



Legislator Addonizio questioned if there is an age restriction for adopters. She stated she had been contacted by a resident who applied to adopt an animal who believed they were denied based on their age.

President Dugan stated there is no age restriction. She stated the individual would not have been denied because of their age. She stated recently, a dog was adopted by a 93 year old. She stated they did a home visit to ensure the dog would be properly cared for and the individual had a great home for a dog and was therefore approved.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how many animals are housed at the Humane Society at once.

President Dugan stated between the two (2) buildings there are 48 indoor/outdoor runs and there are 75 pens outdoors. She stated the outdoor pens have a roof and plenty of room for the dogs to walk around. She stated they found that the dogs prefer the change from outdoors to indoors rather than staying in the outdoor pens during the day and night when the weather would allow. She stated indoors the dogs have elevated beds, music, and toys. She stated if the weather is good, the dogs will have the ability to go inside and outside freely. She currently there are 47 dogs and 70 cats. She stated they have gotten up to 159 cats in the Spring and they all get adopted. She stated the Humane Society is a no-kill facility. She stated the funding received from Putnam County is a portion of the Humane Society's total budget. She stated the rest is raised through fundraising and grants. She stated they are currently working on capital improvements.

Legislator Nacerino thanked President Dugan for the work she does. She questioned what the turnaround time is for the adoption of an animal.

President Dugan stated the time depends on each animal. She stated they have had animals at the Humane Society for several years. She stated many people think the dogs are in cages all day, but their daily schedule is quite busy. She stated when the staff arrives in the morning the dogs are taken for a walk and then they eat. She stated volunteers come to walk the dogs and there are so many volunteers that they sometimes need to wait for dogs to return from a walk to go back out. She stated the staff walks the dogs again in the afternoon, they eat when they return and then they get ready for bed. She stated the dogs live an active life and they have an exercise pen with agility equipment. She stated a trainer comes in every Saturday to work with the dogs and this service is available to the dogs even after they are adopted; the owner is welcome to bring the dog to the training sessions each week for free. She stated this service is also extended to residents.

Legislator Nacerino requested clarification on the return of the feral cats into the community. She questioned if the cats are domesticated after they go to the vet.

President Dugan stated they are re-released into their colony and cannot be domesticated. She stated the person who captures the cat or cats needs to agree to

care for the cat once it is spayed or neutered rather than immediately leaving it to fend for itself.

Legislator Nacerino stated it was her understanding that part of the problem with feral cats was that people were feeding them.

President Dugan stated the cats that would be cared for are already spayed or neutered and therefore cannot reproduce.

Legislator LoBue questioned where the animals come from.

President Dugan stated the animals are a combination of strays and owner surrenders. She stated when an owner is surrendering an animal they must first make an appointment with the trainer to do an assessment. She stated the purpose of this is to make sure the animal is adoptable or to identify an issue the owner may be experiencing that can be worked through.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the Humane Society gets calls from humane societies out of State asking for help.

President Dugan stated yes, they have rescued animals from the south and recently took in two (2) hounds from North Carolina. She stated they do what they can when the space is available. She stated they have rescued a total of 24 hounds since last November and they are very good family dogs. She stated unfortunately in the south, the hounds are used for hunting and at the end of the season hunters will let the dog go or drop them off at the shelter to avoid caring for them in the off season.

Legislator LoBue inquired about aggressive dogs.

President Dugan stated there are no threatening or dangerous dogs at the Humane Society. She stated there is a dog there named Diesel who had a bad experience before arriving at the Humane Society and is afraid of a lot of people. She stated he is working with the trainer, but he loves other dogs. She stated there are some people he is comfortable around and he spends a lot of time with those people. She stated there have not been any dogs that have caused harm to the staff. She stated intake assessments are done before taking in a dog to avoid accepting a dog that would be a threat. She stated it is important that the staff will be able to care for the animal.

Legislator Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional material provided by President Dugan; Seconded by Chairman Sullivan. All in favor.

Director of Veteran's Service Agency Karl Rohde stated recently, a Veteran who had two (2) cats had a stroke and is now in rehab recovering. He stated he was able to arrange for the cats to be recovered from the Veterans' home and they were brought to the Humane Society where they are being cared for. He thanked President Dugan.

