

Director Mazzotta stated yes, there is an exact format which is created by the bidding software. He stated instructions will be given to bidders that bids will need to be submitted on a specific spreadsheet and submitted through the website. He stated once the bidder submits the bid, it goes into a lockbox and it cannot be accessed until the bid opening. He stated currently, paper bids cannot be opened until the bid opening and the electronic submissions will follow the same guideline.

Legislator Albano stated it makes sense to have this tool.

Chairman Castellano stated electronic submission will be a benefit for the employees in the Purchasing Department and will hopefully bring in more bids.

Legislator Albano questioned if electronic submission alters anything as opposed to paper submission.

Director Mazzotta stated the ability to submit a bid electronically may result in more bids being submitted. He stated the more bids that come in, the more competition there is.

Chairman Castellano questioned what the next step is at this point.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated a resolution is needed to add Paragraph H entitled "Receipt of Bids" to Chapter 140 of the Putnam County Code.

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

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

Item #5 - Discussion/ Catskill Regional Off Track Betting/ President & CEO Don Groth

- a. Proposed Resolution/ Urging NYS Governor & Legislature to Enact Legislation to Enable Catskill Off-Track Betting Corporation to Strengthen County Participation in OTB Revenues by Authorizing OTB to Expand its Business Model; Reduce Onerous Statutory Expenses; To Access Its Own Capital Acquisition Fund to Remain Operational Pending Much Needed Legislation and to File for Chapter 9 Federal protection in the Event it is Necessary**

- b. Proposed Resolution/ Urging NYS Governor & Legislature to Enact Legislation to Authorize OTB Corporations as Sports Wagering Operators or Affiliates and to Assure OTB Participation in Sports Wagering Revenues Conducted on Line for Distribution to Member Counties**

Chairman Castellano stated this item would be addressed at the end of the agenda.

Item #6 - Correspondence/County Auditor

- a. **Sales Tax Report** – Duly Noted
- b. **Board In Revenue Report** – Duly Noted
- c. **OTB Report**

Chairman Castellano stated this report would be discussed later on the agenda with item #5 - Discussion/ Catskill Regional Off Track Betting/ President & CEO Don Groth.

- d. **Transfer/Revenue Report** – Duly Noted
- e. **Contingency Report** – Duly Noted

Item #7 - Correspondence/Commissioner of Finance

- a. **Overtime/Temporary Report**

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated most overtime and temporary has been accounted for. He stated some will be addressed on fund transfers on tonight's agenda and the rest will be included in the year end entry.

- b. **Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 18A075/ Sheriff's Dept./ Donation/ K9 Electronics Detection Dog (Tabled from 11/7/18 Full Mtg. to 11/19/18 Protective Mtg.)**

Legislator Albano stated there is tremendous potential with the addition of this dog. He stated there is an expense, but he believes it will be well utilized.

Legislator Jonke stated the discussion had at the Protective Services Committee on this topic was very informative and he believes this is a good thing for the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Addonizio agreed and stated this will be an asset to the Sheriff's Department.

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

- c. **Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 18A084/ Dept. of Social Services/ Additional Grant Funding/ NYS Office of Victim Services for the Victim Assistance Program/ Contracting with Putnam/Westchester Women's Center to Provide Therapy & Crisis Intervention to Child Advocacy Center Clients (Also reviewed in Health)**

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

d. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 18A085/ Probation Dept./ Grant Award/ Senator Terrance Murphy/ Putnam County Drug Court Granted Funding by NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (Also reviewed in Protective)

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

e. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 18A086/ Finance/ Vacancy Control Factor January–October 2018

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

f. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 18A088/ Health Dept./ Account for Increased Early Intervention & Pre-K Mandated Costs (Also reviewed in Health)

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

g. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 18A089/ Emergency Services/ FY2017 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Program (Also reviewed in Protective)

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

Item #8 - Approval Fund Transfer 18A269/ Sheriff's Dept./ Maintenance & Repairs (Tabled from 11/7/18 Full Mtg. to 11/19/18 Protective Mtg.)

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

Item #9 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T294/ Sheriff's Dept./ Corrections/ Overtime for October (Also reviewed in Protective & Personnel)

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

Item #10 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T295/ Sheriff's Dept./ Corrections/ Overtime for November (Also reviewed in Protective & Personnel)

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

Item #11 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T296/ Sheriff's Dept./ Replace Carpeting in Hallway Corridor (Also reviewed in Protective)

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

Item #12 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T316/ Emergency Services/ Purchase Full Matrix Message Board (Also reviewed in Protective)

Legislator Jonke made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 18T316; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Item #13 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T330/ Sheriff's Dept./ Cover ERT Training & Call Outs (Also reviewed in Protective)

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 18T330; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Item #14 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T334/ Office for Senior Resources/ Cover Automotive Bus Repairs (Also reviewed in Health)

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

Item #15 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T338/ Sheriff's Dept./ Corrections/ Cover Overtime due to 1:1 Coverage & Cook Availability (Also reviewed in Protective)

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

Item #16 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T339/ Sheriff's Dept./ Corrections/ Cover Overtime due to Vacancies, 207C, & 1:1 Watch (Also reviewed in Protective)

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

Item #17 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T340/ Sheriff's Dept./ Replace Sergeant Desk & Purchase Beds for Staff due to Inclement Weather (Also reviewed in Protective)

Legislator Jonke made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 18T340; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Item #18 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T350/ Sheriff's Dept./ Purchase Supplies & Equipment (Also reviewed in Protective)

Legislator Jonke made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 18T350; Seconded by Chairman Castellano. All in favor.

Item #19 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T353/ Sheriff's Dept./ Purchase Budgeted Vehicle for BCI (Also reviewed in Protective)

Legislator Jonke made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 18T353; Seconded by Chairman Castellano. All in favor.

Item #20 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T354/ Sheriff's Dept./ Fund Overtime Line (Also reviewed in Protective)

Legislator Jonke made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 18T354; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Item #21 - Approval /Fund Transfer 18T355/ Sheriff's Dept./ Fund Overtime Line (Also reviewed in Protective)

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

Item #22 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T360/ Highways & Facilities/ Cover Temporary & Overtime Lines (Also reviewed in Personnel)

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

Item #23 - Approval/ Bond Resolution/ Authorizing Preparation of Surveys, Preliminary & Detailed Plans, Specifications and Estimates Necessary for Planning Intersection Improvements/ Stoneleigh Ave. & Drewville Road/ Town of Carmel/ \$700,000 (Also reviewed in Physical)

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

Item #24 - Approval/ Application for Refund of Taxes/ Santini/ Town of Southeast/ Tax Map #44.-1-21.-3906

Commissioner Carlin stated this refund of taxes was due to a clerical error.

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

Item #25 - Approval/ Proclamation Request/ January as Human Trafficking Month

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

Item #26 - FYI/ County's Deposit & Investment Policies for the 3rd Quarter ended September 30, 2018

Commissioner Carlin stated interest rates are higher, which means the County will make more in interest incomes however bonds will cost more.

Item #27 - Other Business

a. Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T373/ Sheriff's Dept./ Purchase a Currency, Serial #, Documenter, & Counterfeit Detection System

Chairman Castellano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Legislator Jonke questioned if this was included in the budget.

Chairman Castellano stated there is no fiscal impact.

First Sergeant William Meyer stated this fund transfer will allow the purchase of a money counter for Narcotics. He stated they deal with large amounts of cash that need to be accounted for and it is more efficient to use a money counter.

Chairman Castellano questioned if the Sheriff's Department had a money counter previously.

First Sergeant Meyer stated he does not believe they had one previously.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 18T373; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

b. Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T383/ Sheriff's Dept./ Purchase Network Printer for New Property Room

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

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 18T383; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

c. Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T387/ Sheriff's Dept./ Purchase 360 Degree Spherical Camera for Crime Scene Photos, Upgraded Voice Stress Test Computer for Background Checks, & Computer Monitor for Records

Chairman Castellano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

First Sergeant Meyer stated the voice stress analyzer is due to be updated and the camera is for crime scenes and may be used on the drone.

