

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM #318**

CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairman Gross & Legislators Gouldman & Nacerino

Wednesday

September 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Roger Gross. He requested Legislator Ginny Nacerino lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Nacerino, Gouldman and Chairman Gross were present.

Chair Gross made a motion to waive the Rules and accept the Additional; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #3 - Approval/Grant Application/HMEP 2015- Hazard Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant/Commissioner Sutton

Chair Gross stated that there is a 20% County Match with this grant. He stated the question is 20% of what. He stated Commissioner Sutton, hopefully will arrive soon to provide some information pertaining to this request.

Legislator Albano stated that he recommends approving the request to apply for the Grant. He stated if the County is awarded the funding and it is determined that the County does not want to move forward with accepting the funding that is an option. He does not support not applying.

Legislative Counsel VanRoss stated that the specific purpose and use of the Grant funding if awarded, is not specified. He stated he recommends moving this matter to the end of the agenda, and hopefully Commissioner Sutton will have arrived and be able to provide answers to these questions.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the application deadline.

Legislative Counsel VanRoss stated it states in the packet that October 5, 2015 is the deadline for applications.

Chair Gross agreed to move this agenda item to the end of the meeting.

Item #4 – Discussion/Proposed Monopole Telecommunication Tower

Chair Gross this is a matter that was brought forward by Legislator Nacerino as it involves her Legislative District.

Legislator Nacerino stated that there was some confusion with who owned the parcel that is being considered as a location for a Monopole Telecommunication Tower. She stated it has been identified as a parcel right of way owned by Metro- North. She stated that the County owns property adjacent to the parcel. She stated that she attended a meeting in the Town of Patterson. She stated that the plan is to erect a 180 foot Monopole in the middle of a residential

neighborhood along the train tracks on Route 164 in Patterson. She stated that she does not support this proposal. She stated she acknowledges the need for a communication tower and the need to have emergency service communication. She stated that she asked if there was another site that the Monopole could be placed. She stated that the Metro-North representatives stated that they scoped out a few areas, but this seemed to be the correct location. She stated that they also indicated that they are exempt from any regulations imposed by Towns or Municipalities. She stated that they are not required to go through the SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) process and there is no requirement for a Public Hearing. She stated that the Town Representatives offered alternative sites for them to consider. She stated at first they were reluctant, stating that it may result in greater expense. She stated, however, by the end of the meeting they did agree to explore the options presented. She stated that the Patterson Landfill Site was offered as an option. She stated the representatives of the Town believe that would be a better site for the Monopole and ultimately a Cell Tower. She stated the Landfill Site could only be accomplished if the Town agrees and approves to offer a portion of that land to Metro-North and the feasibility of seeing if the Town could, which Town Planner Rich Williams says can be done, have someone erect a Monopole; and Metro-North would need to be agreeable to that. She stated that there are several neighborhoods that will be impacted by the Route 164 proposed location. She stated the neighborhood that she lives in is not far from the proposed site. She stated there is a beautiful home that will have the Monopole in their backyard. She stated from the perspective of the residents in these neighborhoods the Route 164 location is a bad choice. She stated she can understand from Metro-North's perspective that they want to have communication availability for the riders of the train. She stated that Commissioner Sutton may want to add to the conversation in regards to the enhanced emergency services. She stated it is her hope and expectation that there will be a different site selected. She stated Supervisor Griffin asked if Metro-North would be amenable to reducing the height from 180 foot. She stated that request was declined stating that it would be a more expensive. She stated at this point in time the matter is up in the air. She stated as emergency services are valued in Putnam County she would hope that there would be some acknowledgement given to the sense of community and the residents. She stated for many people their home is their main resource and asset.

Legislator Albano recommended checking to see if the County has any antennas that could offer Metro North service.

County Executive Odell stated that she has had conversations regarding this matter with Mr. Mannix, Director of Government Relations for Metro-North. She stated Mr. Neal Zuckerman is an asset for the County. She stated that Mr. Zuckerman works as a liaison for County Government to Metro-North. She stated that this is a good opportunity to develop and nurture a good working relationship that has already begun. She stated that there has been some very constructive dialogue with the MTA Chairman and CEO Thomas Prendergast and Joe Giulietti who is the President of MTA Metro-North Railroad and Putnam County representatives. She stated that both gentlemen live in Putnam County. She stated they both are homeowners in Putnam County. She stated if the MTA comes back and reports that there is no other viable site, then possibly they can dress it up/camouflage the pole. She stated as an example there is a Tower on the Hutchinson River Parkway that is camouflaged as a Pine Tree. She stated that she would like an open dialogue with the representatives in the MTA and Metro-North. She stated

again, Neal Zuckerman is a great resource and has extended his services to her Administration on the Manitou matter in Legislator Scuccimarra's District and he has worked with the County on the Prospect Bridge Project. She stated that she will extend contact information for these MTA representatives and encourage Legislator Nacerino to reach out to them.

Chair Gross stated it is encouraging to hear that they live in Putnam County.

County Executive Odell stated that she believes it is a requirement and she believes they are also required to ride the train to work.

Legislator Nacerino stated that this matter is also being addressed at the Patterson Town Board meeting tonight. She stated that she will contact her Town officials to learn if there was any action on their part agreed to in their discussion.

