

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Held In Room 318**  
**PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**  
**CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Sullivan and Legislators Addonizio & Albano**

**Tuesday June 19, 2018**  
**(Immediately Following Economic Development Mtg. beginning at 6:00pm)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Sullivan who requested that Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Addonizio & Albano and Chairman Sullivan were present.

**Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2018**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #4 - Approval/ Proposed Amendment/ Local Law to Amend Chapter 83 of the Putnam County Code by Creating a Treatment Court Participant Administrative Fee**

Director of Probation Gene Funicelli stated this amendment was drafted by the County Attorney's Office. He stated there is currently a local law that charges individuals who are sentenced to probation a \$30 monthly administrative fee, which alleviates the costs associated with the duties of the Probation Department. He stated participants of Treatment Court are convicted, but not yet sentenced. He stated the law currently in place applies to sentenced probationers; therefore Treatment Court participants are not covered. He stated it was recognized that Treatment Court participants were receiving the same services, if not more, than a regular probationer without paying the monthly administrative fee.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how many participants are in Treatment Court.

Director Funicelli stated there are currently 70 people in the program.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how many people are currently on probation.

Director Funicelli stated there are about 450 individuals currently on probation, including the Treatment Court participants. He stated this proposed law is written in the same way as the current law for individuals sentenced to probation.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if the fee is waived in the case of financial hardship.

Director Funicelli stated the opportunity is available for both regular probationers and Treatment Court participants to apply for a waiver of the fee based on hardship. He

stated information is required to be submitted in order for an individual to qualify for the waiver.

Legislator Nacerino questioned the percentage of probationers who are currently eligible for the waiver. She stated it is important to take this into consideration when estimating the amount that would be collected.

Director Funicelli stated at any given time, about 50% are eligible for the waiver for various reasons. He stated the waivers are time limited, for example a waiver can be granted for a period of six (6) months, at the end of which the individual's situation would be reevaluated.

Legislator Nacerino stated Treatment Court is more a rehabilitation-type program where the participants are educated and given assistance to get past the hurdle they are facing.

Director Funicelli stated regular probationers are also given education and assistance. He stated the Treatment Court program is more intensive. He stated graduation from Treatment Court can result in different scenarios for each individual. He stated typically, a felony conviction is what gets an individual into Treatment Court, where they are given an opportunity to address their issues. He stated if the individual is successful, their felony could be reduced to a misdemeanor. He stated there are also occasions where the Judge may grant a full dismissal, meaning that part of their record is eliminated.

Legislator Nacerino stated the individuals are given a second chance through participating in and graduating from Treatment Court because they have not yet been sentenced.

Director Funicelli stated Treatment Court is not an easy program to get through and when a participant graduates, they have earned it.

Legislator Albano stated the intention of this fee is not to make revenue, but rather cover daily costs. He stated it is a reasonable amount with the opportunity of the waiver if necessary. He stated he is supportive of this proposal.

Chairman Sullivan stated it is only fair that both regular probationers and Treatment Court participants pay the fee. He stated as mentioned, the availability of the waiver is crucial.

Legislator Nacerino stated when estimating the revenue to be collected through this fee, the waivers must be taken into consideration to reach a realistic amount.

Chairman Sullivan stated applying the fee to those in Treatment Court as well as regular probation makes it equal.

Legislator Sayegh questioned what the typical time period is for participation in Treatment Court.

Director Funicelli stated an individual is typically in Treatment Court for two (2) years. He stated individuals sign a contract upon entering Treatment Court that outlines what they can expect if they successfully complete the program. He stated for example, someone who graduates could have their felony conviction reduced to a misdemeanor, but may still be required to serve three (3) years of probation, totaling to five (5) years. He stated while on probation the individual is under supervision, which keeps them on the right track.

