

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
ROOM 318
OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairwoman Nacerino, Legislators Castellano and Tartaro

Tuesday

September 16, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 5:30p.m. by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislator Tartaro lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Chairwoman Nacerino and Legislators Castellano and Tartaro were present.

Item #3) Approval/Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes/August 20, 2014

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4) Discussion/ District Attorney/Witness Assistant Position/VOCA Grant Application

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she spoke to District Attorney Levy regarding this matter. She stated that he explained that the grant funding for this position will expire September 30, 2014. She stated it would be unfortunate to have this positions cease so late in the year.

District Attorney Levy stated that the position is the Victims Advocate in the District Attorney's Office. He stated that the grant funding is provided from the Office of Victims Services. He stated the position in his office is used to help victims of crime navigate the criminal justice system. He stated the Victims Advocate is the go between for the Victim, to the District Attorney's Office and the Court. He stated the Victims Advocate assists a Victim in obtaining restitution when there is out of pocket expenses that the victim may have suffered as a result of the crime committed against them. He stated to lose this position would be a hardship to the Victims.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned how long has the position been in the District Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Levy stated that it has been in the District Attorney's Office for 14 years.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that the grant covered 58% of the salary. She stated that the request is to have the County cover that through to the end of the year.

District Attorney Levy stated correct. He stated that he has been told that the shortfall would be \$11,786.84 to the end of the year.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that her position is one of support for this request. She stated that this is a position that advocates for fragile Victims, who are in distress, and are provided

assistance in navigating through the system. She stated that there is a possibility that next year there will be an opportunity to apply and receive grant funding to offset the salary again.

Legislator Oliverio questioned what the reason was as to why the grant was not reinstated.

District Attorney Levy stated that the Office of Victims Services agency implemented a new process. He stated that it was noted on the State's form that Putnam County is one of the safest Counties in New York State. He stated that he is not saying that is the reason, however it may have been an indicator as to why the grant was not reinstated. He stated on one hand of course that is good, but there are still crimes committed here and Victims who need an advocate. He stated that his Senior Staff members are looking for other Grant opportunities.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he agrees with Chair Nacerino this position needs to be funded through the remainder of the year. He stated the District Attorney's staff will continue to seek alternative funding sources. He stated this is a position worthy of the investment.

Legislator Gross stated that he agrees with keeping this critical position and funding it through to the end of the year.

District Attorney Levy stated that it is a priority in his office to locate State funds to assist in offsetting the salary of this position.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to move the proposal to fund the District Attorney's Witness Assistant Position through to the end of 2014 to the Audit & Administration Committee; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #5) Approval/Proposed Resolution/Standard Work Day & Reporting/Amendment of Reso #143 of 2013

Chairwoman Nacerino explained that there was an amendment required in relation to the processing of the Standard Work Day & Reporting process. She stated that the necessary changes have been completed and reflected in this proposed resolution.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve the Proposed Resolution/Standard Work Day & Reporting/Amendment of Reso #143 of 2013; Seconded by Legislator Tartaro. All in favor.

Item #6) FYI/County Executive's September Department Head Meeting

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she recommended to have a Legislator attend the County Executive's monthly Department Head Meetings, when possible, to gain some insight to what goes on within the department discussions on a different level than when the Department Heads come and report to the Legislature. She stated that this month Legislator Gross attended the September 9th meeting.

Legislator Gross stated he found the meeting to be very interesting. He stated that there was an announcement and discussion regarding the upcoming Mentoring Day Applications. He stated it

is a program that the County coordinates with CAREERS for People with Disabilities, Inc. He stated Tina Cornish-Lauria, Executive Director of CAREERS was at the meeting stating that their clients are looking forward to the mentoring day. He stated that the date of the mentoring day is October 15, 2014. He stated that there was an update provided on Tilly Foster Farm. He stated that there will be an antique tractor event coming up at the Farm. He stated that there was discussion regarding the October 25, Pumpkin Patch Day event. It will be a family event day. He stated there was discussion on the developing breakfast to be held September 26th where former Governor Pataki will be speaking about the economic development in the State and the County. He stated that the fee is \$35.00 for that event. He stated that the 911 Memorial Events that were coming up were mentioned as well.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested if there was a Legislator who would like to volunteer to attend the October meeting.

Chairman Albano stated that he will attend the October meeting.

Item #7) Update/Office of County Coroner

First Deputy County Attorney Andrew Negro stated that the Law Department is actively researching the issues raised by Chairman Albano in his “Confidential” memorandum dated August 29, 2014. He stated if the committee wishes to discuss particulars it would need to be done in Executive Session; as it entails the provision of legal advice.

5:40p.m.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a matter involving the provision of legal advice from the County Law Department; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

5:47p.m.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Seconded by Legislator Tartaro. All in favor.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that no action was taken.

Item #8) Other Business – None

Item #9) Adjournment

There being no further business, at 5:58P.M. Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Trabulsy, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature.