

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM #318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

(Chairwoman Scuccimarra, Legislators Addonizio & Gouldman)

Wednesday

5:30P.M.

June 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:30P.M. by Chairwoman Scuccimarra who requested Legislator Gouldman lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Gouldman, and Chairwoman Scuccimarra were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – May 16, 2017

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Discussion/Climate Smart Communities Pledge/Grant Opportunities/County Executive's Office/Deputy Director of Planning Sandra Fusco

Chairwoman Scuccimarra noted that this topic was initially brought forward by Legislator Nacerino. She stated it has been discussed in the past but has not moved forward. She stated the number of municipalities who have signed on to the Climate Smart Pledge (Pledge) has increased and includes Philipstown. She stated there is grant funding available, even for municipalities who are not signed on to the Pledge. She noted those who are signed on receive more points towards potential grant funding. She stated the Pledge included 10 steps towards "going green."

Legislator Gouldman agreed with looking into this further.

Legislator Addonizio noted that the deadline is July 28, 2017.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that deadline is for the grants.

Deputy Director of Planning Sandra Fusco stated the grants are done through the Consolidated Funding Applications because applications have to go through a portal called grants.gov. She stated what she finds interesting, while most of the initiatives within the Pledge and grants are related to the Health Department, there are also opportunities for grants pertaining to Transportation such as ones pertaining to emissions from vehicles. She noted her department puts in grant applications through Congestion and Air Quality Mitigation (CMAQ). She stated there are many benchmarks in order to get points toward a grant and to become a Climate Smart Community. She stated some benchmarks are harder to reach than others. She stated she is always looking for funding opportunities to offset costs. She stated the opportunities for her department fall under the implementation type of activities, such as the reduction of future flood risks and reduction of vehicle miles traveled. She stated she would approximate that 90% of the grant opportunities fall under Environmental Health. She stated there are grants for maintenance of bike paths, but the County already receives federal funding for the same purpose. She stated this could

preclude the County from getting more grant money for the same purpose. She explained the complications of federal versus state funding, and how some grants apply to transportation.

Legislator Gouldman requested clarification on what is deemed as transportation. He questioned if it is meant as taking a person from point “a” to point “b”, or is it everything in between.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated it is everything in between. She stated bike paths are considered a transportation related facility.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if a horse trail would be considered part of transportation.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated she believes that horse trails would be considered recreational. She stated it would need to be shown that people are being transported. She noted not everyone rides horses.

Legislator Gouldman stated not everyone rides bikes.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated everyone walks and bike paths can be used to connect people to places, which would make it a transportation facility. She noted that this does not mean there is not an opportunity for grant funding for horse trails elsewhere. She explained the importance of meeting certain criteria for grant applications.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that most grants are competitive.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated they look for shovel ready projects to give the grants to as opposed to projects that are conceptual in nature. She listed the steps to show that projects have moved from discussion to action. She noted the Brewster Project that received \$2 million through the CFA was much more advanced as a project as opposed to some others. She noted the flood risk mitigation projects are something feasible to look into, but it would only be in certain locations and would require an evaluation.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated this sounds like the Manitou Station Road project. She stated there are plans and much information as to why the road is flooding.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated an application should be submitted for the project and questioned why one has not been done yet.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the Town of Philipstown wants the County to submit the application.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated the problem with that is it is not a County road and it has been designated as a rural road, which means it is not eligible for federal funding.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra requested clarification that the CFA is State funding.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated it is State funding.

Legislator Albano suggested sending the Town a letter regarding the availability of the CFA grants.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra noted that the Town of Philipstown has already signed on to the Climate Smart Communities Pledge. She stated she would contact the Town. She questioned if the Legislature decides that they want to sign on to the Pledge, who would be designated to do the work.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated it depends on the initiatives which the County wants to concentrate on. She stated there are 13 Certification Priority Actions but the County only needs to take on four (4) to sign on to the Pledge. She suggested the four (4) which she considered the least onerous such as passing a resolution, assembling a task force.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned who would be the task force.

