

**-BUDGET-
PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
Held In Room #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members:
Chairwoman LoBue & Legislators Albano & Othmer**

Wednesday

October 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m. by Chair of Physical Services Committee Legislator LoBue. She requested that Legislator Othmer lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Chair LoBue, Legislators Albano & Othmer were present.

Legislator Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional information; Seconded by Legislator Othmer. All in favor.

Item #3) 2013 Budget Review

Chair LoBue stated that there would be a continuation of the discussion last night referencing the cuts in the Transit Services that were included in the proposed budget presented by the County Executive on October 3, 2012. She stated that this topic was discussed by many residents who ride the Transit Buses during the Health Budget Meeting last night. The topic will be open for further discussion this evening. She stated that tonight Deputy County Executive Walker, Commissioner Piazza and Transportation Planner Pilner are present to address this matter. She stated that she will begin with Deputy County Executive Walker who is here to present some alternatives to the original proposed cuts to the Transit Service.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that the objective of the proposed budget was to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the Putnam County residents without exceeding the true 2% tax cap. He stated that when discussing the budget there are two fundamental pieces: the Revenues and the Expenditures. He stated that out of a 139 million dollar budget 101million dollars encompasses mandated service. He stated that leaves 38 million dollars that can be managed. He continued to give a broad overview of the strategy used to create the 2013 Budget.

Chair LoBue stated the proposed 2013 Budget has already been presented by the County Executive. She requested that Deputy County Executive Walker please address the matter of the alternative options to remove the bus lines in Mahopac and Patterson. She stated that the people who are here tonight would like to hear the alternative plans.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that the information that he was presenting tonight was not listed in the County Executive's presentation of the 2013 Budget.

Chair LoBue stated that she would like the alternative options presented.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that the Administration has already allocated \$25k in the Budget Line of the Department of Social Services to address those people on public assistance who are eligible for the Welfare to Work Program. He stated that all the people

who use the transportation services for Medicaid purposes will remain that way. He stated that \$25K was budgeted to develop a "Partnership Initiative" where by a not-for profit organization would provide transportation service. He stated that they have secured a Grant funded position to manage and coordinate transportation services throughout the County. He stated that one alternative solution is rather than eliminating Routes 2 & 3, provide service two days a week on Routes 2 & 3 with full day schedule. He stated that would result in a \$329k. He stated that a second proposed alternative is to provide service one day a week on Routes 2 & 3. He stated that would result in a savings of \$489k. The final potential alternative is providing service two days a week on routes 2 & 3 with compressed schedule. He stated that would result in a savings of \$489k.

Chair LoBue stated that she would like to go over a couple of facts, so that people know what has been put in place. She stated that if there is someone who is Medicaid eligible, she requested that Commissioner Piazza address that scenario.

Commissioner Piazza stated that a person who is Medicaid eligible, would receive transportation to their medical appointments, same as today. He stated that in addition if a person is in the Welfare Work Employment Program there is money in the DSS line to continue to provide transportation to their place of employment.

Chair LoBue questioned for a person who has not yet qualified for Medicaid, how long of a process is it for a person to qualify for Medicaid.

Commissioner Piazza stated that it is a 45 day process. He stated that the County Executive has allocated an additional \$25,000 for those who are not eligible for Medicaid.

Chair LoBue questioned how many people can be serviced with \$25,000.

Commissioner Piazza stated that they are about to discover that.

Legislator Birmingham stated that this is a question for Transportation Planner Pilner. He stated that on page 283 of the Revenue/Expenditures section of the proposed Budget questioned what the funding mechanism are; he is aware that there is the State portion, Federal portion and the Tax dollar piece, which we are here to address. He stated that if we have a decrease in Routes or Ridership; the Federal Aid shows in the budget that it will be increased by about \$3,000. He questioned how that can be because he thought that the Federal Aid funding was based on the amount of service provided whether it be maintaining current service or expanding on current service.