Continuation: Item #3 - Approval/Grant Application/HMEP 2015- Hazard Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant/Commissioner Sutton

Commissioner Sutton stated that if the funding is secured, it can be used to fund equipment and geared towards their designated topic. He stated that this year the topic is the *Crude Oil and Regional HazMat Response*. He stated that the County needs to demonstrate that there is a capability to conduct an initial response to a fire caused by a crude oil incident.

Chair Gross questioned with it being a Grant requiring a 20% match, what is the amount being requested. He stated the Legislature is preparing to review the budget for 2016, which preliminary reports reflect that it will be a very difficult year. Therefore, the Legislature would need to know the amount that the County would be requested to contribute.

Commissioner Sutton stated that he is aware of that. He stated that he apologizes he does not have that information with him tonight. He stated that he was unaware that he would be speaking to this matter tonight. He stated that there is a very short window in terms of applying for this Grant. He stated that his department was just recently made aware of it. He stated he has heard the statements made in concern of circumventing the process of coming to the Legislature prior to applying for Grants. He stated that the clock is sometimes so short that in order not to miss the application period a request is sent to the Legislature to place the matter on the next Committee Meeting Agenda, and it may not be the appropriate committee, however time is of the essence.

Legislator Albano stated that he has requested that the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee please look at the Appropriations section of the Charter that documents that a Department needs to come to the Legislature to request approval to apply for a Grant. He stated he is not in support of that practice.

Legislative Counsel VanRoss requested that the following information be received, prior to the next meeting: what the Grant Funds will be used for and how much will be requested via the application process.

Commissioner Sutton stated that he will get that information to the Legislature.

Item #5 – Update/ Resolution #67 of 2015-Local Law Pertaining to the Sale and Use of Sparkling Devices

Chair Gross stated that after review by Deputy County Attorney Anna Diaz of the County Law Department it was determined that the word “through” could be added to the time period listed in Resolution #67 “and December 26th through January 2nd” .

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve amending Resolution #67 of 2015; Seconded by Chair Gross. All in favor.

Item #6 – FYI/Putnam Awarded \$3.5 million in State Interoperable Communications Grant (Request to apply approved Reso# 83/2015) – Duly Noted

Item #7 - FYI/Budgetary Amendment (#15A065) Off set Lab Analysis Fees/Probation Department- Duly Noted

Item #8 – Correspondence: Re: Proposal/Municipal County Wide EMS Operating Authority

- **E-Mail From: Sr. Deputy County Attorney for Risk Lotto Dated: September 1, 2015**
- **From: Chair of Protective Dated: August 18, 2015**
- **From: County Attorney Bumgarner Dated: August 19, 2015**

Chair Gross stated at last month’s meeting Commissioner Sutton presented a proposal to have a County Wide EMS Operating Authority. The Senior Deputy County Attorney for Risk and Compliance Adrienne Lotto is working with Commissioner Sutton to research this consideration. He stated once they have vetted the matter they will bring their professional recommendations to the Legislature.

Item #9 Other Business

a. Approval/Fund Transfer (15T173)/Cover Cost to Complete Ongoing Generator Projects/Bureau of Emergency Services

Chair Gross stated in the backup provided for Fund Transfer (15T173) there is reference to Temple Beth Shalom (Temple) in Mahopac. He questioned if the Temple will serve as a shelter for the community in times of a crisis.

Commissioner Sutton stated this is a project that was started under his predecessor. He stated that there were logistical matters that had to be finalized.

County Executive Odell stated that the Temple will not be a “shelter” it would serve as a “comfort station”. She stated that the former Rabbi approached the Administration, when she first took office, and requested assistance in making the Temple a “comfort station”. She stated that a designated area in the Temple would serve in times of crisis as a comfort station. She stated there is a distinct difference between a “shelter” and a “comfort station”. A “shelter” requires that nurses, doctors and a host of services and amenities be available. She stated that a “comfort station” is a location for people to get warm or cool, charge your cell phones, gather information relative to the situation etc.

Chair Gross made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (15T173)/Cover Cost to Complete Ongoing Generator Projects/Bureau of Emergency Services; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

b. Verbal Update/Senator Serino/Grant Funding for a Bloodhound to be used in Human Searches /Undersheriff Convery

Undersheriff Convery stated that through the assistance of Senator Serino the Putnam County Sheriff's Department will be getting a Bloodhound through the Westchester County Department of Public Safety. He explained that Bloodhounds breed is the most efficient in searching for human beings. He stated that the Bloodhound will come to Putnam County at no cost, and Senator Serino has assisted in securing funds that will cover the costs for the training. He stated the only costs to the County will be the dog food and the stipend for the Deputy. He stated that he will bring this matter more formally to the Legislature, but right now he wanted to provide a notification that this will be coming forward.

Legislator Nacerino stated that there are many cases of adults missing who have Alzheimer. She stated this type of trained dog will be a great asset in being able to have a positive outcome to those cases.

c. Verbal Update/Polygraph Machine/Undersheriff Convery

Undersheriff Convery stated that there will be a request coming to purchase a Polygraph Machine (Machine). He stated the Machine is a valuable part of the interview process in the Sheriff's Department. He stated currently Dutchess County has been very helpful, allowing Putnam County to utilize their equipment.

County Executive Odell questioned who will be in charge of operating the Machine.

Undersheriff Convery stated Captain Martin, and he will go for training.

d. Item #10 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:40 P.M., Chair Gross made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trabulsky.