

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
Held In Room #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members:
Chairman Gross, Legislators LoBue & Wright

Tuesday

March 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:45p.m. by Chairman Roger Gross. He requested that Legislator LoBue lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators LoBue & Chairman Gross were present. Legislator Wright was absent.

Item #3) Approval/Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes: February 11, 2014

Chair Gross stated that the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4) Discussion/Proposed Amendment to the Putnam County Sex Offender Law

Chairman Gross stated for Chapter 132 of Child Safety Zones (Child Safety Zones) be amended to include a restriction on those convicted of pedophilia and molestation to live in relation to the neighborhood and to the victims. He then asked if the District Attorney and the Director of Probation had any comments in regards to the proposed legislation.

Director of Probation Gene Funicilli stated if you are under supervision you are exempt from the current Putnam County Sex Offender Law ("Sex Offender Law"). Those that are not on supervision and is a Sex Offender the Sex Offender Law applies to them. He stated there was a challenge to a Sex Offender Law that was upheld. He stated that the change in the Sex Offender Law allows for a person who is classified as a Sex Offender live anywhere in the County.

District Attorney Adam Levy stated that within 2008 and 2009 the Sex Offender Law was successfully challenged by a level three (3) Sex Offender costing the County thousands of dollars in outside council fees. He stated under the 168 Executive Law parole is required. He further stated to impose a feel good law makes no sense. He stated to modify or amend the current Child Safety Zone Legislation should be done in the best interest of the people.

Item #5) Approval/County of Niagara's Resolution/Rejecting Governor Cuomo's Plans to Reward Prison Inmates by Providing Them with College Educations at Taxpayer Expense

Chairman Gross read from the proposed resolution. Chairman Gross then stated that this principle is coming from the fact that it is cheaper to pay for college and give the inmates a college degree then to send them back to jail. Then, he asked what the board thought of the County of Niagara's Resolution.

Legislator Dini LoBue stated that she does not support it. She would like to see the government reward those that are doing the right thing and cannot go to school due to finances instead of those that are breaking the law. She suggested a better solution would be to teach the inmates a skill that they can apply to a job.

Legislator Carl Albano stated he does not support the proposed resolution.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino stated that she agrees with Legislator Albano. She stated it does not send the right message for those that are working hard and are doing the right thing. She stated this plan could be perceived as an incentive to go to jail.

Legislator LoBue stated she would like to point out that people come into jail to receive medical procedures that we are obligated to pay for. She stated that the system is broken. She then stated people need a purpose in life, and that putting people in jail with free cable and food is not solving the problem.

Chairman Gross made a motion to approve the memorialization of Niagra's Resolution/Rejecting Governor Cuomo's Plans to Reward Prison Inmates by Providing them with College Educations at Taxpayer Expense; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Item #6) Correspondence:

- a. From: Chair of Protective Services Gross To: County Executive Odell Dated: February 19, 2014 Re: Emergency Response Team (ERT)- County Executive Odell's Requested Discussion Item on the February 11, 2014 Protective Services Meeting/FYI**

Chairman Gross stated that he met with Sheriff Smith and his staff. They agreed that an ERT program is needed. However, he stated the problem is the 207C Workman's Compensation. He stated individual police departments do not have a good record of handling this matter. He stated that Sheriff Smith felt very strongly that the County needs to have this in-house so it can be monitored. He then stated Sheriff Smith is comfortable with taking over this issue. He further stated that another piece of this matter is the police departments need more funding to handle it. He stated that the County perhaps may eventually take over.

Legislator Nacerino asked if the Sheriff's Department would welcome the task.

Chairman Gross stated that he has not talked to them about that. He stated that he sent a correspondence to the County Executive stating a meeting should be set up with the Sheriff and the Towns to discuss the ERT program.

Legislator LoBue suggested that we send a letter to the Sheriff asking him to schedule a meeting with all the parties concerned. She stated that we should figure it out because it is already halfway through the year.

Legislator Lou Tartaro stated that he agrees with Legislator LoBue but he stated that we need to keep in mind that we cannot make a change in the middle of the year and he stated that he strongly believes the Sheriff will want to have a transition period.

Item #7) Other Business

Legislator LoBue stated that we received an email from a woman in Mahopac named Susan Salomon who lost a child to heroin overdose. She stated that she would like the matter of the heroin crisis in the County to be put on the agenda for April's Health meeting.

Item #8) Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:10P.M., Chair Gross made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by, Administrative Assistant of the Legislature- Lisa Sommers