator Nacerino stated she has been in support of this consolidation from the beginning. She stated she agrees, no one expects this to be going live January 1, 2021. She stated she is pleased to hear this is a coordinated effort towards a mutual objective.

Legislator Sullivan stated the consolidation and merger of the two (2) operations will provide many synergies and efficiency. He stated there will be personnel decisions that will need to be made. He stated that is why there are two (2) high level managers, a Captain, and a Commissioner working on this. He stated he is confident they will be able to address and work with every issue that comes up. He stated clearly none of us would want to harm our residents. He stated we are all here working for the residents of the County and making things better for them. He requested a copy of the existing organizational chart and the new organization chart, which would show the future of the department.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if there is an initial cost for the consolidation and if there a realistic timeline for the project.

Commissioner Clair stated the projected timeline is March 2021. He stated that is when the Sheriff's Dispatchers will begin to come to the BES location. He stated the goal is to get those Dispatchers trained as 911 Dispatchers. He stated once that is done, all of the Putnam County Dispatchers will be 911 Dispatchers and able to do the same thing. He stated they are not eliminating any positions. He stated they are looking at approximately \$300,000 in cost for additional equipment that is needed: computer equipment and CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) to get up and running. He stated they are looking to use grant money that they have. He stated March or April 2021 would be wonderful if they can get all this moving.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there is FEMA grant money for the consoles that Commissioner Clair is referring to.

Commissioner Clair stated that is correct.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is not completely sold on this yet. She stated efficiency and saving money are great. She stated first and foremost we must make sure the Sheriff's Deputies are safe on the roads. She stated she has heard from her constituents that some 911 calls were getting dropped recently. She stated certainly she is hoping that would be improved. She stated she requested that the County Executive join her at a meeting with the Department of State to discuss Local Government Efficiency Grants that address this type of project. She stated in some cases they also offer having a professional consultant to help navigate a huge job, such as this one. She stated the Department of State contacted her and said they heard Putnam County was doing this and offered the opportunity to meet with them. She stated unfortunately she does not think the County Executive would participate in a meeting that she would be facilitating. She stated Oswego County consolidated their 911 and Regional Dispatch. She suggested that they look to the Department of State, and she can send the information she has again if they would like. She stated there are resources available to help the County through this. She stated continuing forward on our own, she believes we will be here two (2) years later. She stated she is here to offer support.

Legislator Sullivan stated the County is looking to bring in the Bonadio & Co., LLP Certified Public Accountants to review and help with scheduling efficiency. He stated they will also help along with the same issues related to what has just been discussed with the merger of the Dispatchers. He stated we are already in discussions with consultants who can provide assistance.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if we have already gotten consultants to help with this. She stated that can be costly. She stated if you get grant money through the Department of State the County would be reimbursed for consultant costs. She stated without looking at what is available to the County to assist in funding this effort, she does not think we are doing our residents any service.

Legislator Sullivan stated he is sure the professionals working with us who are very versed on securing grant funding are all aware of what Legislator Montgomery has mentioned.

Commissioner Clair stated he is not aware of any 911 calls being dropped. He stated the County 911 Dispatchers do a great job.

Legislator Montgomery clarified she did not say that the calls were dropped by the Dispatchers.

Chairman Jonke questioned how much longer the County will be receiving revenue from Indian Point.

Commissioner Clair stated the funding is confirmed for 2021. He stated there will be discussions regarding 2022 funding. He offered further information related to the Indian Point plant.

Captain Babcock stated he would like to speak to the Consolidation. He apologized for going back, but he was having difficulty getting his microphone open. He stated as the 911

consolidation project moves forward, he and Commissioner Clair seem to be in agreement it will take more time to develop the consolidation transition. He questioned how that will that work with the budget.

Commissioner Carlin stated it depends. He stated the employees will still get paid. He stated no personnel have been eliminated. He stated logistically as the consolidation moves forward the employees will still be paid.

Chairman Jonke stated then everything will stay status quo. He stated the costs will not go up.

Captain Babcock stated he has concerns after January 1, 2021. He does not have a budget line to supplement them with his part-timers. He stated his part-timers play a big role in the second positions he fills in the Sheriff's call center. He questioned when the appropriate time would be to talk about that.

