

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

Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Addonizio, Sayegh

Tuesday

6:30P.M.

May 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Addonizio, Sayegh and Chairwoman Nacerino were present.

Item #3 – Acceptance/Protective Services Meeting Minutes/April 17, 2024

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 – Approval/Appointments and Re-Appointments of Members for the Putnam County Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board/County Executive Kevin Byrne

Chairwoman Nacerino introduced the item. She stated the Memorandum from County Executive Kevin Byrne recommended the appointment of Mr. Robert Cuomo, Mr. Frank DiMarco, Mr. Nat Prentice, Mr. William Walters and the re-appointment of Ms. Eileen Barret to the Putnam County Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board. She said all the candidates are well-qualified and knowledgeable in the area of emergency services.

Legislator Sayegh said she wanted to thank all of them for their volunteerism, it is a great benefit to the residents of Putnam County.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve the Appointments and Re-Appointments of members for the Putnam County Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #5 – Approval/Budgetary Amendment 24A039/Sheriff’s Youth and Community Svcs. Div./Purchase of one Project Lifesaver Bracelet for “Project Lifesaver”/Sheriff Kevin McConville

Chairwoman Nacerino introduced the item and requested Sheriff McConville give an overview of the project.

Sheriff McConville stated at this year’s Fire Police Training, Drones and Operation Lifesaver were included. He stated Howard Stern, Esq., was so impressed with the use of the lifesaver bracelet for older individuals who go missing, he made a donation of \$300 to buy one bracelet which will be added to our inventory.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that is very generous of Mr. Stern, Esq. She noted that Mr. Stern is a participant of the Putnam/Northern Westchester Fire Police Association.

Legislator Addonizio questioned how many bracelets are in use.

Sheriff McConville stated approximately 35 to 40 are in used in conjunction with the Co-Response Team as well as with the “Are You OK Program”.

Legislator Crowley asked if there is an age requirement and is a letter or like required from a doctor or medical professional.

Sheriff McConville stated there is no age requirement, and there is no requirement currently from the medical profession. He stated he has approached organizations and has had discussions about utilizing the bracelets for a number of different scenarios, but to date there have not been any responders.

Legislator Crowley questioned if these would be considered for use with children, as an example, children with autism.

Sheriff McConville said not at this time. He stated to monitor children that would require different devices and would have to field test a few. He also said they would need to find grant money because they are very expensive.

Chairwoman Nacerino asked if there is a collaborative determination between the County’s Mental Health Department and law enforcement.

Sheriff McConville stated there is and with the County’s Office for Senior Resources.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 24A039/Sheriff’s Youth and Community Svcs Div./Purchase of one Project Lifesaver Bracelet for “Project Lifesaver”; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval/Budgetary Amendment 24A042/NYS Stop-DWI Foundation Inc. Reimbursement to the Sheriff’s BCI and Patrol Division Overtime Expenses-DRE Callouts/Sheriff Kevin McConville

Chairwoman Nacerino introduced the item and stated the County is receiving incoming funds in the amount of \$595.22 from the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) which covers overtime for two deputies.

Sheriff McConville stated the DRE is available to any law enforcement agency in Putnam County as well as New York State. He said Investigator Kevin Radovich is certified as an instructor and recently won the recognition of excellence award. Sheriff McConville said also DWI Deputy Sheriff Shane Rossiter won recognition also in the patrol division for DWI. He stated these awards are at the State level and the officers and their families traveled to Albany to receive their awards.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 24A042/NYS Stop-DWI Foundation Inc. Reimbursement to the Sheriff’s BCI and Patrol Division Overtime Expenses-DRE Callouts; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #7 – Update/Sheriff’s Department:

a. Quarterly Report on the License Plate Reader Program (LPR)

Sheriff McConville requested he be permitted to pass out the LPR Audit Report as an additional to agenda item #7a.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Additional; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Sheriff McConville read from the report which is attached to the minutes.

