

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
To Be Held In Room 318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairman Sullivan and Legislators Addonizio & Albano

Wednesday May 22, 2019
(Immediately following the Physical Services Mtg. beginning at 6:00pm)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Chairman Sullivan who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Addonizio & Albano and Chairman Sullivan were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – April 18, 2019

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/ Letter to Board Members who Failed to File Financial Disclosure Statement

Legislator Albano stated he is in favor of this letter; it has to have some bite. He stated filing the Financial Disclosure Statement is important and this is the right thing to do.

Chairman Sullivan stated the letter was discussed at last month's meeting and it was the consensus of the Committee that this version of the letter be sent.

Legislator Nacerino agreed. She stated this topic has been discussed for a very long time. She stated the Financial Disclosure Statement is an important document and the reason it is required is to determine possible conflicts of interest. She stated this form is not arbitrarily required; it serves a legitimate purpose.

Chairman Sullivan agreed. He stated this has been discussed for years and the Committee has agreed upon a course of action.

Legislator Sayegh suggested including instructions on how to file their Financial Disclosure Statement in the letter.

Legislator Nacerino stated everyone required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement is contacted by the Board of Ethics with instructions on how to do so.

Legislator Sayegh stated when she filed her Financial Disclosure Statement for this year, it did not go through at first. She suggested adding some information to the letter to assist the individuals.

Chairman Sullivan stated this letter would be notifying the individual that they have not filed their required form.

Legislator Albano stated the individual who wants to stay on their respective Board will contact with any questions upon receipt of the letter.

Chairman Sullivan stated he is not in favor of amending the letter at this point.

Legislator Castellano clarified that the individuals on this list did not file their Financial Disclosure Form for the year 2017. He stated the Financial Disclosure Form for the year 2018 was just due last week. He stated he is in favor of sending the letter. He stated people will call with any questions.

Legislator Gouldman stated there is an Elected Official on the list who failed to file their Financial Disclosure Form; he questioned how to address this individual since they cannot be removed from office.

Chairman Sullivan stated a letter can be sent to the Elected Official although the Legislature does not have the authority to remove them as is the case with the Board Members.

Eric Gross, reporter, stated speaking on behalf of the Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board (ESSAB), the members were hesitant to file the Financial Disclosure Statement at first. He stated the majority then agreed to file, and that was the end of it.

Chairman Sullivan stated it is important that Board Members understand the reason why this document is required.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated the ESSAB is an Advisory Board; the letter being considered tonight will be sent to only Policy Board Members.

Legislator Sayegh stated there is an individual on the list who she believes is no longer on the Board.

Chairman Sullivan stated that can be looked into.

Henry Lopez, resident, stated the Financial Disclosure Statements are subject to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL).

Chairman Sullivan stated the form is benign and does not get specific.

Legislator Montgomery stated it is important that the Legislature makes every effort to collect this information.

Legislator Albano made a motion to approve sending the Letter to Policy Board Members who have failed to file their Financial Disclosure Form; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #5 - Discussion/ Naming of Board of Elections Facility

Republican Commissioner of Board of Elections Anthony Scannapieco stated he would like to name the Putnam County Board of Elections Facility in honor of former Democratic Commissioner of Board of Elections Robert J. Bennett. He stated Commissioner Bennett held his position for 38 years.

Chairman Sullivan questioned if Commissioner Scannapieco spoke with County Executive MaryEllen Odell about this.

Commissioner Scannapieco stated yes, County Executive Odell is in favor of this as well.

Legislator Albano stated Commissioner Bennett was a very decent man; this is a nice gesture.

Legislator Jonke stated he recently spoke with Commissioner Bennett's widow and she is very thankful to Commissioner Scannapieco for moving this forward. He stated Commissioner Bennett was a nice man and this is a great honor for him.

Legislator Nacerino stated she applauds Commissioner Scannapieco as he and Commissioner Bennett worked very well together and had the utmost respect for one another.

Chairman Sullivan stated it is great that this request to honor the former Democratic Commissioner is being made by the Republican Commissioner.

Commissioner Scannapieco stated the cohesive relationship he and Commissioner Bennett had was known throughout New York State.

Legislator Castellano stated Commissioner Bennett's 38 year tenure as Commissioner of the Board of Elections is historical as it is the longest in New York State.