Chairman Jonke stated that would be discussed as we move forward. He stated people will get paid.

Sheriff 3110 (54-72)

Captain Tompkins stated there are a number of concerns with the Marine Unit in the 2021 Tentative Budget. He questioned if he should educate everyone on the Marine Unit, or go directly into the financials.

Legislator Sullivan stated there is no need for Captain Tompkins to educate us, we are all aware of the function of the Marine Unit. He stated he believes the discussion should speak to the tentative budget.

Chairman Jonke stated he agrees. He explained also the Legislators have all received Sheriff Langley's memorandum and are aware of the Sheriff's position on the Marie Unit.

Legislator Sullivan stated the Marine Unit on Lake Mahopac and the Hudson River is a duplication of service. He stated there are multiple agencies that protect and work on those bodies of water. He stated we are looking to remove duplication of services where it is possible. He stated that will make things more efficient for the taxpayers and save them money at the same time. He stated this is an area that this can be done without losing any services or protection for our residents.

Legislator Nacerino stated she would like to echo Legislator Sullivan's comments. She stated a few years back, then Sheriff Smith, stated the Carmel Police Department asked for help in the patrolling of the Lake Mahopac, and that is how it began. She stated when looking at the budget and seeing there will be no compromise of services, we are not jeopardizing the health, safety and welfare of those utilizing those waters because there is proper supervision in place. She stated we are in these perilous times and we looked at the budget to see where there could be cuts and prioritize spending. She stated this is an area that a savings can be captured without sacrificing or jeopardizing anyone or anybody. She stated she is open to hearing Captain

Tompkins. She stated however from the viewpoint of the Legislature, it seems like the right thing to do and it seems quite feasible.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she disagrees. She stated this is clearly defunding the police. She stated it is putting the people of Philipstown at risk. She stated this is defunding public safety. She stated the Marine Unit is essential to safety in Philipstown. She stated that they are located between two (2) bridges and are across the Hudson River from West Point, which is a major target and a stone's throw away from one of the most dangerous cities in the Country. She stated also her district is experiencing an increase in tourism, there are 10s of thousands of people coming into their area by boat and car. She stated the Marine Unit is essential to her District. She stated in August of 2020 Westchester County increased their marine security. She stated she does not agree that this cut will not harm the residents of Philipstown and the residents on this County. She stated however this tentative budget still contains raises.

Chairman Jonke stated for the record the two (2) bridges referenced are not in Putnam County.

Captain Tompkins stated he would like to respond to the questions related to the Marine Unit. He stated Lake Mahopac is a heavily traveled lake.

Legislator Sullivan stated he did not ask the Captain a question about Lake Mahopac. He stated the Captain said he is was going to respond to questions, there were no questions asked.

Chairman Jonke stated he would like to give Captain Tompkins an opportunity to speak.

Captain Tompkins stated the Sheriff's Department along with the Town of Carmel provide a service to that lake. He stated they do not provide the service at the same time as the Town of Carmel. He stated neither department can satisfy the needs for the patrolling of Lake Mahopac from Labor Day through to Memorial Day on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. He stated at the start of each season the Town of Carmel Police Department and the Sheriff's Department members meet to set up a coverage schedule for that year. He stated that way there is absolutely no duplication of service. He stated there are other agencies on the Hudson River while the Putnam County Sheriff's Department is patrolling the River. He stated each agency has a jurisdictional boundary they have to cover, just like the Sheriff's Department does. He stated the New York State Police requested that the Sheriff's Department provide two (2) Marine Vessels for a ceremony that was taking place at West Point. He stated although the two (2) bridges: Bear Mountain and Newburgh Beacon Bridge, are not within the confines of Putnam County there are a lot of services the Sheriff's Department provides for Homeland Security to do soft target checks and they deal with investigations related to the bridges that involve search and recovery. He stated there is a usage for the services from the Sheriff's Department on the Hudson River and they are not a duplication of services. He stated they have found ways in their budget to alleviate the concerns of the Legislature to fill their obligation of requested time in the Sheriff's Overtime.

