

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders**  
**Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Sayegh & Sullivan**

**Tuesday**

**May 18, 2021**

**(Health, Social, Educ. & Environ. Mtg. to Immediately Follow)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislator Sayegh lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Sayegh, Sullivan and Chairwoman Nacerino were present.

Chairwoman Nacerino opened the meeting by making mention of a serious vehicular accident that occurred yesterday involving a Sergeant in the Sheriff's Department and a Civilian. She stated both were injured, but thankfully neither sustained life-threatening injuries. She stated our thoughts and prayers are with them both and wish them a speedy recovery.

**Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes/ March 18, 2021**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 - Approval/ Establish A Police Policy Advisory Board / Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino (Tabled at 4/20/21 Protective Mtg.)**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated at the April 20<sup>th</sup> Protective Services Meeting it was clear that there was a need for clarification with the potential members of this recommended Board, therefore the matter was tabled. She stated a meeting was held and revisions were made to the proposed resolution. She read the Resolved clauses of the revised resolution that was being considered. She inserted the names of the proposed initial members of the board: Scott Rhodes, Ronald Reid, Jenie Fu, Matinah Drew and Dennis Cohen.

Legislator Sullivan stated his support of the formation of this board. He stated to his knowledge Putnam County has never had a board like this. He believes it is important for the members of the public to have a voice in our policing policies and procedures. He stated we are all on the same page and want the same things out of our police agency. He stated we are going to make sure that Putnam County has a police department that is what the people of the Putnam County desire, and rightfully so because they are the ones paying the tax bills to fund the police department. He expressed his appreciation to all of the volunteers who have been working on the formation of this board for months. He stated he looks forward to working with them in the future and looks forward to placing his vote in favor of the formation of the Police Policy Advisory Board.

Chairwoman Nacerino expressed her agreement with the comments made by her committee member. She stated she believes this is a defining moment for Putnam County.

Legislator Sayegh stated during the discussions at the Police Policy Review Panel meetings, which began in 2020, there was a constant theme heard over and over. She stated the constants discussed were the need for transparency, accountability and trust. She stated those three (3)

qualities together build cooperation and she believes the basis for a good community. She stated she believes it is important in business to hear from your customers, in this case the taxpayers. She stated also to listen to the perspective of victims. She stated she also looks forward to working with the board.

Chairwoman Nacerino interrupted the discussion to address the business of taking a vote to accept the additional item to this matter, which was the list of submitted board members: Scott Rhodes, Jenie Fu, Ronald Reid, Matinah Drew and Dennis Cohen.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Additional; Seconded Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Legislator Albano stated he agrees with the comments made by his colleagues. He stated it was evident that there was a need for further discussion when the matter was addressed at the April Protective Services Meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the work that went into bringing this matter back to the Legislature in a format all parties are satisfied with. He stated he is in full support of this proposal.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if this will be incorporated in the County Charter, like the Board of Ethics. She stated she would like that to be the case. She expressed her thanks to Scott Rhodes, Jenie, Fu and Ronald Reid and the members of the BIPOC Committee for presenting this idea of the Advisory Board to the Sheriff, the Administration and the Legislature. She stated the level of tension and anxiety in this Country surrounding community Police relations is at an all-time high. She stated the formation of this board, she believes, will help strengthen community and police relations, by building trust and improving performance. She continued to state her support for this board and expressed her appreciation for the time and effort the volunteers have put into this. She stated her appreciation for Sheriff Langley asking for community input through this advisory board as it demonstrates his department's transparency and commitment to the Putnam County community. She stated she looks forward to working with this board and she truly believes this is an essential way to unite government, the policing agency and the community and have an open dialogue and conversation. She repeated her support of this board being included in the County Charter.

Chairwoman Nacerino explained advisory boards are not traditionally included in the County Charter. She stated that the Ethics Board is not a temporary advisory board. She stated there is a long list of advisory boards in Putnam County. She stated the proposed resolution has a resolve clause that clearly states the Police Policy Advisory Board members can submit their request for renewal.

Legislator Jonke expressed his support of the proposed Advisory Board. He stated he believes it will ensure transparency and promote community engagement. He stated he believes this to be a positive for Putnam County in that it is a true collaboration between County government, our Sheriff's Office and our Residents. He stated he looks forward to supporting this at the Full Meeting.