Legislator Montgomery stated as the sole democrat on the Legislature she wanted to share the experience she has had with Commissioner Bennett. She stated when she first joined the Philipstown Town Board, Commissioner Bennett was the face of Putnam County. She stated he was proactive and an all-around great person. She stated it means a lot to honor the legacy he has left behind in this manner. She stated although she does not particularly like naming facilities after individuals, this is a different case and she supports this request.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated a resolution can be drafted to be considered and approved at next month's Rules Committee Meeting or the request can be approved in concept to have a resolution drafted for consideration at the June Full Legislative Meeting.

Legislator Addonizio requested that Commissioner Scannapieco invite Commissioner Bennett's family to attend the June 7, 2019 Full Legislative Meeting.

Commissioner Scannapieco agreed and thanked the Committee.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to approve Naming the Board of Elections Facility after former Democratic Commissioner Robert J. Bennett in concept; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #6 - Discussion/ Support New York State Action against Robocalls

Legislator Gouldman stated he has received feedback from his constituents in regard to frequent unwanted telephone calls. He stated New York State is currently considering a few pieces of legislation pertaining to this issue and he would like the Legislature to send a letter or resolution to the State supporting their actions against these telephone calls.

Mr. Lopez, resident, stated this is a Federal telecommunications issue. He stated the County's support will strengthen the effort to decrease these types of phone calls, which are being used to victimize people.

Chairman Sullivan stated he is in favor of supporting the State legislation. He stated surely we all know someone who has received a telephone call that ended up to be a scam, which could cost the person money and emotional distress.

Legislator Albano stated enforcement could be difficult, but sending support is a step in the right direction.

Legislator Montgomery stated seniors are often targeted by these scams.

Chairman Sullivan agreed and stated that many senior citizens trust the phone and do not realize that the person on the other end is not actually who they claim to be.

Legislator Addonizio stated often the scammer will call your phone from a telephone number similar to yours so it looks familiar, increasing the chance of someone answering.

Legislator Nacerino stated she has experienced that as well.

Legislator Castellano stated there is an interesting app that you can download onto your phone that will take over the phone call for you by having a computer generated voice speak to the person.

Eric Gross, reporter, stated the scammer will even say your name when you pick up the phone.

Mr. Lopez, resident, stated he has received a phone call from this own phone number.

Chairman Sullivan stated he would like to approve this item in concept as well.

Item #5 - Discussion/ Naming of Board of Elections Facility – Continued

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated since item #5 was only on for discussion, it cannot be moved forward. He stated a resolution could be drafted and brought up under Other Business at the Full Legislative Meeting.

Chairman Sullivan stated both item #5 and item #6 could be considered at the June Rules Meeting.

Legislator Castellano stated Commissioner Scannapieco already left and is under the impression that it will be at the June Full Legislative Meeting.

Legislator Addonizio stated having the approval under Other Business may not be evident to the public that is it being voted on in June.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo suggested also presenting a proclamation recognizing the naming of the facility, which would be the first item on the Full Legislative Meeting agenda.

Chairman Sullivan agreed to issue a proclamation as well.

Item #6 - Discussion/ Support New York State Action against Robocalls – Continued

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated this item could be brought back to the Rules Committee next month for approval, or draft a resolution to go to the June Full Meeting under Other Business. He suggested waiting until next month for this item because the State Legislature is considering these bills and it may pay to see what happens in the next few weeks.

Legislator Gouldman suggested sending support to both the State and Federal representatives.

Chairman Sullivan agreed.

Item #7 - Update/ Veterans' Service Medal Advisory Panel

Legislator Castellano stated on June 6, 2019, the 75th anniversary of D-Day, the Veterans' Service Medal Advisory Panel will be honoring Veterans who served prior to July 1953, which is when the Korean War ended. He stated as of right now, there are three (3) confirmed Veterans who will be attending and receiving a medal and they hope to have more. He stated it is very difficult to find World War II Veterans as many of them are around 100 years old. He stated one of his constituents who served in World War II will be turning 101 soon and hopefully he attends the ceremony. He stated some Veterans are experiencing health issues that are preventing them from attending the ceremony. He stated the ceremony will be held at 7:00pm at the Historic Courthouse. He stated they have collected 200 applications so far and will continue accepting applications. He stated the application is available at the County Clerk's Office and the Veterans Service Agency. He stated they are looking to have a ceremony on November 11, 2019 which would be the 100th anniversary of when the original medals were presented in Putnam County.

