

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
TO BE HELD IN THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM #318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Addonizio & Sayegh

Tuesday

December 11, 2018

(Immediately following the Health Mtg. beginning at 6:30PM)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Sayegh, and Chairman Gouldman were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – July 17, 2018

October 10, 2018 – Budget

October 15, 2018 – Additional Budget

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 - Update/Putnam County Industrial Development Agency/IDA Board Chairman Bill Nulk

Putnam County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Board Chairman Bill Nulk stated the IDA Board passed a resolution thanking the Legislature for their support. He stated the previous Board had to deal with the economic downturn of 2008, which caused their burdens to increase while the revenue decreased. He stated bonds are no longer economically attractive due to their interest rates. He stated the IDA had previously been unable to attract the necessary businesses to the area. He stated if not for the support of the Legislature and County Executive Odell, the IDA probably would have been decertified like many other local IDAs throughout the State. He stated they have many files that are categorized and finally ready to be moved to the County Records Center. He stated after the IDA incentivize Ace Endico to stay and grow in the community, Ace Endico has shown that they are planning to expand again. He stated with Ace Endico staying, it saved over 300 jobs and now there are over 400 people employed there. He stated the hotel project in the Town of Southeast already has plans to expand on the original plans. He stated in November the IDA approved inducements for the distillery project, which is a necessary step for the project to proceed. He stated this puts the project on track to begin production by the end of 2019. He stated this project could bring 48 jobs to the area and could provide a new tourist destination. He the IDA Board consists of himself, Stephen Baranowski of Carmel, Ed Cooke of Mahopac, Joseph Downey of Patterson, Sarina Howes of Cold Spring, and Michael Karlsson of Brewster. He stated the Board brings a diverse geographic representation as well as a wide variety of professional and personal experience. He stated the IDA Board is currently interviewing candidates from the Putnam Valley area and could choose one as soon as January. He stated the IDA is fully aware of their fiduciary responsibilities and are cognizant of the State's oversight. He stated there have been many public boards who have failed or been shut down throughout New York State. He added the IDA receives guidance from Teri Waivada and counsel from William Schilling. He stated Putnam County taxpayers carry a heavy burden and a large commercial base would help alleviate

it. He stated other counties have an advantage because they have infrastructure in place that Putnam County does not. He stated modern communication options such as high-speed internet access and cellphone coverage are missing in too much of the county. He stated if these cannot be provided, Putnam can only serve as a tourist attraction. He added that the IDA is not a place for new businesses to go for guidance, it is there to entice businesses to stay and to come to Putnam County. He stated he plans on speaking with County Executive MaryEllen Odell, the Putnam County Economic Development Corporation, Putnam County Visitors Bureau, and the County Planning Department to come together and work more as a team towards a common goal.

Legislator Addonizio questioned when the hotel project in the Town of Southeast should be completed.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated the hope is to have it completed by the end of February or early March 2019.

Legislator Nacerino commended the IDA for the great strides it has taken recently. She questioned if the IDA has set office hours.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated that is part of the next step. He stated they hope to have part-time help soon. He stated partnering with the Planning Department personnel is a possibility. He noted that the IDA has not used all the funds available to them because it has not been needed yet. He stated the IDA is operating well on a minimal budget, but is not self-sufficient yet. He stated there are many counties in the state that have combined their economic development teams. He stated something similar is what he envisions for Putnam County.

Legislator Nacerino questioned when the IDA has their January meeting.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated it is scheduled for January 14, 2019.

Item #5 - FYI/Unemployment Report

IDA Chairman Nulk stated the lower unemployment percentage could be misleading because there are many jobs that require some sort of technical training. He stated sometimes these jobs remain unfilled because more help is needed in the training sector.

Legislator Nacerino questioned which vocations IDA Chairman Nulk is referring to.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated electrical and coding along with other newer technologies.

Chairman Gouldman noted that the workforce is changing.

Eric Gross, resident, stated Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES has a new course on cyber-security and there are already over a dozen students enrolled.

Item #6 - FYI/Foreclosure Report – Duly Noted

Item #7 - Other Business - None

Item #8 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:21 P.M., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.