

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
BUDGET MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM #318 OF THE  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

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

**Thursday**

**6:00pm**

**October 11, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm by Chairman Sullivan who requested that Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Albano, and Chairman Sullivan were present.

**Item #3 - 2019 Budget Review**

**County Clerk – Account 1410 (pages 24-25)**

**Motor Vehicles – Account 1411 (pages 26-27)**

**Records Management – Account 1460 (pages 35-36)**

Legislator Nacerino stated the County Clerk's Office does a great job.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the County Clerk's Office is on schedule to collect the projected revenue for 2018.

County Clerk Michael Bartolotti stated in regards to line 412551, Clerks Fees, they are optimistic that the next few months will bring in more business. He stated the real estate market was busy at the end of this summer and beginning of the fall, therefore the numbers should be coming in from that activity. He stated they hope to meet or come close to the \$1 million projected for 2018. He stated the volume of recordings is somewhat stable; however the size of the recordings is less. He explained further that documentation involved in a mortgage refinance could be about 100 pages and cost \$5.00 per page; however fewer pages are needed therefore the revenue being collected is less. He stated because of the reduction, the same budget line for 2019 was projected at \$950,000.

Chairman Sullivan agreed with Legislator Nacerino that the County Clerk's Office does a great job for the County. He stated the County Clerk brings in over \$800,000 in revenue over their expenses.

County Clerk Bartolotti stated he is fortunate to have Deputy County Clerk Jimmy McConnell who has a finance background. He stated they work toward keeping their expense lines as tight as possible.

Chairman Sullivan questioned the Miscellaneous budget line, 54989, on page 26 under Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Deputy County Clerk McConnell stated the \$12,000 in that line is for the sale of EZ Pass tags and there is matching revenue in budget line 426551, Minor Sales Other. He stated for every EZ Pass tag sold by the Putnam County DMV, the County keeps \$4 of the \$25 total. He stated the expense goes towards purchasing the tags from the Thruway Authority and the revenue is from tags sold.

### **Community Action Program (CAP) – Account 6450 (page 164)**

Judy Callahan, Director of Putnam Community Action Program (CAP) stated CAP provides assistance to families who are just above the threshold to be eligible for services through the Department of Social Services (DSS) and some families who are also receiving services through DSS. She stated CAP works with the families on a monthly basis to set up a budget and track their expenditures. She stated some clients that receive assistance through CAP are those who are going through extenuating circumstances such as a medical issue. She stated CAP does a lot with a little and they rely tremendously on volunteers. She stated on an average month they have 75 volunteers with some months having over 100 volunteers. She stated there are five (5) employees with two (2) being full time. She stated the volunteers are truly vital.

Legislator Addonizio expressed her appreciation the work done by Putnam CAP.

Chairman Sullivan agreed.

Legislator Scuccimarra thanked Director Callahan for her work.

Chairman Sullivan stated a motion will be made for the funding allocated for all outside agencies in the 2019 budget to be put in to subcontingency because the list of agencies who have filed the required documentation has not yet been received from the County Law Department.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to move the \$12,000 allocated for Putnam CAP into subcontingency; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

### **Board of Elections – Account 1450 (pages 33-34)**

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned if line 51094, Temporary, is for poll workers.

County Auditor Michele Alfano-Sharkey stated that is correct.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned what the funding in line 54646, Contracts, is used for.

County Auditor Sharkey stated that funding is used for maintenance of machines.

Legislator Castellano stated the decrease in funding between 2018 and 2019 for this line reflects the fact that there were more elections in 2018 than there will be in 2019, which results in some savings next year.

Chairman Sullivan stated the funding in line 54314, Postage, seems high compared to what has actually been spent. He stated the funding allocated in this line has remained stable over the past few years.

**Association of Counties – Account 1921 (page 44)**

Legislator Albano stated the County benefits greatly from NYSAC (New York Association of Counties). He stated it is important to be connected with the other counties to share information and ideas. He stated the dues are worthwhile.

Chairman Sullivan requested clarification that the funding allocated is for dues.

County Auditor Sharkey stated yes, the dues will be increasing for 2019.

**Veterans Service Agency – Account 6510 (page 166-167)**

Legislator Gouldman questioned why line 54646, Contracts, had \$5,000 for 2018 but \$0 for 2019.

County Auditor Sharkey stated \$5,000 was provided by Entergy for the Medal of Honor Parade, which was then given to the Joint Veterans Council. She stated the Veterans Service Agency acted as a pass through.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the decrease in line 54678, Leased Transportation from 2018 to 2019.

County Auditor Sharkey stated they are now using a County vehicle rather than the transportation service.

**Consumer Affairs/ Weights & Measures – Account 6610 (pages 169-171)**

Chairman Sullivan requested clarification on line 52650, Motor Vehicles.

Director of Consumer Affairs Michael Budzinski stated he brought the documentation relating to the motor vehicles with him tonight. He stated last year, Consumer Affairs put it for one (1) vehicle and it was taken out. He stated this year, they put in for two (2) vehicles. He stated the Department currently has four (4) vehicles in total. He stated one (1) vehicle has specialized equipment for gasoline and therefore cannot be used every day. He stated the Highway Department determined that another vehicle will be taken off the road very shortly, which would bring the amount of everyday use vehicles

to two (2). He stated there are four (4) employees that go out on a daily basis; therefore four (4) vehicles are really needed.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if the request for two (2) vehicles was reduced to one (1) vehicle in the 2019 tentative budget.

Director Budzinski stated yes, one (1) vehicle was removed.

Chairman Sullivan questioned what type of vehicles would be purchased.

John Lee, Inspector of Weights and Measures stated the vehicle they are looking to replace is a 2010 Chevy Equinox and they would look to purchase a similar vehicle with good gas mileage and four (4) wheel drive.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if a vehicle such as a Toyota Prius would be appropriate. He stated the pricing on a Prius is very good at around \$18,000, plus there is an added benefit of the high gas mileage. He stated in looking at the prices of available vehicles, the Prius was one of the lowest.

Mr. Lee stated a Prius could work for what they use it for.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional;  
Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Legislator Addonizio requested clarification of the two (2) requested vehicles. She questioned how much each vehicle will cost.

Director Budzinski stated they put in enough funding for two (2) vehicles and the funding was lowered to enough for one (1).

Chairman Sullivan stated the vehicles Consumer Affairs currently have include the specialized vehicle, the one (1) on its way out, and the two (2) others. He questioned if two (2) cars were purchased, it would bring the total amount of cars to five (5).

Director Budzinski stated yes, because there are four (4) employees that go out and only three (3) vehicles to use. He stated once the other vehicle is taken off the road, the two (2) new vehicles would provide one (1) vehicle per employee.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if this requirement is related to the addition of the second Code Inspector.

Director Budzinski stated yes, more hours were put in for the enforcement officer. He stated it is inevitable that four (4) employees will be there at the same time on some days.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if it would be cost effective to have the employee use their own vehicle and submit for mileage reimbursement.

Director Budzinski stated the Compliance Enforcement Officers are hesitant to use their own vehicles because they are concerned that a contractor could take their vehicle information and go after them.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if all four (4) employees go out at the same time.

Director Budzinski stated yes.

Legislator Albano questioned which vehicle is on its way out.

Director Budzinski stated the 2010 Chevy Equinox is on its way out.

Chairman Sullivan stated the Department also has a 2007 Ford F150. He questioned what the 2013 Ford F350 is used for.

Mr. Lee stated that his daily truck as the Weights & Measures Inspector. He stated in 2013 several of their vehicles were taken off the road by the Highway Department and the Director at the time received approval from the Legislature to purchase vehicles and that is what she picked.

Chairman Sullivan stated that is a big truck to be driving every day.

Director Budzinski stated the purchase was overkill.

Legislator Albano stated if the Chevy Equinox was replaced with one (1) new vehicle, there would still be four (4).

Director Budzinski stated there would be four (4) total but the vehicle with the gas equipment cannot be used every day.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the Ford F150 is in good shape.

Mr. Lee stated it is garage kept and has about 11,000 miles it.

Legislator Jonke stated he understands when vehicles are brought out into the field, sometimes a more substantial vehicle is needed to withstand the environment. He stated he would not oppose the purchase of a vehicle that could handle wear and tear better.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated vehicles like a Toyota Prius are not great in poor weather. She stated it would be beneficial to have one (1) in the fleet for closer driving.

Chairman Sullivan stated at some point the Ford F350 will need to go. He questioned what gas mileage it gets.

Mr. Lee stated the Ford F350 gets 10 miles per gallon.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned if it would be possible to trade the vehicle in for another one.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how many miles are on the Ford F350.

Mr. Lee stated there were 14,000 miles on the vehicle when the budget was submitted in August.

Legislator Addonizio stated that vehicle would probably be a good trade in.

Legislator Albano stated it seems counterproductive to not have enough vehicles for all employees who need one.

Legislator Nacerino stated it is important to realize not only the fiscal consideration but the consideration given to the departments to do their jobs right. She stated the increased violations found within the past few months have been discussed and although these numbers may not be the norm, it demonstrates that there are still non-licensed contractors doing work in Putnam. She stated it is important to understand that there are employees who need to be in the field and it is common sense that they need a car to do their job. She stated the statistics demonstrate that the numbers are high.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how many miles are on the other two (2) vehicles. He stated the Ford F350 is a 2013 and only has 14,000 miles on it; which equates to about 2,000-3,000 miles per year. He stated since the Department has vehicles that do not have many miles and are not getting a lot of use, it is hard to justify purchasing a new vehicle.

Mr. Lee stated when the budget packet was submitted in August the 2014 Ford Escape had 24,150 miles; the 2013 Ford F350 had 14,000; the 2010 Chevy Equinox had 90,700; and the 2007 Ford F150, which is the specialized gas truck, has just over 10,000 miles.

Legislator Nacerino stated the low mileage on the vehicles does not necessarily reflect the usage. She stated Putnam County is a small community; therefore the four (4) employees that are going out into the field are covering a relatively small, dense area. She stated the mileage is not an indicator that they do not need the vehicle to do their job effectively.

Legislator Albano questioned the increase in line 51094, Temporary and questioned what the temporary line is used for.

Director Budzinski stated in 2018, 750 hours were budgeted for each temporary position and this was increased to 1,000 hours for 2019. He stated the two (2) Compliance Enforcement Officers fall under the Temporary line.

Legislator Albano questioned if all the vehicles are utilized simultaneously five (5) days a week.

Director Budzinski stated the vehicles are used at the same time at least four (4) days out of the week. He stated the electrical inspection contracts were renegotiated this year and in that, the County will be getting 7.5% of the revenue taken in by the electrical inspection agencies; therefore more money will be going into the General Fund. He stated they anticipate about \$15,000 in revenue will come from that.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if that amount was included in the 2019 budget.

Director Budzinski stated it is not included because the amount will not be known until the end of the year when the agencies calculate what they owe the County and send the check. He stated based on negotiations with the two (2) agencies during the negotiation process, they indicated that it would be about \$15,000.

Chairman Sullivan stated he will discuss the vehicle request with the Finance Department.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the large increase in revenue in line 519623, Item Pricing.

Mr. Lee stated that increase is in relation to the item pricing waiver program, which is a two (2) year waiver. He stated the new waiver for the majority of the stores that initially signed on will begin on January 1, 2019.

Legislator Gouldman questioned what line 427701, Unclassified is for.

Mr. Lee stated any revenue from late fees on registrations or license applications go into the Unclassified line.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the increase in line 52110, Furniture and Furnishings.

Director Budzinski stated over the past year, the space next to the Department of Consumer Affairs has been renovated for the Office for Senior Resources. He stated due to that renovation, Consumer Affairs will be losing some of its office space. He stated this funding will be used for new file cabinets and modifications in the office. He stated also, the board secretaries are using desks that are very old, which will be replaced.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the increase in line 52130, Computer Equipment.

Mr. Lee stated they are looking to equip the two (2) Compliance Enforcement Officers with notebook laptops that they can take with them into the field, giving them access to the licensing database while they are out.

Legislator Gouldman questioned why line 58008, Health Plans reflects a decrease for 2019.

County Auditor Sharkey stated that is calculated by the Finance Department.

Legislator Sayegh questioned line 54370, Automotive.

Mr. Lee stated the equipment mounted on the truck used for the gas stations is from 1997 and they do not believe any maintenance has ever been done. He stated there is a garage in Newburgh that New York State Weights & Measures uses for their equipment and the quote they got for the repair was about \$2,000. He stated a little more than that was budgeted to allow for a price increase.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how often the gas stations are checked and what is checked.

Mr. Lee stated legally, they must be checked once a year. He stated if there is any recalibration work done the gas station should notify Consumer Affairs and it will be rechecked to make sure the calibration company did it correctly. He stated at the gas stations they check for credit card skimming devices, although no skimming devices have been found in the County. He stated each pump is tested to ensure they are dispensing the accurate volume of gasoline.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated checking all the gas stations in Putnam County must require being on the road a lot.

Mr. Lee stated he is fairly active at the gas stations. He stated he also checks scales at supermarkets, delis, jewelry store, and pharmacies. He stated he also does item pricing and scanner accuracy inspections. He stated the quality of gasoline is checked about six (6) or seven (7) times per year.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if Mr. Lee's findings are that most items are accurate.

Mr. Lee stated usually when things start to go bad, it is often in the customer's favor. He stated if something tests to be inaccurate, he notifies the store and it will be rechecked once it is fixed.

Legislator Sayegh questioned how the revenue from fees and licenses is projected.

Mr. Lee stated the master Plumbing and Electrical licenses are yearly renewals and the journeyman license is every two (2) years. He stated on even years there is more

revenue due to the journeyman registrations. He stated Home Improvement registrations are also two (2) years.

Director Budzinski stated next year they are going to work on evening that out so there is more consistency from year to year.

### **Libraries – Account 7410 (page 194)**

The following library representatives were present at the meeting:

- Gina Loprinzo, Director of the Brewster Library
- Stephanie Harrison, Director of the Patterson Library
- Jen McCreery, Director of the Desmond Fish Library
- Carol Donnick, Director of the Kent Library
- Michele Capozzella, Director of the Mahopac Library and President of the Putnam Libraries Association

Chairman Sullivan stated the budget for the libraries is flat for 2019.

Legislator Albano stated the libraries do a great job.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the County Contribution, line 54950, is split among all the libraries. He questioned how much each library receives.

Director Capozzella stated that is correct. She stated the Mahopac Library receives about \$94,000 from the County Contribution. She stated the \$11,300 in line 54997, Reference Center, goes to the Mahopac Library as well because they are the County's reference center.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated there is a formula used to figure out how much each library will receive. She questioned if the formula is based on usage.

County Auditor Sharkey stated the amount allocated for each library is based on the census. She cited the following approximate breakdown:

- Mahopac Library - \$90,000
- Putnam Valley Library - \$41,000
- Kent Library - \$50,000
- Butterfield Library - \$30,000
- Desmond Fish Library - \$15,000
- Patterson Library - \$45,000
- Reed Memorial Library - \$37,000
- Brewster Library – \$68,000

Legislator Scuccimarra stated using a formula based on the census may not always be fair. She stated she knows many people who utilize the Desmond Fish library in Garrison are not residents of the area.

Legislator Nacerino agreed. She stated she is sure many non-residents visit many of the libraries.

Legislator Gouldman thanked the directors present for the work they do.

Director Capozzella stated libraries now offer so much more than they have in the past. She stated they have programs such as helping people sign up for health insurance or prepare their taxes. She stated they also have social groups that meet at the library for different activities. She stated Good Morning America just did a spotlight on the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore and one of the things they emphasized is that libraries are a place where the employees just want to help people, which she emphatically agreed with.

Legislator Albano made a motion to put the \$435,707 allocated for the Libraries into subcontingency; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

### **Putnam Arts Council/ Contribution to the Arts – Account 7560 (page 197)**

Chairman Sullivan stated the budget for the Putnam Arts Council is relatively flat. He stated there is a small increase to reflect more work being done for the County at Tilly Foster Farm (TFF).

Joyce Picone, Executive Director of the Putnam Arts Center stated she worked with Executive Director of the Southeast Museum, Amy Campanaro and General Manager of TFF Mike McCall to install art at the Farm. She stated some original art was installed in the bistro area and some historical reproductions were installed in the restaurant area. She stated she is working with a photographer to do a photo of TFF that will be on permanent loan to the County. She stated the photo will not likely be completed until the end of the year because they would like to get an aerial shot in the Fall. She stated they will also be implementing more programs at TFF in 2019 as soon as they find space. She stated these would include after school programs for children; adult programs; classes on drawing, painting, and mixed media; outdoor painting; readings, etc. She stated programs are always being expanded at the Art Center as well. She stated they are partnering with different entities such as the libraries and historical society. She stated an additional \$1,000 was requested in the grant program, line 54950, County Contribution, which is funding that passes through the Putnam Arts Council and goes to other art organizations throughout the community. She stated this funding is combined with \$28,000 the State provides for the same reason, which then becomes a \$40,000 grant fund. She stated over \$65,000 in requests are submitted. She stated 27 grants were awarded in 2018. She thanked the Committee and stated the public support received is essential to Putnam Arts Council.

Legislator Sayegh stated her children have participated in programs held by the Putnam Arts Council and they love it. She stated she is looking forward to the holiday craft fair.

Executive Director Picone stated in December the annual holiday craft showcase sale will be held where 60 local and regional artisans will have their handmade items available for sale. She stated the gallery itself is set up as a Winter wonderland. She stated the admission to the fair is free and will run from December 7<sup>th</sup>-December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to move the \$62,000 allocated for the Putnam Arts Council and Contribution to the Arts into subcontingency; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

### **Putnam History Museum – Account 7560 (page 198)**

Legislator Albano made a motion to move the \$53,040 allocated for the Putnam History Museum into subcontingency; Seconded by Chairman Sullivan. All in favor.

### **Southeast Museum – Account 7564 (page 199)**

Chairman Sullivan stated the Southeast Museum requested an increase of \$1,000; however it was reduced to remain flat.

Amy Campanaro, Executive Director of the Southeast Museum stated they have received level funding for eight (8) years. She stated the Southeast Museum has been around for 55 years and is located in the Old Town Hall building which was built in 1896. She stated the Museum began in 1962, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Putnam County, as a store-front museum. She stated due to many people visiting the museum, the following year the museum received their charter through the New York State Department of Education. She stated they send an annual report to New York State of the work they do and documenting all artifacts they have. She stated they have exhibitions in various areas. She stated they have worked with the County Clerk's office to place a temporary exhibition at the Department of Motor Vehicles which will change over time. She stated people waiting in line will see panels with information about the Town of Southeast and Putnam County as a whole. She stated the mission of the Southeast Museum is to collect the history of Putnam County, focusing on Brewster and Southeast. She stated they have about 8,000 artifacts such as ledgers, quilts, deeds, household items, and many more. She stated they also have a 130 year old cucumber that was grown in a garden in Carmel, which someone donated in 1963. She stated it has been preserved in alcohol. She stated when artifacts are donated to the museum, they are happy to accept them; however there is a cost associated with preserving and caring for that artifact. She stated the Museum collaborates with local organizations such as the Putnam Arts Council and Brewster Public Library to hold programs relating to local history. She stated this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice of World War I and the Southeast Museum has partnered with Brewster High School to put together an original play based on letters from people within Putnam County during the time of the war. She stated performances will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> and all Veterans will be admitted to the play free of charge. She stated no revenue from the play will go to the Museum; it will all go to Brewster High School. She thanked the

Legislature for their support throughout the years. She stated without public funding they would not be where they are.

Legislator Castellano stated the Southeast Museum has a great Facebook page where they post photos and information.

Executive Director Campanaro stated they recently accepted a donation of a ledger that belonged to a blacksmith in Brewster which documents the business from 1763-1850. She stated the ledger includes many names of people who lived in the town and even lists Walter Brewster. She stated this is the first artifact that lists Walter Brewster's name. She stated this ledger has been scanned so people can come to the Museum and peruse the pages.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to move the \$32,640 allocated for the Southeast Museum to subcontingency; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

### **Putnam Humane Society – Account 8512 (page 205)**

Chairman Sullivan stated a representative from the Humane Society is not present.

Executive Director Picone stated she would like to say that the Humane Society does a great job with the difficult work they are faced with.

Legislator Gouldman stated he had some questions relating to the Humane Society. He stated although the budgets for the outside agencies are being moved into subcontingency until the list of those who have submitted necessary documents is received, he would like to request that this budget be put into subcontingency until a representative is able to attend a meeting to answer outstanding questions.

Legislator Addonizio stated the funding has remained level the past few years.

Legislator Gouldman stated it is his understanding that the Humane Society does not provide services to the Town of Kent or the Town of Putnam Valley.

Legislator Nacerino stated the service with the various towns is contractual.

Legislator Gouldman stated he would like a representative to speak to that.

Chairman Sullivan stated a letter was sent inviting a representative to attend the meeting. He stated a follow-up letter will be sent to have a representative present.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to move the \$143,738, allocated for the Putnam Humane Society into subcontingency; Seconded by legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner stated in the meantime, she will send a copy of the Putnam Humane Society's contract, which has not changed in years. She stated the Legislators can review the scope of services within the contract. She stated this is a significant amount of money, and it may be good to review this information.

Legislator Sayegh stated she went through the documentation submitted by the Humane Society and there are very thorough records that include information about the services they provide and how many animals they take in. She stated they have a staff 365 days per year.

Legislator Addonizio stated the Humane Society is a no-kill shelter.

Legislator Sayegh stated they will only euthanize if it is beneficial to the animal for a medical reason.

Legislator Nacerino stated it is unfortunate that a representative is not present this evening.

### **Putnam County SPCA – Account 8513 (page 206)**

Chief of the Putnam County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Kenneth Ross stated the Putnam SPCA's attorney is present at the meeting, Jennifer Pagnillo.

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

Ms. Pagnillo stated in 2018 the County Contribution, line 54950, for the SPCA was increased from \$3,000 to \$40,000. She stated another increase was requested for 2019 to help subsidize some of the expenses of the organization; however that increase was not included in the 2019 tentative budget. She questioned what opportunity the SPCA has in advocating for the increase.

Chairman Sullivan stated this Budget Meeting is the opportunity to explain the need for any additional funding.

Chief Ross stated when the SPCA first began they were law enforcement handling animal cruelty statutes and performing the investigations. She stated the Sheriff's Department at the time requested that the SPCA handle this aspect of law enforcement because they had a difficult time with it. He stated as a private agency, the SPCA has many expenses, such as costly insurance. He stated they are being asked to do more and more; any and all animal issues within the County end up being handled by the SPCA. He stated they respond to cases involving both domestic and wild animals. He stated every town has their own dog control officer, however some towns contract with the SPCA for dog control services. He stated the Town of Putnam Valley contracted the SPCA for dog control services, and the SPCA hired someone to cover this service,

acting as a pass through and not receiving any revenue from the contract. He stated when a dog control officer from a town goes on vacation, the SPCA supplies an officer to cover the work at their own cost. He stated some dog control officers do not respond to calls where there is a death because the dogs may be territorial and the animal must be secured. He stated in this case, the SPCA would respond to secure the dog or dogs at their own expense.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if the SPCA operates 24/7.

Chief Ross stated yes.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how many employees the SPCA has.

Chief Ross stated there are three (3) employees.

Ms. Pagnillo stated in addition to all services provided by the SPCA, they must also fundraise to cover the expenses they do not get through funding. She stated there has been limited funding from a few towns and they are very grateful for the funding from the County. She stated the SPCA also has volunteers who fundraise by setting up tables at local businesses. She stated the SPCA has a bit of an identity crisis because many people think that if they donate to the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), the Putnam County SPCA will receive funding as well, but that is not the case. She stated some people also confuse the Humane Society and the SPCA and think they are the same organization. She stated this makes it difficult to supplement their funding through fundraising.

Chairman Sullivan stated it was mentioned that the towns have a dog control officer and questioned what happens if the animal is not a dog.

Chief Ross stated the dog control officers respond only to dogs. He stated this is because dogs are required to be registered and in the past there were many stray dogs that would have rabies, which is why dog control officers came to be. He stated the SPCA will respond to any other animal case, such as feral cat colonies.

Chairman Sullivan questioned what happens for example, if someone sees a feral cat and they are concerned enough to report it to the Sheriff or local police department.

Chief Ross stated the law enforcement agency would contact the SPCA. He stated the problem is that there is nowhere to bring the feral cat. He stated another situation that ends up being an expense for the SPCA is the seizing of animals after an arrest. He stated by law, the seized animals are to be turned over to the Sheriff of the County, however the Putnam County Sheriff does not have a place to keep seized animals, especially when there are many seized at once. He stated the SPCA will take the animal to the vet or if it is a long term seizure, they must go to a kennel, at their expense.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if the SPCA participates in the TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) program run by the County Health Department, which involves neutering feral cats and re-releasing them into their colony.

Chief Ross stated when they receive a call in relation to that they will direct the person to the Health Department. He stated they do respond to calls of people maliciously disturbing feral cat colonies. He stated to deter this, the SPCA will have a presence in the area.

Chairman Sullivan stated the SPCA is not only responding to incidents such as an animal bite, but they are protecting animals who are sick, abused, or neglected.

Chief Ross stated usually the dog control officer will respond to a situation where a dog bit someone. He stated when there are instances of abuse or neglect, an investigation begins and the SPCA has the same power as the Sheriff's Department when they respond. He stated they recently worked with Danbury Police to arrest a woman who fed pills to her dog and then abandoned it. He stated they have also made arrests for endangering the welfare of children. He stated often times, when they respond to calls where an animal is in bad shape, more often than not children present are also in bad shape. He stated they are also usually first responders to many of the car accidents that happen within the County. He stated they are trained in first aid, they will call 911, they will direct traffic, and once the local responders arrive the SPCA will leave the scene. He stated many different services are provided by the SPCA. He stated one year, the SPCA had a table set up at Brewster Day as a fundraising effort when a call came in that needed immediate response. He stated responding to the call and performing the follow up investigation resulted in a lost day of fundraising. He stated there is a state law requiring humane education in schools, which the SPCA ensures is met. He stated this past year they held classes over about 200 kids.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if the schools pay the SPCA for the humane education.

Chief Ross stated there is no charge for the program however some schools donated to the SPCA.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if the SPCA brings animals to the Humane Society.

Chief Ross stated the Humane Society will not take seized animals. He stated there is a kennel in Patterson that offers a discounted rate. He stated there are some vets they work with as well, including one in Mount Vernon that offers free services. He stated in the Agriculture and Markets Law, any animal seized pursuant to an arrest will be turned over to the Sheriff of the County who must bear the cost of maintaining the animal(s) until the end of the trial.

Ms. Pagnillo stated the SPCA covers this cost rather than charging back the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Albano questioned if there is an itemized list of the expenses of seized animals due to arrests.

Chief Ross stated if the SPCA got the service free of charge, there would not be a record.

Legislator Nacerino stated the SPCA does a phenomenal job and their passion for the safety of animals is evident in the work they do. She stated in 2018, the SPCA requested and received \$40,000 in County funding. She stated year to date just under \$30,000 has been spent of that funding. She stated for 2019, \$75,000 was requested and the County Executive kept the funding level at the \$40,000. She questioned what the increase was requested for. She stated she understands that the SPCA provides many services within the community. She requested, from a fiscal perspective, that the increased request be justified.

Ms. Pagnillo stated the expenses in the SPCA's budget are about \$150,000. She stated when looking at where the funding comes from, there is about \$50,000 from the Town of Carmel dog contract and the rest is fundraised. She stated the reason for the increase for 2019 is not related to an increase in expenses as compared to 2018, but rather in an effort to relieve the fundraising burden.

Chief Ross stated the contract with the Town of Putnam Valley is more of a pass-through. He stated the money is used toward the dog control officer's salary, taxes, and insurance. He stated the SPCA supplies a vehicle, gasoline, car insurance, and training. He stated this alleviates an issue in the Town.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if the SPCA has looked into seeking funding from the various towns within Putnam County to supplement their budget even further.

Chief Ross stated grants would be accepted from any organization. He stated because the SPCA is a charity, it does not set itself up for charging for services provided.

Legislator Nacerino stated rather than charging for services provided, she questioned if it would be prudent to ask the municipalities to budget a certain amount for the SPCA as the County does. She stated costs in future years are only going to increase.

Chief Ross stated he has spoken to many town supervisors and perhaps down the road as there are changes, it might be plausible.

Legislator Jonke clarified that the total budget for the SPCA is \$150,000.

Chief Ross stated yes.

Legislator Jonke questioned if all funds other than the County Contribution is fundraised.

Chief Ross stated that is correct.

Legislator Jonke questioned how much the SPCA pays in insurance per year.

Ms. Pagnillo stated vehicle insurance is about \$8,500, liability insurance is about \$5,500, and worker's compensation insurance is about \$1,200.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the document Ms. Pagnillo is referring to is a financial statement for the agency.

Ms. Pagnillo stated it is a profit and loss statement. She stated the SPCA does not fundraise enough to be required to have an audited financial statement under State law. She stated they do not have the resources to have the accountant prepare that.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if the SPCA is a 501(c)(3).

Chief Ross stated yes.

County Attorney Bumgarner questioned what the liability coverage is.

Chief Ross stated it is \$1 million per incident.

Legislator Albano stated the need for the additional funding is clear, however the County is working with a tight budget. He stated he would be in favor of some kind of increase.

Chairman Sullivan stated the SPCA does a tremendous job. He suggested increasing the allocated funding for the SPCA in the 2019 budget by \$10,000.

Legislator Albano stated he would be in favor of that.

Legislator Jonke requested a copy of the profit and loss statement.

Ms. Pagnillo stated the employees of the SPCA are paid almost nothing for the work they do. She also stated their annual fundraising dinner is coming up on Friday, October 26, 2018 at the Putnam Golf Course.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is grateful for the work done by the SPCA.

County Attorney Bumgarner requested clarification on a statement made earlier. She questioned when it was stated that the Humane Society does not accept seized animals from the SPCA if Chief Ross meant cats and dogs or other types of animals.

Chief Ross stated he was referring to all animals. He stated the Humane Society is a private entity, therefore he cannot say what they should or should not do.

Detective Kenneth Ross III stated when the SPCA makes an arrest the seized animal must be cared for until the end of the trial, which could sometimes take a year. He stated in this case, they would be asking a private agency to hold an animal or animals for a long time. He stated they often have seizures of multiple animals at once, for example they arrested someone in Kent last year who had 92 cats. He stated also, when someone is arrested they sometimes try to break into the place where their animal is being kept or they will go and cause an issue with a worker. He stated he would not want the workers at the Humane Society to be put in danger.

Legislator Albano stated it would make sense for the person who was arrested to be charged the housing and care fees required for their animal.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to increase line 54950, County Contribution, by \$10,000; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to move the funding allocated for the Putnam SPCA into subcontingency; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

County Attorney Bumgarner stated for clarification, there is a contractual provision in most of the funding agreements which requires a certain amount of private fundraising. She stated they are not-for-profit charitable organizations and they cannot rely solely on taxpayer funding.

### **Cooperative Extension – Account 8750 (page 210)**

Margie Keith, Executive Director of Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension stated with her this evening is the President of the Board of Directors, Greg Amato.

Chairman Sullivan stated like the other outside agencies, Cornell Cooperative Extension is receiving level funding. He questioned how many years Cornell Cooperative Extension has been receiving the same amount of funding from the County.

Executive Director Keith stated the funding has been basically level for 14 years. She stated there have been small increases that have totaled 9%.

Chairman Sullivan stated Cornell Cooperative Extension does so much for the County.

Executive Director Keith thanked the Legislature and County Executive for the funding provided to Cornell Cooperative Extension. She stated they are very respectful of the job required of the County in putting together their budget while being responsible to the taxpayers and staying under the tax cap. She stated Cornell Cooperative Extension is very conservative in their spending to maximize the resources from the County. She stated the County appropriation is the core funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension and it brings in State and Federal money; therefore without it they would not receive those additional funds. She stated they have a core of over 300 volunteers whose hours and work provide a value that equates to just under \$500,000. She stated when

the direct funding, in-kind support from Cornell University, and the value of the volunteers are added together, the \$325,000 from the County turns into a \$1.5 million program for Putnam County. She stated Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension began in 1944 with initial funding from Putnam County. She stated they are very pleased that they have been able to be integral to the County for this length of time. She stated Putnam is actually one of the youngest Cornell Cooperative Extensions in New York State. She stated while the County has an outside agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension, they are not an incorporated not-for-profit; they are a subordinate government agency, which means they have different guidelines that they operate under. She stated this year they did some new and interesting things such as assisting Soil & Water with their annual tree sale, which allowed the County employee who works on this to focus on other things. She stated the revenues from the sales were not shared; they stayed within the Soil & Water Conversation budget. She stated they have a very talented staff at Cornell Cooperative Extension. She recognized Jennifer Lerner who received the 2017 Cornell NYS Integrated Pest Management award for the work she has been doing on public education relating to using the least toxic method when dealing with pests. She stated they work in a variety of different settings with many collaborators, including Putnam CAP and the libraries. She stated they began an initiative two (2) years ago in the Village of Brewster in partnership with the Cultural Arts Coalition and the Studio Around the Corner to teach participants about nutrition and gardening to grow food. She stated excess food items that came from the garden were then donated to Putnam CAP and participants received plants to grow their own gardens at home. She stated many of the participants were Spanish speaking therefore volunteers included master gardeners and translators to help with the communication. She stated Cornell Cooperative Extension works with over 80 agencies and organizations at the Federal, State, and Regional level. She stated right now, their master gardener training is being held, which is done on a biannual basis. She stated there are currently over 80 master gardener volunteers and once the three (3) month training ends, there will be another 14. She stated another interesting program they began is Hike Putnam, which was an idea of one of the volunteers. She stated once a month from May to October some master gardener volunteers schedule a three (3) to four (4) hour hike in various locations within Putnam County. She stated hikes have been done in each town. She stated the hikes are a multifaceted program as the participants learn about local history and land use, invasive species, and health and wellbeing. She stated there is a lot of attention on the opioid crisis throughout our Country right now. She stated Cornell Cooperative Extension provides the 4-H Youth Development Program, which is a positive, proactive program for kids to participate in. She stated this program keeps our youth engaged while providing them with the skillset they need to make healthy lifestyle choices. She stated often times, things are looked at from a reactive perspective however this type of program can act as a proactive measure. She stated this is her last year as Executive Director and she expressed her gratitude for the support of the Legislature during her tenure.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how many people attended the 4-H Fair this year.

Executive Director Keith stated that there were about 20,000 people over the course of the weekend. She attributed the great turnout to the good weather, advertising on social media, and having bilingual flyers in the area. She stated there is an incredible core of volunteers that truly make the Fair a community event, which is free for residents.

Chairman Sullivan acknowledged the amount of work that goes into the Fair and he thanked Executive Director Keith and all of Cornell Cooperative Extension for their hard work.

Legislator Nacerino questioned when Executive Director Keith will be retiring and who will be taking over the position.

Mr. Amato stated they are currently in the process of reviewing applications. He stated they are looking to fill the position with a start date of January 2, 2019. He stated Executive Director Keith has built a great foundation for Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension and even though she is retiring, she is still fully committed to the work she has left. He stated as an extension of Cornell University, they are always looking for projects and services to cater to not only the local community, but with a reach all the way up to Cornell University.

Executive Director Keith stated there is a Hudson Valley regional event coming up on October 30<sup>th</sup>; the Food & Farm Expo. She stated it will be held at Anthony's Pier 9 and will connect local agricultural producers with businesses that may be interested in selling their products. She stated the event is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYS Agriculture and Markets, Orange County Chamber of Commerce, and the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if there is increasing interest in residents wanting to utilize Tilly Foster Farm to grow fruits and vegetables.

Executive Director Keith stated the community gardens at Tilly Foster Farm are run by the Parks & Recreation Department and are available for residents to grow their own produce. She stated she believes there is capacity there. She stated she cannot speak to whether they may need more space. She stated Cornell Cooperative Extension has master gardener volunteers that help in the community gardens. She stated in regards to Legislator Nacerino's inquiry about her position, the search can be a long process because Cornell University becomes involved as well. She stated the search is nationwide.

Mr. Amato stated many great applications have been received.

Chairman Sullivan thanked Executive Director Keith.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the \$325,185 allocated for Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension into subcontingency; Seconded by Legislator

Addonizio. By Poll Vote: 2 Ayes: Chairman Sullivan and Legislator Addonizio, 1 Absent: Legislator Albano

**Item #4 - Other Business** – None

**Item #5 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 8:06pm, Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.