ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING HELD IN ROOM 318 OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Jonke & Montgomery

Friday 6:30PM October 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 P.M. by Legislator Jonke, who made a motion to recess the meeting, as Chairman Gouldman was running late; Seconded by Legislator Montgomery. All in favor.

At 8:41 P.M. Chairman Gouldman made a motion to come out of recess; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Chairman Gouldman called the meeting to order and lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Jonke, Legislator Montgomery, and Chairman Gouldman were present.

Item #3 - 2023 Budget Review

Dues - Account 1920 - Page 44

Chairman Gouldman questioned which organizations this is for.

County Auditor Michele Sharkey stated it is membership to Pattern for Progress, County Executives of America, and National Association of Counties.

Tourism - Account 6410 - Pages 165-166

Chairman Gouldman questioned how tourism looks for 2023.

Tourism Director Tracey Walsh stated it looks very good. She stated this year an international writer came from Germany to learn about Putnam County. She stated there is also a writer who has been on the Empire State Trail that specifically asked to stay in Putnam County. She stated the Brewster Train Station is the first Metro North station that is near the Trail when coming up from New York City. She continued providing an overview of the tourism industry in Putnam.

Chairman Gouldman questioned why the requested amount in line 54328 on page 165, entitled I Love New York Program, was much less than the 2022 amount.

Chief Deputy Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis stated this was an error and the requested amount should be \$120,000 instead of \$60,000.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to increase line 54328 on page 165 to \$120,000; Seconded by Chairman Gouldman. All in favor.

Chairman Gouldman requested clarification on the decrease in line 54678 on page 165, entitled Leased Transportation.

Director Walsh stated this was an effort to save money as it looks like that expenditure will come in right around \$12,000 this year.

Legislator Montgomery stated Philipstown residents are concerned with what is planned for their area and the number of tourists that it brings.

Economic Development Corporation President Kathleen Abels stated she and Director Walsh are meeting with a representative from United States Senator Kirsten Gillebrand's office to discuss looking for grant funding. She stated she attended a conference with Mayors of villages who had successful revitalizations, and each spoke about the importance of trails and connecting people. She spoke about the various available grants.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is just looking to address the residents' concerns.

Economic Development Corporation – Account 6420 – Page 167

EDC President Abels stated the 2023 requested budget was only \$500 more than the EDC's 2020 budget. She spoke about how many people moved from New York City to Putnam County during the pandemic. She stated multiple businesses moved from Westchester to Putnam. She stated Putnam County is the only County in the Mid-Hudson region that does not have a qualified production facility, and once it does it will attract more television and film production which is a very lucrative business.

EDC Treasurer Richard Weiss noted that the EDC brought small businesses together during the pandemic to exchange ideas and see how the EDC can help. He stated they are also trying to bring together the business councils and chambers of commerce to ensure there is no overlap and to collaborate.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the mentioned collaboration is with other county EDCs.

EDC Treasurer Weiss stated not as of yet, though EDC President Abels does collaborate with them. He stated the first goal is to develop collaboration within Putnam County.

EDC President Abels noted they recently had a leadership meeting with the four (4) chambers of commerce, the Putnam Business Council, and the Putnam County IDA.

EDC Treasurer Weiss noted the EDC works very closely with the IDA and IDA Board Chairman Bill Nulk.

Legislator Montgomery questioned the impact of President's Biden's announcement of \$20 billion influx to the Hudson Valley and IBM.

EDC President Abels stated a common denominator with that is the developer that is revamping the IBM campuses in Fishkill and Kingston is also in charge of Brewster Crossings revitalization. She stated she believes this is causing a holdup with the Brewster project.

Putnam County IDA – Account 6460 – Page 169

Chief Deputy Commissioner of Finance Lewis stated the IDA, as always, only asked for a modest county contribution. He stated the IDA is in the middle of potential projects that could close next year.

Legislator Jonke questioned what the \$30,000 has been spent on this year.

Chief Deputy Commissioner of Finance Lewis stated he will get that information as he is attending their Board meeting next week.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if their expenses are listed in their meeting minutes.

Chief Deputy Commissioner of Finance Lewis stated they usually are.

Legislator Montgomery noted that their minutes are online so the expenses can be found there.

Item #4 - Other Business - None

Item #5 - Adjournment

There being no other business, at 9:12 P.M., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Administrative Assistant, Ed Gordon.