

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

Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislators Gouldman & Sayegh

Monday

6:30pm

December 9, 2019

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

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2019 & October 11, 2019 Budget Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/Fund Transfer 19T403/Social Services/To Reallocate Funds to cover Office of Children and Family Services Chargeback for placement in March to August 2019

Legislator Sayegh questioned if this is a grant.

Social Services Commissioner Michael Piazza stated this is just a chargeback for a youth that was placed in secure detention.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move Fund Transfer 19T403 to the Audit & Administration Committee Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #5 - Other Business

5a. Approval/Budgetary Amendment (19A087)/ Social Services/ Grant Award/ Balance of State Rapid Rehousing

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

Chairwoman Addonizio stated this has no fiscal impact. She stated there was a grant awarded for temporary disability assistance. She questioned how many families this is assisting.

Commissioner Piazza this is to lease apartments for up to 15 families over the course of a two (2) year period. He stated the families can stay up to six (6) to nine (9) months.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated this is definitely needed and she is glad to see it.

Legislator Sayegh stated the grant award has increased since 2018, when it was \$140,577. She questioned if there is an increase in people who need this assistance.

Commissioner Piazza stated to date in 2019, the County has spent \$178,732, so there has been an increase.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned what happens when someone loses their house due to a fire, which has happened recently.

Commissioner Piazza stated first the Red Cross steps in, then at some point it is turned over to the County.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if these are from foreclosures and if there was any way of knowing which districts the people who use this program are from. She requested clarification on the application process for the Rapid Rehousing.

Commissioner Piazza stated he would have to go back and look at a case by case basis to see which district each individual came from. He stated some are families that are homeless, which are sometimes from foreclosure. He stated some are from temporary loss of job or illnesses. He stated sometimes when a person is being faced with foreclosure or eviction, if they can prove that they can pay back to the County, it is cheaper for the County to help them stay in their home, rather than become responsible for them. He stated there is a portion of the Social Services budget that is for homelessness prevention for people who meet certain criteria.

Legislator Montgomery stated she assumes there is open enrollment for this program, that there is no set time to apply.

Commissioner Piazza stated they receive referrals from various places including the Sheriff's Department, which the County will then go assess the situation.

Legislator Castellano questioned if this is a reimbursement.

Commissioner Piazza stated this is for use next year.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if there is available housing to keep up with the need.

Commissioner Piazza stated part of this is recruiting housing and landlords.

Legislator Nacerino stated with the dynamics of the County changing these needs become greater. She stated there are not many rentals in Putnam County.

Commissioner Piazza stated the organization Search for Change has gotten funding to purchase property and build 50 units of subsidized apartments. He stated they have not been able to find a site that would meet planning board approval. He stated 25 units would be low income housing, while the other 25 would be mixed with veterans, victims of domestic violence, and people who are recovering from mental illness or substance abuse.

Legislator Nacerino noted it is a long process for planning and zoning approval.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned if neighboring counties are used to help meet the housing needs.

Commissioner Piazza stated Putnam County does not place anyone in other counties. He stated there have been people who have found housing in Dutchess, but the County does not continue to pay for them.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there is a way for counties to partner on this issue.

Commissioner Piazza stated it is a regional issue that every county is facing. He stated the issue Putnam has is the lack of apartments.

Legislator Nacerino noted that it is hard to find areas where the current residents would accept this type of housing.

Commissioner Piazza stated there have prospective areas but it was not approved by the Planning Board.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move Budgetary Amendment 19A087 to the Audit & Administration Committee Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #6 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:50 P.M., Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn: Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.