



Director Pataki stated there will be a Farm to Table Gala Event which will be a combination of the writer's workshop and Farm to Table. She stated there is another event Roads and Roads which illustrates different parts of the world and eat local food. The host for Roads and Roads just recently visited the Clocktower Grill.

Legislator Oliverio stated in the budget outline Director Pataki provided to the Economic Development and Energy Committee ("Committee"), it illustrates that the funds have been expended at a loss of \$1,414.96. He questioned how the Visitor's Bureau can financially sponsor the Pumpkin Palooza Event.

Director Pataki stated there are a lot of private sponsors for the event and when the Visitor's Bureau is in the "red" the staff spends time requesting donations. She stated she did not want the residents of Putnam County pay to attend the Pumpkin Palooza Event.

Legislator Oliverio questioned if Director Pataki can provide the Legislature with a breakdown of the finances of the Pumpkin Palooza Event.

Director Pataki stated she would provide the Legislature with a breakdown after the Pumpkin Palooza Event occurs. She stated she hopes the Visitor's Bureau will make money from the Event.

Legislator Oliverio stated the Legislature has financial oversight over the County and he would like to be aware when the funds for the Visitor's Bureau have been expended and when there are donations given.

Director Pataki stated she has information of some of the donors for the Pumpkin Palooza; however there are more potential donors who are willing to contribute that are not on the advertisement sign.

Legislator Gross stated in terms of Thunder Ridge, they do have new owners who are going to run the business. He questioned if the new owners said they were not going to host a pumpkin patch event.

Director Pataki stated at first it was not known if Thunder Ridge would be hosting a pumpkin patch event and therefore the Visitor's Bureau wanted to ensure there would be a Halloween event within the County.

Legislator Gross stated he does not have a long history in working with the Visitor's Bureau. He questioned Legislator Oliverio if traditionally the Visitor's Bureau loses money.

Legislator Oliverio stated no, the Visitor's Bureau traditionally does not lose money.

Legislator Gross questioned how the Visitor's Bureau can make money.

Director Pataki stated she makes money through sponsorships and fundraisers. She stated for events that are charged the Visitor's Bureau also makes money. She stated for the Pumpkin Palooza Event she did not want to charge the parents of the children who are participating in the Event.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she agrees that the parents of the children should not be charged for this Event.

Legislator Gross stated he does not have a problem with no fee for the Pumpkin Palooza Event. He stated he wished the Visitor's Bureau could be in the "black".

Director Pataki stated the Visitor's Bureau is going to do a "fine-tuned accounting" to prevent the Bureau from going in the "red". She stated if the Visitor's Bureau is "red" they will find a sponsor to make up the difference.

Legislator Gross stated he likes the idea of the Visitor's Bureau having different events.

Legislator Albano stated due to the events people will spend money within the County and bring interest to the County.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the purpose of the Visitor's Bureau is to bring people from outside the County to visit and shop; which will positively impact our sales tax.

Legislator Oliverio stated one would hope that the Visitor's Bureau would be able to become self-sustainable.

#### **Item # 5 – Update/Putnam County Economic Development Corporation ("EDC")/ Recognition Breakfast**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she attended the EDC Recognition Breakfast and it had a wonderful turnout.

EDC President Meghan Taylor stated the EDC Recognition Breakfast was a success. She stated there were over 250 people who attended the Recognition Breakfast. She stated Former Governor Pataki gave a great speech at the Breakfast. She stated she received positive feedback on the event.

Legislator Gross stated he loved the speech that Former Governor Pataki gave at the Recognition Breakfast. He stated the Recognition Breakfast was a great turnout.

President Taylor stated in regards to the CFA Awards she has not received an update

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned President Taylor about the information she provided to the Legislature regarding the Labor Market Profile.

President Taylor stated this is a bi-monthly report from the Department of Labor. She stated Putnam County continues to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in New York and Putnam County has the lowest unemployment rate in the Hudson Valley Region.