Legislator Jonke questioned how many volunteers the Humane Society has.

President Dugan stated there are a few dozen volunteers that are constantly there. She stated on the weekends many people come in to volunteer to walk dogs or spend time with the cats. She stated it is always busy. She stated it is a great place for kids to do community service. She stated they have also had boy scouts complete their Eagle Scout project at the Humane Society as well.

Chairman Sullivan stated item #11 would be addressed next.

### **Item #11 - Discussion/ Putnam County Security & IT Use Policy**

Deputy County Attorney Shannon Brady stated some changes have been made to the draft previously submitted to the Rules, Enactments, & Intergovernmental Committee. She stated she and Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon looked into the policy in Westchester County and used parts of it in the redraft of the Putnam County policy. She stated the main changes that were made are the addition of the introduction on page 1 and the expectation of privacy section on pages 2-3 was redone to more clearly state what employees should understand in regards to how the County system works and what is stored and created on the County system are County records and there is no personal right to those records. She stated there is a new section added regarding social media on pages 3-4, which is from the policy in Westchester County. She stated the security section on page 5 was made more clear as well, which is important because employees need to be very well aware of what to do and not do in terms of security.

Legislator Albano stated it is imperative to have this policy in place even if it needs to be tweaked in the future. He stated ground rules need to be set.

Legislator LoBue requested a redlined copy of the amended version to more clearly see the changes made.

Deputy County Attorney Brady stated she would supply a redlined copy.

Legislator LoBue stated she believed an issue in the past was employees utilizing their personal devices outside of work and what was considered County data. She questioned if Deputy County Attorney Brady was familiar with the letter received in March of 2017 from the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) regarding the proposed policy being discriminatory.

Deputy County Attorney Brady stated she is familiar with the letter and she believes the changes that were made make it much clearer. She requested that the Legislators let her know if they come across anything that is not clear within the policy when they read through it.

Legislator LoBue stated it is her understanding that a memorandum was sent to the employees from the Administration regarding the use of Facebook. She stated the Legislature is in the midst of fine-tuning this policy. She questioned if anyone was familiar with this memorandum.

Director Lannon stated he is not aware of the memorandum.

Legislator LoBue stated she did not get it, but someone provided her with a copy of it.

Deputy County Attorney Brady stated she did not receive or hear about the memorandum.

Director Lannon questioned if the memorandum was sent in response to something specific or if it was a general statement.

Legislator LoBue stated it was general regarding policy when using Facebook. She stated she was surprised that it was not received in the Legislative Office.

Chairman Sullivan stated it is important for employees to know what they can and cannot do at work related to IT. He stated essentially, this policy states that the County has the ability and the authority to oversee what is being done on County owned devices and with County owned data.

Director Lannon stated one (1) of the bigger problems faced is with thumb drives. He stated viruses can easily spread when they are utilized between multiple devices. He stated another issue with thumb drives is County data being removed with the use of a thumb drive and the possibility of confidential information being removed without encryption. He stated this proposed policy is a starting point and it can be added to later on.

Legislator Nacerino stated it is imperative to have documented guidelines. She stated it is also important to make employees aware of the policy. She questioned if there is a plan to roll out the policy in a way that would ensure employees have read and understand it.

Director Lannon stated they have been discussing which method would be best. He stated there is a way to roll it out through the employee portal where each employee would go in a sign off that they have received a copy of the policy. He stated training can also be done in the classroom; they are looking into what the most effective way is. He stated there are different types of employees such as those who do not frequently utilize a computer or device and part time employees.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if there will be a written acknowledgement from each employee.

Deputy County Attorney Brady stated they will need to speak with the unions about that before finalizing any plan.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the proposed policy was in compliance with the federal whistleblower law in terms of people communicating County information.

Deputy County Attorney Brady stated she will look into that.

Legislator LoBue stated that law should be considered in terms of this proposed policy. She also questioned who would be looking into issues related to this policy.

Chairman Sullivan stated it is important to educate the employees about the policy and ensure they understand it.

Lynne Eckardt, Town of Southeast Councilwoman, questioned if the proposed policy addresses political campaigning from an outside source.

Director Lannon stated it is not addressed within this policy. He stated this issue has been discussed in the past where a political email may be sent to County employees, but he does not see how it would pertain to an employee utilizing the system.