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

**Item #5 - Approval/ Support of Bills Proposing Funding Increase for County Veterans Service Agencies/ NYS Senate Bill S8210 & NYS Assembly Bill A10714**

Director of Putnam County Veterans Service Agency Karl Rodhe stated for at least eight (8) years, as long as he has been in his position, Putnam County has received about \$8,500 per year from New York State. He stated the same amount of funding is provided to all Veterans Service Agencies across the State, regardless of size. He stated about five (5) years ago an unfunded mandate came down from the State that required all directors of Veterans Service Agencies to be trained Service Officers. He stated the County is left with the expense of the training and purchasing hardware and software for the computers. He stated also with this change, he was required to dedicate two (2) to three (3) days per week to do Service Officer work, which takes him away from other responsibilities. He stated also, the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs is slowly pulling back from supporting counties. He stated in our case, Putnam County had a Veterans Service Officer from the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs come in two (2) days a week, who would see about 12-15 clients per week. He stated now, Putnam County has a Veterans Service Officer come in one (1) day a week and only 3-4 clients are seen in that time period. He stated the rest of the work is falling upon himself and the Deputy Director, who also needs to attend the training at an additional cost to the County. He stated the State law that he is requesting support for would raise the amount that New York State provides to county Veterans Service Agencies to \$20,000 per year. He stated this additional funding would help with the costs associated with the mandates. He stated he is seeing an increased number of Veterans coming in seeking support. He requested support from the Legislature on these State Bills.

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

**Item #6 - Approval/ Local Law to Amend Chapter 190 of the Code of Putnam County Entitled “Plumbing & Mechanical Trades”**

FJ Spinelli, Member of the Putnam County Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board stated he recently became a member of the Board. He stated the law, as it was passed, was inaccurate and created a hardship. He stated it did not include a way for people who were currently working to continue to work nor did it include a phase-in schedule. He also stated the language in one portion was inaccurate. He stated the revision amends the language so that it accurately represents how to identify qualified individuals to be a sprinkler contractor or inspector. He stated the agency NICET (National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies) provides testing and certification services and is generally accepted for the building trades. He stated the phase-in schedule is designed so that if someone decided they wanted to be a sprinkler inspector, they could begin studying and meet the criteria at the time of phase-in to be properly licensed. He stated questions have been raised in the past in regards to why to license a sprinkler contractor. He stated in addition to being the Deputy Fire Chief in a career fire department and dealing with the building trades on a regular basis, he also does code enforcement. He stated code enforcement personnel depend on third party persons to accomplish the tests that need to be done with fire suppression systems. He stated the issue that comes up is identifying who is qualified to test or install a system. He stated that is the intent of the modification of the law.

Director of Consumer Affairs Michael Budzinski summarized the changes made to the law. He stated the definition of NICET has been added to Section 1 of the law. He stated in Section 2, a requirement to license journeymen as sprinkler installers is now included. He stated in Section 3 the requirements for a Master and Journeyman system installer have been modified. He stated the amendments to the requirements revolve around the NICET certification.

Deputy County Attorney Gloria Tressler stated the members of the Plumbing Board voted on these amendments after extensive discussion and the pros and cons of keeping the NICET certification were weighed. She also stated there are members of the Board present tonight.

Chairman Sullivan thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated their insight into this topic provides the Committee and Legislators present a better understanding of the changes.

Rob Varkar from Johnson Controls stated the way the law was previously written, NICET level 3 was included as well as a requirement to work in the field. He stated this is a conflict because NICET level 3 should not include field work. He stated to solve this the amendment was made to require NICET level 2 for those working in the field.

Mr. Spinelli stated NICET level 3 certification is still required for Master Installers. He stated in regards to Sections 3B I & II, normally inspection and testing includes service as well.

Melissa DeGiglio from Johnson Controls questioned if “service” could be added into the law.

Mr. Spinelli stated Inspection and Testing is part of service and therefore it could be understood they were the law in written.

Legislator Nacerino stated the law should be as clear as possible, therefore she would like to see “service” added.

