

Chairman Gouldman questioned if Chief Attorney Brophy sees any correlation between the old proposal and the current proposal that concerns him.

Putnam County Legal Aid Chief Attorney Patrick Brophy stated that he does not see a problem. He stated that he likes the 2016 proposed resolution for the reasons that he stated and would support it. He stated that the financial reimbursement to the County would afford, for the first time, the Legal Aid Society an avenue for increased funding. He stated for the eight (8) years he has been serving as Chief Attorney there has been problems with funding. He stated that the contribution from the County has remained the same for the eight (8) years. He stated there has been no cost of living increase of raises for the Staff. He stated if this goes into effect then the County could afford to give the Putnam County Legal Aid increased funding, since they would be 100% reimbursed by the State. He stated that is another reason why he would support it.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve the Memorialization/Calling on the State to Develop 100% State Funded Indigent Legal Defense System as a Way to Provide Mandate Relief and Lower Property Taxes; Seconded by Legislator Wright. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/Fund Transfer (16T022)/Transfer to OT Due to Open Personnel Line/Sheriff's Department

Legislator Nacerino requested clarification of the reason for this request. She stated this matter is on the Personnel Meeting Agenda tomorrow also, because it involves a Personnel Line.

Undersheriff Convery stated that there are currently two (2) vacancies in the Correction Divison. He stated that they have been drawing candidates from the existing Civil Service list. He stated thus far none of the candidates have been able to pass all of the preliminary civil service requirements for consideration by the Sheriff's Department. He stated that is the reason for the need to use the overtime to provide the required coverage. He stated that a part-time Correction Officer has been hired. The new employee is a retired Sergeant from Westchester County. He stated that this past pay period the three (3), which includes the new person, worked approximately 80 – 90 hours of overtime. He stated at a rate of \$25.00 for the part-time employee compared to \$57.00 for a full-time employee a significant cost savings is resulted. He stated the part-time workers are being used to do Court Transportations. He stated that in addition to the reduced hourly wage, because they are part-time, there is no cost to the County to provide benefits and there are no legacy costs. He stated that they are all qualified and happy to be able to keep working.

Legislator Nacerino stated this has been a very long process to fill these positions.

Undersheriff Convery stated that they have been trying; however the Sheriff's does not want to hire a person who is not suited to work in the County Sheriff's Department. He stated different issues have come up along the way with each candidate.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if Undersheriff Convery believes the two (2) vacancies will be filled soon.

Undersheriff Convery stated that they are continuing to work with the candidates that are on the Civil Service list. He stated that they have been working to fill these positions for a year.

Legislator LoBue questioned how often throughout a year is the Sheriff's Department test given.

Undersheriff Convery stated that Personnel Director Eldridge could answer when the last test was given. He stated that the next Deputy Sheriff's test will be given on November 19, 2016. He stated by law a test must be given every four (4) years.

Legislator Nacerino stated the frequency of the test is mandated by the State.

Undersheriff Convery stated that is correct.

Legislator Wright questioned if there will be any sitting Correction Officers who will take the November 19th test.

Undersheriff Convery stated that there may be a few. He stated that working in Corrections used to be a stepping stone to the Police side. He stated that has changed. He stated that the Corrections side has become a good career that the employees enjoy.

Legislator Wright stated if there are Correction Officers who take the test and get the job on the Police side, then the Sheriff's Department would be facing a deficit on the Correction side.

Undersheriff Convery stated that also on the Police side there are approximately eight (8) Officers who may retire within the next year.

Legislator Gross made a motion to Approve/Fund Transfer (16T022)/Transfer to OT Due to Open Personnel Line/Sheriff's Department; Seconded by Chairman Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #7 - Approval/Fund Transfer (16T023)/Transfer To Temp Line Due to Open Personnel Line/Sheriff's Department

Undersheriff Convery stated that this request is a result again of the two (2) vacancies discussed on the previous agenda item. He stated that the hope is that the vacancies will be filled very soon.

Legislator Wright stated he would like confirmation that the earlier referenced part-time employees will be continued to be used when possible.

