

**AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN
ROOM #318 OF THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Castellano & Sayegh

Thursday **6:30pm** **January 24, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Castellano, Sayegh, and Chairman Gouldman were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – November 26, 2018 & December 19, 2018

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Correspondence/County Auditor

a. Sales Tax Report

Chairman Gouldman stated the sales tax collected in 2018 as compared to the same time in 2017 has increased.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated 2018 was a very good year for sales tax. He stated they are keeping an eye on 2019 as there are some trends that make it difficult to estimate what will happen. He stated gas prices are beginning to decrease and the changes in both the State and Federal Government could have an effect.

The discussion continued after item #7b.

b. Board In Revenue Report – Duly Noted

c. OTB Report

Commissioner Carlin stated Putnam County Representative of the Catskill Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation Board Vincent Tamagna and Catskill Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation President & CEO Don Groth came before the Committee in November and gave an extensive presentation on the current state of OTB. He stated they are not expecting much in terms of revenue until we see what happens on the State level. He recommended inviting Mr. Tamagna and Mr. Groth back to a meeting when the State legislative session ends so more details are known in regards to sports betting and other topics that could affect OTB.

d. Transfer/Revenue Report – Duly Noted

e. Contingency/Sub-Contingency Report – Duly Noted

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

Item #5 - Correspondence/Commissioner of Finance

a. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 18A092/ Sheriff's Dept./ Repair Vehicle Damaged in Accident

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

b. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 19A002/ Office for Senior Resources/ Additional Funding for Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Grant

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

c. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 19A003/ Emergency Services/ Sheriff's Dept./ Accept FY 18 Homeland Security Grant

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

d. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 19A004/ Dept. of Social Services/ Adjust for Annualized Grant Funds Awarded by NYS Office for Children & Family Services/ Including Funds to Support Portion of Safe Harbour Program

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

Item #6 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 18T424/ Dept. of Social Services/ Court Ordered Individuals to State Office of Mental Health Facility/ Additional Individual & Extension of Ongoing Order

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

Item #7 - Other Business

a. Approval/ Budgetary Transfer 19T013/ Veterans Service Agency/ Restore Part Time Veterans Assistant Position in Budget and Restore Communication Funds Inadvertently Omitted from 2019 Budget

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

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

**b. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 19A014/ Highways & Facilities/
Update Capital Project Estimated Costs for Morningthorpe Bridge &
Walkway Project**

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

Chairman Gouldman stated Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully and Commissioner of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation Sandra Fusco attended a regional transportation meeting to initiate the process of securing additional funding. He stated once the funding has been secured, the Commissioner of Finance will forward a bond resolution to the Legislature to commit the County's share.

Legislator Castellano stated this is a great project for both the Village of Brewster and Putnam County. He stated the bridge has been closed for over six (6) years and has become an eye sore. He stated his appreciation for the work done by Commissioner Fusco and Deputy Commissioner Tully.

Legislator Albano stated the County may receive even more money if Marchiselli funds are available.

Commissioner Carlin stated the bond resolution will be approved before knowing if Marchiselli funds are available. He stated if the funds are available, the funding source can be changed.

Legislator Sullivan questioned where the bridge is located within the Village of Brewster.

Legislator Castellano stated it is on the south end of the Village right off of Route 22, south of the train station. He stated this project will connect Turk Hill Road and Route 22 back over the bridge to the park on the other side.

Commissioner Carlin stated there are sidewalks being addressed as well.

Legislator Castellano stated it was a great opportunity to fund this project by developing a walkway to mass transit, which is the train station. He stated he believes this will be a great spot for activities such as fishing as it is a nice park atmosphere. He stated currently, with the bridge closed, there are barricades up and signage that make it look unappealing. He stated the bridge closed to traffic around 2006 and to pedestrians in 2013. He stated this will serve as a gateway into the Village of Brewster and will be a great improvement. He stated there are many events held in the park as well.

Commissioner Carlin stated it is not an easy project as it is located by DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) gas lines and water lines.

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

Item #4 - Correspondence/County Auditor
a. Sales Tax Report – Continued

Legislator Sullivan requested clarification on the sales tax amount being adjusted by the State.

Commissioner Carlin stated in 2018 there were many positive adjustments. He stated the numbers are adjusted each quarter, which is why trends are looked at over years rather than quarterly or monthly.

Legislator Castellano stated we will need to keep an eye on the gasoline revenue because the prices are beginning to decrease.

Legislator Albano stated it has been discussed in the past to tie sales tax to the gallon of gasoline purchased rather than the cost. He stated this would stabilize the sales tax more because consumption does not drastically change the way the price can.

Legislator Sayegh stated a major store, Stop and Shop, opened in Mahopac, which brings in a lot of sales tax from Westchester County. She stated the more anchor stores that open in Putnam County, the better for the taxpayer.

Commissioner Carlin stated unfortunately, K-Mart in Mahopac is closing.

Legislator Sayegh stated hopefully something bigger and better replaces K-Mart.

Legislator Sullivan questioned in reference to Legislator Albano's statement about taxing gasoline, if that decision would be made on the State level.

Commissioner Carlin stated it can be adopted by Counties; two (2) or three (3) counties in the State have adopted taxing per gallon.

Legislator Castellano stated consumer spending increased last year, which shows that people are comfortable spending money and may have a little more money to spend. He stated hopefully that trend continues.

Legislator Albano stated the Legislative Office has received some inquiries about the price of gasoline in Putnam County compared to other places.

Eric Gross, reporter, stated the gasoline prices in Westchester and Dutchess Counties are much lower than in Putnam County.

Legislator Castellano stated he was up in Ithaca this weekend and gasoline was \$2.30 per gallon.

Legislator Sullivan stated he spoke with Consumer Affairs about gasoline pricing and found there is no regulation over the prices charged. He stated the gas stations are individually owned.

Chairman Gouldman stated this may be a good topic to discuss in the Economic Development & Energy Committee.

Item #8 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:53 p.m. Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.