Legislator Nacerino stated the Recognition Breakfast was a wonderful event. She stated she was proud to hear that within the Town of Patterson Green Chimneys and Fryer Machine Systems

Inc. won awards at the Recognition Breakfast. She commended President Taylor for all her work in Putnam County and at the Recognition Breakfast event.

#### **Item # 6 – Discussion/Proposed Memorialization/Energy Rate Hikes**

Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker stated earlier this year the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) ruled the Lower Hudson Valley will have the same capacity zone as New York City. He stated this will have a negative effect in the commodity price being higher. He stated many oppose this proposition of changing the zones. He stated FERC ruled in favor of the New York Independent Systems Operator (“NYISO”) which became effective earlier this year. There were a number of efforts to hinder the effect of the law and try to overturn it for instance, Congressman Maloney and Senator Gipson both brought forth an amendment on the energy appropriations bill in to the House who passed that bill. He stated the bill is now before the Senate. Therefore, if the Legislature would like to create a memorialization he recommends sending it to the Senate since they have not voted on the bill yet.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if the purpose of putting the lower Hudson Valley on the same capacity zone as New York City is to create more transmission lines.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated this regulation was created to match the commodity price with the use of power. He stated all the commodity of the generation is owned by independent companies. He stated the merge was supposed to socialize the cost and by increasing the cost of power.

Legislator Wright questioned if all Long Island Power Authority (“LIPA”) customers were included in the change of the capacity zone.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated LIPA is a separate zone. He stated Zone J is New York City and Lower Westchester. He stated LIPA already had conducted their own restructuring.

Legislator Wright stated it appears New York City is the driving force of this new regulation.

Legislator Oliverio questioned if it is true that the energy rate increase is partly due to Hurricane Irene and Hurricane Sandy.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated Hurricane Sandy resulted in increasing the Transmission and Distribution, which was mandated.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned what Deputy County Executive Walker’s opinion is about a memorialization.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated he suggests sending a memorialization to the State Senators.

Legislator Gross made a motion to approve the Energy Rate Hike Memorialization; Seconded by Chairwoman Scuccimarra. All in Favor

#### **Item # 7 – Foreclosure Report-FYI- Duly Noted**

**Item # 8 – Unemployment Report-FYI- Duly Noted**

**Item # 9 – Other Business**

**a. Discussion/Clean Water Act**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the Legislative Office received a correspondence from Congressman Maloney regarding the Clean Water Act. She stated she would like to make it clear that Putnam County supports clean water. She stated there are many regulations that the Towns, Villages and the County adhere to. She stated the reason for opposition of the Clean Water Act is because the Legislature does not want the Federal Government to regulate every body of water. She stated this Legislation allows the Federal Government to control the Building Departments in each municipality. She stated Congressman Maloney has a similar opinion as the Legislature.

Legislator Oliverio stated the Legislature received a memorialization and he suggests that the Legislature does not approve of the memorialization. He stated he suggests the Legislature act similarly to how Congressman Maloney did by requesting the Federal Government to rewrite the Clean Water Act to allow them to redefine “water”. He stated the intent of the Clean Water Act is good. He stated the bottom line is people cannot survive without clean water.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the Legislature needs to bring forth comments by October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Legislator Oliverio stated the Legislature should comment and say the Clean Water Act is very challenging to understand, and it needs to be more conducive to the enforcement.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if Legislator Oliverio is in favor of the Clean Water Act being rewritten.

Legislator Oliverio stated that is correct.

Legislator Gross referenced Congressman Maloney’s letter. He stated when he was on the Town of Southeast Town Board the matter of MS4 was just beginning there was great concern that the State would receive more control. He stated there is government in the way of government. Therefore, he agrees that the Clean Water Act should be rewritten.

Legislator Nacerino stated she agreed with Legislator Oliverio’s comments and believed that Congressman Maloney wrote a great letter. She stated she believes the Legislature should proceed in stating the Clean Water Act should be rewritten.