Undersheriff Convery stated that they will. He stated for the first time in his 15 years of work in the Putnam County Sheriff's Department the Transportation over time was down in 2015. He stated that was because the part-time Correction Officers were utilized. He stated that there is a possibility that there will be another retiree with a police background hired on a part-time basis.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to Approve/ Fund Transfer (16T023)/Transfer To Temp Line Due to Open Personnel Line/Sheriff's Department; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Chairman Gouldman stated that they would go out of order to address the agenda items related to the Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional: 8e and 8f; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item #8 - Discussion/Town of Southeast 4th of July Fireworks

- a. Corres. Fr: Chair, Protective Services Gouldman To: Sheriff Smith D: 02/26/2016**
- b. Corres. Fr: Sheriff Smith To: Chair, Protective Services Gouldman D: 03/01/2016**
- c. Corres. Fr: Leg. Gross To: Chair, Protective Services Gouldman D: 03/08/2016**
- d. Corres. Fr: Chair, Protective Services Gouldman To: Cnty Executive Odell D: 03/09/2016**

Chairman Gouldman stated at the request of Legislator Gross a Fund Transfer (additional #8e) was received in the Legislative Office March 11th, 16T040 in the amount of \$13,970. He stated the amount is based on the amount that was spent to cover the Sheriff's Department participation and support at the Town of Southeast 4th of July Fireworks event last year, 2015.

Undersheriff Convery stated Fund Transfer (16T040) does not reflect the 2.5% salary increase that was given in 2016 to the Sheriff's Deputies. He stated that Captain Christian did a great job coordinating the efforts from different agencies in 2015. He stated that Captain Christian will be doing that again this year. He stated that the assistance from the agencies and additional municipalities will help in keeping the Sheriff's Department cost down.

Legislator LoBue questioned if Undersheriff Convery believes that the cost for the Sheriff's Department will be lower than 2015.

Undersheriff Convery stated no with the 2.5% increase it will be closer to \$16,000 possibly a little less, based on the amount of assistance they receive from other agencies.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the help from the other agencies will result in a cost to the County.

Undersheriff Convery stated no, there will be no cost to the County from the other agencies.

Legislator Gross stated that he would like to thank the Sheriff's Department, the Administration and the Legislature for coming together on this matter. He stated that the event benefits the entire County and brings visitors to the County. He stated there is a financial benefit to the businesses located at the Highlands, which is great. He stated that overall it is a positive event for the community and sales tax. He stated that he heard from the committee that runs the Fireworks. He stated that the Town of Southeast representatives have stated the actual display of

fireworks on the night of the event will be extended beyond the past year's display of 20 minutes.

Legislator Castellano stated that he has heard only positive feedback in regards to the event and the security at the event from past years. He stated that he believes it is a positive to have the Sheriff's Department at the event. He stated that the Village of Brewster Police Department are ready to help with the event.

Legislator Wright stated that per the discussion at the February Protective meeting during the hiatus an effort was to be made to contact, recruit and get commitments from the other agencies. He stated it appears that no progress was made on that. He stated that all that is before the Committee tonight is a funding resolution that literally avoids the entire discussion that took place at last month's meeting, which is a disappointment.

Legislator Gross stated that he has been in contact with the Town of Southeast Committee handling the 4th of July Fireworks event. He stated that they have a meeting coming up at the end of March. He stated that they have done some fundraising. He stated that they have been in touch with the County's Health Department and they have addressed the need for the specific amount of port-a-potties based on the projected number of attendees. He stated that they have been working on this event with the idea that this funding would be approved. He stated that they have not been sitting waiting for the County.

Legislator Wright stated his comments were specific to "Law Enforcement" contributions.

Undersheriff Convery stated the Sheriff's Department could not move forward with planning until they receive the approval of the Legislature. He stated that Captain Christian has "unofficially" begun planning for the event. However, until an approval is done by the Legislature no formal action can be taken.

Captain Frank Christian stated that the Sheriff's Department is approaching this request with an awareness of the need to supply the support in the most fiscal way as possible. He stated that the event is a large gathering and there are some major, critical infrastructures in the area of the event.

Legislator Wright stated that he recognizes all of that. He stated that he is trying to bring awareness back to the focus from last month's discussion of this matter. He stated that it was stated at last month's meeting that the delay in approving funding in February would allow time to consolidate and focus the attention of the affected Police Agencies on the issue. He stated as an example the folks from the Village of Brewster would get behind the Village Police and the powers that be would get the State Police Department. He stated it was his belief after last month's meeting the intervening time period would be used in an attempt to get other agencies on board. He stated he believes it is a disincentive if it is fully funded and the County then asks for help from other agencies to reduce the cost.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she agrees with Legislator Wright's recollection of the discussion of this matter at the February Protective Services Meeting.

