

**AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held In Room 318**  
**PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**  
**CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Castellano, Legislators Nacerino & Tartaro**

**Monday April 28, 2014**  
**(Immediately following Economic Dev. Mtg. starting @ 6:30 P.M.)**

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 P.M. by Chairman Castellano who requested Legislator Tartaro lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Nacerino, Tartaro, and Chairman Castellano were present.

**Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2014**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #4 - Correspondence/County Auditor**

**a) Sales Tax Report**

Chairman Castellano stated sales tax has increased in the month of March.

**b) Board In Revenue Report – Duly Noted**

**c) Transfer/Revenue Report – Duly Noted**

**d) Contingency/Sub-Contingency Report – Duly Noted**

**e) OTB Report – Duly Noted**

**Item #5 - Correspondence/Commissioner of Finance**

**a) Overtime/Temporary Report**

Chairman Castellano stated the overtime was up due to the rough winter.

Legislator Oliverio stated the area was hit with many bad storms which brought upon situations that required overtime not only in the Highway Department, but also in Emergency Services as well as the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Albano stated although the winter was tough, nearby Counties and Towns may have faced worse hardships in respect to their equipment.

Chairman Castellano stated Putnam County acquired new equipment just in time.

**b) Approval/Budgetary Amendment (14A022)/Health/“Run For Your Life” Event (also reviewed by Health Committee)**

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

**c) Approval/Budgetary Amendment (14A023)/Health/Quadrivalent Vaccine (also reviewed by Health Committee)**

Chairman Castellano stated the funding for the Quadrivalent Vaccine would come from contingency in the amount of \$16,000.

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

**d) Approval/Budgetary Amendment (14A024)/Health/New York State Health Foundation Grant (also reviewed by Health Committee)**

Legislator Tartaro made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

**e) Approval/Budgetary Amendment (14A026)/Highway/FEMA Project Mill Road Bridge (also reviewed by Physical Committee)**

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she spent a great deal of time on this project because the bridge services one (1) family who rents the home. She stated there is also another entrance to the house. She stated there is another project in Philipstown that the grant money could be used toward, however the family at the residence on Mill Road refused to sign off on using the funds elsewhere.

Chairman Castellano questioned how big the property is.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated it is about six (6) acres.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the County can purchase the house.

Commissioner Carlin stated the option of purchasing the house was considered, however FEMA would not pay for the house.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated the asking price of the house is \$600,000.

Legislator Albano questioned if the County can purchase the property, sign off on it, and use the money for other projects.

Commissioner Carlin stated the grant was \$1.2 million for projects related to the FEMA storm.

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

**f) Approval/Budgetary Amendment (14A027)/Sheriff/Marine Patrol Lake Mahopac (also reviewed by Protective Committee)**

Legislator Tartaro stated the issue he has with this is that the County is left with no choice in the matter. He stated the Town of Carmel is saving close to \$6,000 by having the County take over the patrol. He stated this should have been requested sooner so the issue could have been more thoroughly vetted. He stated it is a State lake; however the only residents who have access to the Lake are property owners or renters.

Legislator Nacerino stated Legislator Tartaro's points are well taken. She stated the Town of Carmel has abandoned their fiduciary responsibility and the County has no choice but to move forward with this or the safety and welfare of the people who utilize the lake will be jeopardized.

Legislator Albano stated the patrol costs the Town of Carmel \$50,000 and they receive a State grant of \$25,000, making the final cost \$25,000 to patrol the Lake. He stated it is going to cost the County money and as a compromise, perhaps the Town should give the County a portion of the money they will be saving by having the County patrol. He also stated if the State is not providing enough money to patrol the area, a letter should be written describing the costs. He stated as this is a safety issue, the County should work with the Town, however there should be reimbursement to the County.

Legislator Nacerino stated that conversation should be initiated in the hopes to recoup some funds. She stated in the meantime, the County is left with no choice.

Legislator Albano stated the Town of Carmel made the decisions to discontinue the patrol of the Lake.

Legislator Nacerino stated the constituents who use the Lake should not be the victims of a power play.

