

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

Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan

Wednesday

August 14, 2019

(Personnel Meeting Immediately Followed)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM 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 arrived at 5:35PM, Legislator Sayegh was asked to sit as a member of the Committee until Legislator Sullivan's arrival.

Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ July 10, 2019

Chairman Jonke stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (19A054)/ This Amendment is required to Align the 2019 Revenue Budget with the Appropriate Organization Within the Sheriff's Department/ Sheriff's Dept. & Correctional Facility Senior Acct. Clerk Kristin VanTassel

Chairman Jonke invited Sheriff Langley and Correction Facility Captain Kevin Cheverko who were present to address this matter to provide the details of this request.

Sheriff Langley stated when the 2019 Budget was set up this budget line from the Civil Division inadvertently was put in an Administrative Line. He explained this is revenue generated through the Civil Division, the budget line belongs under the Civil Division. He stated the approval of this budgetary amendment will effectuate that corrective action.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Budgetary Amendment (19A054)/ This Amendment is required to Align the 2019 Revenue Budget with the Appropriate Organization Within the Sheriff's Department; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Chairman Jonke stated that Legislator Sullivan had arrived and joined the Committee.

Item #5 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (19A056)/ Account for NYS Indigent Legal Services Statewide Expansion of Hurrell – Haring Funding/ County Acts as Pass Through for these Funds/ Finance

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (19A056)/ Account for NYS Indigent Legal Services Statewide Expansion of Hurrell – Haring Funding/ County Acts as Pass Through for these Funds; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (19T167) To Cover Overtime Expenses due to Four (4) Vacancies and Two (2) on 207C/ Sheriff Langley (also addressed at 8/14/19 Personnel Mtg.)

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (19T167) To Cover Overtime Expenses due to Four (4) Vacancies and Two (2) on 207C; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #7 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (19T191)/ Purchase Two (2) New Cameras for Under the Parking Structure at the Sheriff's Department and Correctional Facility/Sheriff Langley

Sheriff Langley stated currently there is nothing monitoring the area under the parking structure. He stated that there have been incidents that have occurred. He stated for the safety and security of the facility, those who park there and their vehicles there needs to be a camera installed.

Chairman Jonke questioned if there are any cameras for the open area of parking at the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Langley stated there is only one (1), but it does not pick up the area under the parking structure. He stated there will be one (1) more installed to cover the open area. He stated that is the camera that is requested in the next agenda item #8. He explained in the open area lot, there was an incident when an employee's car was hit by another vehicle, and the driver left the scene.

Correction Facility Captain Kevin Cheverko stated there was also an incident when an employee slipped and fell on ice in that area. He stated it would have been helpful if there was a camera.

Legislator Sullivan stated per the Sheriff's and Captain's comments they have communicated that there is a need for the cameras.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Approve/ Fund Transfer (19T191)/ Purchase Two (2) New Cameras for Under the Parking Structure at the Sheriff's Department and Correctional Facility; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #8 – Approval/ Fund Transfer (19T192)/ Purchase One (1) New Camera for Exterior of Building of Front Parking Lot/ Sheriff Langley

Sheriff Langley stated that he believes thought and consideration should be given to putting cameras in the County Parks and in the parking lot of the County Office Building.

Legislator Sullivan stated he agrees. He stated it seems as though videos are becoming more and more useful in different cases today.

Chairman Jonke requested an explanation for the high price of the camera.

Sheriff Langley stated that they are high end cameras that are Internet Protocol as opposed to Analog. He stated these cameras are able to adjust to the different lighting caused by the sunlight and the parking structure and they have night imagery as well.

Correction Facility Captain Kevin Cheverko stated the price also includes the installation.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Approve/ Fund Transfer (19T192)/ Purchase One (1) New Camera for Exterior of Building of Front Parking Lot; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #9 - Discussion/ County Health Care Coverage for Arrestees/ Incarcerated Individuals/ Legislator Sayegh

Chairman Jonke stated that Legislator Sayegh had requested this item be addressed. He requested that Legislator Sayegh speak to this agenda item.

Legislator Sayegh stated during her attendance at the Northeast Regional White House Conference (NRWHC) on July 16, 2019, this subject was addressed. She stated it was mentioned that once a person is put into jail, prior to any formal conviction they are no longer eligible to receive their Medicaid Coverage. She stated she was wondering the impact of this on the Putnam County Jail. She stated the example that was given at the conference was that a woman, who was pregnant, was arrested and unable to post bail. The woman did deliver her baby in jail while waiting for her court date. She stated it was reported that the County where this occurred was responsible for all of the medical bills.

Correction Facility Captain Kevin Cheverko stated when a person is arrested and put in the custody of the Sheriff's Department Correctional Facility, if they are on Medicaid, their coverage is suspended. He stated if the individual is put in the custody of the Sheriff's Department Correctional Facility the Sheriff's Department and the County are responsible for all medical bills. He stated if a person is arrested and released, then there is no change in the individual's health coverage. He stated there is a difference between arrestees and individuals who are committed to the Correctional Facility. He stated under the Affordable Care Act of 2014 Federal Medicaid Laws were changed so that Medicaid covers the medical expenses of people committed to a Correctional Facilities, if they are hospitalized. He stated it does not apply if an individual is brought to an Emergency Room and then released back to the Correctional Facility, in that instance the Sheriff's Department and County are responsible for the medical coverage. He continued to provide additional details and different scenarios.