Deputy County Attorney Tressler clarified that the changes to be made are to include “service” to “Fire Protection System Inspection and Testing” under Section 3B I & II.

Bob Henry from Johnson Controls questioned the requirement of a NICET level 3 in design under Section 3AI. He stated his concern is that this will create the same problem and not allow field work with this certification.

Mr. Spinelli stated this requirement is for a NICET level 3 in design only. He stated under the NICET qualifications, the Master Layout person is doing only the design and supervising the job, therefore a NICET level 3 is appropriate. He stated this does not include Journeymen, who are required to have NICET level 2 as they are the day-to-day people on the job doing the work.

Legislator Albano requested clarification about Journeymen. He stated they must work under a licensed Master for two (2) years. He questioned if the “helper” installing the systems meets the criteria.

Mr. Spinelli stated the Journeyman is actually the Foreman of the job and would have an apprentice or helper. He stated there was some discussion amongst the sprinkler contractors, the National Sprinkler Association, and the board about using the union criteria for apprentices, but it is too restrictive. He stated that is why the person currently working cannot be excluded.

Secretary of the Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board Ellen Sorrento stated when the law was first passed there was no sprinkler representative on the Board. She stated Mr. Spinelli became a member after the law had been passed. She stated when the law was being reviewed, the Board had someone come in who realized the County was utilizing words that were different than the words used by the trades and therefore words got crossed.

Legislator Albano stated just a few years ago there were no regulations on the sprinklers at all.

Mr. Spinelli stated that is correct. He stated the fact of the matter is they rely exclusively on a third party contractor, but there are no criteria around a third party contractor. He

stated anyone could inspect the sprinklers, meaning the consumer is not being protected.

Chairman Sullivan stated insurance companies rely heavily on these systems being in place.

Mr. Varkar stated if there is an incident the presence of a NICET certification is the first thing looked into.

Director Budzinski stated the law makes these changes effective in 2024, therefore six (6) years were allowed to obtain the necessary certifications.

Deputy County Attorney Tressler stated the law will be in place, but the NICET certification requirement takes effect 2024.

Legislator Albano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution with the agreed upon modifications to Section 3B I & II; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Discussion/ Taxi & Limousine Commission/ Providing Medical Transportation/ President, Carmel Taxi & Car Service, Inc. Ruth Ayala-Quezada**

President of Carmel Taxi & Car Service, Inc. Ruth Ayala-Quezada stated her concern is that there is no regulation for taxis on a County level. She stated the only regulation within Putnam County is in the Village of Brewster, and that is operated by the Village itself. She stated Carmel Taxi & Car Service, Inc. is one of many other companies in the County that provide Medicaid transportation. She stated the majority of Medicaid transportation trips are local, within Putnam, however some are out of the County. She stated common drop off points in Westchester County are the methadone clinic in Peekskill, Westchester Medical Center, and Mount Kisco.

Chairman Sullivan clarified that Medicaid recipients are being transported by Carmel Taxi & Car Service, Inc. and the company is being reimbursed.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated the reimbursement comes from the New York State Department of Health. She stated there is an enrollment process to go through to be able to provide this service. She stated the Westchester County Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC) is now stopping taxis coming into Westchester County to check if they have the Westchester TLC permits. She stated one (1) of her drivers received multiple tickets totaling \$1,800 in the same day for bringing customers to Peekskill.

Chairman Sullivan questioned the cost of the Westchester County TLC Permits.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated the annual base cost is \$600 and an additional \$350 per vehicle. She stated she used to have the Westchester County TLC base permits; however it was no longer financially feasible as it cost \$7,000 per year. She stated her

cost was high because she had a permit on every car in her fleet so any car would be available to enter Westchester if needed. She stated she went to court to address the tickets received and she was told the tickets would be dismissed if she registered five (5) vehicles with the Westchester County TLC and she had 30 days to comply. She stated the TLC was initially created to regulate black car services with livery license plates in Westchester County and vehicles with taxi license plates were exempt from that law. She stated she has taxi license plates on her vehicles. She stated when she questioned why she was receiving a ticket for a vehicle with taxi license plates she was told it was because there is a lack of reciprocity with Putnam County. She stated Westchester County has reciprocity with New York City. She stated if Putnam County had taxi regulations, the vehicles from Putnam could meet the standards of Westchester County, which are not dramatic. She stated when she went to court there were many other people there to dispute similar tickets. She stated she would rather pay for permits in Putnam County rather than Westchester County. She stated Carmel Taxi & Car Service, Inc. is not the only taxi company experiencing this issue.

