

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
BUDGET MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM 318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512  
Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Gouldman, Sullivan**

**Monday October 15, 2018  
(Immediately Following the Additional Rules & Eco Dev Mtg @ 6:00p.m.)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:55p.m. by Chairman Jonke who requested that Legislator Sullivan lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Sullivan, Gouldman, and Chairman Jonke were present.

**Item #3 – 2019 Budget Review**

Chairman Jonke stated that he will be honoring a request to go out of order and begin the evening's review of the Probation Department's budget.

**Probation (Pg. 72-75)**

Probation Director Funicelli stated that there are not big adjustments in the tentative 2019 budget for the Probation Department. He stated funding has been added for computers. He explained the need to update the computers so that they keep up with the changing software. He stated the proposal is to gradually replace the computers, this year they have requested to replace four (4). He stated that is the same scenario with the firearms in the Probation Department. He stated the current firearms in the Probation Department are approximately 15 years old. He stated they degrade over time. He stated that they have arranged to trade in the guns that they have, which are Glock, and purchase 12 new firearms. He stated there is an expiration date for body armor. He stated that is another budgeted item included in the Probation Department's budget.

Chairman Jonke questioned if that something you reserve funding for each year.

Probation Director Gene Funicelli stated they are spaced out. He stated they have a livelihood of five (5) years.

**Overtime (Pg. 72 10098000/ 51093)**

Legislator Albano requested an explanation regarding the overtime in the Probation Department.

Probation Director Funicelli explained that overtime budget line is used to cover the Alternatives To Incarceration (ATI) Program. He stated that the ATI Program is run out of the Probation Department. He explained overtime is incurred by the Highways & Facilities employees when they are assigned to supervise the people who are participating in the ATI Program. He stated that he does not have any input in the prediction of this budget line.

Chairman Jonke stated for clarification that the employees who receive overtime from this budget line (Pg. 72 10098000/ 51093) are not Probation Department employees.

Probation Director Funicelli stated that is correct.

Finance Commissioner William Carlin stated the reason the ATI Overtime is in the budget, is because a previous Legislature wanted to see what the ATI Program cost the County. He reiterated it is a program that falls under the Probation Department.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell stated that she has had discussions with Highways and Facilities Commissioner Fred Pena regarding the use of the ATI program. She stated it was agreed that looking to all the plans and work that the county wants to accomplish at the Tilly Foster Farm, it would serve as a potential opportunity to assign ATI participants to. She stated that the ATI funding is put to very good use.

### **Contracts (Pg. 73 10314000/54646)**

Legislator Sullivan questioned what falls under the contract line.

Probation Director Funicelli stated there is a regular contract with a service called Language Line. He stated this is a telephone service which is used in his office if a person comes in who does not speak English or Spanish then this service is used. He stated that it is a big savings versus hiring an interpreter. He explained also as a result of the new legislation that raised the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years of age, there is an anticipated projection that the need to use Language Line will increase. He stated the State has promised that any costs incurred by the new legislation will be reimbursed. He stated another projected cost associated with the new legislation is electronic monitoring. He stated the intent of this legislation to avoid detention.

### **Drug Testing Fees (Pg. 72 10314000/415898)**

Legislator Castellano questioned the status of the Drug Testing Fees.

Probation Director Funicelli stated that there are people who do not pay, and the county takes every action available to get them to pay. He stated that the costs to get the drug testing are going up. He stated that they have made adjustments on the revenue side to try to compensate for that. He explained that they now impose a different fee for treatment court participants. He stated the majority of the drug testing done in Putnam County is done on Treatment Court participants. He stated a regular probationer is charged \$150 to cover all of the drug testing that will be done throughout the year. He stated that testing is not as involved as the testing that is done on Treatment Court participants. He stated a Treatment Court participant pays \$50 per month. He explained that was just imposed during 2018. He stated in the long run, the hope is that it will recoup the costs.

Legislator Addonizio stated that there is still the option for the fee to be waived if the participant cannot afford to pay the fee.

Probation Director Funicelli stated that is correct. He stated there is an opportunity for any individual to fill out a waiver if they cannot afford to pay the fee. He stated the waiver will be examined and considered for approval if it is deemed appropriate.

### **Judicial Expense (Cty. Share) Pg. 3**

Chairman Jonke stated that he has been told that the funding in this line is to cover the costs for the maintenance and operation of the county's court facilities.

Commissioner Carlin stated that is correct. He stated the county is mostly reimbursed through the State Offices.