Chairman Jonke requested that before the Budget & Finance Meeting Captain Tompkins provided statistical analysis on the activity of the Marine Unit patrols on Lake Mahopac, Lake Oscawana, and the Hudson River.

Captain Tompkins confirmed he will provide the requested information.

Chairman Jonke stated for the record New York State does provide reimbursement for part of the cost of the County's Marine Patrol. He stated however the reimbursement has not been received for 2019 and it does not appear that there will be any funding provided for 2020.

Legislator Sullivan stated lake Mahopac is in his Legislative District, and he spends a lot of time on his boat on Lake Mahopac. He stated he has seen on the weekends when the Sheriff's Department and the Town of Carmel patrols are both on the lake together. He stated Captain Tompkins mentioned rotation and made it appear that there would never be a case of the two (2) agencies patrolling at the same time. He stated that is not the case. He stated what has been reported this evening by Captain Tompkins is not what he has seen for himself. He stated the reported rotation approach is not exactly working as it has been designed to. He stated he believes the Town of Carmel has the trained personnel and more than adequate resources and funding to handle the patrolling of Lake Mahopac. He stated it is as simple as that. He stated he also would like to see some incident reports in relation to the Sheriff's Departments' patrol of the Hudson River and specifics of the action that the Sheriff's patrol carries out, for instance if a boat is sinking, if they issue tickets, rescues etc. He stated he agrees with Chairman Jonke the Legislature needs to see justification and information related to the work that is being done through said patrol of the Hudson River in order to make an informed decision.

Captain Tompkins stated the statement that Legislator Sullivan made could not be further from the truth. He stated he just had a meeting with Town of Carmel Supervisor Schmitt and the Lake Mahopac Park Association. He stated they are very concerned about the approach of the boating season because the Town of Carmel is not able to patrol Lake Mahopac independently. He stated that is why this great relationship was reached where both agencies provide a service. He stated on Labor Day and Memorial Day the Town of Carmel deploys a patrol boat regardless of whether or not the Sheriff's Department does. He stated the other days of the weekend patrols there are single boats and there is not a duplication of service. He stated he cannot speak to the dispatching of the Town of Carmel boats, but he can state that at the beginning of the season there is a schedule set and there is no duplication of services in the schedule. He stated if someone decides to go out for some incident, he cannot speak to that. He stated absolutely the Town of Carmel is not in a position to patrol Lake Mahopac independently.

Legislator Sullivan stated he is a taxpayer and a resident, and he did not make these comments to have a challenge from the Captain. He stated the Captain made a statement at the beginning that the schedule set at the start of the boating season is so there is no duplication of services. He stated he has seen that there is duplication of services. He stated that the Captain said that there is no control as to what the Town of Carmel does in terms of their patrols of the Lake. He stated he has seen on numerous occasions both agencies patrolling, resulting in a duplication of services. He repeated, the Town of Carmel can handle the Lake Mahopac Patrol. He stated they have the resources and the money, it is not the responsibility of the County.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there were Inter-Municipal Agreements (IMAs) between Putnam County & Westchester County and Putnam County & Rockland County that exist related

to the Hudson patrol. She stated if there are, she would like to see a copy of them. She stated that her colleagues are saying Westchester County will cover, Rockland County will cover, the Coast Guards will cover the patrols. She would like to know what is in the IMA, if it exists. She stated she is a Legislator and resident too. She stated the Legislature is in favor of cutting this service without having the data. She stated if there is a rotation problem, fix that, do not cut the team, don't jeopardize the safety of the people she represents.

Legislator Sayegh stated she also has a boat on Lake Mahopac. She stated she would hate to sacrifice the safety of her neighbors. She stated Lake Mahopac does get quite busy. She stated she would like the Legislature to make the final decision after reviewing the information that has been requested. She stated she would like to know how the Town of Carmel will cover the lake if the Sheriff's Department does not patrol it. She stated that she believes in consolidation and agrees that is important. She stated however she does not support leaving safety up in the air. She stated she needs to see the facts, she is torn on this decision.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she has experience working with other agencies. She stated her district has a major problem with getting Park Services, State Park Police and the necessary resources to get help with the huge number of people who come into town, drawn to the natural beauty of the area. She stated she is having a meeting with the other agencies to come up with a plan. She stated now the County is looking to cut services to the Hudson River and rely on the other agencies. She stated she does not want to rely on other agencies. She stated the removal of the Hudson River Patrol, she believes, will put her constituents at risk. She wants Putnam County to keep the Sheriff's Marine Unit patrol on the Hudson.

