

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**40 Gleneida Avenue Room #318**  
**CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**  
**(Chairman Albano, Legislators Castellano & Gouldman)**

**Thursday**

**6:30p.m.**

**February 17, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Chairman Albano who requested Legislator Sullivan lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Castellano, Gouldman and Chairman Albano were present.

**Item #3 - Approval/ Physical Services Meeting Minutes/ December 16, 2021**

Chairman Albano stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A010)/ Adjust Capital Budget to Include Funding for Renovations of Putnam County Veterans Home- NYS SAM Grant/ Commissioner of Planning Sandra Fusco**

Chairman Albano stated the SAM (State and Municipal) Grant is in the amount of \$50,000.

Director of Veterans Affairs Karl Rohde stated that the money will be used to renovate the two (2) bathrooms on the top floor of the Putnam County Veterans Home.

Legislator Nacerino stated she was recently at the Veterans Home, and she can attest to the fact they need some upgrades.

Legislator Addonizio stated she is in full support of this request. She stated our Veterans deserve an updated facility.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A010)/ Adjust Capital Budget to Include Funding for Renovations of Putnam County Veterans Home- NYS SAM Grant; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A009) –Soil and Water Project/ State Aid- Soil & Water Performance Measures (PM)/ Deputy Commissioner John Tully**

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated this is an ongoing project. He stated it is funded through Soil & Water. He stated it is for water capturing and some other environmentally friendly projects at Tilly Foster Farm, including the patio. He explained that will be a water absorbing project.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A009) –Soil and Water Project/ State Aid- Soil & Water Performance Measures (PM); Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #6 - Approval/ SEQRA Lead Agency/ PIN 8756.84 Maybrook Bikeway II, Phase A Bridge #5/ Deputy Commissioner John Tully**

Chairman Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated when the County was working on Maybrook Bikeway II, Phase A they found the abutments were severely cracked. He stated they were working with Metro North about the need to repair it. He stated we have agreed the County will move forward with it and Metro North has given their permission for the County to move forward. He stated it was recognized the SEQRA did not involve this work and was therefore out of date. He stated it has been updated by the County's Planning Department.

Chairman Albano questioned if this project is going to cost more than what was originally thought.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena confirmed that was correct.

Legislator Castellano questioned what the bridge would look like. He stated it is a part of the Bike Path where there is a great view of the reservoir in that area. He stated he believes it will attract a lot of bikers and tourist.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the existing deck is wooden. He explained the ties and rails will be removed, they will do work on the steel, redo the abutments, bearings and use the deck that was purchased several years ago. He explained when this part of the project began there was an inspection on the area, and the County received approval to move forward with the project. He stated once they began the work they realized the abutment had a major crack in it and settled away from the bearing. He continued to speak to the past challenges that caused the delay. He explained once Metro North's portion of said area was determined by them to be dormant there was no reason for them to negotiate with the County.

Legislator Sullivan questioned who made the decision to settle the discussions with Metro North.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated there was some discussion with the members of the Planning Department, but he is not sure who made the final decision.

Legislator Sullivan questioned what the estimated cost of this project is.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated he would estimate \$3 million. He stated the County is using Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding. He stated the FTA funding is dedicated to transportation related projects, and provides 80% funding related to the cost of said project.

Chairman Albano facilitated further discussion on this matter of moving forward with this project. He stated he believes that Metro North should be contributing to this work.

Legislator Castellano questioned the status of the bridge that goes over the train tracks.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated that is dormant. He spoke to it briefly.

Chairman Albano stated in the past there was discussion about painting the bridge that is part of the bike path that goes over Route 6, down from the Route 312 intersection towards Brewster.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated that he believes the New York State Department of Transportation had some concerns with that. He stated that he will look into it.