Deputy County Attorney Brady questioned if Ms. Eckardt was referring to an employee sending this type of email.

Councilwoman Eckardt stated as an example, on her Town of Southeast email she has received items from the County that were political in nature. She stated these emails are not sent from a Putnam County email address, but is being sent to governmental addresses.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the email originated from Putnam County.

Councilwoman Eckardt stated the email came from an email address belonging to the County Executive, but not the Putnam County email address, and was sent to her Town of Southeast email address.

Chairman Sullivan stated the Town would have the authority to block those types of emails.

Deputy County Attorney Brady stated that type of situation would not be covered in this policy.

Councilwoman Eckardt questioned if there is anything pertaining to the use of professional email addresses from a personal email address.

Chairman Sullivan stated this proposed policy does not specifically address campaigning, but does speak to the use of County owned equipment or networks outside of work.

Councilwoman Eckardt stated employees are privy to information such as County email addresses and she questioned if there is anything in the policy stating that this information should not be utilized in a personal way.

Director Lannon clarified that as an employee, an individual has access to the email addresses of all other employees and Councilwoman Eckardt's concern is that this information is being utilized outside of County work.

Chairman Sullivan stated that information should not be used for any other reason.

Councilwoman Eckardt stated it is important to not use County addresses for any political reason.

Legislator Nacerino agreed.

Legislator LoBue stated nothing political should be done in Government offices. She stated there are a lot of emails coming through from various organizations that are invitations to events or asking for money, which is solicitation. She stated emails are also sent advertising local businesses. She stated these types of emails are not supposed to be sent through the County system. She stated she has spoken to some of the towns and they have a system that catches these types of emails and does not allow them to go through.

Legislator Albano questioned how to regulate incoming emails.

Legislator LoBue stated some of the items are being sent out by the Administration. She stated this is not legal.

Chairman Sullivan inquired to Legislative Counsel Rob Firriolo if this is legal.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated whether an email was illegal or in violation of policy would need to be evaluated by specific instance. He stated outside groups sending information to the County have the right to do so under the first amendment. He stated if the question is promulgation from employees within the County, that is a separate issue. He stated people with access to the County email list using that list to send personal emails is another issue.

Legislator LoBue stated these types of emails began circulating within the recent years.

Legislator Castellano stated in Westchester County, the employee email addresses are made up of random letters and end in "@westchestergov.com"; names are not utilized.

He stated this stops local business from guessing the email addresses of the County employees and sending advertisements.

Director Lannon stated many emails of this nature sent to the County from an outside business or person are stopped by the IT Department. He stated the concern voiced is with internal employees distributing this type of correspondence. He stated the reason the Putnam County email addresses are "firstname.lastname" is because the County wanted to be more open and give the public the opportunity to reach out to an employee if they knew their name. He stated he believes Westchester County used to have the same format for their email addresses, but their email system was getting inundated to the point where employees needed to change their email. He stated Putnam County has not had this issue. He stated there was a local business that got a hold of County email addresses and they were cut off.

Legislator Castellano stated there was a time when Westchester County was being inundated by emails from local merchants.

Chairman Sullivan stated this item would be revisited at the next Rules, Enactments, & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting.

#### **Item #5 - Discussion/ Overview/ Putnam County Department of Consumer Affairs/ Director Budzinski**

Director of Consumer Affairs Mike Budzinski stated the Department of Consumer Affairs is made up of eight (8) total employees: the Director, three (3) Licensing Secretaries, a Weights & Measures Inspector, a Director of Code Enforcement, and two (2) Compliance Enforcement Officers. He stated Consumer Affairs is separated into five (5) distinct sections; Home Improvement, Electrical, Plumbing, Weights & Measures, and Code Enforcement. He stated any home improvement, electrical, or plumbing contractor that does work in the County has to be registered. He stated in order to become registered the individual must go through an application process. He discussed the revenue generated from contractors becoming registered last year. He stated 865 home improvement contractors were registered which generated a revenue of \$293,000; 729 electrical contractors were registered which generated a revenue of \$237,000; and 904 plumbing contracts were registered which generated a revenue of \$314,000. He stated there are currently two (2) Compliance Enforcement Officers who patrol the County to find any contractors who are not registered or licensed. He stated a summons is issued to any contractor who is found to be unregistered or unlicensed and they must appear before their respective board. He stated last year 84 violations were issued which generated a revenue of \$29,000. He stated he expects this number to increase moving forward because there are now two (2) Compliance Enforcement Officers patrolling. He stated Weights & Measures encompasses many things such as testing for the accuracy of gas pumps at all the gas stations. He stated last year 661 gas pumps were inspected. He stated petroleum samples are collected and sent to the State for testing. He stated 115 petroleum samples were collected last year. He stated home heating oil trucks are also tested to make sure the correct amount of product is

