

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

**Chairwoman Scuccimarra, Legislators Gouldman & Sayegh**

**Wednesday**

**6:30PM**

**November 14, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 P.M. by Chairwoman Scuccimarra who requested that Legislator Gouldman lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Gouldman, Sayegh, and Chairwoman Scuccimarra were present.

**Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – September 12, 2018 & October 12, 2018 – Budget**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #4 - Approval/Support Statewide Legislation in New York Concerning the Sale and Possession of Synthetic Drugs/Legislator Jonke**

Legislator Jonke stated he spoke with District Attorney Robert Tendy who requested that the Legislature urge Putnam County's State representatives to pass statewide legislation regarding synthetic drugs.

Legislator Albano stated he believes New York City has passed or is considering synthetic drug legislation.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated there have been a few municipalities that have passed legislation. She stated one reason municipalities are hesitant to move legislation forward is because it is difficult to enforce. She stated the Putnam County law covers a lot of ground regarding enforcement.

Legislator Sullivan stated urging the State to move this forward would be a good idea.

Legislator Sayegh made a motion to move to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #5 - Approval/Local Law to Amend the Code of the County of Putnam, by adding a new Chapter 188, entitled "Pharmaceutical Take Back Act"**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the State has passed a law in July 2018 which requires certain pharmacies to take back medication. She stated Putnam County has been at the forefront of this initiative. She stated the County has taken back approximately 2,500 pounds of medication.

Legislator Sayegh made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated this additional information gives some background on the State legislation. She stated the pharmaceutical companies will pay for the program, not the pharmacies themselves.

Legislator Nacerino requested clarification on the Product Stewardship Program.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it is a non-profit organization that raised awareness and advised State officials regarding this issue.

**Item #6 - Approval/Local Law to Amend the Code of the County of Putnam, adding Chapter 133, Entitled “Consumer Health Protection” with a new Article I, entitled “Polystyrene Foam Disposable Food Service Ware Ban” Regulating the Use of Expanded Polystyrene Containers at Food Chain Food Service Establishments**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated this would affect establishments with 15 or more locations nationwide. She listed the locations in Putnam County that would be affected. She stated some of these businesses have already committed to ceasing use of polystyrene. She stated the polystyrene foam does not fully break down, it only breaks up into smaller pieces. She added that when people have hot liquid in polystyrene they have a high chance of ingesting it. She read excerpts from an email from Public Health Programs Assistant Victoria DiLonardo, which mentioned encouraging using items that can be reused and recycled.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is concerned that these establishments may not have enough time to be in compliance with this proposed law. She stated they may have some polystyrene container stock which they have already spent money on.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it would be fair to give the businesses time to work through their stock of polystyrene containers. She questioned if the process includes a 60 or 90 day window for the local law to enter into effect.

Legislative Clerk Diane Schonfeld explained the process of recording a local law with the State.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra suggested coming up with a concrete date that the law would take effect.

Legislator Nacerino stated it is unknown if the affected establishments are part of corporations or just franchises. She stated they could have built up stock of polystyrene containers. She stated many corporations are taking this initiative already, such as Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts. She stated there is no harm in giving them a little bit more time. She stated she would agree with a 90 day window.

Legislator Albano and Legislator Sullivan agreed with the 90 day window.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if any of the affected businesses are already taking this initiative upon themselves.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated some are, but her hope with this legislation is that the smaller businesses will see that this is the right direction to go in.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the businesses should be communicated with and allowed to tell the Legislature if this would affect them. He stated he does not feel comfortable moving this forward without hearing from the businesses that would be affected. He stated many of these are run by small business owners.

Legislator Albano suggested giving up to a six (6) month window for the businesses to be in compliance, to make sure there is no remaining polystyrene stock that they must dispose of.

Legislator Jonke questioned if a place like Dunkin Donuts has an alternative for their cups readily available.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she is sure they do. She stated she has read that Dunkin Donuts is moving in this direction anyway.

Legislator Jonke stated he would like to hear from the businesses before moving forward.

Legislator Sayegh agreed with Legislator Jonke. Legislator Sayegh stated she worries that this could lead to more packaging being banned and then the whole packaging and materials industry being taken over.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it is being banned because it is polluting the county and our environment. She suggested moving forward with the six (6) month window.

Legislator Albano stated he would be comfortable with that.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated Putnam County already phased out polystyrene foam in their facilities.

Legislator Nacerino noted that schools have phased it out as well.