Legislator Nacerino stated she does not believe anyone wants to jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of anyone. She stated the point is when this is reviewed there appears to be adequate coverage. She stated she knows that the Carmel Police Department handled the patrol of Lake Mahopac on their own until past Sheriff, Donald Smith, requested that the Sheriff's Marine Patrol help the Carmel Police Department out with the patrol. She stated it was the sole responsibility of the Carmel Police Department at one time. She stated if they can still sustain that level of safety, then they should. She stated if the waters are patrolled on the Hudson River and are adequate, then why not move forward with that. She stated she has not heard any agency say that removing the Sheriff's patrol from the Hudson River will make it a safety hazard. She stated the feeling is that the patrols will be adequate, without the Sheriff's Marine Unit's patrol. She stated she welcomes the data from Captain Tompkins, to see that the Legislature is making an informed decision.

Chairman Jonke stated that he agrees. He stated after the data is received and reviewed, this matter will be discussed again at the Budget and Finance Meeting on October 20th.

Sheriff 3110 (54-72)

Chairman Jonke stated next the discussion will be on the matter of the Sheriff's Department Road Patrol Overtime Budget.

Captain Tompkins stated this matter was discussed at the Personnel Budget Meeting, last night. He stated an amount is still trying to be agreed upon. He stated the tentative amount submitted by the County Executive for 2021, \$520,000, is not sustainable. He stated they are staying with their requested amount of \$716,040 to satisfy the needs for the patrols throughout 2021.

Chairman Jonke stated we are all aware that there was a pay increase to the Sheriff's Deputies with the agreement of the new contract signed in 2020. He stated the difference was 2.5%. He stated he would like to add 2.5% to the tentative amount of \$520,000. He stated that would keep it theoretically at level funding. He stated he would like to hear from his Committee Members.

Undersheriff Cheverko stated he disagrees with the recommendation of a 2.5% increase. He provided his calculations and stated he would request the overtime budget be increased by 12.5%.

Chairman Jonke stated the overtime budget is being met in 2020. He facilitated further discussion on the matter.

Legislator Nacerino stated she thinks we are all pretty tired from last night and this evening. She stated she does not believe the Legislature has all the information that was requested. She stated her concerns are still from a fiscal perspective, and not breaking the tax cap. She stated she believes the Sheriff's Department could prioritize and reorganize some of their budget lines. She stated it has been seen in the past two (2) years that the Sheriff has shuffled money around from budget lines to cover the overtime. She stated perhaps we could be a little more proactive to that approach. She stated she would like them to allocate money to their overtime line, from the budget lines within the Sheriff's Department. She stated it is a fine line we must walk; we do not want to jeopardize safety, we know that overtime is mandated, but when overtime payments of \$64,000 are seen for one Deputy, it blows peoples' minds. She stated that overtime amount is more than the median salary of most of the workers in Putnam County and our residents. She stated the questioned is raised, how do we get a handle on the overtime, how do we look to proactively manage the overtime. She stated she recognizes this is not easy, but we are living in perilous times with the 2021 year approaching with no idea of what is ahead. She stated we need to be as conservative as possible.

Legislator Sullivan stated last year we budgeted \$520,000 for overtime for Road Patrol. He stated the tentative budget is keeping the budget line at the same amount of \$520,000. He stated we are not looking to defund or cut the budget. He stated many police departments around the state and throughout the Country are significantly cutting back their overtime budgets and their police budgets. He stated that is not being done in Putnam County at all, in fact the overall budget for the Sheriff's Department has increased. He stated we are looking to make operations as efficient as possible. He stated this year we were dealing with COVID-19 which kept people from moving around in the community. He stated there was a period early on where there were few if no cars on the road. He stated he would have thought a decrease would have been reflected in some of the expenses related to overtime. He stated he wonders what the causes for the overtime are. He stated we have not really heard a lot about that. He stated he believes overtime should be related to arrests, courts, special details and not just filling vacancies all of the time. He stated he would like to see crime statistics and data related to activity of the Road

Patrol. He stated we have looked for incident reports on certain occasions and have not received anything. He stated without the information it is difficult to understand where people are coming from. He stated then when we see movement of money between the different accounts it makes it that much harder to understand why this cannot be managed. He stated he hopes the Bonadio Group will be able to help improve all of this.