Chairman Sullivan stated if Putnam County were to create regulation, taxi companies would need to pay fees to obtain a Putnam County permit. He questioned how taxi business would benefit from this, since they would be paying the fee either way.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated Westchester County is much bigger than Putnam and they created a whole department for the TLC, which resulted in increased operating costs. She stated Putnam County currently has an established department that regulates other entities. She stated if it is possible to have the existing department regulate the taxis as well, the cost would be less, resulting in lower fees. She stated towns in Westchester County that have their own TLC charge about \$125-\$150 per vehicle whereas Westchester County charges \$350 per vehicle.

Legislator Albano stated the fact that taxis are exempt under the Westchester County TLC should protect taxi companies from having to pay tickets. He stated it does not seem justified for them give a ticket because there is no reciprocity in the company's home county. He suggested reaching out to Westchester County to see if Putnam County having its own regulation would solve the problem. He stated at that point, it could be considered.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated in the email from the Westchester County TLC to Ms. Ayala-Quezada an alternative is mentioned where rather than having a reciprocity agreement, the taxi company could obtain a medical permit. He questioned if that is something that is economically feasible for Carmel Taxi & Car Service, Inc.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated yes, she could get a Medicaid waiver which costs \$100 per vehicle. She stated this waiver would only allow medical transport trips into Westchester.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if Westchester County has enforcement at the airport to stop taxis as well.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated yes.

Legislator Jonke questioned what happens if a taxi from Putnam County is transporting a customer to a destination outside of Westchester, but requires passing through Westchester.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated for instance, if a customer is picked up in Putnam County and is traveling to JFK Airport, the taxi can get pulled over while on Interstate 684 in Westchester County.

Legislator Nacerino stated her husband owns a private car service company and his main concern is that he would rather pay the necessary fees to Putnam County rather than Westchester. She stated not only is Putnam County missing out on revenue that Putnam-based companies are paying to Westchester, but Putnam does not have the ability to regulate taxis from outside of Putnam that may be utilizing our roads. She stated although Putnam County does not have as many destinations that Westchester does, customers are still being transported from Westchester to their home in Putnam County.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would like to see some analysis in regards to the cost.

Legislator Nacerino stated President of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce Bill Nulk provided information when this was previously discussed.

Legislator Albano stated he believes regulation could be put in place without making it too complicated.

Legislator Nacerino stated if Putnam County had regulation in place, perhaps Westchester County would be willing to reciprocate.

Chairman Sullivan stated he is not usually in favor of creating more government and is on the fence about this topic. He also stated this regulation would come with a cost in regards to staff and operation, which may be offset by the revenue collected.

Legislator Nacerino stated this would impact business owners in Putnam County and they deserve for the analysis to be done to determine if this is feasible.

Legislator Jonke stated he would normally agree with Chairman Sullivan in regards to creating more government and regulation. He stated however, it is not every day that a business owner comes in requesting more regulation. He stated he believes the Committee should seriously look into this. He thanked Ms. Ayala-Quezada for bringing this to the Legislature.

Legislator Nacerino stated this is more of a transfer of regulation rather than the creation of more regulation.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the regulation that is in place in other counties could be looked at as a template.

Legislator Addonizio stated the laws in other counties were looked into when this was discussed a few years ago.

Legislator Albano stated he is in support of this regulation. He stated he has had personal experiences with unlicensed taxi drivers.