Undersheriff Convery stated that was not shared with the Sheriff's Department. He stated for the record, the Sheriff's Department cannot take any action until there is approval by the Legislature.

Legislator Nacerino questioned for clarification will the cost exceed the fund transfer amount due to the 2% increase.

Undersheriff Convery stated yes. He stated that with the addition of the Village of Brewster Police, it will assist greatly in keeping the cost down.

Legislator LoBue stated that she would like to suggest that in April Undersheriff Convery address this Committee again. She stated in April he can notify the Legislature of what arrangements have been made to assist in coverage at the event.

Undersheriff Convery stated that he would be happy to do that.

Legislator LoBue stated that she believes they all agree that the event is great for the community. She stated she believes if funding is approved at this point, that will serve as a disincentive for other agencies to help at the event. She stated that the County would be looking at more like \$17,000, when the 2% is factored in.

Undersheriff Convery stated he would like to restate the only reason the Sheriff's Department is looking to support and work at this event is because the Legislature has requested that they do so.

Legislator Gross stated that he would like to see this go forward for approval at the April Full Meeting. He stated there will still be a couple of months to tie up the loose ends. He stated that there is an awareness of the situation and the need for use of part-timers; he stated that he supports moving this forward.

Legislator Albano stated that there is approximately \$14,000 being proposed. He stated that hopefully in April the Sheriff's Department will come forward next month and say that they have the additional assistance and participation that they need to keep the amount at the \$14,000. He stated in his opinion it is an important event that allows the emergency responder team to get great training exercise.

Chairman Gouldman questioned the opinion of his colleagues. He stated that since there is a question pertaining to the requested amount, do you want to hold this over to next month.

Legislator Albano stated he would like to see this fund transfer moved forward. He stated the Legislature is not going to turn away from this event. He stated just considering the training opportunity alone for the emergency responders makes this an important County event.

Captain Frank Christian stated he did get 31 other people ready to commit to assist. He stated that the event is around the State Police and MTA Police vacation time. He stated also for the 2015 4th of July Fireworks event an effort was made to involve the Village of Brewster Police, however for whatever reason it did not work out.

Legislator Wright stated that is the essence of the comments that he made at the February meeting, when this matter was first brought up. He stated given the potential of this event, with the concern of funding; the Chambers, local Village Board; and even the Carmel Town Board, can focus the attention of the folks under their jurisdiction on the importance of the community event and in his experiences that has a way of fostering cooperation to make matters move forward. He stated that people are more inclined to cooperate when they know it is the collective good will of their supervising legislative bodies that are offering their thoughts on it. He stated that he is hearing that essentially before that process was begun a funding resolution needs to be put in place. He stated that makes no sense to him.

Undersheriff Convery stated the fund transfer funding is only to cover 21 members of the Sheriff's Department. He stated there needs to be more to meet the required coverage for this event. He stated that he will personally reach out the Village of Brewster Police.

Legislator Castellano stated there was some confusion with coverage for this event last year, because the matter came to the Legislature without a lot of time before the event. He stated thanks to Legislator Gross the discussion have begun sooner this year. He stated that he is hoping that this can all be accomplished with the approximately \$14,000 funding.

Chair Gouldman stated for clarification the funding amount requested in the fund transfer (16T040) before this Committee is \$13,970.

Legislator LoBue stated the dollar amount being requested is inaccurate because it does not include the 2% raise. She stated with that said she believes approval for the appropriations should be put off to April. She stated that she is in favor of the event. She stated but there are still some details that need to be worked out in terms of the dollar amount.

Legislator Wright stated the appropriated amount may require a personnel reduction to get it within the \$13, 970.

Legislator Albano stated if the amount ends up to come in at \$15,000 or \$16,000 is anyone going to say no because it went over. He stated that he supports moving forward with this approval. He stated that the Sheriff's Department is working to get additional assistance. He stated the County is not going to cancel the event.

Legislator Wright questioned why can't the plan be redrawn within the authorized appropriations.