being dispensed. He stated last year 69 trucks were tested. He stated scales in grocery stores and delis are also tested annually and 255 were tested last year. He stated larger scales used for scrap metals and commodities are also tested and 9 were done last year. He stated Weights & Measures also handles the licensing of precious metal dealers.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if any violations were found on gas pumps last year.

Director Budzinski stated yes, there were pumps that did not meet the requirement. He stated in this instance, if it is a first time offender, a letter will be sent notifying them that the pump needs to be fixed. He stated if it is not the first offense, they will be fined. He stated recently, a local gas station was ordered to shut down four (4) or five (5) pumps because they were dispensing under the volume recorded. He stated while the gas stations and pumps are being inspected, they also check for skimming devices because this is becoming more common. He stated one (1) was recently found in Yonkers.

Legislator Albano stated the skimmer looks just like the card reader on any gas pump, therefore the customer would have no way of identifying it.

Director Budzinski stated the “guts” of it are inside the gas pump.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if the gas station is aware when a skimming device is installed onto a gas pump.

Director Budzinski stated the gas station does not know it is there. He stated many times, someone will park a box truck right outside the gas station, blocking the worker’s view of the gas pumps and they will then open the pump to install the skimming device. He also stated the Code Enforcement Officer is responsible for issuing the building permits and CO’s for any work done on County owned facilities. He stated they also receive consumer complaints, last year there were 35.

Chairman Sullivan questioned what kind of complaints come in.

Director Budzinski stated most of the time consumer complaints are about unfinished work or poor quality of work done by contractors.

Legislator Nacerino questioned what the recourse is.

Legislator Addonizio questioned what occurs if a complaint is made about a contractor who is not licensed.

Director Budzinski stated a summons would be issued to the contractor for a violation of the local law. He stated a letter is sent to the individual who was complained about and they will wait for a response. He stated they attempt to mediate, which does not always work. He stated if it gets too expensive, the case is sent to court.

Legislator Addonizio questioned who is responsible for making sure a contractor is licensed when they are hired for a job.

Director Budzinski stated the consumer should check. He stated a press release was recently sent out regarding licensed contractors.

Chairman Sullivan stated the consumer can check if a contractor is licensed through the Department of Consumer Affairs' webpage on the County website.

Director Budzinski stated that is correct. He stated another component of the Home Improvement, Electrical, and Plumbing are that each trade has a Board that is comprised of about nine (9) members that meet monthly. He stated the Board will hold a hearing for anyone who was issued a violation and a decision will be made, most commonly a fine is charged to the individual. He stated the Boards also review and amend the local law pertaining to their respective trade. He stated the County does not currently have a consumer protection law and he is working on creating one. He stated this law would pertain to fraud and unfair trade practices. He stated Consumer Affairs is a small department and in 2016 the revenue collected was just under \$1 million.

Chairman Sullivan questioned what the expenses of the department are.

Director Budzinski stated he is unsure what the exact expenses are, but the department is in the black.

Legislator Addonizio questioned how the heating oil trucks are checked.

Director Budzinski stated every truck within the County must be tested. He stated the truck must pump a few hundred gallons of product into a prover and they have to come within a certain tolerance to ensure the correct quantity is being provided.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how unlicensed contractors are penalized. He questioned if they have to go to court.

Director Budzinski stated there is a fee schedule in the local law. He stated the contractor will go before the respective Board to hear the case.

Chairman Sullivan questioned what happens if the contractor does not attend the hearing.

Director Budzinski stated they would be in default and the fine would be issued.

Legislator LoBue questioned if a license would be renewed if the contractor was delinquent on a payment of a fine.