Sheriff McConville cited a few of the cases in which the LPRs footage provided footage that contributed to the success of the case.

b. Receipt of Federal Funds for the Involvement of the Sheriff's Office in the Equitable Sharing in the Department of Justice and U.S. Treasury Seized Assets Program

Sheriff McConville stated the Putnam County Sheriff's Office was awarded \$1,600,000 in funds under a settlement on seized assets. He said the allocation is for equipment and materials under the guidelines of the seized assets format. He stated the Sheriff's Department Command Staff has been requested to identify items, that meet the guidelines, that the money could be used to purchase. He stated they will be items that will enhance the safety and productivity of the Deputy Sheriffs and Investigators. He stated once the list is finalized, he will request consideration and approval by the Protective Services Committee to move forward in the process.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if this in addition to the District Attorney's Seized Assets Program.

Sheriff McConville said yes, this is a separate account. He stated this money was directly allocated to the Sheriff's Department, based on the Department's personnel involvement in the arrests and convictions of individuals related to the opioid matter. He stated Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, and Westchester Counties also received funding. He stated they received their funding in December of 2023. He explained there was a routing issue that delayed the Putnam Sheriff's Department from receiving the awarded funds. He stated the Deputy Commissioner of Finance assisted with that, it did take a few months, but the matter has been resolved. He stated both Commissioner of Finance Lewis and Director of Purchasing Tully are aware of what can and cannot be purchased with these funds.

c. The NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) has awarded the Sheriff's Office under the LETECH Grant. Funds will be used to purchase License Plate Readers, Body Worn Cameras, In Vehicle Video System and Surveillance Cameras

Sheriff McConville stated under LETECH (Law Enforcement Technology) grant they were awarded \$119,412 in funds. He stated as part of a pilot program, the Correctional Officers are using Body Worn Cameras. He stated that he stated they will identify the positive and negatives in terms of where the cameras should be operated. He stated additionally they are looking to apply the funding to the dash cam systems. He stated these funds come with specifics guidelines in terms of use also.

Legislator Montgomery stated on June 21, 2021, the Police Policy Reform report was passed to increase public access to Police Policies. She stated when the LPRs were established the County also wanted to establish an LPR Policy and make it transparent. She questioned when it can be expected that the policies will be up on the Putnam County Sheriff's Department website.

Sheriff McConville stated as previously addressed, every time this is brought up, the only policy that is required to be posted is the Use of Force Policy, which is on the Putnam County Sheriff's Department website. He stated also as previously stated the Sheriff's Department has filed for accreditation and once awarded it will be determined what, if any policies will be published.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated further discussion on the accreditation process. Which the Sheriff explained and concluded a decision could be made by the end of June, give, or take.

Legislator Montgomery questioned Legislative Counsel Firriolo as to what is the recourse since the Police Policy Reform document was passed and submitted by Putnam County to New York State. She stated it clearly states on page 13 of said document that the Policy Policies be made public. She questioned what the Legislature can do if the Sheriff's Department does not comply with the policy.

Robert Firriolo, Counsel stated he did not have the document in front of him. He explained the policy was aspirational in nature, not legally binding. He said he does not believe anything in the document sent to the State is enforceable.

Item #8 – Approval/Grant Application/State and Municipal (SAM) Facilities Grant Program/Putnam County Fire Training Center/Commissioner Planning, Development and Public Transportation Barbara Barosa

Commissioner Planning, Development and Public Transportation Barbara Barosa stated she received notice of eligibility for a \$100,000 in funds from CREST grant through Senator Harckham, with the Bureau of Emergency Services. She stated the news of this came at a great time. She noted that there is a project that the Bureau of Emergency Services needs funding for, and these funds would be a great fit. She stated it will be discussed in the next agenda item. She stated it is related to the demolition of the current Fire Training Center.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Grant Application/State and Municipal (SAM) Facilities Grant Program/Putnam County Fire Training Center; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #9 – Approval/Budgetary Amendment 24A036/Fire Training Center/Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton

Chairwoman Nacerino introduced the item for demolition for the Fire Training Center. She stated the employees from DPW were going to do the work and it was discovered the site is toxic so there is a need for outside resources. She said the total will be \$300,000 for demolition and site work.

