

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET MEETING
HELD IN COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING- RM#318
40 GLENEIDA AVEUNE, CARMEL, NY 10512
Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Addonizio, Sayegh**

Thursday

October 10, 2024

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

Item #3 – 2025 Budget Review

Judicial Expense (Cnty. Share) – 1162 (page 3)

Commissioner of Finance Mike Lewis stated this is a new five (5) year agreement through 2028. He stated as a County with a Courthouse Putnam is mandated to maintain and do minor repairs to the courthouse buildings. He stated that the County gets reimbursed for minor repairs, but not for major repairs. He stated the estimated amount is \$275,000 and it includes both courthouses, part of Records Management and part of the County Clerk.

District Attorney – 1165 (pages 4-7)

Page 4 – 52110 - Furniture and Furnishings, Chairwoman Nacerino requested the need for \$8,000.

District Attorney Chief of Staff Christina Rizzo stated they have two (2) part-time employees who are sharing an office. She stated the District Attorney will be hiring a full-time Appeals Attorney who will need that office space and will need furniture.

Page 4 - 52130 - Computer Equipment, Chairwoman Nacerino stated is this a request also related to the pending Appeals Attorney.

District Attorney Chief of Staff Christina Rizzo confirmed that is correct.

Page 5 - General Fund, Chairwoman Nacerino stated that the budget increased slightly, and the Legislature recognizes costs have increased, for full disclosure and clarity, she has some questions she would like to go over.

Page 5 - 51094 – Temporary, Chairwoman Nacerino stated that item was budgeted at \$10,000 for 2024, the tentative 2025 is in the amount of 20,000. She requested the justification for that.

District Attorney Chief of Staff Christina Rizzo stated the District Attorney's Office is short staffed. She stated there are two (2) Administrative employees out on medical leave. She stated to meet the department's legal obligations they have hired a temporary employee.

Page 5 – 52110 - Furniture and Furnishings, Chairwoman Nacerino stated in addition to the \$8,000 for 52110 Furniture and Furnishings discussed on page 4, on page 5 there is an additional \$5,000 being requested.

District Attorney Chief of Staff Christina Rizzo stated that funding is to cover the cost of replacing broken furniture, which they have been doing slowly.

Page 5 - 54181- Special Services Judicial, Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is a new expenditure in the amount of \$10,000.

District Attorney Chief of Staff Christina Rizzo stated they are now required to pay for minutes of certain hearings.

First Assistant District Attorney Breanne Smith explained the need for the minutes. She spoke specifically to the DWI prosecutions, there is a DMV refusal hearing. She stated the Officers have to attend the hearing and give testimony at that hearing, and that is covered by the new Discovery Statute. She stated the District Attorney's Office is obligated to get the recordings and have them transcribed and provide them to their Defense Attorneys as part of the Discovery.

District Attorney Chief of Staff Christina Rizzo stated that is why the funding is in a separate line, so the costs can be tracked.

Page 5 - 54210- Vehicle Leasing/Rental, Chairwoman Nacerino stated this budget line has been discussed in several budget committee meetings, however for clarity she requested Commissioner of Department of General Services (DGS) John Tully speak to this budget line.

DGS Commissioner John Tully stated that funding is for the existing vehicles that are leased.

Legislator Ellner questioned how many leased vehicles are there in the District Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Chief of Staff Christina Rizzo stated there are two (2) leased vehicles.

Page 5 - 54612- Stenographic Services, Chairwoman Nacerino stated an additional \$5,000 was requested in that line.

District Attorney Chief of Staff Christina Rizzo stated they are using that service a lot more.

Page 5 - 54682- Special Services, Chairwoman Nacerino stated that budget has increased.

First Assistant District Attorney Breanne Smith stated there are two (2) cases that they are aware of which they anticipate will go to court, one being a homicide trial and an appeal that is also a homicide case.

Legal Aid – 1170 (page 8)

Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis stated this is a State mandated service. He stated Legal Aid provides legal services to those who cannot afford counsel. He stated the contribution from the State changes from year to year. He stated this year the State is providing \$1.6 million. He stated their operation budget is approximately \$2.2 million. He stated the County's contribution amount is \$652,200.