Legislator Tartaro believed it was not fair to anyone when the Town of Carmel stated they would no longer be patrolling the area.

Legislator Oliverio stated when Putnam Valley did away with its Police Force in the mid 1990's, the Town's policing needs were taken care of by the Sheriff's Department. He stated the arrangement was to give the Sheriff's Department the State money they receive and they will patrol the town. He stated Carmel should not be denied something that other towns have.

Legislator LoBue stated she wished this discussion had taken place when Supervisor Schmitt was at the meeting. She stated the timing of this is poor; however the County

cannot leave the constituents hanging. She stated the Lake is a tourist attraction which brings people into the County. She stated she is disappointed that the Sheriff went to the Town and agreed to cover the Lake without approval from the Legislature. She suggested sending a letter clarifying the help coming from the County is a one-time deal and in the future, there should be a discussion.

Legislator Albano stated within the letter, it should be clarified that the County will cover the patrol because it is an emergency. He stated a letter should be sent to the State as well because it is a State property. He stated this is a one-time fix.

Legislator LoBue stated it is the Town's responsibility to go to the State.

Legislator Tartaro suggested giving the Town of Carmel \$25,000 to cover the cost of the patrol.

Legislator Albano stated it must be made clear this is a one-time fix.

Legislator LoBue stated there is a dramatic savings by having the County cover the patrol.

Legislator Tartaro stated the deputies and the Town of Kent Police are paid \$9,000 less than the Town of Carmel Police.

Chairman Castellano stated it will be made clear the patrol of the lake this summer is a one-time deal.

Director of Consumer Affairs Jean Noel questioned what the patrol will cost the County.

Chairman Castellano stated it will cost \$56,904.

Legislator Albano stated he believes the County will do it for less than \$50,000.

Director Noel stated the Lake is unique as it has motorboats, just as Lake Oscawana does. She stated there is also an issue in the County with the repair of dams. She stated she belongs to a homeowners association with 123 members who have been assessed up to \$750 a year for the next five (5) years to repair the dam. She stated this is put down by the State and is involving health and safety. She stated perhaps the Town of Kent should ask for assistance for their dams just as the Town of Carmel has with the patrol.

Legislator Nacerino stated the Legislature is not happy with the situation, however it is a necessity.

Director Noel stated this was a service that was once provided and is now being taken away.

Legislator Nacerino stated the Legislature was blindsided by this.

Legislator Albano stated most of the people who use the Lake live right on the lake and perhaps the cost should come from those residents.

Legislator Nacerino stated this restricts others from utilizing the lake.

Legislator LoBue stated she would request the contract that the Town of Carmel has with respect to the Police.

Legislator Oliverio stated the Town of Carmel does not have to prove the Legislature with that contract.

Legislator LoBue stated she would take care of the matter herself.

Legislator Tartaro stated that information can be FOILed.

Legislator Oliverio stated it would seem strange for the Legislature to ask the Town for their financials.

Legislator LoBue stated she is not interested in the money aspect, but just in this specific contract.

Legislator Oliverio apologized for misunderstanding Legislator LoBue.

Legislator LoBue stated a point that was brought up by Legislator Wright in the April Protective Services Meeting was to have retired officers patrol the lake, just as there are Special Patrol Officers (SPO's) in the Mahopac Schools.

Legislator Tartaro questioned if the County will be using Town of Carmel's boat to patrol the lake.

Legislator Oliverio stated Town Supervisor Schmitt stated their boat would be used.

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

**g) Approval/Budgetary Amendment (14A029)/OFA/Purchase Plaque/Jane Lobdell**

Legislator LoBue questioned how much money was donated.

Commissioner of Finance Bill Carlin stated to date, \$680,000 has been received.

Legislator Oliverio questioned if Ms. Lobdell's entire estate was left to the Office for the Aging.

Commissioner Carlin stated he was unaware if it was the whole estate. He stated the money was donated to go toward medical transportation, and it has.