Scott Rhodes expressed his appreciation to everyone who has worked together to bring this resolution to the Legislature for approval. He recognized Chairwoman of Protective Services

Nacerino, Deputy County Executive Feighery, County Attorney Bumgarner, First Deputy County Attorney Negro, Sheriff Langley and Undersheriff Cheverko for their assistance and support throughout this process. He also recognized the members of the BIPOC subcommittee and the members of the other subcommittees who sustained their hard work and support since the Executive Order 203. He stated the mission and the vision of the Advisory Board is to support equity and the safety of all Putnam County Residents by advocating for police policy changes. He continued to speak to their vision and concluded by extending their prayers to the Civilian and Sheriff's Deputy that were injured in yesterday's incident.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated her support for the comments made by Scott Rhodes.

Ronald Reid stated his appreciation to all the parties involved in bringing this proposal forward. He stated his appreciation for the opportunity to bring forward sentiments that are coming from the Putnam County community.

Jenie Fu stated she agrees this is a defining moment for Putnam County and they value this opportunity to work with the Sheriff's Department and the County Legislature. She stated she is eager to get to work.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve Establish A Police Policy Advisory Board; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A042)/ Required Because Gas Pumps at the Sheriff's Department are no longer in use and all the Vehicles are using the Pumps located at the Donald B. Smith Campus. Central Services To Charge Back Gasoline Usage to the Sheriff's Department/ Central Services – Sheriff's Department (see B.A. 21T076)**

Chairwoman Nacerino Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A042) Required Because Gas Pumps at the Sheriff's Department are no longer in use and all the Vehicles are using the Pumps located at the Donald B. Smith Campus. Central Services To Charge Back Gasoline Usage to the Sheriff's Department; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #6 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (21T076)/ Requested To cover 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Chargeback for Gasoline Expenses As Well As the Projected Remaining Expenses for 2021 for Sheriff's Vehicles/ Fueling to Occur at Bureau of Emergency Services/Sheriff's Department/ Central Services – Sheriff's Department (see B.A. 21A042)**

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve Fund Transfer (21T076)/ Requested To cover 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Chargeback for Gasoline Expenses As Well As the Projected Remaining Expenses for 2021 for Sheriff's Vehicles/ Fueling to Occur at Bureau of Emergency Services; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A043)/ Use of T-Commission Reserve Funds to Purchase a Base Station Radio for the Narcotics Division Office/ Sheriff's Department**

Legislator Sayegh stated we seem to be getting the T-Commission Reserve Fund requests monthly. She questioned what the balance is in the account.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the balance in that budget line was provided at the May Protective Services Committee meeting. She stated she will get the current balance from the County Auditor tomorrow.

Legislator Sullivan stated as mentioned with the other T-Commission purchases, these should be going through the budgetary process like all other expenditures and how all the other Departments have to do. He stated if they went through the budgetary process the items could come up for discussion and presented that they are needed. He stated there would then be a projected use of the T-Commission funds. He stated to have the requests coming forward throughout the year with no projection, he does not support. He explained the purchase for guns, radios and televisions he does not see as purchases of which the need just came about. He stated he believes these project purchases should be made part of the Sheriff's Department's budget. He stated the revenue, the T-Commission funds, in the future should be included in the budget. He stated all money that comes into the County is the taxpayers' money. He stated no other department has discretion on how money that comes into the department is spent. He stated in the future he looks forward to working with everyone on making sure from now on this money is included in the budget and the expenditures are included in the budgetary process.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated a conversation can be had during the budget time to see if there are any changes to the current practices. She stated the request before the committee this evening from the Sheriff is within his discretion.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment (21A043)/ Use of T-Commission Reserve Funds to Purchase a Base Station Radio for the Narcotics Division Office; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #8 - Approval/ Budgetary Transfer (21T080)/ Depleted Due To The Ongoing E911 Consolidation/ Commissioner Kenneth Clair (also reviewed by Personnel Comm 5-11-21)**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this matter was discussed at the Personnel Committee. She stated that she sees this request to be like the requests for overtime due to vacancies in the Corrections Department. She stated it is dictated by need. She stated the Blue Wing Consultant's report has been submitted. She stated at the June Protective Services Meeting, Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor will speak to said report and address any questions. She stated ultimately the consolidation will prove to be more efficient, safer, and more cost effective. She stated for now we are faced, like often we are in the Sheriff's Department, with the shortness of staffing is dictating the need for overtime.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if there is a projection for the future costs for overtime as we move forward.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Deputy Commissioner Lipton at the Personnel Meeting gave an estimate of September - October 2021 as being when the consolidation process will be completed by. She stated therefore she anticipates we will see overtime requests like this, in June, July and August at least. She reminded her colleagues to review the Blue Wing Consultant's report, so if

you have any questions, they can be addressed by Director of the Office of Emergency Management John O'Connor at the June Protective Services Meeting. Legislator Montgomery stated she does not recall receiving the Blue Wing report.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she has a copy and will make sure it is circulated tomorrow to all of the Legislators.