Legislator LoBue stated that she is not comfortable moving forward with the fund transfer in its current state. She stated the Legislature needs to know exactly what is being put forward, exactly how many personnel members will be involved. She stated that she believes the dollar amount decided and passed, should be an amount that is kept to. She stated that should be no overage.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is supportive of the event. She stated from the Legislature's perspective and plan should be placed forward including a "not to exceed amount". She stated

and then seek to have the dollar amount offset by the involvement of the other agencies. She stated when we talk about embracing the community and the community partaking in the event and it being a win/win for everyone in the community, which should also spill over to the other agencies that want to join forces for the goodwill of the community at large. She stated that way all of the participating agencies will receive the recognition for their assistance in supporting this wonderful community event. She stated the fund transfer in front of the Committee tonight is not a true number. She stated that she would like to thrive forward and reduce the manpower from the Sheriff's Department and have it offset by the part-timers, Legislator Albano has been advocating for and the other agencies. She stated that she does agree that if the approach is the "sky is the limit" she agrees there will be no incentive to move forward with petitioning for the other agencies to participate. She stated the other agencies should be just as enthusiastic to help the community out as the County is.

Chair Gouldman questioned if everyone is in favor of voting on the \$13,970.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she believes it should be voted on.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if this fund transfer is approved tonight, could Undersheriff Convery find out, before the April Full Meeting, the particulars and inform the Legislature of where the entire support of the event stands. She stated if it gets put to next month's April Physical Meeting, then she is concerned that we will be a lot closer to the event date.

Legislator Albano stated that the Legislature is not approving the event. He stated that by passing the fund transfer, the Legislature is saying that we support the event keep the Sheriff's cost to it. He stated changes have been made to keep the cost down, from previous years. He stated that he supports moving forward with this.

Chair Gouldman questioned if Legislator Addonizio's request can be met.

Undersheriff Convery stated that he will have a report for the next Committee meeting. He stated that he will reach out to the other agencies and provide a report back to the Legislature next month.

Legislator Wright stated that report back to the Legislature will be based on the premise of the Sheriff's Department has \$13,970 in amicable personnel expenses to devote to the event and the event will go forward providing other agencies can supplement "X" number of man hours.

Undersheriff Convery stated that is correct.

Legislator Gross stated he agrees with Legislator Albano that a green light should be given. He stated that he believes it will be difficult to project an exact cost amount due to unforeseen conditions such as weather for example.

Legislator Wright stated regardless the County's amount does not change.

Chair Gouldman made a motion to approve and move Fund Transfer (16T040) to the Audit & Administration Committee Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item #9 - Update/Speed Enforcement on East Lake Boulevard/Mahopac

Undersheriff Convery stated that there was an elderly women killed outside of the VFW Post in Mahopac. He stated the East Lake Boulevard is a very busy alternate route along Route 6. He stated that Captain Christian, who is the Sheriff's Acting Patrol Captain, had numerous traffic details there between December and January. He stated approximately 150 vehicles were stopped within a two (2) week period and given warnings. He stated 11 summonses were issued for speeding. He stated that Town of Carmel Chief Cazzari has picked up the patrol of that roadway. He stated that Legislator LoBue did recently contact him and reported that there are still issues occurring with speeding. He stated in response the Sheriff's Department has resumed the traffic detail again.

Legislator LoBue stated she would like to thank the Sheriff's Department for their diligence to the speeding matter on this roadway. She requested clarification that the patrolling of East Lake Boulevard will be kept up by the Sheriff's Department.

Undersheriff Convery stated that is correct.

Legislator Albano questioned if speed bumps were considered as an option to address this matter.

Undersheriff Convery stated that with speed bumps there is a problem with the snow plows. He stated that he believes that having patrols is the most effective method. He stated in the past there have been areas reported to the Sheriff's Department regarding speeding problems. He stated that the Sheriff's Department responds with patrols by the next day. He stated that it does have a positive effect on the problem.

Legislator LoBue stated that the matter with East Lake Boulevard is compounded by the large amount of pedestrian traffic. She stated that she was contacted by her constituents and again is thankful to the Sheriff's Department for their response to addressing this problem.

Chair Gouldman stated that there are two (2) fund transfers that came to the Legislature after this agenda was published. He stated that he will bring them forward to waive the rules and accept them. If they are not accepted at this meeting they will also be addressed at the March Personnel Meeting.