Legislator Nacerino stated customers do not know that they are entering a taxi with an unlicensed driver.

Legislator Addonizio stated when this was discussed previously, it was mentioned that a decal would be provided to be displayed on the window of a taxi so the customer knows they are entering a registered vehicle.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated yes, the decal is a staple across all municipalities.

Legislator Castellano questioned what court Ms. Ayala-Quezada had to go to in order to address the tickets.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated the Westchester County TLC has its own court.

Legislator Castellano stated last time this was discussed, it was right before ride sharing services were made legal in New York State. He stated in New York City, ride sharing companies such as Uber and Lyft are required to operate under the New York City TLC. He stated the rest of the State does not have this requirement. He stated Westchester County was close to enacting the same rules, however it was voted down by the State. He stated it makes sense that these services would need to be registered. He stated Dutchess County created a TLC in preparing for ride sharing services.

Legislator Albano suggested that Ms. Ayala-Quezada apply for the Medicaid Waiver in the meantime while the County looks into regulation further.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada agreed.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if Ms. Ayala-Quezada has seen a difference since ride sharing services have been made legal throughout the State.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated she has not seen a decline. She stated the availability of ride sharing services such as Uber and Lyft is not great in this area.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if Carmel Taxi employees could operate through a ride sharing company such as Uber.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated they could not operate through Uber because the vehicles have taxi license plates. She stated health services provided in Putnam County are very popular. She stated for example, the new methadone clinic at Arms Acres is swarmed with taxi companies from various areas such as Dutchess, Westchester, and Orange counties dropping patients off.

Legislator Nacerino stated there is no regulation on those taxis.

Ms. Ayala-Quezada stated correct, there is no regulation on out-of-county taxis coming into Putnam to drop off customers.

Chairman Sullivan suggested moving forward by sending a letter to Westchester County to confirm that reciprocity would be granted if Putnam County were to create regulation. He stated he would also like to look at what surrounding counties have in place.

Legislator Nacerino suggested reaching out to Mr. Nulk for information.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would also like to have input from the Administration.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated Consumer Affairs should also be asked for input.

#### **Item #8 - Discussion/ FY 2019 NYS Budget/ NYS Tax Law/ Charitable Trust Option**

Legislator Sayegh stated earlier today she attended the informational session held by the Governor's office about the option for counties and local municipalities to establish a charitable gift reserve fund. She stated it was explained that the tax base was expanded by the Federal Government, which lowered some tax brackets. She stated New York State has enacted reforms to protect against the new \$10,000 limit on State and Local Tax (SALT) deductions. She stated New York State has included the option for local municipalities to adopt a charitable trust, allowing taxpayers to donate into a municipality-run 501(c)(3), which circumvents the Federal tax law and allows more than \$10,000 to be deducted.

Chairman Sullivan questioned what the process would be for municipalities to set up a charitable trust.

Legislator Sayegh stated any municipality could choose to opt-in to this program on its own. She stated for example a town could opt-in, but the county may not. She stated this raised many questions at the information session in regards to how taxes would be paid and distributed. She stated unfortunately, there were no answers provided. She stated at the informational session it was stated that the State would like to "decouple" from the Federal tax law.

Chairman Sullivan stated the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) may not allow the deduction.

Legislator Nacerino questioned who would be contributing to the charitable trust fund.

Legislator Albano stated the taxpayer would pay their taxes through a charitable donation to the established fund and be able to deduct it on their taxes. He stated the bottom line is that the IRS must give their approval before anything is established.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated a rule that the IRS follows is that if something acts like a tax, it is a tax.

Legislator Nacerino questioned how ethical or legal it is to underscore a Federal law.

Legislator Sayegh stated that question was asked at the informational session and it was stated that a municipality that opts-in must be comfortable with the program.

Chairman Sullivan stated it is possible that if municipalities opt-in and set up a charitable fund taxpayers will donate to it and the IRS could not agree.

