

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
BUDGET MEETING
HELD IN ROOM 318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512
(Chairman Nacerino, Legislators Jonke & Sullivan)**

Wednesday

6:30p.m.

October 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Nacerino who requested that Legislator Jonke lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Jonke, Sullivan and Chairman Nacerino were present.

Item #3 – 2019 Budget Review

District Attorney Personnel Budget (Pg. 2 / 116510126)

Chairman Nacerino stated that she will be starting the review of the 2019 Tentative Budget with the District Attorney and Personnel Director. She stated that there was a discussion at a Personnel Committee Meeting and District Attorney Tendy advocated for a new Assistant District Attorney position. She stated the new position is in the budget of the District Attorney's Department. She requested that for the purpose of the budget review that District Attorney Tendy speak to the need of this new position in his department.

District Attorney Tendy stated that he has had off-line discussions with many of the Legislators regarding this matter. He stated since he took the position of the District Attorney he dedicated one Assistant District Attorney (ADA), with a vast amount of experience in Narcotic prosecutions to handle those cases in his office. He stated said ADA works solely on Narcotic cases. He stated when he took office in 2016 there were the same number of ADAs in the department as there were in 2006. He explained the drug epidemic has exploded. He stated there is a need for two (2) ADAs to work on Narcotic prosecutions. He stated that he recognizes this is an expensive request. He stated he was very appreciative of the support of the Legislature and the recognition of this situation. He stated this will be the first Narcotics Unit in the history of Putnam County. He explained he has taken many cost saving measures in the managing and operations of his office. He stated the total increase by adding this new position is in the area of \$32,000.

Chairwoman Nacerino and many of the Legislators thanked District Attorney Tendy for explain his business need for a new position and doing so in a very comprehensive, professional and sensible manner.

Highway & Parks (Page 82/ 711010113)

Chairwoman Nacerino stated at the Physical Services Budget meeting last night the discussion of the progress of the Tilly Foster Farm property was had and the many plans for the future at said County owned facility. She said she would like to commend everyone involved on the huge strides that have been accomplished. She stated the success of the farm comes as a result of a great deal of effort that has been put forth by many people.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated several years back, with then Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker, a plan and vision for the Tilly Foster Farm property was develop. He stated that plan has taken the facility to where we are today. He stated the agricultural development portion of the farm was implemented this year. He stated the results were tremendous. He stated that one harvest produced approximately \$16,000. He explained the County Executive was impressed with the results and is in support of taking this to the next level. He stated the County Executive, for that reason did approve the new Farmer position that is in the 2019 budget.

Park Superintendent Ruthven stated there is a five (5) year plan that demonstrates the potential growth and utilization of the big fields on the property, that have not yet been used. He explained they are discussing ways to invite the public to be participants of the growing of the fruits and vegetables. He stated the five (5) year plan once completed, will document the plan for each year and the transition strategy to the next year.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the Legislature did receive a “Draft” copy of the five (5) year plan, just today. She stated unfortunately the Legislators have not had an opportunity to review it as yet. She stated that the comments made at the meeting last night and then again tonight lend themselves to the need for additional, specific Personnel that will be needed to accomplish and meet the next five (5) year plan. She stated it is worth mentioning again that much of the harvested vegetables were used at the County’s Senior Centers. She stated with that all said, she believes there are some specifics that need to be determined and specified in relation to the proposed Farmer position and for that reason she would like to move the funding for the position, \$50,000, into sub contingency.

Legislator Sullivan stated he would like to see a job description and more information regarding the type of person that would be a good fit for the position.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated he understands the positions of the Legislature. He stated in the next couple of months the five (5) year plan will be presented to the Physical Services Committee which will demonstrate the need for the positon. He stated that putting the funding aside is a step in the right direction.

Legislator Jonke questioned where the \$16,000 was taken from to pay for the harvest.

Deputy Commissioner Tully explained it was a dollar value that was projected.

Park Superintendent Ruthven explained the County has not yet invoiced \$16,000 that is the projected through the end of November. He stated that they are invoicing all of the vegetables going out per pound.