Page 8 – 54593- Forensic Exams, Legislator Addonizio questioned why that budget line has been zeroed out.

Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis stated it has been collapsed in the 54950 – County Contribution budget line (page8).

Legal Defense (County Appointed Indigents) 1171 (page 9)

Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis stated that budget line funds the 18B Attorneys. He stated this is a State mandated cost. He spoke to the fee rate increase by the State and their proposed portion of reimbursement of said rate.

JP & Constables – 1180 (page 10)

Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis stated these are the felony fees. He stated they are fees the County receives from DUIs, Bail, etc. He stated the State takes their portion and the County receives the balance.

Coroners – 1185 (pages 11-12)

Interim Commissioner of the Health Department and Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Nesheiwat stated the Coroners Budget has been decreasing for two (2) major reasons, they now directly negotiate a contract with Pathologist, and that has saved approximately \$1,000 a case and due to the continued medical education and in servicing they can now determine the cause and manner of death much quicker. He explained that it is done by using medical records, consulting with health partners, and doctors. He stated the results are not having to do a postmortem on every death. He stated there is an increase in the Postage line on page 11, 54314 because they are now mandated to send all correspondence through FedEx and can no longer use general mail. He spoke highly of his fellow Coroners, Wendy Erickson and John Bourges and he stated the Morgue is just about done.

Page 11- 54646 – Contracts, Legislator Ellner stated the requested amount was level at \$117,250 but to date only \$48,302.00 has been spent.

Interim Commissioner of the Health Department and Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Nesheiwat explained the contract line pays the expenses at the Funeral Homes and the Lab they use solely for toxicology screening.

Legislator Montgomery requested an update on the discussions with Putnam Hospital in relation to the County using the morgue.

Interim Commissioner of the Health Department and Coordinator of Coroners Dr. Nesheiwat stated a favorable contract was negotiated with Putnam Hospital. He stated Putnam County has the exclusive use of the Putnam Hospital Morgue. He offered insight into that matter. He stated the Morgue has been updated at a 50/50 contribution from the County and the Hospital. He stated the Morgue is now a negative pressure room, which is a very good improvement. He stated also there was a \$400 fee for dictation which has been absorbed by his Confidential Secretary Laureve Wilson.

Probation – 3140 (pages 85 – 88)

Page 85- 51093 – Overtime, Legislator Nacerino stated that budget has been increased by \$10,000.

Director of Probation John Osterhout stated that is due to the increase in salaries. He stated overtime is necessary for Home Contacts and for Warrants. He stated a part of that is covered by a Pre-Trial Services Grant that will cover \$25,000 of that cost.

Page 86- 54210 – Vehicle Leasing/ Rental, Chairwoman Nacerino questioned how many vehicles does the Probation Department have leased.

Director of Probation John Osterhout stated there are two (2).

Page 86- 54646 – Contracts, Chairwoman Nacerino requested Director Osterhout speak to that budget line.

Director of Probation John Osterhout stated there was an increase in that line because they needed to go outside their normal resources to hire an interpreter for a language, they could not find anyone who spoke it. He stated the Contract line also pays for treatment, which is covered by their Pre-Trial Services Grant.

Stop DWI – 3315 (pages 96 – 97)

Director of Probation John Osterhout stated for information, this is not taxpayer dollars. He stated this money comes from fines imposed on DWI offenders. He stated the funds are used to run DWI Programs.

Sheriff - 3110 (pages 62 - 84)

Chairwoman Nacerino requested that Sheriff Kevin McConville share the good news his office recently received.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services completed a three (3) day assessment on accreditation. He stated they reviewed the Sheriff's Department's

policies and documentations. She stated they are recommending to the Accreditation Council that the Putnam County Sheriff's Department be awarded Accreditation and that will take place in December of 2024.