Legislator Nacerino stated it does not make sense that a Federal law could be underscored by a State law. She stated she does not want to be part of that.

Legislator Jonke stated he finds it interesting that Putnam County has the highest percentage of taxpayers that itemize their taxes.

Legislator Sayegh stated she believes the consensus of the attendees at the informational session was not in favor of the program. She stated people began to walk out. She also stated if local municipalities opt not to establish a charitable trust fund, an individual taxpayer could still pay their taxes through a donation to the State. She also stated establishing this trust would require maintenance, and therefore additional work and possibly additional personnel. She stated the funds in the charitable trust can only be used for certain things. She stated it cannot be used toward operating costs such as paying salaries.

Chairman Sullivan stated the consensus seems to be against opting into this program.

#### **Item #9 - Discussion/ Chapter 112 of the Putnam County Code/ Vehicle Policy**

Chairman Sullivan stated it was brought to his attention that the Vehicle Policy had not been reviewed in many years.

Legislator Nacerino stated this policy was reviewed during her first year on the Legislature, however it fell through the cracks.

Chairman Sullivan stated individuals in the various departments believe it is time for this policy to be revisited. He stated some areas to specifically address are which vehicles are marked and how the policy is enforced. He stated he would like to have

representatives from departments with vehicles to attend future Committee meetings to discuss their procedure in relation to the use of the vehicles.

Legislator Jonke questioned if that could be done as part of the budget process.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would like to have the information prior to the budget process. He stated he would like the departments to discuss which employees have a vehicle, who oversees the vehicles, and who enforces the policy.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the Sheriff's Department would be included as well.

Chairman Sullivan stated yes.

Legislator Albano stated it is a great idea to review this policy.

Legislator Addonizio stated she is in favor of having the county vehicles marked so they can be easily identified.

Legislator Nacerino stated she would be interested to see which employees take vehicles home. She stated she is aware that some employees take the vehicle to their home outside of the County.

Chairman Sullivan stated under the Vehicle Policy, a vehicle is not supposed to leave the County unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if there is a central fleet or if the vehicles are department by department.

Legislator Albano stated each department oversees their own vehicles.

Legislator Nacerino stated having a full list of vehicles would be useful to know when replacements would be needed.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated as part of the budget process, a list of all county vehicles is required to be submitted to the Legislature. He stated in looking back, the list has been submitted on an agency by agency basis when it should really be a compendium of all county vehicles. He stated in terms of enforcement, he believes it is the responsibility of the department head to ensure compliance with the policy.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would like to speak with the department heads from the departments with the most vehicles.

Legislator Nacerino stated the lists may have been submitted separately because each department funds the vehicles from their own budget.

Chairman Sullivan stated a request would be sent to receive a centralized list of all county vehicles.

Legislator Nacerino stated it is important to make sure this policy is updated and being followed to avoid risk and liability.

#### **Item #10 - Discussion/ Penalties/ Failure to File Financial Disclosure Form**

Chairman Sullivan stated the authority to enforce penalties for the failure to file a financial disclosure form currently exists within the Putnam County Code.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated there is a very extensive, tiered approach to dealing with individuals who do not file their financial disclosure form. He stated the penalties range from a warning to a civil penalty of \$100 and could be a misdemeanor. He stated the Board of Ethics has the authority to issue penalties and hold hearings, at which point they would then come before the Legislature.

Chairman Sullivan stated the penalties were compared to those in Westchester County and Dutchess County and they were very similar.

Legislator Albano clarified that the Board of Ethics makes the determination of how to deal with a failure to file. He questioned what role the Legislature has.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated the Board of Ethics is appointed by the Legislature.

Legislator Jonke stated when this discussion was had last year, a concern raised was not wanting to fine volunteers. He stated there are also individuals who have failed to file who are County employees, which is a different scenario.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated the penalty does not have to be a fine; there are various options such as a warning, reprimand, or removal.