Legislator Albano stated he agrees as the budget is tracking in 2020, it appears overtime may end the year under the \$520,000. He stated the vacancies occur caused by different reasons, retirement, injuries etc. He stated he hopes that can be addressed in the future.

Legislator Montgomery stated this discussion has been addressed from different angles. She stated sometimes we hear the overtime is a more cost-effective approach versus new hires because new hires would result in the fringe benefit costs. She stated she does not necessarily agree with that, but she wanted to point that out. She personally is in favor of hiring more deputies. She stated as she has mentioned many times her district is facing a challenge managing the very large number of tourists coming into Philipstown. She stated she believes they only have one (1) patrol between Philipstown and Putnam Valley. She stated it can take 20 – 25 minutes to get to a scene.

Chairman Jonke requested that Legislator Montgomery speak to the topic of overtime.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is talking about the need for coverage in her district, which results in needed overtime. She stated once again we are defunding the Sheriff's Department. She stated this is a public safety issue. She stated we are considering defunding the police without looking at the data. She stated the County Executive has set out to defund the Sheriff's Marine Unit and the overtime without looking at the data.

Chairman Jonke clarified the overtime has not been defunded; it is at level funding.

Legislator Montgomery stated the Sheriff has been asked to request what he needs; he did that based on his facts.

Legislator Sayegh stated she believes it is important that people understand the numbers being reviewed. She stated in 2018 the actual overtime was \$789,142. She stated that was in addition to the salaries and fringe benefits. She stated in 2019 the actual overtime was \$924,040. She stated again that is on top of the salaries and the fringe benefits. She stated every year we try to get a hold of the tremendous spending in this particular budget line. She stated she agrees with Legislator Nacerino that some of the overtime amounts paid to Deputies is more than the average salary of Putnam County residents. She stated the budget process is all about planning and trying to get control over this overtime budget line. She stated they are not saying to eliminate all overtime and understand it is difficult to plan. She stated there is no defunding, the tentative budget is keeping level funding in the overtime time for 2021. She repeated nothing is being defunded. She stated we are talking about numbers, we are talking about the taxpayers' money and the taxpayers should know what they are paying for.

Chairman Jonke stated he agrees with a lot of what Legislator Sayegh just said.

Legislator Sullivan stated he would like to put this in perspective for everyone. He stated the Putnam County total budget is approximately \$164 million. He stated the Sheriff's budget, including the Jail, is \$27,985,000, that is 17% of the entire County budget. He stated we are certainly not defunding the Sheriff's Department. She stated for anyone to mention those words is an insult to everyone on the Legislature. He stated additionally, 70% of the County Budget is mandated costs, he stated that does not leave a lot of money left over to provide the services to the residents to meet their needs. He stated to say we are defunding is an absolute mischaracterization of what we are trying to do.

Captain Tompkins stated there are a few points he would like to address. He stated to Legislator Sayegh's point about the actual 2019 overtime of \$924,040, he agreed that this is a staggering amount. He stated part of the contributing factor was that there was a PBA contract settled and a compensation payout, which was \$110,000 added on to that budget, which made that year significantly higher. He stated to Legislator Albano's point as to where we are now at \$371,517, that is fantastic. He stated that is where they want to be. He stated everyone needs to keep in mind that there was the deployment of seven (7) School Resource Officers (SRO) to help with the Road Patrol, due to the closing of the schools as a result of COVID-19. He stated that supports the theory if the Sheriff's Department had additional personnel the overtime numbers would be considerably less. He stated the seven (7) additional employees made a significant difference, the numbers do not lie. He stated lastly if we look at the 2019 accepted overtime budget it was \$612,000, the next year there was a requested 2% increase, bringing that amount to \$624,000. He stated that is how the Sheriff's Department is at the numbers being requested now.