Page 62- 54210- Vehicle Leasing/Rental, Legislator Ellner questioned how many vehicles the Sheriff's Department have leased.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated they are looking to secure five (5) leases and one (1) purchase, which would be for a canine vehicle.

Page 64 – 427701 - Unclassified, Chairwoman Nacerino requested that Sheriff Kevin McConville speak to the revenue of \$36,000 in that line.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated that funding is under the Federal Grant that will be received for the Crisis Intervention Training.

Page 64 – 51093 – Overtime, Chairwoman Nacerino requested Sheriff Kevin McConville speak to the increase in that budget line.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated that is in line with the collective bargaining agreement with the PBA.

Page 64 – 52650 – Motor Vehicles, Chairwoman Nacerino stated she sees that \$72,498 was requested, but there was no funding approved. She requested Sheriff Kevin McConville speak to that.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated they requested the funding to purchase two (2) new quad vehicles (Utility Terrain Vehicle aka UTV). He stated the one the Sheriff's Department currently has is old and not usable. He stated the second one they have is being held together and has seen its life-term. He stated they requested the funds to purchase one (1) two-seater and one (1) four-seater so they could be used in different scenarios. He stated in the discussion he had with the County Executive and Deputy County Executive, they were reviewing opportunities to obtain a vehicle in the next few months, hopefully.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated it sounds as these vehicles would be essential equipment.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated yes, they are used for a variety of different cases such as missing persons, loss persons, traveling on difficult terrain, etc. He stated they are a critical resource in the carrying out of certain details along the Bike Path.

Captain Bureau of Criminal Investigation James Schepperly confirmed that these UTVs are a critical resource in responding and addressing the different scenarios that occur on the Bike Path.

Legislator Crowley questioned how many UTVs does Sheriff's Department currently have.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated they have one (1) operational UTV and are looking to replace the two (2) on this side of the County.

Legislator Addonizio stated that not having the requested UTV vehicles could have a negative impact on the Sheriff's Department's ability to patrol certain areas one referenced specifically the Bike Path. She stated this is an essential request.

Legislator Crowley stated additionally, the Sheriff's Department sends Deputies to train and to learn how to utilize the UTVs. She stated if the money is being spent to train the employees it makes sense to have the UTVs to use.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the Sheriff was given a reason by the Administration as to why the request was taken out from the tentative 2025 budget.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated Deputy County Executive Burpoe communicated that he believed he would be able to make arrangements to get the Sheriff's Department a vehicle that would suffice.

Deputy County Executive Jim Burpoe stated he and the Commissioner of DGS Tully are looking at the surplus of vehicles the County owns. He stated if there are suitable vehicles to fit the Sheriff's Department need the hope is to move them around to keep the expenses down. He stated it was agreed the Sheriff's Department would purchase one (1) and a second one would be provided. He stated there are multiple vehicles. He stated even though a vehicle is purchased by a Department, the vehicle actually belongs to the County, and if it can be utilized across the County, that is smart business. He stated if a vehicle is under utilized in a Department, it could be utilized by another department. He clarified this approach applies to all the County Departments.

Legislator Jonke stated he is in agreement with that way of thinking. He stated at least he would like to at least give funding for the Sheriff's Department to purchase one (1) UTV.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she agrees with Legislator Jonke.

Legislator Ellner questioned are these very specific vehicles in terms of lighting and other needs that fit law enforcement application.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated the short answer is yes.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to see the option of Shared Services exercised with the Town Fire Departments. She stated in Philipstown there are four (4) Fire Departments, and they approach the Towns for funding for equipment they need.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) Robert Lipton as to whether they have a UTV they are ready to release.

Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton stated the two (2) vehicles in the BES are outfitted to respond to fire service and belong to the Technical Rescue Team. He stated they are equipped to respond to mountain rescue calls.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the use of said vehicles for the BES and the Sheriff's Department are under emergency conditions, when time is of the essence.

Legislator Jonke questioned how many times the Technical Rescue Team has been called out in 2024.

Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton stated approximately 12 times. He spoke to the different vehicles the BES has and their uses.