Legislator Addonizio stated any penalty can be difficult when the person is a volunteer.

Legislator Albano stated the financial disclosure form is required to ensure there is no conflict of interest. He stated although the individual may be a volunteer, they should understand the reason and importance of filing this form when they sign up.

Legislator Nacerino stated the concern is that it may deter people from volunteering. She suggested imposing a different structure to deal with employees who fail to file the financial disclosure statement. She questioned what the real objective is for a volunteer to provide this information.

Legislator Albano stated the form ensures that there is no conflict of interest.

Legislator Nacerino stated the proper information could be collected without requiring all the information on the financial disclosure form.

Chairman Sullivan stated the financial disclosure form is a bit intrusive.

Legislator Nacerino suggested having volunteers sign an oath declaring there is no conflict of interest and that their main objective is to assist with the matter at hand.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated the Personnel Department makes the determination of who is required to file a financial disclosure statement. He stated if there are volunteers who are not in a position to benefit financially or determine how county funds are spent, it would be expected that they would not be required to submit a financial disclosure statement.

Legislator Addonizio suggested inviting Personnel Director Paul Eldridge to a future meeting to discuss this further.

Legislator Castellano stated he would like to see how other counties handle volunteers.

Chairman Sullivan stated the policies from Westchester County and Dutchess County have been reviewed. He stated he would like to explore how to make this process less burdensome on volunteers.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated this is important as it will get to the heart of who has to file and who does not. He stated under Section 55-2 of the Putnam County Code a County officer or employee is required to file, however there are exemptions listed. He stated one of the exemptions is "A member of an advisory board of the County if, but only if, the advisory board has no authority to implement its recommendations or to act on behalf of the County or to restrict the authority of the County to act." He stated for example, members of the One Army in the War on Addiction Task Force do not have power to bind or restrict the County; therefore those members would not be required to file a financial disclosure form. He stated members of other boards may be in the same position and it may be that this policy has a broad reach, encompassing board members who do not have power to bind the County.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would like to see the list of everyone who is required to file.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated he believes the way it is currently written is correct because if board members have authority to implement recommendations on behalf of the County, they should be bound by the conflict of interest provision to make sure that person is not doing something that could benefit them or a member of their family. He stated if the person has no authority to do that, then their finances should not be relevant. He stated the provision seems right as written, but the question lies in how it is applied.

## **Item #11 - Update/ Veteran's Service Medal Advisory Panel**

Legislator Castellano stated the artist recommended a change to the back of the medal, which is being finalized and the medals will then be produced. He stated the plan is to purchase 400 medals this year. He stated the Veteran's Service Medal Advisory Panel (Panel) is looking into more fundraising efforts. He stated they are planning to create a journal to hand out during the July 21, 2018 Veterans parade in Carmel.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how the medals would be given out.

Legislator Castellano stated the Panel has not yet made a decision on how to distribute the medals. He stated they are still receiving applications and they are being very inclusive. He stated there could be as many as 5,000 Veterans in Putnam County who would be eligible to receive a medal. He stated the goal is to give medals to Veterans of World War II and the Korean War first.

Chairman Sullivan questioned where the parade will be held on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Director Rodhe stated the parade will begin at 1:000pm at the Paladin Center and end by the County Office Building. He stated in regards to the medals, the Panel is not seeking Veterans; rather they are having the Veterans apply to them. He stated many applications were coming in for a while and have slowed recently. He stated he would get the total number of applications received and break them down by war. He stated there have not been too many applications by World War II Veterans. He stated the medals have been advertised at the VFWs and American Legions.

Legislator Jonke suggested advertising the medal in the newspapers.

Legislator Castellano stated there were advertisements in the local newspapers. He stated he believes once the medals begin to be distributed it will bring more attention to the program. He stated this is a great thing to do and the artist has a beautiful rendering of the medal.

## **Item #12 - Other Business - None**

## **Item #13 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 8:34pm Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.