Legislator Jonke explained he has been approach by local farm owners in the Town of Southeast. He stated they are concerned about future competition with the County.

Park Superintendent Ruthven stated that is addressed in the five (5) year plan. He stated the County is not looking to compete with the local farmers.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to move \$50,000 for the Farmer (711010113) into sub contingency; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Veterans Services (Page 72/ 711010113)

Chairwoman Nacerino stated in the budget of Veterans Services a part-time Deputy County Veteran Director has been proposed to be made a full-time position. She stated the differential expense would be \$19,978.00.

Personnel Director Eldridge stated the amount of work that is done by the directors in that department is unbelievable and he is in full support of this change. He stated that he spoke to County Veteran Director Rohde today who reported the plan for the Veterans Services Department is to add evening hours, because there are Veterans who cannot get to the office during the day.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that they are a fine team. She stated that they are serving our Veterans and neighbors. She stated these are very committed individuals. She stated that she believes this is the right thing to do for the right reasons.

Bureau of Emergency Services (Page 35 / 398910908)

Chairwoman Nacerino stated it is her understanding that the temporary budget line has been reduced moving funding to accommodate the Account Clerk/Typist II (398910108) position, which is more in line with the needs of the department. She stated it is a differential expense of \$11,323.00.

Office For Senior Resources – Comm Svcs for Elderly (Page 80 /677710919)

Chairwoman Nacerino stated there is an increase of a Caseworker position to go from part-time to full-time. She stated that her understanding is that two part-time positions are being combined.

Office for Senior Resources Director Cunningham stated the combination of these two part-time positions is to create stability. He explained that the retention of part-time employees is often difficult.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated discussion and review of the Upgrades included in the 2019 Tentative Budget and the list of Vacancies.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned if Sheriff Langley wanted to speak to the Overtime Report. She stated that Sheriff Langley has stated that he has been working to reduce the overtime in the Sheriff's Department where possible. She stated she would like to applaud and thank the Sheriff for doing his due diligence with the Overtime. She stated that there has been progress made reducing overtime in the Sheriff's Department which is reflected in the report.

Sheriff Langley stated the Communications Division generates an exorbitant amount of overtime. He stated that he has suggested hiring a full time civilian dispatcher. He explained it would be financially advantageous.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned if Sheriff Langley proposed this in his department's 2019 tentative budget.

Sheriff Langley stated it is not in his 2019 budget. He stated that he and his department members have been discussing this and proposing that the change in staffing be done.

Legislator Jonke stated that as Chairman of Protective Services he and Sheriff Langley have discussed this topic. He stated that he thought the Sheriff would have included this in his 2019 budget.

Sheriff Langley stated that they would still use the Sheriff's Department overtime budget to fund this. He stated it would result in a cost savings and it would be a zero fiscal impact.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated without specifics and a proposal to review no action can be taken by the Legislature. However she stated that the proposal sounds very positive. She stated that she would be very anxious to hear about this at a future date.

Commissioner Carlin stated that money could be set aside. He questioned how this proposal would work with the possible consolidation of the dispatchers.

Captain Babcock stated that there is further discussion to be had. He explained the ultimate goal for the Sheriff's Department is to get the Deputy Sheriff's back on patrol, where they belong.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this sounds very logical and rational. She stated that that there seems to be a lot more to be discussed and finalized. She stated that without a specific appeal, this cannot be considered at this time. She facilitated further discussion, there was no action taken. She stated that if a proposal reflecting a cost savings and implementation plan can be created and presented to the Legislature prior to the October 18th Budget and Finance Meeting it will be considered.

Captain Babcock stated that if the Sheriff's Department can compile a complete proposal before October 18th the Sheriff's Department will get it to the Legislature for consideration.

Chairwoman Nacerino completed the review of the Personnel budget items. There were no amendments made. The final topics reviewed: Unemployment Insurance (Page 213) Accident/Health Insurance (Page 215).

7:40PM

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Collective Bargaining with Members of the Administration, Commissioner of Finance Carlin and Personnel Director Eldridge; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

8:04PM

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that there was no action taken in Executive Session.

Item #5 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:05 PM Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.