Legislator Castellano stated he and Legislator Jonke have contacted the Sheriff in response to constituents and members of the Town of Southeast who contacted them about different matters on the Bike Path. He stated there are areas of the Bike Path in Southeast that are isolated, it will be better once the bridge is completed. He stated he believes it is important that the Sheriff's Department have the equipment they need in order to respond in a moments notice.

Captain Bureau of Criminal Investigation James Schepperly stated in addition to responding to calls they are patrolling those areas in the mornings and evenings to clear the path before people come out and start using the bike path. He stated there have been situations, which are the reasons they are working towards a daily patrol.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she believes this is essential an essential request to the operations of the Sheriff's Department. She stated she will make a motion to reinstate the request.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve the Requested Amount of \$72,498.00- Motor Vehicles (13311000 52650 page 64); Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Page 64 – 52140 and 52640 – Audio Visual Equipment, Legislator Montgomery requested an explanation for the funding in these two (2) budget lines.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated those are funds to cover the cost of License Plate Readers (LPR) and the associated costs associated to the LPRs.

Legislator Montgomery stated in the future it would be helpful to specify what the Audio Visual Equipment is, in the description.

Page 64 – 54636 – Internet Costs, Legislator Ellner requested that Sheriff Kevin McConville speak to that budget line.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated that line pays for Comcast and Optimum costs for the Sheriff's Department and the Vehicles and the LPRs.

Legislator Ellner stated this covers the cost of mobile internet as well as what is in the structures.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated that was correct.

Legislator Ellner stated he has mentioned it before, he would like the County to research how the County can reduce the Internet Costs throughout the County Departments.

Pages 64 and 67- 54640 - Education and Training, Legislator Montgomery questioned if the funding amount of \$10,000 in each of the lines is enough.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated that he believes it will be adequate funding, and provided his reasoning.

Page 65– Federal Aid – CFDA – CIT (Crisis Intervention Teams Grant), Chairwoman Nacerino stated Commissioner of Finance requested that the Crisis Intervention Teams Grant funding be amended.

Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis stated they did not have the total amount when the tentative budget was presented. He stated the amount in the budget is \$44,500, and that needs to be amended to \$37,610.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to amend budget Line 13311000 444900 10211- Federal Aid – CFDA – CIT (page 65) from \$44,500 to \$37,610; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Page 67 – 54313 – Books and Supplements, Chairwoman Nacerino questioned why there was an increase in this budget line.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated this covers the costs of the Law Books used by the Narcotics and Bureau of Criminal Investigations Departments.

Page 68 – 51094 – Temporary, Captain of Civil Bureau Michael Grossi requested that the requested amount of \$24,000 be put in the 2025 budget. He stated currently the amount in the tentative 2025 is \$22,140, and that will not be enough.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the Administration had a reason for not submitting the \$24,000 in the tentative budget.

Captain of Civil Bureau Michael Grossi stated there was no reason provided to the Sheriff's Department.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to amend Page 68 – 51094 – Temporary budget line to the requested amount of \$24,000; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Legislator Montgomery requested that Deputy County Executive James Burpoe speak to this.

Deputy County Executive James Burpoe stated he was not sure of the reasoning and deferred to Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis.

Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis stated that he believes it was as a result of the historical amounts and the 2024 Actual.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated based on the increase of prevailing wages, which is a driving factor throughout the budget, she supports her motion to amend the budget amount to the requested amount of \$24,000.

Page 69 – 422609 – SPO Contracts, Legislator Montgomery requested confirmation that the total amount, which the schools pay into, has increased due to the increase in salaries.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated that is correct.

Page 70 – 51093 – Overtime, Chairwoman Nacerino requested an explanation as to what would dictate the increase of the overtime.

Sheriff Kevin McConville explained that budget line funds additional training for the Special Patrol Officers (SPO), which keeps them in a “Peace Officer” status and compliant with the Sheriff’s Department policies and rules and procedures.