Director Budzinski stated no, the license will not be renewed until everything is satisfied.

Legislator Nacerino requested information pertaining to item pricing.

Director Budzinski stated last year 26 waivers were issued for item pricing, which is done biannually. He stated they pull about 100 items from the shelf to be scanned to ensure the correct price is being charged.

Legislator LoBue questioned how much revenue is collected through item pricing waiver fee.

Director Budzinski stated the amount is small.

Legislator LoBue requested that the amount be sent to the Legislature.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if Director Budzinski foresees the Department of Consumer Affairs becoming more efficient through the use of technology.

Director Budzinski stated fees cannot currently be paid online with a credit card and they would like to see that implemented.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if there is a credit card machine in the office.

Director Budzinski stated a credit card can be used, but there are five (5) or six (6) steps involved, therefore the secretaries would prefer people to pay by check in the office. He stated if this process could be simplified it would be more efficient.

Legislator Jonke stated any fee associated with the use of a credit card could be built into the cost of what is being purchased.

Director Budzinski stated the process of paying by credit card is problematic.

Legislator Jonke suggested putting an RFP out for a vendor.

Director Budzinski stated he would need to speak to Director Lannon about that.

County Auditor Michele Sharkey stated the expenses for the Department of Consumer Affairs in 2016 were \$427,000.

Chairman Sullivan thanked Director Budzinski.

**Item #6 - Approval/ Reappointments/ Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board/  
Sleight & Bleakly**

Legislator Albano made a motion to approve the reappointments; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 17A068/ Veterans Service Agency/  
Peer to Peer Program Funding**

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

Legislator LoBue requested a breakdown of how this funding will be utilized.

Director Rohde stated he would provide a breakdown. He stated the County fiscal year is different than the State fiscal year, therefore the funding is provided in two (2) increments of \$92,000 each for a total of \$184,000. He stated the funding first goes to the State Department of Mental Health, then to Putnam County Mental Health, then to the Veterans Service Agency, then to the Mental Health Association.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if the funding is received January 1<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Director Rohde stated that is correct.

**Item #8 - Approval/ Revision to the Legislative Manual to Require a Majority Vote  
to Accept Additional Material at Legislative Meetings**

Chairman Sullivan stated currently, additional material requires a unanimous vote to be accepted.

Legislator LoBue requested clarification of which meetings this proposed revision refers to.

Chairman Sullivan stated the proposed resolution includes both Committee Meetings and Meetings of the Legislature.

Legislator Albano stated he brought this forward in the interest of getting things done. He stated if the majority agrees to accept additional material, there is no reason to delay it. He stated he believes this will make the process better.

Legislator LoBue stated she does not support this amendment, especially in regards to a Full Legislative Meeting because the Legislature then has the ability to change the agenda without the public being notified in advance. She stated with a majority vote an additional item could be added to the agenda and voted on and the public would find out after. She stated she believes that is bad government and inefficient. She stated there is a rationale as to why a unanimous vote was required.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is in support of this amendment. She stated she believes a super majority, which would be six (6) out of the nine (9) Legislators, is a good number to make a collective decision. She stated one (1) Legislator voting against the acceptance of an additional or other business item does not speak to the

Board. She stated the intent of this is not to avoid transparency, but to be more effective and efficient.

Councilwoman Eckardt stated when Tony Hay became the Supervisor of the Town of Southeast, in the interest of transparency; he brought forward a similar rule where a unanimous vote was required for the Town Board to accept additional material. She stated although the intent is to act in the best interest of the residents, accepting items late can have the perception of not being transparent. She stated this rule has been very effective. She stated she cannot see having an issue getting a unanimous vote if an item is of great importance. She urged the Committee to keep the current policy, especially with the Legislature being made up of one (1) party.

Legislator LoBue stated each Legislator is elected individually and represents their own district. She stated no voice carries more power than another. She stated the majority agreeing on an item does not necessarily make it right. She stated the Legislators who are not part of the majority must answer to their constituents. She stated nothing is done in haste, and on an emergency basis decisions are made in the best interest of the County.