Legislator Albano stated he believes the Legislature should send a memorialization against the Clean Water Act because there is government on top of government. He stated speaking from experience in the labor force, there will be challenges with conducting projects due to duplication of applications that need to be filled out, which can result in labor projects being delayed or canceled. He stated the Clean Water Act can be counterproductive.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the Clean Water Act will be a mandate by the Federal Government who will not provide funding to assist the County in being compliant with the Legislation.

Legislator Albano stated years ago things may have been done incorrectly, however now he believed that those mistakes have been corrected by the Health Department and the DEP inspecting the water. He stated that the Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”) also inspects the water.

Legislator Oliverio stated the environment has to be predominate, which is why he recommends the Legislature send a letter of discontent regarding the current Clean Water Act document.

Legislator Wright stated he agreed with Legislator Albano’s opinion. He stated there is a need to analyze the legislation of the Clean Water Act as it is written and not what it could be.

Legislator Oliverio stated the purpose of the Clean Water Act is to reinstitute the same legislation as it was written in 1970. He stated the Clean Water Act was drastically changed during the Regan Administration. He stated the Legislature should allow the Clean Water Act to be rewritten to be a positive effect on the environment.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated the Clean Water Act was introduced in 1971 and the issue of defining the term “navigable waterways” arose. He stated the attempt of defining “navigable waterways” has been an issue for over 30 years which led to an amendment to the Clean Water Act in 1994. He stated the EPA is trying to have more authority of the “navigable waterways”. He stated he recommends for the Legislature to contact Pace University, who is one of the leading environmental law universities in the United States, to seek their opinion on this matter. He stated clarification on the Clean Water Act needs to be conducted.

Legislator Oliverio stated he agreed with Deputy County Executive Walker’s proposition of contacting Pace University to gather more information on this matter.

Legislator Albano questioned if comments have to be in by a certain date.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated yes, by October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Legislator Albano stated he has received feedback from engineers and other labor workers that the Clean Water Act will prevent clean water projects due to the additional steps needed to be taken.

Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna stated in some circumstances what would be beneficial for California would not be beneficial for New York. He stated the Legislature should inform the Federal Government that Putnam County has strong restrictions due to being a part of the New York City Watershed. He stated from such high restrictions Putnam County is becoming noncompetitive. He stated the Clean Water Act is a Home Rule Issue. He stated it is important to have general guidelines however, too many restrictions is not a good thing.

Legislator Gross stated he agreed with Transportation Manager Tamagna’s statement in how Putnam County has become noncompetitive for building.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated in his opinion it appears the Federal Government is overreaching their authority in this matter. He stated this is a local issue, however the Federal Government does have jurisdiction over “navigable waterways”.

Legislator Wright stated he suggests the Legislature pre-file two (2) resolutions; the first being in accord with Congressman Maloney’s view of rewriting the Clean Water Act and the other resolution would state the opposition of the EPA’s definition of “Waters of the United States” in the Clean Water Act.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she would like to reach out to Pace University to receive more information regarding this matter.

Legislator Nacerino stated all of the Legislators have the same opinion regarding the Clean Water Act, however not everyone has same opinion on how to proceed. She stated she would like more clarity regarding the Legislation.

Legislator Tartaro stated Putnam County is already compliant with clean water through MS4. He stated if the Legislature writes a letter stating for the legislation to be clarified it implies that the Legislature is almost in agreement. He stated in his opinion Putnam County already has a lot of protections to keep water clean.

Legislator Oliverio stated this is a Federal Issue. He stated the Legislature is in agreement that the Federal Government is overreaching their authority. He stated he believes the Clean Water Act will help us.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the Federal Government is expanding their scope.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to pre-file the two preliminary memorializations, one in accord with Congressman Maloney’s view and a second stating opposition of the EPA’s Definition of Navigable Water; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

### **Item # 10 –Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:25P.M. Legislator Gross made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Wright. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Lisa Sommers.