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

**h) Approval/Budgetary Amendment (14A030)/Highway/Outside Services (also reviewed by Personnel Committee)**

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution, Seconded by Legislator Tartaro. All in favor.

**i) Approval/Budgetary Amendment (14A031)/District Attorney/Use of Asset Forfeiture Funds/Purchase Three (3) New Computers**

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution, Seconded by Legislator Tartaro. All in favor.

**j) Approval/Budgetary Amendment (14A032)/Transportation/Putnam Moves Advertising Program (Discussed Proposed Program @ Physical Mtg)**

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

**Item #6 - Approval/Fund Transfer (14T035)/Highway/Properly Budget 2014 Judicial Accounts (also reviewed by Physical Committee)**

Legislator LoBue questioned why this was being transferred.

Legislator Oliverio stated a lot of gas was used over the winter for heat.

Commissioner Carlin stated it will be easier to analyze going forward with a focus on energy.

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

**Item #7 - Approval/Fund Transfer (14T045)/OFA/Caseworker/Temporary (also reviewed by Personnel Committee)**

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

**Item #8 - Approval/Fund Transfer (14T048)/OFA/Expanded Transportation/Temporary (also Reviewed by Personnel Committee)**

Legislator Tartaro made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution, Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

**Item #9 - Approval/Fund Transfer (14T050)/District Attorney/Restructuring of Office (also Reviewed by Personnel Committee)**

Legislator Oliverio stated since this topic was discussed at length at the Personnel Committee Meeting and there was division on the Board, he suggested moving it to the Full Legislative Meeting so the entire Legislature could vote on it.

District Attorney Adam Levy thanked the Legislature for the opportunity to come to the Meeting. He stated those who vote in favor of the transfer are not voting in favor of a raise for any member of the District Attorney's Office. He stated rather, it will allow him to move funds around to make his department run more efficiently. He stated for 2014, these changes will bring a \$0 fiscal impact. He stated what he is requesting is autonomy to run the department the way it needs to be run. He stated he understands the wariness of some Legislators who were concerned about the impact on other departments. He stated is he comfortable with deferring the transfer until September 1, 2014 in order for the County to save money. He stated he would like to amend the initial request to show the effective date of September 1, 2014. He thanked the Legislature for meeting him half way.

Legislator Nacerino stated herself and District Attorney Levy had opposing opinions regarding the impact and timing of the transfer. She thanked District Attorney Levy for working side by side with the Legislature to come to a resolution. She stated this personifies good Government. She stated in her discussions with District Attorney Levy, they were able to air their concerns with dignity and respect and she believes the compromise is a win/win. She stated she never doubted the value of the restructure, only concerns with the ramifications.

Legislator Albano stated this is a good compromise and the District Attorney's department is very valuable. He stated it was a nice gesture on the part of District Attorney Adam Levy, and there was good teamwork.

Chairman Castellano stated the changes would be the effective date of September 1, 2014. He stated this will save the County \$6,986.

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

**Item #10 - Approval/Semi-Annual Mortgage Tax Report / October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014**

Legislator LoBue thanked Commissioner Carlin for changing the format per her request.

Legislator Tartaro stated although the report shows a decline, if you look from year to year, there is a slight increase.

Chairman Castellano stated this is the slow period. He thanked Putnam County Clerk Dennis Sant and his staff for providing the Legislature with the details.

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

**Item #11 - Approval/Erroneous Taxes/NYS DOT Tax Map #68.-2-73**

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

**Item #12 - 2013 Unaudited Annual Document Update/FYI – Duly Noted**

**Item #13 - Schedule of Revenues/Fines Levied by Boards/FYI – Duly Noted**

**Item #14 - Other Business**

**a. Recognition of County Auditor/ Elected Downstate Regional Counsel**

Chairman Castellano stated at the Annual New York State Government and Finance Officers Association Meeting in Albany, County Auditor Michele Sharkey was nominated and elected to serve as a Downstate Regional Counsel, representing New York City and the Hudson Valley.

**Item #15 - Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:47 P.M., Chairman Castellano made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Tartaro. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Beth Green.