### **District Attorney (Pg. 4-6)**

District Attorney Robert Tandy stated not including the request of the new Assistant District Attorney position there is an increase of \$22,085 to his Department's Budget. He stated in 2016 he decreased the department's Personnel Budget by \$48,688, which went back to the county. He stated in 2017 he decreased the Personnel expenses by \$23,638 and for 2018 the Personnel expenditures have been decreased by \$19,949. He stated over the last three (3) years, since he became the Putnam County District Attorney he has decreased the personnel expenditures for his department by a total of \$92,275. He stated with even with the salary increase of the new ADA position in the 2019 District Attorney's Budget there is still a savings of approximately \$30,000 given the total savings of the past three (3) years. He continued to explain how he has resulted in these savings.

### **Special Services (Pg. 4 10001000/54682)**

Legislator Sullivan questioned what falls in the Special Services budget line.

District Attorney Tandy stated court reporters, and expert witnesses. He stated that budget is directly affected by the types of cases that come into the District Attorney's Office.

### **Legal Aid (Pg. 7)**

Legal Aid Chief Attorney David Squirrell stated the funding portion of the Legal Aid Budget is flat. He explained that the funding has shift somewhat to New York State. He explained there are competitive grants and distributions from New York State Indigent Legal Services. He stated the distributions are made available as long as the expense is justified by the Legal Aid Office. He continued to provide an overview of the State funding opportunities that he pursues on behalf of the Putnam County Legal Aid Office.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Chairman Jonke stated a memo was received form Commissioner Carlin October 9, 2018 "Re: 2019 Budget Adjustment Legal Aid". The memo explained a modification was needed in the

2019 Budget to account for Indigent Legal Services Funding (ILSF) to be received from New York State and passed through Putnam County Legal Aid Society. He stated that Commissioner Carlin also included in his memo that this information was received by the County after the tentative budget was submitted to the Legislature and there is no fiscal impact to the 2019 county budget.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to increase the 2019 Legal Aid Budget by \$94,564, there is no fiscal impact; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Legal Aid Chief Attorney David Squirrell stated the distributions have a three (3) year contract. He stated distribution #5 expired this year. He stated the contracts for distribution #8 have just been signed.

County Executive Odell stated that for the record, David Squirrell has done a tremendous job making the Legal Aid Society to be an accountable law firm. She continued to elaborate on her praise and recognition of the progress made to get assistance from New York State.

Legal Aid Chief Attorney David Squirrell stated that in 2019 it has been reported that New York State will begin looking at expanding the funding they provide towards criminal matters to expand to Family Court Matters as well.

#### **Coroners (Pgs. 10-11)**

Confidential Secretary Laureve Wilson stated the Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Nesheiwat had a conflict so she is serving as his representative.

Legislator Sullivan questioned if the cases that each of the three (3) Coroners responds to is tracked. He questioned if she is aware of the breakdown.

Confidential Secretary Wilson stated yes they track the list of cases each coroner responds to. She explained she did not bring that information with her.

Legislator Sullivan requested that a copy of the breakdown by Coroner please be sent to the Legislature.

Legislator Albano stated that we have received this information in the past. He stated that out of the three (3) Coroners there are two (2) who handle 90% of the cases.

Confidential Secretary Wilson stated that is still the case, but again she does not know off the top of her head. She stated that she will forward the report.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that the County needs to look into ways to save money related to the Coroners' Office. She stated in the past there have been discussions regarding the County getting a morgue and lab.

County Executive Odell stated that there are many options being discussed and considered. She stated that there needs to be some efficiencies addressed in terms of the work load. She stated the Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Nesheiwat is aware of that and is working on it. She stated that he has made huge strides since he has taken over as the coordinator and he is doing a terrific job as is Confidential Secretary Wilson.

### **Sheriff (Pgs. 53 -71)**

Sheriff Langley stated there is no fiscal increase from the 2018 budget. He stated that there are two (2) additional canines. He stated one (1) will be used in the jail to detect narcotics that may possibly be smuggled in and an electronics detector dog. He explained there are several uses of an electronics detector dog in the Sheriff's Department and the Jail.

Chairman Jonke questioned if Putnam's Canines can be rented out by other Counties.

Sheriff Langley stated that the Sheriff's Department could offer services to another County if they need the help. He stated currently Putnam County has been utilizing an electronics detector dog from Westchester County Public Safety. He stated the demand for that dog is getting very great, so it is getting harder to secure the dog when needed.

Chairman Jonke questioned how many dogs does the Sheriff's department have.

Sheriff Langley stated the following: 1- specialty dog, utilized by the fire investigation team. 1- blood hound, used for tracking/trailing people. 4- patrol dogs: 2 of these dogs are trained in narcotics, 2 are trained in explosive detection. He stated then there are the 2 canines listed in the budget. He explained the one (1) will be an electronics dog and one (1) will be a narcotics detector dog for us in the jail.