Chairman Castellano stated the drone is an incredible tool and he is glad the Sheriff's Department purchased one.

First Sergeant Meyer stated the drone has been used and they are looking to add another camera to capture better views of crime scenes.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 18T387; seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Item #5 - Discussion/ Catskill Regional Off Track Betting/ President & CEO Don Groth

- a. Proposed Resolution/ Urging NYS Governor & Legislature to Enact Legislation to Enable Catskill Off-Track Betting Corporation to Strengthen County Participation in OTB Revenues by Authorizing OTB to Expand its Business Model; Reduce Onerous Statutory Expenses; To Access Its Own Capital Acquisition Fund to Remain Operational Pending Much Needed Legislation and to File for Chapter 9 Federal protection in the Event it is Necessary**

- b. Proposed Resolution/ Urging NYS Governor & Legislature to Enact Legislation to Authorize OTB Corporations as Sports Wagering Operators or Affiliates and to Assure OTB Participation in Sports Wagering Revenues Conducted on Line for Distribution to Member Counties**

Vincent Tamagna, Putnam County Representative for the Catskill Regional Off Track Betting (OTB) Corporation Board stated correspondence was sent to the Legislature seeking support to get the attention of the New York State Governor and Legislature. He stated an executive session might be necessary to discuss legal and personnel issues.

President & CEO of the Catskill Regional OTB Corporation Don Groth stated the two (2) proposed resolutions have been requested to send a message to Albany on behalf of Putnam. He stated they have asked other counties as well as the State might listen to the counties before they listen to OTB. He stated the counties within the Catskill OTB region are the intended recipients of revenue from OTB, however the only way this can happen if OTB can do business aggressively. He stated most recently, the Supreme Court ruled

that the Federal Government could not prohibit gambling and therefore the power rests with each State. He stated States have been reviewing the topic of fantasy sports, which New York State recently ruled to be gambling. He stated a few years ago the Legislature ruled that fantasy sports was not gambling. He stated New Jersey has allowed sports betting and has made millions of dollars. He stated Pennsylvania and Connecticut are both considering allowing sports betting. He stated he is not advocating for gambling, rather he is recognizing that people do gamble and sports betting is a large part of that. He stated sports betting in New York State has been discussed in relation to the four (4) casinos located upstate. He stated he does not believe people located in the city will travel upstate to a casino to place a bet on a sporting event. He stated individuals have been betting their own way for decades and if it were legal, OTB could harness that activity. He stated it is urgent that the OTB law be strengthened and that the sports betting law come under the OTB law. He stated OTB has a distribution network, meaning there are physical locations spread throughout the region. He stated this is in contrast to the four (4) casinos in upstate New York, which have been losing money since they opened. He stated these casinos are located in desolate areas, which could be a reason why they are not more frequently visited. He stated MGM Grand just purchased Yonkers Raceway and the Empire City racino. He stated it will not take long for a full casino to be placed there. He stated if OTB could facilitate sports betting or install slot machines as has been done in other locations, it could supplement the horse racing business.

Mr. Tamagna stated the Suffolk County OTB was doing very poorly and slot machines were implemented to supplement the business. He stated the Catskills Regional OTB is still running fiscally responsibly and has not been granted permission to install slot machines. He stated the more revenue brought in by the OTB, the more revenue goes back to the member counties. He stated although the OTB locations in Manhattan are closed, they still exist and the Catskill Regional OTB would be willing to work toward reopening them, however the Governor and State Legislature are not responsive to the idea.