Legislator Montgomery explained that she presented her concerns with this process at the Personnel Committee meeting. She was not in support of starting the consolidation before getting a staffing analysis and reviewing the consultant's report. She continued to speak to her objections to this process and how it is progressing. She stated she does not understand why this process was not planned out, rather than piecemealing it together. She stated she believes we need to staff properly. She stated we have a fiduciary responsibility to invest in public safety. She stated she does not care that money is saved, by having dispatchers work overtime. She stated she worries about the cost of doing that to the Dispatchers' mental health and to the well being of the people that we serve.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she does not believe any employee is ever forced to work overtime if they feel it is detrimental to their health or their family life.

Legislator Montgomery stated she does not agree with that statement. She stated her disagreement that the County can rely on the employee to say whether they can work overtime or not.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she does not agree that any employee is forced to work overtime.

Legislator Sullivan stated the discussion of the consolidation of the two (2) dispatch centers began 20 to 30 years ago. He stated it has been a political football since then in the efforts to get the consolidation completed. He stated they have finally broken through the political net, for the benefit of the taxpayers. He stated the goal of this consolidation is to make the dispatch center of Putnam County more efficient and effective. He stated it has not been piecemealed together. He stated a lot of what has been heard this evening is conjecture. He stated he looks forward to the long-range benefits of this consolidation, both in its services and financial savings for the taxpayers. He stated he looks forward to reviewing the Blue Wing report. He stated he believes when the consolidation is done, Putnam County will be the bar for the 911 Centers in the region. He expressed his appreciation for all of the hard work that has been done by Commissioner Clair, Deputy Commissioner Lipton and Director O'Connor and all the others who have been involved with this effort.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she shares Legislator Sullivan's sentiments. She stated when this all comes together, she believes it will be stellar and serve the community very well. She stated no Putnam County employee is ever compelled against their wishes to get overtime and she will go as far as to say most welcome the opportunity to accrue some overtime if they can.

Legislator Albano stated he believes consolidation where it is appropriate is good government. He stated this is part of the process and transition. He stated we are working towards improved efficiency, and he too agrees with Legislator Sullivan and Chairwoman Nacerino.

Legislator Montgomery stated as a point of clarification, she is not opposed to consolidation. She stated she will be happy to read the report done by the professionals. She stated consolidation does not always mean eliminating positions and it does not always mean saving money. She stated her point to the fact that the County has been working on this consolidation for 20 years, as Legislator Sullivan stated, why didn't the County access all of the resources that were available to study this by professionals to get the funding from the Department of State, that was available for years to do this. She stated she is dissatisfied that the County started the consolidation process before there was data collected, before there was a staffing analysis done, and before there was any equipment analysis by professionals. She stated in her opinion, it is beyond the scope of the great people who work in the Bureau of Emergency Services.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve Budgetary Transfer (21T080)/ Depleted Due To The Ongoing E911 Consolidation; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**Item #9 - FYI/ Fund Transfer (21T089)/ To pay 2021 New York Prosecutors Institute (NYPTI) Dues/ District Attorney Robert Tendy – Duly Noted**

**Item#10 - Other Business**

**a.) Approval/ Hazard Mitigation Plan/ Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton**

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Deputy Commissioner Lipton expressed his appreciation to the members of this Committee for their acceptance of this item. He stated the approval of this plan allows the County and all the municipalities to apply for grant funding. He stated there are three (3) municipalities waiting for this to get approved so they can move forward with their grant applications.

Legislator Sayegh stated she is happy to support this. She stated anything the County can do to assist our municipalities in their efforts to secure funding, she is in favor of.

Legislator Montgomery questioned Deputy Commissioner Lipton if they could use any assistance in getting this process through the Towns.

Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated that would be great and very helpful. He stated the plan needs to be adopted by all of the Towns and Villages also.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there is a specific date this needs to be done by. She stated Philipstown does not meet until the first Thursday of June.

Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated he believes June would be appropriate.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #21- Adjournment**

There being no further business at 6:55pm Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.