Transportation Planner Pilner stated that Federal Aid Funding is a fixed amount he stated that it is projected to increase in 2013. He stated that the State Funding is based on mileage and passengers. He stated that they pay \$.69 per mile and \$.40 per passenger. He stated if service is decrease the State funding will decrease. He stated that has been taken into consideration in the proposed budget.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he recalls retired Planning Commissioner Lynch stating, in past years, that some type of commitment had to be made to the Federal Government in

reference to grant funding we have secured. He questioned if we risk any kind of fall backs by reducing service.

Transportation Planner Pilner stated he does not believe so. He stated that the County will still be using the buses and will be still using the facility. Therefore he does not anticipate any kind of fall back.

Legislator Birmingham stated to articulate his concerns in complying with the Federal Government. He also questioned in reference to the \$25,000 that has been put aside in the budget, has the Administration done any census that provided data that the Legislature could analyze.

Commissioner Piazza stated that there is a Survey of Ridership that was done by the Planning Department. It showed that on the Part 1 Route there were 49 riders per day, on Part 2 Route there were 15 riders per day, Part 3 there were 8 riders and Part 5 there were 10 riders. He stated that was a snapshot of one day. He stated that they also have information on who uses Para Transit and is eligible for Medicaid. He stated that the \$25,000 that is earmarked for the non-Medicaid eligible and people who need to get to doctor appointments and work, this survey of Ridership would apply to them.

Legislator Birmingham stated that the Survey of Ridership does not give a breakdown of the riders who are Medicaid eligible, Public Assistance eligible, Handicapped or Disabled. He stated for him to make an educated decision on whether the proposed \$25,000 is enough, he would need to know the number of people who would fall into those categories.

Commissioner Piazza stated that they do have a record of the number of tokens that are given out to riders who are on Public Assistance.

Chair LoBue questioned if there is a tracking of cash that is paid by riders of the bus service.

Transportation Planner stated that they do. He stated that the majority of riders pay cash.

Legislator Oliverio stated that his concern is once this is cut from the budget that is the end of it. He stated that if the \$650,000 is taken out of the program, the program is essentially gutted. He stated that he is confused with the information that has been reported from the Ridership Survey. He stated that he has spoken to some of the Bus Drivers who drive these routes and they report that they have three or four times the amount of riders on their buses than what was reported. He stated that the Para Transit Service also serves a population who do not have cars, for whatever reason, and rely on this transportation to get to and from their place of employment. He stated that the safety net of \$50,000, he does not believe is an adequate amount. He stated that he discussed at last night's meeting, the Personnel Budget meeting, there are new positions proposed in the 2013 Budget. He stated we could reinstate the \$650,000 by not filling all of those positions.

Chair LoBue stated that with respect to the Administration she knows that they did not make this proposal lightly. She stated that they believe that there is merit to what has been presented. She stated that she believes to take the \$650,000 out of the Transit Service would be a mistake. She stated that she would like to keep the program intact. She stated next year she would look at making small incremental changes and see the result of the changes. She

stated that we are discussing a fundamental need for the elderly, disabled and those who for whatever reason cannot drive. She stated that in the 2013 proposed budget there are many new positions being proposed, that with benefits total over a million dollars. She stated that also there are salary increases, which are being referred to as "Salary Adjustments" that she believes needs to be looked at.

Nicholas Lamberti (Resident) stated that he has a handicapped daughter who uses the Part 3 Bus Service on a daily basis. He requested that everyone who rides the Part 2 or 3 Bus service or knows of someone who rides it please raise their hand. (Nearly every person in the room raised their hand; there were approximately 50 people there) He stated that he believes this is a fair indicator of the ridership, and he stated he is sure that not everyone who uses the bus service was at the meeting, some because they had no transportation to get here. He stated that he does not believe that the number of riders was researched enough.