Mr. Groth stated the State Legislature passed legislation in both houses to allow the Catskill Regional OTB to open branches in Manhattan, however it was vetoed by the Governor. He stated 50 locations could easily be opened in Manhattan, 10 in each borough. He stated since the Manhattan locations closed eight (8) years ago, billions of dollars in revenue have been lost. He stated at that time, they tried to fight to reopen the locations, which the State legislature supported almost unanimously, and was then vetoed by the Governor. He stated in an effort to keep OTB running, he has sent the two (2) proposed resolutions to the Legislature; one in support of designating OTB to facilitate sports betting in New York State and the other in support of keeping the revenue within the counties.

Chairman Castellano requested clarification on the OTB locations in New York State that have slot machines.

Mr. Groth stated there are slot machines in the OTB locations in Botavia, NY which are part of the Western OTB Corporation and in Hauppauge, NY in Suffolk County. He stated the OTB in Hauppauge is one of the most profitable in the Nation. He stated he believes

there are locations within the Catskill Regional OTB Corporation that would benefit greatly from slot machines. He stated if nothing is done, his concern is that OTB locations in Connecticut will implement slot machines, which would cause the New York locations to lose customers to the Connecticut locations.

Legislator Jonke stated he is familiar with the OTB locations in Mahopac and Brewster and questioned how many slot machines would be installed.

Mr. Groth stated the locations in Mahopac and Brewster are too small to have slot machines installed. He stated the number of slot machines would depend on the authorization given by the State. He stated the Hauppauge OTB was authorized for 1,000 machines. He stated the Catskill Region could handle a good number of slot machines as well because there are multiple locations.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the facility in Brewster would be moved to another location.

Mr. Groth stated it might be moved, depending on what is available. He stated moving the location has not been looked into very deeply because if the region will not be granted authorization to install slot machines, it does not need to be moved. He stated horse racing alone is not profitable; therefore slot machines have been installed at racetracks such as Yonkers Raceway, Monticello, and the Finger Lakes Racetrack.

Mr. Tamagna stated the Catskill Regional OTB also has an online presence.

Mr. Groth stated they have the finest horse betting online capability anywhere. He stated in regards to sports betting, a question that will come up is if New York will allow online sports betting. He stated the online betting capability is currently dedicated to only horse racing. He stated if OTB would be allowed to facilitate sports betting, he would like the ability to offer this online as well. He stated currently, the sports betting proposal is to have it available at the four (4) casinos located in upstate New York, which are faltering. He stated this plan is designed to fail. He stated OTB already has a distribution network, which could be expanded to include New York City. He stated such an expansion coupled with the facilitation of sports betting would lead to a large increase in bets coming in.

Chairman Castellano requested clarification on the closing of the locations within New York City.

Mr. Tamagna stated the Catskill Regional OTB Corporation never had a location in New York City. He stated the only profitable OTB in New York State is the Catskill Regional OTB in regards to how it was financially managed. He stated the reason why slot machines were allowed in the locations on Long Island is because they were bankrupt.

Mr. Groth stated the New York City OTB Corporation was bringing in over \$1 billion per year; however it was poorly managed and was not sustainable leading to it being shut down by then-Governor Patterson. He stated there was no reason for the NYC OTB to be shut down; the decision was made based on a misinterpretation of the facts.

Mr. Tamagna stated at one point, the member counties were collecting a good amount of money. He stated the distribution of funds has changed due to State mandates, and less is collected by the counties.

Mr. Groth stated the distribution has changed to provide counties with "residue revenue" which is what is left when everything else has been paid by OTB.

Mr. Tamagna stated OTB pays the race tracks, which originally made sense because they were privately owned small businesses that were being supported by OTB. He stated payment to a racetrack such as the Yonkers Raceway, which is being taken over by MGM, it no longer makes sense. He stated these payments should go back to the member counties. He stated OTB also pays other organizations including the New York Racing Association and the independent racetracks. He stated originally, counties allowed OTB to do business because they received a financial benefit.

Mr. Groth stated the State Legislature will have a bill in front of them in January proposing that OTB pay more money to MGM. He stated this is a result of lobbying. He stated OTB has decided to lobby through the counties that will be affected via resolutions to be sent to the State.