Deputy Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services Ralph Falloon stated due to the size of the tower and the proximity to another building they were not comfortable taking the structure down.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated we are moving funds around in anticipation of \$100,000, which the application to apply for that grant was just approved, item #8 and in addition to the \$200,000 from the SAM grant. She stated said funding will cover the demolition and site work.

Commissioner Planning, Development and Public Transportation Barbara Barosa stated the \$200,000 from last year was to reimburse the County, but now will be used for the upcoming work.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 24A036/Fire Training Center; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #10 – Approval/Discussion/Creation of a Rescue Task Force/Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton

Chairwoman Nacerino introduced Michael Cairney, Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department and stated that he did bring this initiative forward a few years back, and she is glad to see that is coming to fruition. She stated he has been very dedicated to this and has seen the benefit it has to the Police, the Fire and Emergency Medical (EMS) employees.

Chief Michael Cairney stated special trained EMS personnel and fire fighters go into an active shooter situation with the Police Department (PD) and they handle and work to get the victims out of the scene and get them to EMS care and to a hospital, if need be. He stated there are three (3) teams: The Alpha Team which covers Putnam Lake, Brewster and Patterson. The Bravo Team: which covers Kent, Carmel, Lake Carmel. The Charlie Team: which covers Philipstown area. There are six (6) team leaders, two (2) for each Team. He stated they are currently receiving additional members to the team. He stated eventually there will be another team that will focus on Mahopac, Mahopac Falls and Putnam Valley. He stated it is a slow process. He stated he continues to do his best.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is a wonderful resource and goes to the essence of what needs to be done.

Deputy Commissioner Ralph Falloon stated this is a long time coming. He said the team has been up and running for approximately two (2) years. He stated now there is proof of the concept, which was desired to have before coming before the Legislature requesting a partnership with the Sheriff's Department through the grant process.

Sheriff McConville said it is a great resource for the Sheriff's Department, it reduces a burden on the PD responders in the need to address medical necessities. He stated it also creates a clear pathway for the Sheriff's Response Team to operate. He stated they have done a number of training events with the Putnam Lake team and are pleased with the results, practices and the applications of the program.

Legislator Crowley stated concerns about the team being funded before a resolution is passed. She said she supports it but does not understand why it is being done backwards. She stated three (3) concerns she had: 1. there is no signed resolution, 2. Need to have insurance in place, 3. this grant is from the Emergency Response Team (ERT), and she believes there are outstanding balances with other agencies who have not been paid yet. She stated she would not be in favor of spending these funds until those agencies are paid.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated not getting into details of the ERT, as this is a separate function. She clarified she will have a memorandum sent to Finance Commissioner Michael Lewis to address Legislator Crowley's concerns.

Sheriff McConville stated his understanding is Commissioner Lipton spoke to Commissioner Michael Lewis, Director of Purchasing John Tully and Risk Manager Mat Bruno, He said he was not part of that process and Commissioner Lipton would have to address this matter.

Deputy Commissioner Ralph Falloon stated the members of the County team are insured by their home departments. He stated the home departments would have to adopt a resolution addressing the insurance component, as they have that responsibility.

Legislator Crowley stated that is exactly the arrangement that existed with the Emergency Response Team (ERT), which was reported as not being done properly. She stated she wants to make sure the correct procedure regarding insurance coverage and making sure the County is properly protected is followed. She stated she would not want the same thing to occur with the formation of this team as it did with the ERT.

Chief Cairney stated regardless of what occurs here tonight, they are moving forward, whether they become a County team or not. He stated the training will continue. He stated the members who have joined so far are committed to the mission and want it to move forward.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there is an MOU in place with the Sheriff's Department, the Fire Departments and EMS.