Chairman Jonke questioned if he anticipates the need for any other additional dogs in the future.

Sheriff Langley stated not at this time.

Legislator Nacerino requested a report that would show the cases that each of the dogs have been a part of.

Sheriff Langley stated he can get those records from the handlers and will forward them to the Legislature.

Chairman Jonke requested a discussion regarding the eight (8) new cars in the budget.

Legislator Sullivan stated that there are six (6) vehicles in the Road Patrol one (1) for Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and one (1) for Narcotics. He questioned specifically the request for a SUV by BCI. He questioned if an SUV is a must.

Sergeant Meyers stated that they carry a tremendous amount of equipment, a car would definitely not meet their needs.

Chairman Jonke facilitated further discussion regarding the Vehicles in the Sheriff's Department and the policy on take home vehicles.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the mileage is broken down to show the amount of miles used in commuting versus on the job miles.

Sergeant Meyers stated that they do not break it down like that. He stated they track monthly mileage.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if there is a radius set in terms of how far a vehicle can be taken in a commute home.

Sergeant Meyers stated there is no set radius/limit. He explained the Officer needs only to live in a continuous County to Putnam in the State of New York : Westchester, Dutchess, and Orange counties.

Legislator Sullivan questioned the status of the consideration of using retired officers to work events such as parades, football games etc. to lower costs.

Sheriff Langley stated he did consult with Personnel Director Eldridge and learned it would need to be negotiated into the contract. He stated the union could argue that such events were exclusive to them to work at, to bring in part-time employees would be a violation.

Sergeant Meyers stated that when officers work events at school events, the schools pay. He stated that it is still taxpayer dollars, however it does not have an impact on the County budget.

### **Jail 3150 (Pgs. 76-81)**

Sheriff's Department Correction Captain Kevin Cheverko and Sheriff's Department Correction Lieutenant James Greenough addressed the inquires related to the Board- In revenue.

Legislator Sullivan requested if there are any big drivers of expense in the jail other than personnel that could be mentioned.

Correction Captain Kevin Cheverko stated there are a large number of people in the jail that are dealing with drug abuse and serious mental health issues. He explained that fact results in a rise in overtime due to the need for constant supervision and suicide watches. He stated that is probably the biggest impact to the budget of the Putnam County Jail.

### **Bureau of Emergency Services (Pgs. 84-90)**

Acting Commissioner Ken Clair stated they have requested funding to purchase equipment for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He stated a big part of the budget for the department is the contracts line. He listed a few contracts, Red Alert, I Am Responding, The Language Line, E-Dispatch, the rental of the Radio Towers, the Paramedic Contract et al.

Chairman Jonke stated generally speaking the 2019 Budget has not changed much from 2018.

Acting Commissioner Clair stated correct. He stated that they are still working on merging the Sheriff's Department 911 call center with the one in the EOC. He stated that there will be a savings eventually, but initially there will be expenses in terms of equipment. He stated currently there are 13 dispatchers in the EOC and the Sheriff's Department has nine (9).

Deputy Commissioner Robert Lipton explained that there are a lot details to address with this merger.

Chairman Jonke facilitated further discussion on this matter.

### **Bureau of Emergency Services Pgs. 84-90**

Deputy Commissioner Lipton stated the grant funding that are received from the Homeland Security Programs has been reduced by \$80. He stated by State law 25% of that funding is shared with the Sheriff's Department. He stated the funding is to help fund the different rescue teams in Putnam County such as the Dive Team, Fire Investigation et al.

Legislator Sullivan stated he wanted to go back to the 911 Consolidation. He stated conceptually is sounds terrific. He requested a timeline as to when Acting Commissioner Clair projects that he can come back to this committee to present a projection of cost savings. He stated as an example if a five (5) year projection can be presented that will demonstrate efficiency and a savings. He stated that he would like the Legislature to have a preview of the plan before it goes too far.

Acting Commissioner Clair stated that he will work with the Sheriff and will bring the information and proposal back to the Legislature.

Putnam County Executive Odell stated they have been working on this and many ideas are being discussed. She stated that this is a consolidation, and there will need to be a lot of training, union negotiations et al. She stated the fact that the conversations have begun is a huge step in the process. She stated as a point of reference there is a national shortage for trained dispatchers. She stated that they are a commodity currently. She stated as a reminder the closing of Indian of Indian Point (projected in 2020) will result in a huge reduction of funding.

### **Item #4 - Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:20p.m. Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trubuly.