Chairman Albano stated if there is any resistance, please let him know, he would write a letter advocating for allowing the County to paint the bridge, he stated that is aesthetic maintenance that absolutely should be done.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve / SEQRA Lead Agency/ PIN 8756.84 Maybrook Bikeway II, Phase A Bridge #5; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Update/ County Road Projects- Highway and Facilities Commissioner Pena and Deputy Commissioner Tully/ Chair Albano**

- a. Fair Street**
- b. Drewville/ Stoneleigh Avenue Intersection**
- c. Peekskill Hollow Road**

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena began by stating Putnam County has listed on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) over 21 Federal and State funded projects that are active, substantially complete, or closed out. He stated the projects are valued at approximately \$75 million. He continued to speak to his overview. He stated there are five (5) projects that they currently have, and due to time and costs are going up in cost and some in scope. He stated the County is requesting approximately \$22 million and there are seven (7) new projects, mostly intersections and roadway reconstructions, the County is requesting another \$53

million. He stated their goal is to continually add projects to TIP. He explained it will assure that Putnam County will be accessing the Federal and State funds that are available to address these infrastructure matters. He stated for the record it is an arduous process to get these projects through. He stated with that said, he would not support ignoring the amount of funding that is available for this work. He showed the Putnam County “report card”. He stated when he first joined as the Commissioner of Highways & Facilities for Putnam County all of the active projects were in red: stalled, not moving forward, delayed, over budget, out of scope etc. He stated currently Putnam County has a clean report card.

Chairman Albano questioned what the current projected cost is of the Fair Street project.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated he did not have that information with him. He provided an overview of the challenges with the Fair Street Project.

Chairman Albano questioned if burying the utility lines underground is still part of the plans.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated that was correct. He stated there may be additional areas along the project where that will also be done, based on different factors. He stated they also have begun providing updates on the County website and posting that there will be detours and bridge closures. He stated there is the plan to sit down with the Town Supervisor to discuss the Peekskill Hollow Road project. He stated they will meet with the schools also. He stated the hope is to synchronize everything as much as feasible to reduce the amount of inconvenience.

Legislator Nacerino stated in her district during a recent project on Fairfield Drive, the feedback was that there was not enough communication about the things Commissioner Pena stated, detours, bridge closures etc. She stated she is happy to hear those positive steps are being taken to address that.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the Notice to Proceed with the Peekskill Hollow project was received September 8, 2021. He stated construction is in progress. He stated there were issues with material delays, delays due to COVID issues, and the price of galvanized steel. He stated that Peekskill Hollow is in construction. He stated Fair Street and the Drewville/ Stoneleigh Avenue Intersection projects are in the Detail & Design Phase. He stated they are confident that the Peekskill Hollow Road project work will be completed in this year, 2022.

Legislator Gouldman thanked Commissioner Pena and his staff for always being responsive to the issues he brings to Commissioner Pena’s attention. He stated the updates on the County website, are so helpful and very well received by the members of the community. He stated he

hopes that practice continues. He questioned if the utility lines will be put underground as part of the construction work on Peekskill Hollow Road.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated that will not be done. He stated the reason it is being done on Fair Street is because of the beautification project that had begun in that area years ago. He stated they want to match that.

Legislator Gouldman stated he has had constituents ask when doing work on Peekskill Hollow Road, where Oscawana Lake Road meets Oregon Corners, will the bridge on Peekskill Hollow Creek be closed at the same time.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated not as far as he knows. He stated the contractor has begun to express what his ideas are for the project and that is where the dialogue will begin.

Legislator Gouldman requested that the Town Board and Supervisor of Putnam Valley be included in that dialogue. He explained the many concerns that the residents have about this project.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated those points shared by Legislator Gouldman are important and would be useful when having the discussions.