Legislator Albano stated it depends on what initiatives the County is focusing on.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated it depends on what the Legislature wants to move forward with. She noted there is a Priority Action which states for municipalities to conduct energy audits of government buildings. She stated she believes the County already does that.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the County can start working on becoming a Climate Smart Community. She stated she could send a letter to the County Departments asking if the departments have taken any actions included in the Pledge.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco suggested including the list of municipalities that received the grant money for 2016 to show what projects have been included in the grant process.

Legislator Albano stated this is something worth pursuing.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated it is not complicated, but there are a lot of points on the checklist to satisfy.

Legislator Albano supported having each Department look into what actions can be taken.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra noted the number of Counties and Towns that have joined the Pledge.

Legislator Albano noted that solar energy is really being pushed and is something worth looking into.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the Jail LED Lighting Project could fall under one of the actions.

Legislator Addonizio stated improving lighting in existing public facilities is listed.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she would send a letter to the County Departments.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if there are any negative consequences for signing onto the Pledge.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated the only negative is that many departments are strapped for resources and manpower. She stated the Pledge requires attention to detail in order to get points to become certified.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if the County has to stick to the criteria if the Pledge is signed.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated yes for the projects that are being submitted for the grant.

Legislator Addonizio stated for instance with the LED lighting in the jail, would then all projects in the jail have to be done under the Climate Smart criteria.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated if the application was submitted for LED lighting, then that is all the County would be signing up for. She stated there was a 2016 awardee that received grant funding to change the entire town over to LED lighting.

Legislator Addonizio stated if there is another project in the jail, does it have to be done under the Climate Smart criteria.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco stated it does not if it has nothing to do with LED lighting.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated this could be tailored to what is most feasible for the County.

Deputy Commissioner Fusco noted that it is possible to partner on applications.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it is worthwhile to pursue.

Legislator Addonizio stated she would like to look into it more.

Item #5 - Approval/Memorialization/Resolution in Support of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater's Sail to Washington DC for Clean Water and Environmental Protection

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the Sloop Clearwater has already sailed but she would still like to memorialize the resolution in support.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo has read the sample resolution included in the backup.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated he has. He stated this resolution takes a position on federal funding in apparent opposition to the current administration's cuts.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to Approve the Memorialization of the Resolution in Support of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater's Sail to Washington DC for Clean Water and Environmental Protection; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/Memorialization/In Support of Assembly & Senate Bill #s A5514 & S1165/Enactment of "Dream Law" Deeming Central Venous Lines as Medically Necessary

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated this is changing the health law, so she would like to have Acting Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat's opinion on it before moving forward.

Item #7 - Approval/Memorialization/Assembly Bill A00387A & Senate Bill S06750/Requires Chain Pharmacies to Operate a Safe Disposal Site for Unused Controlled Substances

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated this bill is in front of the State Legislature but has not been voted on. She stated the possibility of the County requiring certain pharmacies to take back medication has been a topic in this Committee recently. She stated since the State is considering requiring it, she thought it best to wait and see what happens with the proposed State law.

Legislator Gouldman noted that the State Legislature would be finishing their session the next day, making this memorialization moot. He stated the bill process would restart during their next session.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she likes the idea of the bill. She stated any pharmacy with more than three (3) locations in the State would be considered a chain. She noted the medication would be taken back at no cost to the consumer.

Legislator Addonizio noted that it could also be done through the mail.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated mailing the medication has a cost.

William Nulk, President of the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce, stated figuring out the cost implications for taking the medication back is important. He stated there could be a lot involved in order to comply with all Federal and State regulations.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she spoke with a few pharmacies that already take back medications but they are not in our area.

Mr. Nulk stated he just worries about the hidden factors that need to be taken into consideration.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she thinks the County should do everything it can to make it as easy as possible for people to get rid of medications.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated the definition of a chain pharmacy in the proposed law is actually 10 or more, not three (3) or more as previously stated.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra noted that some of the pharmacies that have started taking back medications have stated that they started doing so because they felt they should.

Legislator Albano stated he believes that the pharmacies can handle taking back the medications, in an economic sense.

Legislator Addonizio stated it is a matter of providing a safe place for unwanted medication to go.

Legislator Albano noted that other retail stores take back certain items that have specialized disposal procedures.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stressed the importance of keeping the medications out of the water supplies.

Item #8 - Other Business - None

Item #9 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:04 P.M. Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to adjourn;
Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.