Chairman Castellano questioned if other counties have sent resolutions similar to the ones on the agenda tonight.

Mr. Groth stated all the other member counties have been sent the same request, however none have sent the resolutions yet. He stated in the past, the other counties looked to Putnam to see what had been done. He stated it is important that counties throughout the State support these resolutions

Chairman Castellano stated he passed the OTB location in Brewster recently and the parking lot was filled with cars from Connecticut. He questioned what the future of this location would be if it cannot accommodate slot machines. He questioned if sports wagering would be facilitated there.

Mr. Groth stated they would be open to having whatever becomes legal.

Chairman Castellano questioned how sports wagering works in New Jersey.

Mr. Groth stated it is restrictive in New Jersey, although was not restrictive as what is being advocated for in New York. He stated an addition was put on to the Brewster location a few years ago to accommodate customers, however at that time customers were being lost to the new racinos opening nearby. He stated the location in Brewster is bigger than it needs to be, which is not necessarily a problem because things can be done to attract more customers. He stated the reason for looking for a bigger facility would be to accommodate slot machines and discourage Connecticut from allowing slot machines. He stated for this to be done, authorization is needed from the State

Legislature, which is why the county legislatures are being asked to support the proposed resolutions to be sent to the State.

Mr. Tamagna stated there is concern surrounding gambling, however those who would like to gamble are going to find a way to do it.

Mr. Groth stated the concern was not present when people would go to the racetrack to bet, however when OTB opened and gambling became more popular, the concern grew. He stated casinos in places such as Atlantic City were opening rapidly, however they are now beginning to close because they are losing money. He stated the same trend is happening with the casinos in New York as well. He stated \$1.5 billion went into the casino in Monticello.

Legislator Albano stated he would support the County keeping more of the money made from OTB. He stated conceptually, it makes sense for Putnam County to voice their interest in keeping more of the money.

Mr. Tamagna stated there are personnel and potential litigation matters he would like to discuss, which would need to be done in executive session.

Mr. Groth stated when the new year begins there will be some new representatives in the State. He stated this funding is something the county is currently entitled to and if it could be salvaged or made bigger it would be in the County's interest. He stated the counties get the residue profit rather than getting payment off the top.

Chairman Castellano questioned if another facility within Brewster would be sought that could handle sports wagering and slot machines if they both were to be approved.

Mr. Groth stated OTB needs to "grow or go." He stated they are very proud of the OTB location in Brewster, however due to the State restrictions, it is not operating and its potential. He stated if a big company such as MGM gets approval to open a casino in Connecticut, customers that once used the Brewster location will be lost to that location.

Mr. Tamagna stated he is appointed by the Legislature to be the Putnam County representative of the Catskill Regional Off Track Betting (OTB) Corporation Board. He stated certain ideas or wants for the OTB locations within Putnam County could be brought to the Board for consideration. He stated growing OTB would allow the County to collect the money they deserve to have. He stated when OTB was doing well the County was collecting a good amount of revenue. He stated if the State would allow for control and expansion, the OTB could be running more smoothly.

Mr. Groth stated Mr. Tamagna fights for Putnam County to succeed. He stated if it turns out that another organization is in charge of sports wagering, it could be very different.

Eric Gross, reporter and constituent, questioned if it would be beneficial to contact Senator-Elect Harckham, who will represent Putnam County as part of the majority party

in the State Senate beginning in 2019, regarding this issue and provide him with the facts and information with the intention of bringing this to Albany.

Mr. Groth stated they do have appointments scheduled with the new State representatives. He stated they are waiting to see who will be Chair of the Senate Committee on this matter.

At 7:40pm Chairman Castellano made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and possible litigation; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

At 8:03pm Chairman Castellano made a motion to come out of executive session; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

No action was taken.

Item #6 - Correspondence/County Auditor - Continued
a. Contingency Report

County Auditor Michele Alfano-Sharkey handed out a revision to the Contingency Report.

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

Item #28 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:04pm Chairman Castellano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.