Chair Gouldman made a motion to waive the rules and accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item #16. Other Business

- a. Approval/Fund Transfer (16T038)/ Sheriff's Department/Transfer to OT Due to Open Personnel Line**

Legislator Nacerino questioned if this as a result of the two (2) vacancies previously discussed.

Undersheriff Convery stated that is correct.

Chair Gouldman made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (16T038) and move it to the Audit & Administration meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

b. Approval/Fund Transfer (16T039)/Sheriff's Department-Corrections/Transfer from Open Personnel Line to Temp Personnel Line

Legislator Nacerino questioned if this item is related to the Cook position in the Corrections Department. She stated that she is requesting clarification because the paper work is vague.

Undersheriff Convery stated that the Head Cook from the Corrections Department is now working at the Office for the Aging. He stated they have found a replacement who will be hired in April. He stated for the meantime there is a very qualified part-time cook who has been covering the positions. He stated that is why the money is being moved to the "Temporary Budget Line". He stated again using their Temporary Employees has helped a great deal in terms of coverage and cost.

Chair Gouldman made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (16T039) and move it to the Audit & Administration meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item #7 - FYI/Fund Transfer (15T031)Fire Training Center Inspection

Commissioner Sutton stated that the inspections need to be conducted by a licensed engineer. He stated there are licensed engineers who work in the County's Highway Department. However, they are not versed on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards. He stated after making inquiries a qualified firm has been selected.

Legislator Wright questioned how often is an inspection required, and based on that would it make sense to put this service out through the County's bid process.

Commissioner Sutton stated he believes the inspections are supposed to be done yearly. He stated that he reached out to Rockland and Westchester Counties and inquired what firms they use to conduct Fire Training Center Inspection. He stated it is a shallow pool of companies that have this qualification.

Chair Gouldman stated that he will skip on the agenda to the other items that Commission Sutton will be speaking to.

Legislator Wright stated he will be recusing himself from agenda items #11, 12, and 13, due to his son's position with Homeland Security.

Item #11 - Approval/2016-17 Hazmat Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant/Bureau of Emergency Services

Commissioner Sutton stated this Grant is not very wide in its nature, the use of the funding is restricted to being used for 'Training and Education'. He stated that there has been discussion about sending a person to a conference to get training or to have someone come to the Bureau to provide specialized training. He stated last year the funding was such that they were able to do both of those things. He stated he did report to the Committee that there was a professional firm hired to come to the County that will create an exercise scenario. He stated the drill will take place in April 2016 and it will test the skills of the Hazmat Team in identifying contained and unknown substance.

Chair Gouldman made a motion to approve the 2016-17 Hazmat Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant; Seconded by Legislator Gross. One Recusal –Legislator Wright. Motion Passes.

Item #12 - Approval/FY2016 (SHSP) State Homeland Security Grant/Bureau of Emergency Services

Commissioner Sutton stated that the award letter was received just ten (10) days ago. He stated the County's submission is due by the end of March 2016. He stated it is for \$275,000. He stated some of that funding will be shared with the Sheriff's Department. He stated that it will be used for a number of items such as repairing the garage doors where the emergency vehicles are kept, security cameras and things such as that nature. He stated additionally the Bureau of Emergency Services is hoping to get In Suit Communications for the HZMAT Team. He stated the HZMAT Grant, as mention earlier, is limited in its scope. He stated In Suit Communications are headsets the Team Members will wear to communicate. He stated that they are made specifically for use by people in a HZMAT Suit to communicate with others in a Suit or the handler. He stated currently the HZMAT Team is using microphones and portable radios, but they are not cutting it.

Legislator Gross stated that \$68,750 of the funding will go to the Sheriff's Department for use to in their terrorist prevention areas.

Commissioner Sutton stated that is correct. He stated that he believes it will go mostly to salaries.

Legislator Gross questioned if there is a requirement of matching funds from the County.

Commissioner Sutton stated no.

Chair Gouldman made a motion to approve the FY2016 (SHSP) State Homeland Security Grant/Bureau of Emergency Services; Seconded by Legislator Gross. One Recusal –Legislator Wright. Motion Passes.

