

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM #318  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan**

**Tuesday** **6:00 p.m.** **April 9, 2019**

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**(Personnel Mtg. to Immediately Follow)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairman Jonke who requested that Legislator Nacerino lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Nacerino and Chairman Jonke were present. Legislator Sullivan was absent.

Chairman Jonke stated he will be addressing agenda item #5 first, because the District Attorney has a time restraint.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (19T062)/ Add Funds to the District Attorney's Asset Forfeiture Budget Line (*Partnership Initiatives Budget Line*)/ District Attorney Tendency**

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

District Attorney Tendency stated his request this evening is to improve efficiency in the use of the funds in the Asset Forfeiture budget line. He stated that he wants to request funds from the Asset Forfeiture (AF) program. He stated he did not put enough of the AF funds in the Partnership Initiative line. He explained the Partnership Initiatives Budget Line under the Asset Forfeiture Program has the funds that the District Attorney's office uses to help law enforcement or various agencies who approach the District Attorney's Office requesting financial assistance to fund a law enforcement measure. He stated currently he shifts funding from other AF budget lines, to the Partnership Initiatives Budget Line and then the budgetary transfer needs to come before the Legislature for approval. He stated he would like to streamline this process and put money in the Partnership Initiative Budget Line. He explained there are various budget lines that are funded by the AF Program. He stated that they have spent very little from those budget lines. He stated the bulk of the expenditures with AF come from the Partnership Initiatives. He stated that is why he wants to transfer funding from the various budget lines and transfer it into the Partnership Initiative Budget Line. He stated so when a request comes to the District Attorney's Office and it is determined to be appropriate to fund through the AF Program, and the funding is available in the Partnership Initiatives Budget Line the District Attorney has the authority to give the funding to the requesting agency without having the extra step of bringing the matter through the Legislature's process.

Legislator Nacerino stated that it has been explained by the District Attorney that he did not, as it turns out, appropriately distribute the AF funding amongst the different budget lines. She stated that she will support this request. She recognized and complimented the District Attorney on the remarkable things he has done for the various Police Departments in an effort of helping the greater good all the way around.

Chairman Jonke questioned District Attorney Tandy as to what falls in the category of the “Special Services” budget line, which the request proposes a transfer of \$10,000 from.

District Attorney Tandy explained if there is an extradition or if they need to hire someone who is out of the normal area of work that is done by the District Attorney’s Office, the funding would come from that budget line.

Chairman Jonke questioned how much money is in the AF account.

District Attorney Tandy stated he does not know the exact amount. He stated approximately \$190,000.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve and move to the Audit & Administration meeting Fund Transfer (19T062)/ Add Funds to the District Attorney’s Asset Forfeiture Budget Line (*Partnership Initiatives Budget Line*); Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor. (Legislator Sullivan was absent)

**Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ February 13, 2019**

Chairman Jonke stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 – Approval/ Fund Transfer (19T047)/ To Cover Over Time Expenses for February/ Running the County Correctional Facility with Four (4) Vacancies, one Officer on 207C/ Sheriff Langley (also to be reviewed at Personnel Committee Mtg. 04/9/19)**

Chairman Jonke stated this request is to cover February overtime for the Jail in the amount of \$15,693.00, to cover four (4) vacant positions.

Sheriff Langley stated this past Saturday there were three (3) people on constant watch in the Jail. He stated that there is one (1) prospective Correction Officer transfer from Rickers Island and they are processing the paperwork through Personnel. He confirmed that will leave three (3) vacancies. He stated there are other candidates they are re-evaluating.

Chairman Jonke questioned if they are candidates that at one time were rejected.

Sheriff Langley confirmed that is correct.

Legislator Nacerino stated that they have spoken many times about the long and tedious process to find the right candidates for the jobs.

Sheriff Langley stated it is frustrating and there is a lot of stress being put on the members of the Correction Division.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if this has always been a problem.

Sheriff Langley confirmed historically the staffing in the Jail has been a problem. He stated the salaries are now more competitive and that has helped in keeping the employees.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve and move to Audit Fund Transfer (19T047)/ To Cover Over Time Expenses for February/ Running the County Correctional Facility with Four (4) Vacancies, one Officer on 207C; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor. (Legislator Sullivan was absent)

Chairman Jonke stated for the record that this matter will also be addressed at the Personnel Meeting, which will immediately follow.

**Item #6 - Approval/ Field Hall Grant Application/ Putnam County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Meyer**

Sergeant Meyer stated Field Hall is an organization that grants money to benefit Senior Citizens. He stated the Sheriff's Department Application is for \$5,000, no County Match, to purchase bracelets and the equipment to track the bracelets.

Chairman Jonke stated that he is a supporter of the tracking bracelets. He stated that there are some grant opportunities that provide funding for tracking bracelets for children with developmental disabilities. He explained that his daughter has benefited by having one.