Legislator Nacerino stated any vote that passes or does not pass is not reflective of every single Legislator and the district they represent. She stated she believes requiring a super majority vote is a good standard. She stated perception is one thing and reality is another. She stated the intent is not to do any wrongdoing; it is to have a good democratic process

Legislator Castellano stated the vote is not always for a new item being added to the agenda, but it is also when additional information is received after an agenda is published and must be accepted at the Committee or Full Legislative Meeting. He stated one (1) Legislator having the ability to object to the acceptance of information blocks discussion about it.

Legislator LoBue stated there have been times where a new item has been added to the Full Meeting agenda. She stated items are thoroughly discussed at the Committee level. She stated if there is pertinent information for an item that is on the Full Meeting agenda, it should not be submitted at the last minute. She stated this does not give the public the opportunity to discuss the new information because they cannot speak at a Full Legislative Meeting until after the vote is taken. She stated the Committee process is where all discussion should be had and information should be reviewed. She stated this is why the rule is currently unanimous.

Legislator Castellano stated in Committee, if an item is submitted as additional and is not accepted it cannot be discussed. He stated currently, if one (1) committee member does not vote to accept additional information, it cannot be reviewed or discussed, which is unfair to the other members who would like to discuss it.

Chairman Sullivan stated he looks at this issue from an efficiency standpoint and the ability to make decisions quickly and not get bogged down in bureaucracy.

Legislator Albano stated in his experience, he has not seen an advantage of holding an item off.

Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trabulsy requested verification if the resolution would require a majority or supermajority vote at Full Legislative Meetings.

Legislator Nacerino and Legislator Albano stated they would prefer having a supermajority.

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

### **Item #9 - Approval/ Establish a Veterans' Service Medal Advisory Panel**

Legislator Castellano stated this was brought up by a local resident who is writing a book about World War I Veterans from Putnam County and he came upon a medal of honor that was issued by Putnam County in 1918. He stated he would like to recreate this medal. He stated an advisory panel could look into the possibility of recreating the medal and the requirements that would go along with it. He stated he would like anyone who lives in Putnam County and has served in the military to be eligible to receive a medal. He stated next year will be the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the medal, which would be a perfect time to bring it back.

Legislator Addonizio thanked Legislator Castellano for bringing this forward. She stated it would be an honor to serve on this advisory panel. She stated this is a good way to remember and honor those who have served our Country.

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

### **Item #10 - Approval/ Re-Establish Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission**

Chairman Sullivan stated he was a member of Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission when it was originally formed in 2008. He stated this is an important commission that brings citizens and Town representatives together to discuss ways to make government more efficient. He stated Governor Cuomo's recent requirement relating to shared services will be a topic that Fiscal Vision will delve into. He stated with the possibility of losing deductions on tax returns, there is more of a push for New York State to become more efficient. He stated Fiscal Vision will bring Towns and Villages together with the County to explore ways to work together, which will hopefully result in lower taxes for the residents of Putnam County. He stated the Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission will be co-chaired by himself and Legislator Nacerino and

will include up to 10 additional members. He stated the members have not yet been selected.

Legislator Nacerino stated this was spoken about in September and Legislator Sullivan was part of the Commission back in 2008. She stated she was involved in the resurrection of the Commission in 2014. She stated Fiscal Vision is an advisory panel and is a very good venue to discuss shared services moving forward and hopefully a savings will be realized by the taxpayers. She stated once approved, they can move forward with the criteria of the panel.

Legislator Jonke stated he is in favor of re-establishing this Commission. He questioned how often the meetings would be held.

Chairman Sullivan stated the meetings would be held monthly at the minimum. He stated if required, the Commission could meet more often. He stated it is his goal to have separate sub groups within the Commission that would work on individual, specific topics as opposed to having all members work on the same topic. He stated he believes this will make the Commission more efficient.

Legislator Jonke stated he agrees with that idea. He stated giving smaller groups missions will accomplish more. He stated in 2008 he was a Town employee and his perception of Fiscal Vision was that it did not get moving.

Chairman Sullivan stated the make-up of the Commission will be critically important. He stated there needs to be ideas as well as decision makers to get those ideas off the ground.

Legislator Jonke questioned if Chairman Sullivan is referring to elected officials.

Chairman Sullivan stated yes.

Legislator Nacerino stated perhaps.

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

### **Item #11 - Discussion/ Putnam County Security & IT Use Policy**

This item was discussed after item #4.