Chairman Jonke stated this has been discussed in the past. He stated he would like to make a motion.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to increase the Sheriff's Overtime Budget Line 3110 51093 by 2.5% for a total budget of \$533,000. No Second – Motion Failed

Legislators Nacerino and Sullivan both stated the future of the SROs going back into the schools is tentative, due to COVID-19. They stated as long as they are not assigned to their duties in the schools, they remain available to assist with the Road Patrol and keeping the overtime down and it is an effective use of resources.

Legislator Addonizio stated she takes offense to the phrase "defunding the police". She stated the meaning of "defunding the police", is to shift money away from the Police Department to other government agencies that are funded by local municipalities. She stated that clearly is not being done here, in Putnam County.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the increase in the Uniform budget line (54384) on page 54.

Sheriff Langley stated he would contact his Fiscal Manager and report back to the Legislature.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to respond to Legislator Sullivan's accounting of the percentage of the County's budget which is spent on the Sheriff's Department. She stated

County Government has three (3) primary jobs: Public Safety- Jail, Human Services, and Infrastructure. She stated Public Safety is a primary mandate. She stated what is not a primary mandate is the County Government running a farm, a golf course, or a tourism directive. She stated she believes we are defunding public safety. She stated it is clear with the Marine Unit, it is clear in the cutting of the Civil Sergeant. She questioned why would anyone want to work to put their lives on the line for Putnam County when we are having so much trouble in paying them the wages to attract professionals. She questioned why we are second guessing the professionals. She questioned in what other department of the County do we do this. She stated providing Public Safety, a primary mandate, is what we as Legislators must provide for our constituents.

Legislator Sullivan questioned if the funding on page 64 3110- 52650 the Motor Vehicles budget line, \$250,000, is for the six (6) Road Patrol cars.

Sheriff Langley stated that is correct those vehicles are solely used for patrols.

Legislator Sullivan stated he spoke with Purchasing Director Alex Mazzotta and learned that Putnam County can piggy back with Rockland County's contract and purchase six (6) vehicles. He stated he was provided with the buy sheets and the cost of cars. He stated the cost of six (6) Road Patrol Cars, outfitted the way we want them, would be \$221,000. He stated he would be happy to show the Sheriff the information he is referring to. He stated he would like to have this line reviewed before the Budget and Finance Meeting. He stated he does not believe budget line 52650 needs to be at \$250,000. He stated he would also like to know the determining factors that go into the decision that a Road Patrol vehicle needs to be replaced. He stated he also has a report that shows most of the current Road Patrol cars have only 100,000 miles on them. He stated 100,000 today is not a lot of mileage for a vehicle.

Sheriff Langley stated the number of miles on a police vehicle can technically be tripled because of the degree of wear and tear. He stated they cannot be compared to an average motor vehicle.

Legislator Sullivan stated questioned what the \$4,000 budgeted in line 3110-52110, Furniture and Furnishings, on page 57 is being used to replace.

Sheriff Langley stated that he will provide the specifics in a memorandum, that is funding for the Narcotics Department. He stated that he is confident that it is funding to be used to replace damaged furniture.

Legislator Sullivan questioned if the \$10,130 budget in line 3110-52180, Other Equipment, on page 57 is for lights on unmarked cars and night vision cameras.

Sheriff Langley stated yes, that is surveillance equipment for the Narcotics Unit.

Legislator Sullivan questioned why we have to add lights to the unmarked cars. He stated he thought the vehicles were purchased with everything they need.

Sheriff Langley explained there are rental cars that are used that must be equipped with the proper lighting, etc.

Legislator Sullivan stated he would next like to talk about the Jail Budget, which is a \$10.1 million budget. He stated the population of the Putnam County Jail is way down. He stated as a result he would think there are budget items that can be discussed. He stated on page 78, budget line 315- 52180 includes \$5,500, to purchase snow blower, weed whacker, lawn mower and hand tools at the Jail. He stated he would like clarification as to why these items are needed. He stated the Highways & Facilities Department handles all of that.