Legislator DiCarlo questioned Deputy County Executive Walker and Commissioner Piazza based on the proposed changes what would remain the same.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that the Para Transit service would not exist for routes 2 & 3. The remedy to that would be to still provide transportation to those who utilize the service to get to Doctors Appointments and Work.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he does not agree with that. He does not believe that the \$50,000 set aside will be enough to cover that.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that the Medicaid eligible riders will have transportation. The Riders who use the service to get to medical appointments and who are in the work program will get transportation. He stated that the Administration is working to partner with an outside agency who could meet the needs of those who would like to go shopping, for example; as opposed to having a Para Transit line.

Legislator Birmingham questioned if the County would lose Aid from the State. He stated that currently the County receives Aid from the State of New York based on the Para Transit System.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that yes the County would lose it. However those who would take the Para Transit System may be eligible to receive the aid.

Chair Conklin stated that Deputy County Executive Walker has said that those who need to go to the doctor, or to work, or shopping; their needs would be satisfied.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that those who are currently using the Para Transit Service, yes that is the objective.

Chair Conklin questioned what about the other people. The Legislature has heard that there are riders who use the transfer system; what happens to these people. She stated that these are some of our most needy constituents.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that clearly there are going to be reductions in the program. There will be people who will no longer have access to the service. That is being acknowledged and that is part of the challenge of coming up with alternatives. He stated that the Administration is trying to be proactive in managing a budget that has a 2% tax increase for the 100,000 people in the County. There has already been 26% of the money out of the bank account for the 100,000 people of the County. He stated that going through this process some very tough decisions need to be made. He stated that the Administration does not like to have to make these decisions. However at the end of the day the Administration must present a budget that is balanced, fiscally responsible and will make the County viable in the next five years.

Chair LoBue facilitated comments from the members of the audience that wanted to make comment. Each person who spoke shared their personal story and their need for the Transit Service. There were several comments made recommending the need for an increase in publicizing the Transit Services. There was a majority opinion in the audience, that there are even more people in Putnam County who would use the Transit Service if they knew about it. Also there was a general consensus from the audience that the numbers reported on the different bus routes were not accurate. According to the riders in the audience and the bus drivers there are many more riders than what was reported. It was also stated that with all of the Senior Housing being built, to encourage Seniors to move to this area, it makes no sense to be reducing public transportation. Here are Names of the some of the People who spoke from the audience: Bobby Palazo, bus driver, John Garafolo, bus driver, Melanie Stillman, Para Transit bus driver, Arlene Keith, resident of Mahopac, Danika Kurin, resident, Lewis Pulari, resident, Pat, resident of Mahopac, Daughter visiting her Mother who is a resident, Barbara Leedo, resident of Carmel, Julia Rice, resident of Carmel, Donna Ford, resident of Patterson, Lou Showgin, resident of Patterson, Anita Schwartz, member of the Coordinating Council.

Anita Schwartz stated that she is unable to find the 2013 Budget on the County Website.

Clerk of the Legislature Schonfeld gave specific instructions on where it can be found: putnamcountyny.com/Departments/County Executive.

Legislator Birmingham stated that currently there is nothing in the Charter that requires that the Budget be posted on the website. He stated that the Legislature will be introducing legislation to change that. He stated that the plan is to put forward a Law which will mandate that such reports be put on line in a prominent place.

Anita Schwartz questioned if there were any cuts made to the Parks & Recreation budget line, since those are discretionary costs.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that no cuts were made to the Parks & Recreation budget line.

Legislator Othmer stated that for every dollar that is spent in your taxes 70% goes to your School Taxes, approximately 22% goes to your Town and 4% goes to the State & Federal Mandates. He stated that only four cents of every dollar goes to your County Government. He

stated that out of the four cents, three cents is controlled by the State and the Federal Government. He stated that there is only one cent that is controlled by the County Government. He stated that he wanted to make sure that everyone knows how restricted the County Government is.