Chief Cairney stated they will work with whoever wants to work with them and train whoever wants to train with them.

Legislator Ellner stated there is wording in the proposed resolution in the fourth WHEREAS "the County will obtain Authorization etc.". He stated he believes that sets the ground work. He explained he is in support of this team and it's mission. He would like to make sure that it is all done properly and there are no surprises.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to see the wording in the resolution to read the "County has obtained" instead of "County will obtain" before anything is finalized.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to move to the Audit Committee and have the clerk send letter to Commissioner Robert Lipton, Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis and Risk Manager Mat Bruno with clarification before we proceed; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #11 – FYI/2024 Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula Based Grant Program Application (2024 SICG Formula Program)/Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton

Chairwoman Nacerino introduced Deputy Commissioner Ralph Falloon.

Deputy Commissioner Falloon stated the use of the funds from this grant application, if awarded would be used on the County's radio project. He confirmed there is no match required from the County.

Item #12 – Other Business

Chairwoman Nacerino stated a letter of necessity was received from Sheriff McConville, requesting the Protective Services Committee consider for approval Budgetary 24A045 and Budgetary 24A046.

a. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A045/ Use T-Commission Reserve Funds to Purchase Five (5) Lap Top Correctional Facility/ Sheriff Kevin McConville

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to waive the Rules and Accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Sheriff McConville stated the Sheriff's Department is required to give internet access to the inmates. He stated the purchase of these devices will meet that requirement. He stated they are using T-Commission funds, which are funds that must be spent on items that benefit the Correctional Facility. He stated because the T-Commission funds are being used, there is no impact to the County Budget.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve/ Budgetary Amendment 24A045 Use T-Commission Reserve Funds to Purchase Five (5) Lap Top Correctional Facility; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

b. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A046/ Use T-Commission Reserve Funds to Purchase Two (2) New Computer Network Video Recorders (NVR)/ Sheriff Kevin McConville

Sheriff McConville stated the new NVRs will allow the Sheriff's Department to store a greater amount of data from inside the Correctional Facility. He stated using the T-Commission funds will have no impact on the County's budget.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve/ Budgetary Amendment 24A046 Use T-Commission Reserve Funds to Purchase Two (2) New Computer Network Video Recorders (NVR); Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

c. FYI/ Application for the 2024 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Operations Grant/ Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this item is an FYI.

Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Ralph Falloon stated if funds are awarded from this application, they will be used to update the last three (3) Dispatch Counsels. He stated if there are funds left over, they would be used to offset salaries in the Dispatch Center. He stated this is a Grant that they apply for annually and there are no matching funds required.

d. Update/ Community Engagement Police Advisory Board (CEPAB)/ Co-Chair Ronald Reid

Chairwoman Nacerino noticed CEPAB Co-Chair Ronald Reid was present and invited him to speak to CEPAB's upcoming event on June 15, 2024.

CEPAB Co-Chair Ronald Reid expressed his appreciation to Chairwoman Nacerino for the opportunity to speak. He stated before promoting the CEPAB item, he wanted to ask a few questions. His questions were related to agenda items #5a. and the purchase of Body Worn Cameras.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated discussion on the questions.

CEPAB Co-Chair Ronald Reid stated the County's Culture Festival was coming up on June 15, 2024. He stated they hoped to get support from the Legislature, they are trying to do as much as they can with the small group that they have. He also mentioned an event they recently hosted: Meet the School Board Candidates.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested that CEPAB Co-Chair Reid provide the location and time of the June 15th Culture Festival.

CEPAB Co-Chair Ronald Reid stated the event will be at Veterans Memorial Park from 11:30a.m. to 5:00p.m., on Saturday, June 15, 2024. He stated CEPAB looks forward to continuing to work with the Legislature.

Item #13 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:25PM Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trubulsy.