Sergeant Meyer confirmed that he is aware of those grants. He clarified that the Field Hall Grant Application is specifically written to bracelets for Senior Citizens. He stated the grant was researched and put together by the Youth & Community Bureau Deputy Alfred Pizzuto. He stated each bracelet costs approximately \$300.

Legislator Montgomery questioned who determines who will get the bracelets.

Sergeant Meyer stated the program is run through the Youth & Community Services Bureau at the Sheriff's Office. He stated that there are two (2) deputies who administer the program. He explained that the deputies will meet with people who are interested. He stated that there is certain criteria that needs to be met to be eligible.

Legislator Montgomery stated for clarification if a person is interested in being on the list for consideration, they need to contact the Sheriff's Department.

Sergeant Meyer confirmed that is correct and the caller should ask for the Youth & Community Services Bureau at which time an appointment will be scheduled for the requesters to come in for a meeting.

Sheriff Langley stated the bracelets do need to be maintained, which is an expense. He stated the Sheriff's Deputies will replace the batteries, the seals and put a new strap on it, if needed.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Field Hall Grant Application; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor. (Legislator Sullivan was absent)

### **Item #7 - Update/ SPO Request For Town of Putnam Valley/ Chairman Jonke**

Chairman Jonke stated that the County and the Town of Carmel, are almost underway with the partnership of the SPOs who will be working in their Town Hall. He stated after the March 12<sup>th</sup> Protective Services Meeting he sent a follow up letter to Town of Putnam Valley Supervisor Oliverio. He stated that he informed Supervisor Oliverio to send a letter on behalf of the Town of Putnam Valley Board to the Sheriff's Department to document a formal request for two (2) SPOs to begin working in their Town Hall as of January 2020.

### **Item #8 - FYI/ New York Department of Public Service Letter/ Responding to the Legislature's Letter Regarding New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG)**

Chairman Jonke stated this is a great example as to why this Legislative Body makes a request to the State through the passage of a resolution. He stated he wrote to the New York Department of Public Service's on December 5, 2018 requesting they look into the poor response Putnam County received from NYSEG after the 2018 storms. He stated they responded with a letter dated March 11, 2019. He stated they wrote saying that they are investigating the actions of NYSEG. He stated although the County does not have jurisdiction over the utility companies, the members of the Legislature decided to contact the State agency that does have that jurisdiction and they have recognized the concerns documented and are looking into the matter. He stated this is just one example of the many different scenarios in which the Legislature will reach out to Albany. He stated Putnam County last week passed a resolution regarding the Reproductive Health Act, and it was sent to Albany. He stated this matter follows along the similar practice.

Legislator Gouldman stated that he is glad to see that the New York Department of Public Service Office responded. He stated the reality is that Putnam County was devastated for a week and actually longer. He stated the County received no response from NYSEG.

Chairman Jonke stated that the response from NYSEG was very poor in many ways. Additionally after they came and met with this committee in 2018, per the Legislature's request, their response to carry out commitments that they made was very poor and delayed. He stated he is happy to know that someone in the State is watching over this matter.

Legislator Sayegh stated she too is encouraged by the message sent by the New York Department of Public Service Office. She echoed that NYSEG was extremely unprepared to serve their Putnam County customers. She stated and those customers, our constituents wanted their voices to be heard.

Legislator Addonizio stated that she is happy as well to see this response. She stated there was a misconception by some residents that the lack of response was the Legislature's responsibility. She stated the lack of accountability is fully on NYSEG and this letter confirms that.

Chairman Jonke stated at the September 17, 2018 Protective Services Meeting, when the NYSEG representatives were present, they promised to provide a report, they promised an

update from a meeting that they were having with the Town Supervisors later that week. He stated nothing was received.

Legislator Gouldman stated there are a few things our society expects and one of them is electricity. He stated people can understand an outage for a few hours; however when it is not there for a week, with no response or information, people get disturbed. He stated many of the residents of Putnam County hit that boiling point.

Chairman Jonke stated that this Legislature did not politicize this. He stated the decision was made to wait and let the dust settle and see what happened. He stated this was handled, in his opinion, the right way. He stated it was nice to know that it was recognized by the New York Department of Public Service.

Legislator Nacerino stated she agrees. She stated members of the Legislature were on several conference calls with NYSEG, and received many promises of action, which none availed. She agrees this sent the right message. She stated this is an action taken often by this Legislature. She stated that the Putnam County Legislature wants the voice of Putnam County communicated to those in Albany.

#### **Item #9 - FYI/ 2019 First Quarterly Reports – Putnam County Coroners' Office**

Dr. Nesheiwat provided an overview of the report.

#### **Item #10 – Other Business -None**

#### **Item #11 – Adjournment**

There being no further business at 6:25 PM Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.