Joe Bravo, from Putnam Independent Living Services, stated that some of the numbers that have been reported recently are much different than the numbers reported in previous years. He stated for example that last year he recalls the number of users of the Para Transit Service to be over 19,000. He stated if the Routes that are earmarked to be cut, are cut it will eliminate approximately 40% of the Para Transit Service. That is a large percentage cut from a system that provides transportation for thousands of people. He stated he is not confident that the \$50,000 that is said to be set aside to serve as a safety net will be adequate. He stated that he respects the fact that budgets are tight. However when the proposed budget includes other increases and other personnel adjustments; he asks the Legislators to really look at this proposal. He stated Putnam Independent Living Services has tried to coordinate with different providers in Putnam County who have vehicles; that attempt has not been very successful. The United Cerebral Palsy Inc., Howard Yager's organization is the only one who has been able to give the Putnam Independent Living Services some vehicles. He stated that he believes that it is very disingenuous to say that \$50,000 will meet the demands of the people who are served by the Para Transit Service.

Legislator Albano stated that he speaks on behalf of his fellow Legislators; there is a genuine concern on this matter; especially for those with special needs. He stated that the challenge is to meet the needs of 100,000 people. He stated that the Administration has made a proposal that will still provide transportation services and be cost effective. He stated that he is thankful for all of the input and feedback each person has brought here tonight. He stated that the Legislature along with the Administration will work to come up with the best budget to meet the needs of the Putnam County Residents.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that there are a lot of unknowns with this proposal. He stated that he would like to see the program stay as it is. He stated that in the future he would like to see a dialogue conducted with all of the major players involved with the Transit Services. He stated that if it is decided to reinstate the funding to the Transit Service Line, the Legislature is then taxed with making up the \$650,000. He stated that he serves as Chair of the Personnel Committee. He stated that concern needs to be given to the infrastructure and make sure that does not suffer. He stated that if the County did not have the mandates that have been placed on us by the State and Federal Governments; we would not be having this conversation. He stated that he believes that we sell people short. He stated the residents may be willing to pay that little extra to keep their quality of life services. He stated that communication is key to being effective.

Chair LoBue went back to the audience for further comment: Amy Puglees, Mahopac resident, Larry Willard, Brewster resident, Val Fadankay, process of moving to Patterson, Amelia Pason, resident in Lake Carmel, and Ray, resident.

Chair LoBue stated that she believes that cuts need to be done across the board. She stated in respects to the Libraries, they are feeling an increase in demand for services with the rise of Unemployment. She stated that she would like to thank Deputy County Executive Walker for

bringing the Administration's information to this meeting. She stated that she will vote to restore the Transit Services.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he was shocked to see the recommendation to remove the two most critical Routes from the Transit Service. He stated that there are brand new positions that have been put in the proposed budget. He stated if those positions are eliminated that will provide the funding needed to restore the Transit Service. He stated that he believes that the County is well equipped to carry on for one more year, while this transportation issue is addressed. He stated he would also like to have all of the organizations represented in the discussion; for example Joe Bravo from Putnam Independent Living Services.

Steve Unger, Chair of the Putnam County Coordinating Council People with Disabilities, stated that he would like to start by thanking Chair LoBue for her support to restore the Transit Service, and not support the cuts that were proposed by the Administration. He stated that he hopes the entire Legislature will follow her lead. He stated that there was a lot of eloquent testimony tonight. He stated tonight mirrors what he and his fellow members hear every month at the Council for People with Disabilities Meetings. Transportation is the single most significant topic mentioned every month and is the greatest need. Transportation meets a need that is social, economic and provides independence and dignity for people. He stated that a year ago the Coordinating Council held a working conference on Public Transportation. He stated the County Executive, Deputy County Executive, Commissioners from different County Departments, representatives from the Legislature, representatives from the major non-for-profit organizations within the County, and some private individuals were present. He stated that the consensus of that conference was to work to enhance Transportation, not detract from it. He stated that there are many enhancements that can be made to allow the Transit Service to provide transportation for even more people.