Item #13 - Approval/FY2016 Local (EMP) Emergency Management Performance Grant/Bureau of Emergency Services

Commissioner Sutton stated this is an annual recurring Grant that is used to help cover salaries.

Legislator Gross requested the total amount of the Grant.

Commissioner Sutton stated it is either \$34,000 or \$43,000, he will need to get back to the Legislature with the exact amount.

Legislator Gross stated that there are quite a few grants coming from Homeland Security.

Commissioner Sutton stated that there are. He stated that they are getting much more restrictive in what they can be used for and there is more difficulty in reprogramming the use of the funds midstream. He stated there needs to be due diligence exercised when sending in the budget for use of the funds.

Legislator LoBue requested that Commissioner Sutton forward the exact amount of the Grant prior to the Full Meeting in April. She stated also she would like the specifics on salaries that will be covered by this Grant as well.

Commissioner Sutton confirmed he would do that. *(03/18/2016 via email Commissioner Sutton supplied the specifics as requested: Grant Total: \$42,517, it is a 50% match. It is used to cover a portion of the salaries of Deputy Commissioner Lipton and EMS Director Cuomo. It covers \$21,258.50 of each salary. Copy of email is attached to the minutes in binder for the 3/14/2016)*

Legislative Counsel VanRoss questioned if there are matching funds required.

Commissioner Sutton stated it could be said that there are matching funds, because only a portion of the salaries of the individuals designated will be covered. He stated the County would have to cover the remaining portion. He stated but there is nothing stated, as an example for every dollar fifty cents needs to be contributed by the County.

Chair Gouldman made a motion to approve the FY2016 Local (EMP) Emergency Management Performance Grant/Bureau of Emergency Services; Seconded by Legislator Gross. One Recusal –Legislator Wright. Motion Passes.

Item #14 - Update/Corres. Fr: Chair of the Legislature Nacerino To: Chair Protective Services Gouldman D: 02/26/2016 Re: TransCare & Certificate of Need Update

Chair Gouldman stated he would like to begin this discussion by thanking Commissioner Sutton for his proactive and diligence to this matter process. He stated without Commissioner Sutton's leadership the County could have been in a desperate situation.

Commissioner Sutton stated that he and Deputy County Executive Walker had a meeting with the TransCare leaders, along with representatives from the holding company, which is Patriarch. He stated at the meeting, which was approximately two (2) or three (3) days after TransCare in New York City announced their bankruptcy; filing chapter 7 and stopped operations

immediately, assured us that they had attorneys who approved that they would be able to spin off the Hudson Valley Operations of TransCare along with the MTA Handicapped Program of TransCare that they ran in New York City. He stated the TransCare representatives reported that they would be able to continue operating and servicing Putnam County. He stated he found it hard to comprehend based on the facts that this commitment was accurate. He stated plus there were employees of TransCare who had not been paid in 14 days. He stated that was a Thursday, the next day Friday at 5:30p.m. the Bankruptcy Court Trustee contacted the Putnam County ordering that all TransCare operations seize immediately and pull all of the TransCare trucks off of the road. He stated that fortunately, as discussed in this Committee meeting several times, he had started to develop a contingency plan. He stated by 10:30p.m. that night all of the TransCare units were off the road and EMStar brought their vehicles and staff to the Bureau of Emergency Services. He stated that the TransCare Employees were at the Bureau as well and EMStar hired them on the spot and they went back on the road in the EMStar vehicles. Each vehicle had an EMStar and former TransCare employee riding in it. He stated he has been working with the County Law Department to create a temporary contract for EMStar. He stated at the same time the original RFP is being revised and will hopefully be ready to be published shortly. He stated he believes the temporary contract EMStar will state that it will not exceed one (1) year.

Chair Gouldman questioned if there were any issues as a result of this incident.

Commissioner Sutton stated none.

Legislator LoBue questioned if EMStar has their Certification of Need (CON) to operate in Putnam.

Commissioner Sutton confirmed they do. He stated originally when this matter first came up, at the end of 2015, he stated he would not be comfortable working with EMStar. He stated that they were the successor of Empire. He stated since that time they have changed ownership. He stated also a very seasoned professional who was at TransCare for a very long time resigned from TransCare and is now the Chief Officer of EMStar. He stated due to this persons role in EMStar the process was made phenomenally easy.

Legislator LoBue questioned what company is handling Westchester.