Captain James Greenough stated this equipment is used as part of the Community Work Program around the facility.

Legislator Sullivan questioned for clarity if it is Sheriff's personnel or the inmates that do the work.

Captain James Greenough stated the inmates.

Legislator Sullivan stated he is not sure that is a wise program.

Undersheriff Cheverko stated we are discussing an Inmate Work Program. He stated it is a common program in every facility throughout the Country. He stated yes there is a risk of an injury, but it occurs rarely. He stated Highways & Facilities does not do that work at the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Sullivan questioned if the \$20,000 budgeted in line 3150-52180, Other Equipment, on page 80 is for bulletproof vests.

Captain James Greenough stated that funding is used to purchase bulletproof vests for the Correction Officers. He stated the bulletproof vests expire after five (5) years. He stated there are several that need to be replaced. He stated they have applied for a grant, which if awarded would reimburse half the money back to the County.

Legislator Sullivan stated in an effort to move along, he will speak with Captain Greenough further. He stated he had never seen this in the budget before.

Captain James Greenough stated they have to rotate them through, and as new Officers get hired and old ones have expired they need to be replaced. He stated it is the same amount as last year's budget, it is a cyclical cost.

Legislator Sullivan questioned what the plan is moving forward to reduce the cost of the Jail. He stated many other Counties around Putnam have saved money. He stated Ulster County has saved \$1 million out of the Jail Budget. He stated that jail is similar in size to Putnam County. He stated looking at Putnam's Jail the tentative 2021 budget has actually increased a bit. He stated of course there are your standard costs, but when we have approximately 40 inmates versus the full capacity of 100, he believes there has to be a reduction in costs.

Sheriff Langley stated he has had conversations with the Sheriff in Ulster County. He stated that the Ulster Jail is 3 times the size of the Putnam County Jail facility. He stated due to the reduction of the population in their Jail they were able to close down 2/3 of their Jail. He stated there were other measures taken including early retirement incentives. He stated the Ulster Jail population has since began to increase. He stated they will be hiring two (2) new Officers this year and in 2021 they will be hiring eight (8) more Officers and there will be promotions next year as well. He stated currently there are two (2) vacant positions in the Putnam County Jail, which they are keeping vacant until the positions are required, therefore they are maintaining a savings to the County and to the taxpayers.

Legislator Sullivan thanked Sheriff for that information. He stated he would like the Sheriff to show where the savings would be. He stated the Sheriff has referenced there are savings in this tentative budget for the Sheriff's Department. He stated he does not see that. He would welcome and appreciate getting together in the next couple of weeks so we could better understand, before the 2021 budget is finalized.

Legislator Montgomery stated she does not have the same backup documents that Legislator Sullivan has. She questioned where she can get a copy of what he was working off of and referencing during this discussion.

Legislator Sullivan stated in preparing for this meeting he requested information, which can be done by any Legislator.

Legislator Sayegh questioned why there is no funding on page 82 under SCAAP Grant.

Captain James Greenough stated they have applied for the SCAAP Grant but have not heard back yet.

Sheriff Langley stated that he would like to point out that they continue to increase the number of Marshall Board-Ins in the Jail and will generate over \$1 million of revenue.

Chairman Jonke stated his appreciation for the efforts of the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Montgomery stated there is a letter that has been sent by a member of the public that she would like read into the record.

Chairman Jonke stated the Legislators have received a copy of the letter, it is not necessary to read it into the record. He stated next he is moving onto some housekeeping resolutions that he would like to propose. He stated these proposals are related to the Sheriff's Department

Chairman Jonke made a motion to remove \$350 from Clothing Allowance 1031100.51099; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Chairman Jonke explained next inadvertently \$10,500 was placed in an incorrect budget line. He stated the following motion is to move the funding into the correct budget line.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Correct Budget Line, move \$10,500 from 17311000.10158 to 17311000.54300; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Probation 3140 73-76

Chairman Jonke confirmed there were no questions for Director of Probation Funicelli, and thanked him for his patience and staying on the call.

Item #10 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 9:20 PM Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trabulsy.