Legislator Jonke stated the businesses deserve notice of what is going on.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated there will be a six (6) month window for them.

Legislator Albano stated if, in the meantime, anyone has a serious objection to this legislation, they can contact the Legislature.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated there is a hardship waiver included in the legislation, which would go through the Health Department. She stated she has spoken with Acting Commissioner

of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat who agrees with this initiative and that enforcement will not be a problem.

Legislator Jonke stated he is not arguing the health issues, just that there should be notice before the legislation is adopted for the businesses that would be affected.

Legislator Sayegh stated another thing to consider is that there is an entire packaging industry that depends on these chains, and they would be impacted.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated this would move forward with the effective date of July 1, 2019.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to move Local Law to Amend the Code of the County of Putnam Regulating the Use of Expanded Polystyrene Containers at Food Chain Food Service Establishments to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. Legislator Gouldman voted no. Motion carries.

**Item #7 - Approval/Appointment/One Army in the War on Addiction Task Force/Judge Reitz**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated Putnam County Court Judge James Reitz approached her about being on the One Army in the War on Addiction Task Force (Task Force) and this decision is a no-brainer. She stated the Task Force is losing a few people including Bruce Kelly, Susan Salamone, and Diane Russo.

Legislator Sayegh stated Judge Reitz will be a great asset.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to move Approval/Appointment/One Army in the War on Addiction Task Force/Judge Reitz to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #8 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 18A088/Health Department/Increased Early Intervention & Pre-K Mandated Costs**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 18A088; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #9 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 18A084/Department of Social Services/Additional Grant Funding through Victim Assistance Program at the Child Advocacy Center**

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 18A084; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #10 - Approval/Fund Transfer 18T334/Office for Senior Resources/Cover Automotive & Bus Repairs**

Office for Senior Resources Director Michael Cunningham stated from January through June 2018 the Office for Senior Resources (OSR) has spent approximately \$49,000 on vehicle repairs, mostly on their buses. He stated the budget line for repairs has been depleted. He stated there are 12 buses in the fleet, two (2) from 2006 with an average of 177,000 miles, four (4) are from 2009 with an average of 163,000 miles, and three (3) from 2010 and 2011 with an average of 125,000 miles. He stated nine (9) of the 12 buses have over 100,000 miles. He stated particularly the buses from 2006 and 2009 are incurring many costs. He stated OSR was awarded the 2016 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program) Grant to acquire six (6) buses and a van, but they have not been purchased yet due to the funding still being finalized. He stated the purchasing of the vehicles is imminent but it will take six (6) months to receive the buses. He stated the useful life of the buses is five (5) years or 150,000 miles. He stated that means OSR has six (6) buses over the useful life guidelines. He stated these buses cost a lot due to maintenance but need to be used as they are critical to OSR's transportation and meal delivery. He noted some other budget lines have been underutilized. He stated hopefully the full amount of the fund transfer is not needed to repair the buses, but it is hard to project. He stated in the future, acquisitions of buses will be staggered so OSR is not in this position again. He stated another guideline of the grant is to have 20% of the fleet on standby, which OSR is not currently able to do and the new buses will make that possible.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if this fund transfer is for 2018.

OSR Director Cunningham stated it is for 2018. He stated the hope is to have the new buses by the beginning of the second quarter in 2019.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if expected maintenance costs are budgeted for 2019.

OSR Director Cunningham stated the budget was developed before this issue arose. He stated this problem really escalated in the third quarter of 2018 and caught OSR by surprise.

Legislator Gouldman questioned so there is no money budgeted for maintenance.

OSR Director Cunningham stated there is, just not enough for what is necessary.

Legislator Gouldman questioned what will happen with the old buses once the new ones arrive.

OSR Director Cunningham stated OSR will see which are best to keep for spares and the rest can go through the auction.

Legislator Albano questioned that the buses are used for meal delivery.

OSR Director Cunningham stated they are used partly for home delivered meals.

Legislator Albano questioned if the cars that have been donated are used for meal delivery.

OSR Director Cunningham stated most of those are used for medical appointments or staff functions such as home visits and community outreach.

Legislator Sullivan questioned how many passengers the buses carry.

OSR Director Cunningham stated the old ones carry 16 and the new ones have 14 with two (2) wheelchair spots.

Legislator Sayegh made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 18T334; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #11 - Other Business** – None.

**Item #12 – Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:07 P.M. Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.