Steve Rosario (member of the public- Candidate for District #1) stated that it is not in his DNA to stay silent when he sees things that are just not fair. He stated that there have been many heart felt stories shared over the past two nights. He stated that we are one County. He stated that each and every resident of the County; their quality of life must be taken into consideration when compiling a budget. He stated that the key is to prioritize. He stated everyone has to do that in their own lives in the case of their personal budgets. He stated if you were to ask him, this is a priority item.

Chair LoBue made a motion to restore the \$650,000 into the Transit Service Budget; Seconded by Legislator Othmer. All in favor.

Chair LoBue welcomed the representatives from the Highways & Facilities Department: Commissioner Fred Pena, Deputy Commissioner John Tully and Fiscal Manager Jeanette Saccavino.

Legislator Conklin stated that in the Revenues/Expenditures section page 39 she questioned the Furniture & Furnishings Line. To date they have spent \$577 and they are requesting \$5,000. She stated that she would like to reduce that to \$2,000.

Legislator Birmingham stated that there are some empty usable desks in the old Finance Office area of the County Office Building that could be used.

Legislator Othmer stated that the previous motion passed to restore the \$650,000 back into the budget, will result in the Legislature having to make that amount up. He stated that he does not want to go over the 2% Tax Cap.

Commissioner Pena stated that they have been extremely frugal in putting this year's budget together. They are 7% less than what the 2012 Budget was for the Highways & Facilities Department.

Legislator Conklin stated that we are living in an austerity time. She stated she would like to see this line reduced.

Commissioner Carlin expressed extreme frustration with these recommendations from this committee. He stated that the Department Heads were asking to come to the County Executive with a responsible budget that was less than 2012. It was decided by the Administration that they would let the Department Heads make the budgets and live by them, as long as they met the requirements that the County Executive put in place. He stated that the Department Heads have done that. He stated to now micromanage every line item, he is opposed to that.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that during the preparation of the Budget their Fiscal Staff is taken away from the normal duties of the department and puts their focus on the development of the department's budget. As a result the payables stack up.

Chair LoBue stated so what you are saying is your department's billings is not up to date.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that the information that the Legislature is relying on to make some of these decisions is not accurate.

Chair LoBue stated that she understands the problem. However she does believe that a reduction can be made in the Furniture & Furnishing line. She stated that there needs to be prioritization done here. She stated that she respects the fact that Commissioner Pena is working to raise the standards in the department. She stated that it needs to be done slowly. She recognizes that Commissioner Pena and his staff worked diligently to develop this budget.

Commissioner Pena stated that he will accept what is proposed by the Legislature. However he would like to be able to come back and provide feedback on the impact of what those cuts will mean on the impact of the future.

Chair LoBue stated that is the purpose of this meeting.

Legislator Othmer stated that he believes that there is a lot of merit in what Commissioner Carlin stated. He stated Commissioner Pena has come to the County from the Private Sector. He brings with him a Law Degree and an Engineering Degree. He stated the decision to bring him aboard was to modernize and professionalize the Highways & Facilities Department. He stated that he does not want to disrespect their abilities by questioning them to this level.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that he has seventeen (17) years of experience working on County Budgets. Commissioner Pena relied on his experience during this budget process. He stated that they worked to present to the County Executive and the Legislature a fair and sound budget. He stated to make cuts to their budget at this point and ask if it is fair, in his opinion is very unfair. He stated that this is a bare bones budget.

Legislator Birmingham stated that if the answer to every question is we have already cut to the bone, then what is the Legislature's role in this process. He questioned what does the 2012 Actual Column mean. He stated that last year it was everything current up to August 31st (in accordance to the budget process being conducted during the month of September).

Commissioner Carlin stated that it is a different date, but the same situation.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he did not vote in favor of pushing the budget process out. He stated that one of the selling points presented in favor to move the budget process out was so that the Actual Column would be so much more accurate and up to date.