Page 72 – Marine Patrol Lake Oscawana – 52650 – Motor Vehicles, Chairwoman Nacerino questioned if this is funding to purchase a boat.

Sheriff Kevin McConville confirmed that to be correct. He stated 50% of that cost is reimbursable from New York State Supplies and Recreations.

Page 73 – 52180 – Other Equipment, Legislator Ellner requested an explanation of what falls within that budget.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated that budget is related to Road Patrol, it covers the equipment to operate vehicles such as vests, ropes, paddles, etc.

Page 73 – 427701 – Unclassified, Chairwoman Nacerino requested an explanation of what generates that revenue.

Bureau of Criminal Investigation Captain James Schepperly stated that is projected revenue from a company the Sheriff’s Department sells the accident reports to, known as Crash.com.

Page 75- Chairwoman Nacerino requested that a correction be made on page 75, in the center of the page on the left side, it should be listed as the “SRT” CALLOUTS not the ERT.

Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis confirmed that correction would be made.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Auditor Michele Sharkey gave her an amendment that needs to be made to a grant for the Sheriff's Department. She stated the amendment will reflect the awarded amount.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve the amendment of Page 77 - 17311002 443893 10021 - Police Traffic Services Program (Traffic Safety Grant) from \$12,144 to \$12,760 and Page 78- 17311002 443899 & 51093 10024 Buckle Up Grant from 0 to \$4,400; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Page 82 – 52180 – Other Equipment, Chairwoman Nacerino requested Sheriff Kevin McConville speak to what is covered in the budget line.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated that covers the cost of replacing expired body armor filters, replacing the forensic backing system in the Lab throughout the year and Heavy Duty Cargo Organizers for the two (2) Forensic Vehicles that carry expensive equipment.

Page 82 – 54682 – Special Services, Legislator Sayegh requested an explanation of what falls under this line.

Sheriff McConville stated that funds Cell Phone Tower Dumps, which relates to mega data and is used for criminal investigations.

Page 82 – Licensing Software, Legislator Ellner questioned what is included under this heading.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated that covers many of the costs related to the Child Pornography Investigations.

Jail – 3150 (pages 89-95) – Duly Noted

Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) – 3989 (pages 99-107)

Legislator Sayegh questioned how much longer will the County receive funding from Indian Point.

Commissioner BES Robert Lipton stated the County is receiving a reduced amount of funding. He stated that will continue until Holtec International completes the decommissioning process. He stated all of the spent fuel pools have been moved into dry cask. He stated the emergency response window has been reduced from 10 miles to five (5) miles. He stated therefore Putnam County is no longer in the response zone. He stated the way that the law is written is why Putnam County still will receive a share of the funding. He stated that will continue until Holtec reduces everything to zero, which will take a couple of years.

Page 100 – 54370 – Automotive, Chairwoman Nacerino questioned what this covers.

BES Commissioner Robert Lipton stated those funds are used to outfit the vehicles the BES uses with accessories such as radios, lights, sirens etc.

BES Commissioner Robert Lipton stated for the record on page 102 – 10148 – Homeland Security SHSP Grant will probably not be awarded until January 2025.

Page 104 – 52610 – Furniture and Furnishings, Legislator Gouldman requested explanation for the \$80,000 in that line.

BES Commissioner Robert Lipton stated they are still getting equipment for the 911- Call Center. He stated that funding will pay for the consoles, the purchases of these consoles have been spread over several years.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the new passed OSHA regulations are going to have an impact on the 2025 Budget for the BES.

BES Commissioner Robert Lipton stated yes. He stated there were additional funds allocated to cover the additional training that will be required and also additional funding in the Temporary line was requested because the new regulations required additional staff for different scenarios.

Commissioner of Department of General Services John Tully stated there have been questions presented by the Legislature on how the Leased County Vehicles are documented throughout the Tentative 2025 Budget. He questioned if the Legislature would be agreeable to review a proposal he has been working on, taking into account the comments made by the members of the Legislature during this budget process.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she would be like to review that.

Item#11 - Other Business - None

Item #12 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:17 PM Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.