

effort, and dollars because of the lack of communication and he believes that is what this change asks for is better communication. He stated a lot of changes need to be memorialized so we are not blindsided. He stated the biggest mistake that is made is being reactive and not proactive and this may help for everyone to be more proactive. He stated that when you are reactive then you cannot effectuate the change you need because you are always playing catch-up. He stated that when you are proactive you can anticipate things.

Legislator Othmer stated that he agrees with Legislator DiCarlo's point about communication but he does not think the change, as written, is going to work and that the language needs to be refined. He believes we will have problems with passing it as written.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she agrees with Legislator DiCarlo's point about communication but from a legislative perspective she believes this change underscores the powers and duties of the County Executive. She stated that she acknowledges that communication could and should be better. She stated that we are depleting the powers and duties of the County Executive and that the Legislative powers and duties do not encompass what this change is amending. She stated that we need to foster communication but not in this way.

Legislator Othmer stated that this stemmed from the Putnam Valley Senior Center issue and he would like to work on some language that does not handcuff the County Executive.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that the County Executive needs to foster that sense of communication and we should not pass something that underscores her powers and duties.

Legislator Othmer stated we need to think of positions and not individuals.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that Legislator Othmer's proposed change was triggered by a reaction rather than speaking to the position, which she believes was not the way to go about promoting the fostering of communication.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he believes it is a much bigger issue. He stated when the Legislative Branch is left out of decision-making, when information is denied or withheld, the Legislative Branch is weakened and that is how dictatorships happen. He stated that if you look through history, every time a dictator has taken over, Germany, Rome, Greece, the Legislative Branch was silenced and the Executive Branch was dominate and paramount. He believes that this change responds to that, whoever is the County Executive. He stated that is just a statement of history and a statement of fact.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she believes this is micromanaging.

Legislator Oliverio stated he disagrees.

Chairwoman Nacerino emphasized that the change also states when the County Executive is contemplating a change and she believes that seems then the County Executive must essentially ask permission from the Legislative Branch to make a change.

Legislator Oliverio suggested removing the word contemplating.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she agrees with the objective but she believes this is drastic.

Legislator Albano stated he agrees with Chairwoman Nacerino that a Charter change is drastic. He stated we are not part of the decision-making here but we should be kept informed.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell stated that she never withheld information from Legislator Oliverio. She stated that she made two calls to the Legislative Office last week for Legislator Oliverio and she received no return calls. She stated that she will not call his place of work or his cell phone during the day out of respect for his work.

Legislator Oliverio stated that she should call him on his cell phone.

County Executive Odell stated that is fine and that is what she will do in the future. She stated that the issues arose out of personnel changes. She stated that personnel changes are a County Executive power and duty. She stated she has never blocked any communication with any Legislator to any Department Head. She stated that Department Heads are available to the Legislators when they need them and Legislators do not have to go through her office to speak with Department Heads.

Legislator Oliverio stated that the problem is when the Legislature does not know what's happening because then we cannot approach the Administration.

County Executive Odell stated that when reviewing facts about the Putnam Valley Senior Center issue the cook did not leave and Legislator Oliverio was given bad information regarding this issue before speaking with her or the Department Head and Legislator Oliverio perpetuated that bad information.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he was given bad information but did not perpetuate it.

County Executive Odell stated that he did and perpetuated it to his colleagues and spun it.

Legislator Oliverio asked County Executive Odell to admit that she never informed the Legislature of this change.

County Executive Odell stated that the Legislative and Executive Branches approved the Department Heads appointments. She stated that we all understand that the

Department Heads are responsible for their personnel and the day-to-day operation and if any Legislators have any questions to call them directly.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he received 52 phone calls and emails regarding that item.

County Executive Odell stated that the position of County Executive is a 24/7 job and she understands that Legislators each have their own careers and that it is difficult to always get everyone instantly. She stated that we are all professionals and are here to serve the public. She stated we should have a meeting of all Legislators and Department Heads and herself to sit down and figure out where we can do better.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she does not believe that there should be a Charter change. She stated that she believes we can accomplish the same directive without a Charter change.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that what County Executive Odell said about a meeting is absolute panacea; to get all the players in the same room at the same time and all leave on the same page.

County Executive Odell stated that she agrees and there is great synergy and exchange of ideas at the monthly Department Head meetings. She encouraged Legislators to attend the monthly Department Head meetings.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that there is probably movement every day in the County that the Legislature is not aware of nor needs to be aware of. She stated she hopes as we move forward that both branches of government foster communication.

Legislator DiCarlo suggested a roundtable meeting for next year.

Director Noel stated the monthly Department Head meetings are great to cross exchange ideas and problem solve with each other.

County Executive Odell stated that she was not carbon copied on this proposed change and she believes it was merely an oversight and she is not upset about it.

Legislator Oliverio stated that she should have been carbon copied. He stated we are as responsible to communicate to you as you are with us.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that everyone should be genuine. She further stated that it would be beneficial for one Legislator per month to attend the Department Head meetings.

County Executive Odell stated that agendas will not be given ahead of time because things are very fluid and moving at a clip. She also stated that the Legislators are being invited into a Department Head meeting and that she respectfully asks that there be no demands put on her staff or Administration.

Legislator Othmer stated that he imagined this change to be more of a checklist when it came to changes; something procedural.

Legislator Castellano stated that communication is a two-way street and we have had a healthy discussion here about this tonight. He stated that every issue in his district he has reached out to people and gotten answers. He stated we have made great suggestions moving forward.

Chairwoman Nacerino thanked everyone for a good healthy dialogue tonight.

Item #6) Approval/Memorialization/Niagara County Legislature Requesting the State of New York Establish a Residency Requirement in Order to Receive Welfare Benefits

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that this is a State housekeeping detail.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution, seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

Item #7) FYI/Resignation/Putnam Democratic Commissioner of Elections Bennett/Effective 11 23 13

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she wishes Commissioner Bennett the best of luck in his retirement and that the Legislature is very grateful for his service.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that Commissioner Bennett was always a logical and practical man and he wished Commissioner Bennett the best of luck and hopes he enjoys his retirement.

Legislator Castellano stated that Commissioner Bennett's 37 years of service as Democratic Election Commissioner is a tremendous accomplishment and he will be sorely missed.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated that procedurally the Democratic Committee has 45 days from the resignation date (11/23/13) to give the Legislature a recommendation. He stated there is no rush and it is up to them to send the Legislature something.

Legislator Oliverio asked if the 45 day limit is exceeded what happens.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated that if there is no recommendation in the 45 days then the majority of the same political party within the Legislature has the right to designate.

County Executive Odell stated that Commissioner Bennett is a true gentleman and she has known him for many years. She stated he is part of a generation that lives for law,

protection, and in keeping the process. She stated that she is sad he is leaving but happy that he gets to spend time with his family.

Item #8) Other Business - NONE

There being no further business, at 7:22 P.M., Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Krista M. Butler, Administrative Assistant.