Commissioner Carlin stated that it is.

Legislator Birmingham stated that tonight we are not hearing that. We are hearing that the billing is two months behind because everyone has been working to pull together the budget.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that the Actual Column is two months more accurate this month than it was last year. However the same scenario does apply, that the time spent putting together the department's budget does take away from the billing process.

Commissioner Pena stated there is an expectation for improved morale, there is an expectation for higher productivity and there is an expectation for more deliverables and those things require some tweaking in the current department. He stated that they have gone through their budget line by line and presented a budget that will accomplish the expectations of the Highways & Facilities Department.

Legislator Birmingham stated that if the problem with morale is dependent on whether the employee gets a brand new desk or a 30 year old desk, then there is a bigger problem with morale than the furniture.

Commissioner Pena stated in reference to the uniform budget line. Currently if you came on to the grounds of the Highway & Facilities Department you would not be able to differentiate who is an official County Mechanic. He stated that, in his opinion that is unacceptable.

Legislator Othmer questioned how many employees are in the Highways & Facilities Department.

Fiscal Manager Saccavino stated that there are 82 full time employees, with the exception of Administrative Positions which is 15. She stated that in the Uniform line a large cost is the safety shoes they cost \$130 for the year per person. Each employee is given two pairs of shoes during the course of the year.

Legislator Albano made a motion to reduce the Furniture/Furnishing Line (10149000 52110) from \$5,000 to \$1,000; Seconded by Legislator Othmer. All in favor.

Chair LoBue stated that it has been decided to put an awning over the Parking Deck, she stated that she believed that the plan was to seal the pavement to keep it from cracking.

Commissioner Pena stated that the Legislature requested that an awning be used.

Legislator Birmingham stated that there was no formal vote on it. It was a recommendation from the floor during a committee meeting.

Chair LoBue stated that she is concerned that the County is trying to address too many projects at once. She stated that she would like to see priorities on a need basis.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he agrees to a degree; however there are some maintenance issues that must be addressed.

Legislator LoBue made a motion to reduce the Miscellaneous Line (10149000 54989) from \$15,000 to \$12,000; Seconded by Legislator Albano. Nay vote -Legislator Othmer.

Legislator Conklin questioned on page 154 Bottled Water (1051110054321) why is the County paying for bottled water.

Commissioner Pena stated that there is poor water quality at that location requiring the County to provide Bottled Water.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that they are working to resolve the poor water quality issue.

Legislator Conklin questioned the janitorial line and the supplies do they tie together.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that yes one budget line addresses the actual company that has been hired through the bid process to do the cleaning and the supplies line is used to purchase the paper products which are purchased via the bid process as well.

Financial Manager Saccavino stated that there are two (2) additional County Buildings that are going to be added to the list of buildings to be cleaned: The new building on Hill & Dale and the Board of Elections building.

Legislator Conklin questioned if the Janitorial Services for the entire County is covered on page 154 (10511100 54755) why is there a Janitorial Services line on page 210 under the Office For the Aging.

Financial Manager Saccavino stated that is the only facility that the County does not have to pay for to get cleaned. She stated that the State provides the funding for the cleaning of that facility. She stated that Janitorial Service lines will be listed in a Department if they receive outside funding to cover it.

Legislator Conklin questioned why there is no revenue showing for the Community Gardens on page 220 for 2012.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated he will get back to the Legislature on that. He did not have an explanation. He stated that there was an issue with the Well there, but he is not sure if that is why there is nothing showing in the line.

Commissioner Pena stated that the Community Gardens were restored to the County. He stated that a new well was constructed. Now there is water irrigating the farm again, so that has been rectified.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he recommends that the Committee raise the revenue to \$4,000 for 2013. He stated it is a program that is greatly appreciated by members of the community.