Legislator Sayegh stated at the NRWHC there was also discussion as to how the correctional facilities have become mental health facilities and drug rehabilitation facilities along with the suspension of Medicaid benefits for those in the custody of a Jail.

Correction Facility Captain Kevin Cheverko stated that is absolutely true. He stated the three (3) largest psychiatric facilities currently are Rikers Island, Cook County Jail and Los Angeles County Jail, they have become de facto mental health treatment centers. He stated in the Putnam County Jail 50% of the population is on psychiatric medication, which the County pays for. He stated the contract with PrimeCare Medical Inc. that was negotiated for this year included a Full Risk Contract. He stated it eliminates any cap.

Legislator Sullivan questioned how much did that contract cost.

Correction Facility Captain Kevin Cheverko stated approximately \$1.1 million - \$1.7million. He stated it is a fixed rate for the first three (3) years. He stated they will then have three (3) one (1) year options.

Legislator Montgomery understands this is a Federally recognized situation, as evident from what Legislator Sayegh reported from the NRWHC. She questioned if Correction Facility Captain Kevin Cheverko believes there is any action that the County could/should be taking to help.

Correction Facility Captain Kevin Cheverko stated this is not a new phenomenon. He stated this is a national problem. He stated that there is an increase in funding in communities towards Drug Treatment. He stated that there is no increase to date in communities for the mentally ill. He stated also statewide psychiatric beds are needed. He stated there are only approximately 3,000 beds throughout all of the psychiatric facilities. He stated in the mid 70s there were approximately 93,000 beds.

Legislator Montgomery stated from her work in a small community she is aware that there are no beds for kids.

Correction Facility Captain Kevin Cheverko stated that is also the same for developmentally disabled peoples.

Legislator Montgomery stated she appreciates the information that he was brought forward.

Legislator Nacerino thanked Legislator Sayegh for bringing this topic forward.

Item #10 - Update/ Tabled - Proposed Resolution/ School Bus Safety/ Vehicle Concern - To Impose Public Safety Fee/ Chairman Jonke (Tabled at July Full Mtg)

Chairman Jonke stated on August 1st he met with Sheriff's Department Road Patrol Captain Harry Tompkins and County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner regarding the proposed Resolution/ School Bus Safety/ Vehicle Concern - To Impose Public Safety Fee, which was tabled by the Legislature at the July Full meeting for further consideration and research. He stated he wanted to provide an update from that meeting. He stated County Attorney Bumgarner will check to see if there is proposed legislation in Albany related to this matter of school bus safety. He stated if it is determined there is no action at the State level, he will request, through this Committee, that the Legislature approve a resolution calling on Albany to pass legislation to impose fees and to work to amend the vehicle safety law related to School Buses. He stated that Captain Tompkins through the Sheriff's Office will work on the creation and disbursement of palm cards/ post cards (cards) which will emphasize the awareness of the proper lawful practice when approaching a stopped School Bus. He stated the cards would be given to the students to bring home to their parents/guardians. He stated this would engage the parents of this matter and they can help spread the word. He stated that he suggested that Captain Tompkins or, if more appropriate in terms of procedure, Sheriff Langley reach out to the Putnam County Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board to request their assistance. He stated said Board is made up of volunteers that alert the members of the Public of different important process and procedures related to

emergency responders and an individual's ability to be of help in different scenarios. He stated he believes the Board would help spread the word.

Sheriff Langley stated the Traffic Safety Board made up pamphlets related to School Bus Safety and the dangers of passing a stopped School Bus.

Chairman Jonke stated he believes it would be effective in spreading awareness by getting some form of communication in each students back pack at school so that the message and reminder of this critical traffic law is brought home.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated New York State Legislature passed and the Governor signed a law authorizing the "Stop Arm Cameras". He stated that there is an opt in requirement for Counties and Towns. He stated that he believes that puts another option on the table that could be explored by the County. He stated the approval of the locality of where the district is in is needed to authorize the use of the Cameras.

Chairman Jonke stated previously there was discussion that with cameras, unless an Officer is witness to the violation it would not be a chargeable violation.

Sheriff Langley shared his interpretation of the State Law. He stated that he believes it should be researched further.

Chairman Jonke stated he agrees and would like to have a follow up meeting with the County Attorney, Sheriff Langley and Captain Tompkins to come up with a plan to discourage this behavior of ignoring the Stop Arm that is extended by a School Bus is stopped.

Legislator Sullivan stated as a member of the Traffic Safety Board (TSB), as Sheriff Langley stated the TSB has been addressing this matter for months. He stated that he believes the best place for this to continue to be handled is by the TSB. He stated now with the State Law he believes progress will be made as the TSB has already had many people in to speak to this topic.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she is in full support of the awareness and educational component. She stated and believes with the passing of the State Law the County should explore the logistics to see how applicable it is to the County.

Item #11 - FYI/ Budgetary Amendment (19A055) Cover Overtime Expenses/ Reimbursable per Agreement between Sheriff's Dept & Drug Enforcement Admin.- Tactical Diversion Squad Task Force/ Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Langley stated one of the Narcotics Enforcement members is assigned to work with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). He stated that the Sheriff's Department receives reimbursement from the Federal Government for the individual's time that is spent working with the DEA.

Item #12 - FYI/ Fund Transfer (19T188) Purchase Lightbars for Three (3) Vehicles/ Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair – Duly Noted

Item #13 - FYI/ 2019 2nd Quarter Coroner Report – Duly Noted

Item #14 - Other Business - None

Item #15 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:00 PM Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn;
Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.