### **Item #12 - County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner**

#### **a. Proposed Resolution/ Commencement of Opioid Litigation**

Chairman Sullivan stated he would like to play a short video which is a segment of a *60 Minutes* episode that discussed the opioid epidemic and he encouraged anyone who had not seen the episode in its entirety to do so. He stated this video provides a better

idea of why this litigation is in place and why so many other counties have joined. He stated the proposed resolution would approve Putnam County to join the litigation against pharmaceutical companies. He stated there is a clear indication that these companies are creating these drugs for the money and that they are forcing them into the public. He stated the video referenced a statistic that 91 people die each day from opioid overdose. He stated hopefully this lawsuit will put pressure on these companies to stop forcing the drugs out to the public.

Legislator LoBue questioned what other counties in New York State have joined the lawsuit.

County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner stated because this is not a class action lawsuit each county is bringing an individual action; therefore there is no list of counties that have commenced litigation.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the surrounding counties have joined. She stated Putnam County is a small county and voiced her concerns about expenses that may ensue from the litigation.

County Attorney Bumgarner stated there will be no cost to Putnam County.

Legislator Jonke stated saw the episode of *60 Minutes* and also encouraged anyone who had not seen it to watch it.

County Attorney Bumgarner stated this is a contingency and there is a sliding scale based upon settlements and returns.

Chairman Sullivan stated there is no cost to the County, the lawyers will do the work, and hopefully the litigation will put pressure on the pharmaceutical companies to stop manufacturing these drugs in such a high quantity. He stated the monetary part of it is not important to him.

County Attorney Bumgarner clarified Chairman Sullivan's statement about the lawyers doing the work. She stated she spoke with the firm who has been named co-lead counsel in the State of New York with respect to this litigation about the fact that Putnam is a small County with limited resources and they have agreed to do the work and provide the resources. She stated she amended the retainer agreement to specifically provide that.

Legislator LoBue questioned if Westchester County or Dutchess County has joined this litigation.

County Attorney Bumgarner stated Westchester County may have joined, however at the time she spoke to them they had not yet made a decision. She stated Dutchess County has not joined. She stated many western counties have signed on. She stated Nassau County has joined.

Legislator Nacerino stated she does not see the relevance of which counties have joined the litigation. She stated everyone knows someone affected by this opioid epidemic. She stated she believes the Legislature has the responsibility to take action.

Legislator Addonizio stated she believes United States Senator Schumer stated a few years ago that this area had the highest rate per capita in regards to drug use.

Chairman Sullivan stated this is a problem and many people are dying unnecessarily. He stated he would like to do everything possible to stop this.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would address item #14a. Other Business/ Approval/ Fund Transfer 17T313/ County Attorney/ Pay Settlement of Affiliated Home care of Putnam, Inc. v. COP, et al. at this time.

#### **Item #14 - Other Business**

##### **a. Approval/ Fund Transfer 17T313/ County Attorney/ Pay Settlement of Affiliated Home care of Putnam, Inc. v. COP, et al.**

Legislator Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

County Attorney Bumgarner suggested waiting on addressing this item until after discussing the proposed settlement. She stated the settlement must be approved before money is transferred.

At 7:35pm Chairman Sullivan made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation with the County Attorney; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

At 8:14pm Chairman Sullivan made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. Legislator Albano was absent.

##### **a. Proposed Resolution/ Commencement of Opioid Litigation**

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. Legislator Albano was absent.

##### **b. Proposed Resolution/ Affiliated Home Care v. County of Putnam**

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Albano. Legislator Albano was absent.

**c. Update/ Levy v. Smith – Duly Noted**

**d. Update/ DiPippo v. County of Putnam – Duly Noted**

**e. Update/ Police Benevolent Association v. County of Putnam & Putnam County Sheriff's Department – Duly Noted**

**Item #13 - FYI/ Litigation Report – Duly Noted**

**Item #14 - Other Business**

**b. Approval/ Fund Transfer 17T313/ County Attorney/ Pay Settlement of Affiliated Home care of Putnam, Inc. v. COP, et al.**

The Other Business was accepted above, after discussion on item #12.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. Legislator Albano was absent.

**Item #15 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 8:16pm Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. Legislator Albano was absent.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.