Commissioner Sutton stated Empress Ambulance Services is handling areas of Westchester along with Westchester EMS.

Legislator LoBue questioned the Commissioner's familiarity with Empress Ambulance.

Commissioner Sutton stated it is a big operation. He stated many years ago, he worked for them. He stated that they have been handling the City of Yonkers area for a very very long time. He continued to share his knowledge of their business. He stated that they do not have an operating certificate for Putnam County. However that will not be an issue. He stated once the County chooses the emergency service they want to use in Putnam County the application for a CON will be completed and the County will have the certificate.

Legislator LoBue stated she does not see the need for the County to move forward with the CON application. She stated EMStar has a certificate.

Commissioner Sutton stated for the same reasons that he has stated in the past. He stated by the County having the CON it allows them to choose an agency from a larger group. He stated that there is not a good reason to continue the arrangement the way it is, limiting the County's opportunities in the future.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she would like to applaud Commissioner Sutton for having the foresight to move forward to safeguard this County. She stated if there was a lapse in service it would have been a devastating occurrence for the residents of this County.

Legislator Wright questioned given the lack of a profitable business plan in general for the industry sector does that mean that the County is likely to get into the business itself.

Commissioner Sutton stated he does not know of that if the case. He stated that he believes the less healthy organizations will go away and the few larger organization will probably be able to handle it. He stated that he advocates for a County system, but he fully recognizes the cost of having municipal employees and creating another entity like that. He stated that he views emergency management services (EMS) as priority service. He stated based on a study that he did a person is more likely to need EMS services over Fire and Police in their lifetime. He stated that there is an aging population, more demand and due to the health care industries' redefining itself. He stated there are much more outpatient surgeries being done in standalone facilities that are not associated with a hospital. He stated the facts support that the demand for EMS continues to increase. He stated there is a problem with the reimbursements in the health field; which makes it so that it is not a very profitable business to be in. He stated that something is going to have to give. He stated that money is made on transports. He stated security and a Transport Contract with a hospital would be desirable.

Legislator Gross questioned what happened to the TransCare Ambulances.

Commissioner Sutton stated that he anticipated the vehicles in his planning process. He stated when the Trustee stated the Trucks had to go back to the TransCare yard, approximately 45 minutes away. He stated that will not happen; there will not be a 45 minute void in service. He stated the Trucks are still parked at the Bureau. He stated that most of them were leased and in good shape. He stated the leasing and bankruptcy court and leasing company are very close to releasing the Trucks to EMStar.

Item #15 - FYI/Corres. Fr: County Attorney Bumgarner To: TC Hudson Valley Ambulance Corp. d/b/a Transcare D: 03/03/2016 Re: REVISED-Notice of Default Transcare with Putnam County – Duly Noted

**Item #10 - Discussion/Correspondence to County Executive/ County Owned Cell Phones
a. Corres. Fr: Chair, Protective Services Gouldman To: County Executive Odell
D: 02/29/2016**

**b. Corres. Fr: Chief Deputy Commissioner of Finance Gilbert To: Chair,
Protective Services Gouldman D: 03/08/16**

Chair Gouldman stated that a response to the Legislature's inquiry pertaining to County Cell phones was received.

Legislator LoBue stated she had requested the issue date to the employee of the cell phone be included. She stated it is not. She stated that she believes she can work Legislative Auditor Michele Sharkey.

Legislative Auditor Michele Sharkey confirmed that she can work with Legislator LoBue on that matter.

Chair Gouldman stated that he made a request in writing after the discussion of this matter at the January 14, 2016 meeting (memo to County Executive Odell from Chair Gouldman dated: Jan. 26, 2016) that beginning with the 2017 Budget henceforward that there be a separate line reflecting solely the cost of County Cell Phones; and no longer batch that cost within the budget line for 'Phones'.

Legislator LoBue stated that it is her understanding that a lot of municipalities, especially the smaller ones, have done away with providing and paying for Cell Phones. She stated that in her review of the list provided there are some issued cell phones that she does not see the necessity for. She stated that can be discussed at another time.

Chair Gouldman stated that he does not believe there is action to be taken at this time. He stated the matter of the need for County Cell Phones can be discussed during the 2017 Budget review.

Item #17- Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:05 p.m., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Wright. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Trabulsy, Deputy Clerk.