

# Minutes

## Public Hearing

### July 24, 2019

### @ 6:30pm

The Public hearing was called to order at 6:40 in Room 316 by Patricia Simone.  
Patricia Simone, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jennifer Bumgarner, County Attorney read the public notice for the following proposed Local Laws:

- A Local Law to amend the Putnam County Code entitled Ethics, Code of, and financial disclosure to prohibit the disclosure of confidential material. R#154.

Public Comments from the 6:30 hearing. (Summary)

Linda Kagen: Resident of Putnam County and The Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce (not speaking for the board) (I emailed her to send the statement that she read. I could only hear some of it.) She is in favor of transparency She believes that the elected officials have an obligation to all the citizens of Putnam County. Altering the Law and making confidential is simply wrong. She believes that the people that are allowed to write confidential is far too broad.

Liz Armstrong Highland Current:

Has a question. Looking at an excerpt from home rule law article 20. Talks about public hearings such as this one. No such local law shall be approved by the elected officers until a public hearing has been held before him. The next one says before the Chief Executive Officer. Since County Executive Odell was not at the afternoon section is not at this section is this actually a legitimate a public hearing. The hearing is supposed to be held before him or her. Jennifer

Bumgarner, County Attorney: Although this is not the forum for questions I would be happy to answer that. Patricia Simone is the Chief of Staff for the County Executive and she is designated and her office is fully represented.

Anthony Proetta, a Putnam County resident. He doesn't want any info for him, his family etc. flying out on the internet or the public or the newspaper or anything else. I think it is against our rights. Whatever everyone has to do to protect our stuff. Do it.

Scott Reing; from Carmel Putnam County Democratic Chairman. (very hard to understand on the tape) Our info is protected is this law passes or not. This law in fact from the legislature mouth will do nothing. Not make anything more confidential that is already protected. His problem here is that it is Arbitrary and Capricious. He feels our local law cannot supersede state or federal law. We should trust our Elected officials this law lets contracts etc. mark things as confidential, which they have no business doing. Maybe they mark a bid confidential which is not lower than the one accepted. He understands he can F.O.I. L it but will put more money in the clerk's office, courts and others and raise our taxes. All this law protects is that someone that doesn't want something to be seen is protected. I oppose this law. Upset that the County Executive is not there, the person signing or vetoing this law.

Henry Primus, retired NYS Homicide Detective, I need my info protected. I see this law as being good and I hope it passes.

Mario Peri, NYPD, 34 years I agree with what Henry has to say. I had an intruder a couple of years ago. As far as names going into the public I'm not for that at all. There was home burglaries they are 90% sure it was from the publication in the newspaper.

Tim Miller: Who is here from the legislature tonight? Jennifer Bumgarner answers no one is here from the Legislature they are not required to be. This is a County Executive hearing because it passed by the Legislature. This is her public hearing to gather information to decide whether to adopt or veto - Tim Miller

Tim Miller (Notes attached) -Resident of Phillips town and a business owner, he was the town planner for Philliipstown. He is for transparently and practice such as a town planner. He believes that the language of our local government of law is very important in guiding the behavior of elected officials. In the 1990's NYS enacted and modified its Freedom of information Law. Believes people's privacy are already protected. He is against this local law, it is too broad. He would ask the County Executive what motivates this broad sweeping definition of confidential material and its clear intention to hide the conduct of government from the very

people that choose you to serve and protect. Hopes this question can be answered before this Law is signed into legislative.

Discussion among the people in the audience.

Rebecca Ramirez. Resident of Putnam County. She would like Odell to have another public hearing. There is 17 people in the room including county people and she don't think the people are represented. She don't understand the Law and called friends to help her. They didn't understand either. She really thinks that Odell should have been there. She thinks that it will law will restrict people from seeing if people are doing something wrong, and be free to get this info to the right people. It's also going to cost the County more money. She is reading a statement from Kathleen Foley. Who also came to the 3:30 public hearing?

I cannot understand his name: He would like to request from the County Executive to keep the Public hearing open till September until everyone is not on vacation.

John Sparano: Resident of the town of Kent, I am a fire arms owner and support Law enforcement. He is in support of this law, to make sure Law enforcement names and address are shielded from the public. As a fire arms owner I have concerns of release of names and addresses. It was only through the strength of the County of Putnam to keep our names away from Lo Hud last time. He don't share paranoia with Phillipstown and Cold Spring about the ill intent of the Law.

Legislature Montgomery, she is repeating her 3:30 statement. Again she shows the memo marked confidential, Patricia Simone, Chief of Staff to the County Executive, Makes note to her that she is holding up a memo that is marked in big red letter Confidential. Nancy replies do you think the people can read it. A gentlemen in attendance is yelling, Nancy goes on. (Repeats again what she said at the 3:30 meeting) Nancy states I am reading the confidential memo right now. People in attendance say while she is reading it "are we supposed to be hearing this right now if the memo is marked confidential. Nancy states my point is why is this confidential? Jen Bumgarner says because it is covered by Atty client privilege under the NYS Law. Nancy believes at a minimum there should be a rewrite to clarify there is no probation on disclosing material that are not privilege or subject to F.O.I.L

The name is not clear on the tape- She thinks that keeping people with pistol permits and law enforcement protected is very important. Also she is uncomfortable being shown and read a confidential letter. It was not for public eyes. Thank you for giving me an exact example of why this law needs to be enforced.

Amy Sayegh. She is explaining that this protects the minority legislature. She supports this law. It protects the private citizens.

(No name) he believes the example given by Amy Sayegh would never happen. She goes on to explain attorney client privilege. She believes this law has nothing to do with law enforcement. Concerns her that there is such confusion what the law is about. Also believes that the County Executive has another public hearing in September bigger than this room so that people from all parts of the county gives them an opportunity to get together and understand the law.

Patricia Simone Closed the meeting 7:58