Chair LoBue made a motion to increase the revenue in the Community Garden Line (10711000 420015) from \$3,500 to \$4,000; seconded by Legislator Albano. Nay vote-Legislator Othmer.

Legislator Conklin stated on page 224 she would like to know what the Maint Sy Ludington (10711000 54711) refers to.

Financial Manager Saccavino stated that it was supposed to be reworded. That refers to the maintenance of the Bike Path.

Commissioner Pena stated that he hopes the \$15,000 in that line will cover the costs. He stated that the maintenance issues that need to be addressed are increasing. He stated for example the roots are coming up through the pavement.

Legislator Conklin questioned on page 224 the Maint and Repairs line (10711000 54710), to date there has only been \$1,179 spent and there is a proposed amount of \$12,000 in the line, why is that.

Financial Manager Saccavino stated that is the line that the Legislature puts in sub contingency.

Chair LoBue made a motion to put \$12,000 from the Maint and Repairs (10711000 54710) line into sub contingency; Seconded by Legislator Othmer. All in favor.

Legislator Conklin requested an explanation in the increase in the Temporary line (10511000 51094) on page 268.

Commissioner Pena stated that he would like to fill a gap with Temporary Positions rather than requesting to fill Full Time Positions.

Legislator Conklin questioned the increase in the telephone lines on pages 268 & 270, she stated that she thought that the purchase of the new phone system was going to reduce the cost in the County's Telephone Lines.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated that is not a number that his department came up with. He stated that they relied on the Finance Department to come up with the Telephone line numbers.

Commissioner Carlin stated that the numbers were put together as a result of reviewing actual billing records.

Chair LoBue stated that she would like to move onto the Capital Projects.

Legislator Oliverio stated for clarification that none of these projects have been funded yet. Secondly he requested confirmation that any of the funding to be released for any of the Capital Projects must come to the Legislature for approval.

Commissioner Carlin stated that is correct.

Chair LoBue stated she does not see where the \$800,000 is coming from that is ear marked as "Sources of Funding Capital Reserve".

Commissioner Carlin stated that the Administration has heard all of the concerns communicated by the Legislature on the issue of utilizing Bonding as a revenue source. He stated Legislator DiCarlo had made a recommendation during 2012 to set up a Capital Reserve Fund. He stated that is what the Administration is proposing. He stated that they are looking to fund it through the sale of County Assets.

Chair LoBue stated that this funding should be moved into sub contingency.

Commissioner Carlin stated that does not need to be done.

Chair LoBue stated that she discussed this funding with Legislative Counsel VanRoss and he recommended that it be moved into Sub contingency.

Auditor Sharkey stated Legislative Counsel VanRoss made that recommendation due to the fact that it is the Minor Renovations Line.

Chair LoBue stated that Legislative Counsel VanRoss stated that it is a requirement under the Appropriations Law.

Chair LoBue made a motion to move the \$800,000 funding into the Sub Contingency line under Capital Repairs; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Deputy Commissioner Tully requested that after the Budget Process is over he and Commissioner Pena be allowed to present some ideas regarding the running of the Capital Projects Program. He stated in their discussions, with Commissioner Pena's background, they believe that they can create a program that will meet the concerns that the Legislature has voiced throughout the year.

Chair LoBue stated that part of the problem that she has had with projects in 2012, is that construction had begun before the Legislature had been notified. She stated that the Committee Assignments have not been done for 2013.

Legislator Conklin questioned if the Sale of Property that is done on those parcels that are delinquent in their taxes will that revenue go into this Capital Reserve Fund.

Commissioner Carlin stated no, only the Sale of County Owned Properties.

Item #4) Other Business

Legislator Gross stated that he has been working with the Highways & Facilities Department on a few projects in his district. He stated that he would like to state publicly that they have been responsive and effective on every project they have been brought in on.

Item #5) Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:50P.M., Chair LoBue made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Othmer. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature- *Diane E. Trabulsy*