Legislator Gouldman stated back in May of 2021, he requested that Commissioner Pena attend a Putnam Valley Town Board Meeting to discuss what is going on in terms of the scope of the project. He stated since there was work that began today, he requested again that Commissioner Pena come to a Putnam Valley Town Board meeting. He requested an approximate time he would be able to do that.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated they will need to make sure the construction sequencing is done. He stated currently they plan to meet with the School and the Town Supervisor and gather comments and then develop the construction sequencing. He stated once everyone is comfortable with the construction sequencing, then he would attend a Town Board Meeting.

Legislator Gouldman stated he appreciates Commissioner Pena's commitment to attend and speak to this project at a Putnam Valley Board Meeting as soon as the construction sequencing is in place.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the Fair Street project received design approval August 25, 2021, authorization to proceed with detailed design was issued August 31,

2021. He stated the detail design is proceeding they are meeting periodically. He stated authorization to proceed with the Right of Way acquisition was issued September 15, 2021. He stated the Right of Way Acquisition efforts are moving forward. He stated utility relocation coordination is ongoing. He stated there will be a meeting with the Utility Companies and a consultant soon. He stated that will allow them to zero in and get the utility wires underground while clarifying who is responsible for the cost. He stated this project has been around for some time and costs are increasing as time goes on. He stated the projected amount now should get us to the finish line.

Legislator Sullivan questioned what is the projected amount.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated they are requesting an additional \$8 million in addition to the \$12 million, so it will bring the final projected cost to \$20 million. He continued to speak to the work they have done in reference to reviewing intersections throughout the County. He continued to speak broadly to the projected costs of some of the intersection projects and road reconstruction that may occur in the future, greatly dependent upon the TIP funding that can be secured. He stated in reference to the Fair Street project, they have done some design work with the High School to shift the entry to the School, which currently gets very congested during different times throughout the School day/ year. He stated the Advanced Detail Plan Package is expected in May of 2022 and Authorization to Proceed is anticipated in September of 2022. He stated at that point the County will begin to advertise the project through the RFP which is approximately a four (4) month process. He stated they are a going to begin working on the Drewville Super Structure, which involves a structure that was Red Flagged. He stated the decision was to begin that while waiting for the Fair Street process. He stated that will help the County avoid working on the Red Flag Structure on Drewville at the same time that the DEP will be doing work on the Dam on Route 6. He stated if we were all going to start our work at the same time, it would make it very difficult to create detours that would serve the community. He stated so the two (2) projects that we will have in that area will be the Route 6 Dam reconstruction and the Stoneleigh/ Drewville Intersection.

Legislator Sullivan questioned where the Dam reconstruction is.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated it is where there is a sharp turn is where Route 6 and Drewville intersect.

Legislator Sullivan stated there is eminent domain involved with the Fair Street project. He questioned who determines the price.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated an independent appraiser determines the price. He stated the County will work with the property owners and may be able to come to an agreement without having to go to an independent appraiser. He stated the County has an

outside property acquisition group, R. K. Hite Co., Inc. who is communicating with the property owners.

Legislative Counsel Rob Firriolo questioned the status of the temporary easement and how long it will be used by the County.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated it will be used for grading purposes and it will be used for the length of the construction. He stated we would not prevent someone from accessing their property. He stated it may require some coordination between the contractor and the homeowner, but again no one is prevented from using their property.

Legislator Sullivan questioned how long the project will take.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated approximately 18 months.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if there will be an issue with the High School Library.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated they will work with it. He stated the County would have like to have had the opportunity to meet with the architect who designed that. He explained the County would have brought the architect's attention to the frontage issues and the drop off challenges and the congestion that falls out to Fair Street.

Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the Drewville/ Stoneleigh Avenue Intersection- Roundabout is moving forward, similar to Fair Street. He stated the County received Design Approval in August of 2021 and Authorization to Proceed with Detail Design on August 19, 2021. He stated they are moving forward with Right of Way Acquisition. He stated there is much less property involved in the Right of Way Acquisition. He stated they will begin the advertising process probably in September or October of 2022.

**Item #8 - Other Business-** None

**Item #9 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:20 PM Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.