

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM #318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

(Chairwoman Scuccimarra, Legislators Addonizio & Gouldman)

Thursday

November 16, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairwoman Scuccimarra who requested Legislator Gouldman lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Gouldman, and Chairwoman Scuccimarra were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – September 25, 2017

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/Confirmation/East of Hudson Sporting Advisory Committee/Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated he is more than qualified. She stated he was on the committee previously. She stated this committee has slowed down over the years. She stated the East of Hudson funds now buy very few properties and this committee oversees what the land can be used for.

Legislator Nacerino stated she could not think of anyone more qualified or suitable for this position. She stated Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna has a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Legislator Gouldman made a motion to approve Confirmation/East of Hudson Sporting Advisory Committee/Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #5 – Approval/Fund Transfer Request 17T307/Health Department/Preschool Evaluations

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to move Fund Transfer Request 17T307/Health Department/Preschool Evaluations to the Audit & Administration Committee Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #6 - Discussion/Dutchess County Bans Use of Polystyrene Foam

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated recently Dutchess County passed a ban on Polystyrene. She stated back in 2015 Putnam County stopped using polystyrene in County facilities. She stated more and more areas are banning polystyrene in some capacity, including Ulster County. She

stated New York City is trying to ban it. She read the intent of the Dutchess County Legislation. She stated Putnam County should ban polystyrene in chains with more than 15 stores nationally. She stated hopefully if smaller businesses see the bigger businesses cutting back on polystyrene, they will follow suit.

Legislator Addonizio stated the law in Dutchess County will take effect immediately and enforcement will begin in January 2019.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated there are still a lot of things to discuss, such as who will enforce it.

Legislator Nacerino

Legislator Gouldman questioned which counties in the state, other than Dutchess County, have taken these measures.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated Ulster County has, and Westchester County is considering it.

Legislator Albano stated contacting the smaller stores and informing them of the issues with polystyrene could make them start moving away from using it.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated in the future the committee will have a representative from the Health Department to continue this discussion.

Legislator Nacerino noted that the Dutchess County law will take a year before it goes into effect, which will give businesses time to come up with solutions.

Legislator Addonizio noted that the Dutchess County law contains exceptions, including an exception for establishments that demonstrate a gross income of less than \$500,000.

Legislator Gouldman requested clarification on the stores this law would apply to.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated if a chain has 15 or more stores nationally.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if this mainly pertains to food products or all products.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it is mainly for take-out food “clamshells” that people take home.

Legislator Gouldman requested clarification the potential County law would mirror the Dutchess County law and not add more instances of polystyrene which would be banned, such as the polystyrene in refrigeration units.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it is the food containers that are the main concern.

Phyllis Hoenig, resident of Mahopac, questioned if this legislation would impact certain cups.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated some legislation includes cups but the County will have to tailor it however they think is the best route to go. She stated right now she is mainly worried about the containers which people use to take food home. She stated the polystyrene leech into what people are ingesting, such as putting hot liquid into a polystyrene cup. She stated she would contact the Health Department and this will be talked about more in the future.

Item #7 - Verbal Update/Researching the Possibility of a Synthetic Drug Ban/Chairwoman Scuccimarra

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she is working on scheduling a meeting with Commissioner of Social Services Michael Piazza, Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Joseph DeMarzo, Acting Commissioner of the Health Department Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, Senior Deputy County Attorney Shannon Brady, Director of Consumer Affairs Michael Budzinski, the District Attorney's Office, and the Sheriff's Department. She stated this meeting would be to discuss the feasibility of a potential ban on synthetic drugs.

Legislator Albano noted that an issue with banning synthetic drugs is that the chemicals makeup are constantly changing.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated Westchester has come up with a solution, which is one of the reasons she wants to meet and discuss the topic.

Michael Piazza, Commissioner of Social Services, stated federal penalties for synthetic fentanyl have been increased.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if New York State is looking into taking any measures against synthetic drugs.

Commissioner Piazza stated he believes the State is adding more drugs to the list of banned synthetics.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if Commissioner Piazza is aware of if Connecticut and New Jersey are taking any action on synthetic drugs.

Commissioner Piazza stated he does not know.

Item #8 - FYI/America Recycles Day

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she spent time at FoodTown with Recycling Coordinator Victoria DiLonardo educating people on recycling plastic bags. She stated most stores have bins where people can place their plastic bags in for proper recycling. She noted that other plastic film can also go into these bins. She stated raising awareness on how to properly recycle the plastic film is a good step. She stated the Health Department is currently doing a "Caught in the Act" program at multiple stores to raise awareness and congratulate people who are doing the right thing with their plastics.

Legislator Albano stated maybe doing some advertisements on how to properly recycle would help. He stated most people believe that plastic film can just be put with other recycling.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated Recycling Coordinator DiLonardo does a very good job with educating the public on what can and cannot be recycled.

Legislator Addonizio stated only 1% of plastic film is properly recycled.

Item #9 - FYI/ProAct Program Relaunch

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she took the packet of information to the Philipstown Town Board meeting and the Putnam Valley Town Board meeting to remind people of the expanded coverage of ProAct. She stated it is for people who have no insurance. She stated it helps cover many things including vision, dental, and hearing medical expenses.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if there were any cards or applications to give out.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she would look into it. She stated having physical information people can take home and look at is different than just going online.

Ms. Hoenig questioned what the ProAct program is.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated ProAct is a program that all county residents can join. She stated it provides discounts on prescriptions if you are underinsured or have no insurance.

Ms. Hoenig questioned if the County pays for the ProAct program.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated no, ProAct does. She stated the pharmacies pay a percentage to ProAct.

Ms. Hoenig stated that all pharmacies have discount cards for the pharmaceutical companies. She stated when a person goes to their pharmacy they should ask if there is any discount card available.

Legislator Addonizio noted that the ProAct discount also applies to eyeglasses and diabetic supplies.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated they have expanded their coverage since they first started.

Item #10 - Other Business

Item #11 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:18 P.M. Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.