Chairman Sullivan questioned how the local VFWs and American Legions are being notified of this.

Legislator Castellano stated letters have been sent and the Veterans Service Agency has included it in their newsletter. He stated there are 5,000 potential Veterans that could qualify for this medal.

Legislator Addonizio stated she called about 15 Veterans today who meet the criteria of the first medal for the ceremony on June 6th. She stated so far she has three (3) definite recipients attending. She stated she is waiting to hear back from some Veterans as well. She stated she has asked if a family member can attend on behalf of Veterans who cannot attend because of an illness.

Legislator Castellano stated the RSVP date is May 31st, although they will continue accepting RSVPs right up until the event. He stated this will be a special event; if they can honor five (5) World War II Veterans at this event it would be great. He stated no taxpayer dollars were spent on this initiative and there are many people to thank.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is a member of the Veterans' Service Medal Advisory Panel and it is a great endeavor. She stated the ceremony on June 6th is the kickoff and as they move forward, they would be interested in presenting the medals at various locations such as Town Board Meetings, local VFWs, or American Legions. She stated they are also willing to present a medal at a Veteran's home if they are too ill to attend a ceremony. She stated she is honored to be a part of this Panel.

Legislator Addonizio stated today when she was making phone calls to the Veterans she spoke to a gentleman who expressed his sincere appreciation for this honor.

Legislator Montgomery stated traditional military medal ceremonies follow a rigorous procedure and she questioned if a specific procedure would be followed for this ceremony.

Legislator Castellano stated the Panel is made up of three (3) Legislators, the County Clerk, and three (3) Veterans, including Director of Veterans Service Agency Karl Rohde. He stated he is following Director Rohde's lead.

Legislator Montgomery stated she organized a medal parade in the past and offered her help if the Panel needs.

Legislator Nacerino stated this ceremony will not be as stringent as an official military medal ceremony. She stated the Panel does have a plan in place.

Legislator Castellano stated this project began two (2) years ago when Jennifer and Roderick Cassidy approached him about it. He stated they are both historians and Roderick has written a book about Veterans in Putnam County and discovered the information about the original medal. He stated they have a lot of information about how the original ceremony was done and they will try to honor that the best they can.

Item #8 - FYI/ Forms of Payment to the Health Department

Chairman Sullivan stated a memorandum was received from the County Attorney's office stating that New York State Department of Health must approve the change in the Sanitary Code.

Legislator Albano stated this is a step in the right direction. He stated he would also like to look into issuing septic licenses every two (2) years rather than annually to make the process easier for the contractors. He stated this may create less work for the office staff as well.

Item #9 - FYI/ Litigation Report – Duly Noted

Item #10 - Other Business

a. Legislator Montgomery/ Inquiry regarding Tabled Item & Reference to Communication sent to the Legislature

Legislator Montgomery stated the April Rules Committee Meeting agenda included a discussion regarding confidentiality of attorney-client communications, which was tabled. She questioned what the process is as she has usually seen a tabled item move to the next month's agenda however it is not on this month's agenda.

Chairman Sullivan stated that item is being worked on and will be discussed again in the future.

Legislator Montgomery stated in particular, there are several constituents who are interested in seeing this discussion on the agenda. She stated she had brought this topic up when she has approached by the press regarding a memo. She stated constituents have also brought up the letter the Legislature received from Dr. Diana Greene Foster regarding the consideration of the resolution pertaining to the New York State Reproductive Health Act. She questioned if she would need to request a separate item on the agenda to discuss this letter. She stated the question is: "What happens when a professional's letter is referenced in a resolution and the professional writes a letter in response to the resolution and it is not discussed as a Legislative body?"

Legislator Nacerino stated she does not believe that question can be answered at this particular time. She stated the matter of attorney-client privileged information should be discussed in its full scope.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated he believes Legislator Montgomery has raised two (2) separate issues. He stated the issue of confidential material and attorney-client communications is what was on the April Rules Committee agenda and was tabled. He stated the reference to a communication from outside the Legislature and how that is handled is a separate issue. He stated these would be two (2) separate discussions on an agenda.

Chairman Sullivan stated he is working with County Attorney Bumgarner and Legislative Counsel Firriolo on the attorney-client privileged information item.

Legislator Montgomery stated she will request that the Dr. Greene Foster letter be discussed at a future meeting.

Item #11 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:42pm, Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Beth Green.