

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

Members: Chairman Regan and Legislators Addonizio & Montgomery

Wednesday April 8, 2026
(Immediately Following the Health Committee Mtg. at 6pm)

The meeting was called to order at 6:59pm by Chairman Regan who requested Legislator Montgomery lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Sayegh and Montgomery and Chairman Regan were present. Legislator Addonizio was absent.

Item #3 – Acceptance of Minutes – October 9, 2025 & November 12, 2025 Meetings

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 – FYI – Fund Transfer 26T069 – Probation – Cover Pending Shortfall for Training Budget

Director of Probation John Osterhout stated he has two (2) brand new Probation Officers in need of training; in the past, new officers were sent down to Westchester County Probation Department for free training. However, this year there is no academy in Westchester, so the new officers must go up to Albany for the first part of their training. He stated the first part of training costs \$8,000, while the training budget he has is \$10,000. He is requesting to move \$20,000 from a previous grant from the year prior.

Chairman Regan questioned how many staff openings there are within the department.

Director Osterhout stated the two (2) openings are the only ones, he explained he is fully staffed.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is glad the Probation Department is fully staffed.

Director Osterhout stated that Westchester is dealing with their own budgetary issues, therefore unable to hire. He explained that he must train new hires within a year therefore this cannot be postponed to next year.

Item #5 – Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A019 – Emergency Services – Additional Limestone at Fire Training Center

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated this amendment is transferring about \$3,000 to the Fire Training Center capital project.

Chairman Regan questioned if this item has been discussed within another Committee.

Commissioner Carlin stated that he was unsure, but a similar issue was brought up last year.

Chairman Regan stated there was an approval for this item but with zero fiscal impact transferring funds between accounts.

Legislator Sayegh questioned what the limestone's purpose was.

Commissioner Carlin stated he was unsure.

Legislator Birmingham stated that a memo could be sent to the administration asking for clarification.

Chairman Regan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Montgomery. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A022 – Sheriff's Office – Record Remaining Expenditure & Revenue related to the Co-Response Team Grant

Chairman Regan made a motion to waive the rules and accept the revised addition of Item #6 on the agenda; Seconded by Legislator Montgomery. All in favor.

Commissioner Carlin stated the grant ends on June 30th, and the Sheriff was able to procure approval through the State allowing the remaining funds to be used to purchase out a vehicle that is currently being leased as well as spending down the half year funds for the person that works in Mental Health.

Chairman Regan questioned what that amount is.

Commissioner Carlin stated the car is \$26,416, as well as other expenditures to bring the grant down to zero.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if \$12,895 is being put back into contingency or being taken out.

Commissioner Carlin stated that is being taken out to cover everything within the grant.

Chairman Regan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #7 – Approval – Sheriff’s Office Intermunicipal Agreement – Police Tactical Team Cooperation

Undersheriff James Menton stated that the IMA (Inter-Municipal Agreement) is to assist with mutual aid jobs in conjunction with Carmel and Kent ERT (Emergency Response Team).

Chairman Regan questioned if there are any significant changes for this IMA from prior administrations to current.

Undersheriff Menton stated no.

Legislator Montgomery questioned why certain Putnam County towns are included in the agreement and not others.

Undersheriff Menton stated that Carmel and Kent ERT are together as one team.

Legislator Montgomery questioned whether there was a way to get all departments in Putnam County to train together.

Undersheriff Menton stated that these are specially qualified officers who are a part of the ERT and the SRT (Special Response Team), and other departments do not have that.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if Cold Spring was included in this.

Undersheriff Menton stated no, none of their members are included.

Chairman Regan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Montgomery. All in favor.

Item #8 – FYI – Fund Transfer 26T053 – Sheriff’s Office – Utilize Seized Asset Funds to Upgrade Electronic Equipment on Special Response Team Equipment Truck

Undersheriff Menton stated that upgrades including exterior flood lights and power banks were added.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if taxpayer dollars were being used toward this.

Undersheriff Menton said Seized Assets are being used rather than taxpayer dollars.

Commissioner Carlin stated the utilization of Seized Assets are decided on by the Sheriff to determine what the appropriate expenses are that those funds can be used for.

Legislative Counsel Heather Abissi stated that New York State and the Federal Government have an asset program, by which criminals are divested of the proceeds and

instrumentalities of their crime and that money is then taken and put to use to offset the expense to the taxpayer.

Item #9 – FYI – Fund Transfer 26T054 – Sheriff’s Office – Kitchen Supplies

Chairman Regan questioned if this was a new transfer.

Undersheriff Menton stated he believed this was something done several times a year.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if it was possible to stop using plastic supplies in the jail.

Chairman Regan questioned if this transfer was a normality that everything goes under miscellaneous supplies.

Commissioner Carlin states yes, throughout the year needs are identified.

Item #10 – Discussion – Sheriff’s Office – Budget Organization and Object Code Consolidation

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Undersheriff Menton explained what was handed out was a budget structure modernization pilot program they would like to implement. He stated this system will help to better track and manage resources. He stated the Sheriff’s Office is currently operating under 29 organization codes; many of which are outdated, redundant, or no longer reflect how the Sheriff’s Office operates today. He stated they are proposing a consolidation of eight (8) streamlined codes which are better aligned with current operations. He stated through the use of project codes they will maintain and enhance the ability to track grants, State mandates, and contract-based services. He stated this will be implemented in the year 2027 if approved. He stated they are looking for the Legislature’s support to move forward with this and any feedback is appreciated.

Captain of Administration Dominick Chiumento stated this budget structure is about efficiency and cost savings, while also maintaining the transparency that the Legislature and public deserve. He reviewed the current process and financial system utilized in the Sheriff’s Office. He stated there are currently 29 organization codes, many of which were created over the years and no longer used. He stated some are populated with zeros during the budget cycle. He stated they are looking to consolidate a lot of the similar features that fall under various units within the Sheriff’s Office. He stated they are looking to have eight (8) codes; one (1) for the Jail and the other seven (7) for the Law Enforcement side. He stated for each organizational code, they need to prepare a 22-page document that spells out how the funds would be used, which would be a more efficient task with eight (8) codes. He stated the same information would be made available, just in a more concise format. He stated another advantage of consolidation

would be a more efficient ordering process for office supplies or uniforms throughout the Sheriff's Office. He stated the same transparency will be maintained. He provided an example of the law books being updated; all units purchased their updates separately, on separate requisitions. He stated if this was consolidated it would be on one order, shipped all at once, resulting in cost and time savings. He reviewed the various units and sub-units and how they can be consolidated.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if Captain Chiumento could go into detail on Sheriff BCI (Bureau of Criminal Investigation), specifically Sheriff's Domestic Violence.

Captain Chiumento stated Sheriff's Domestic Violence was an old program; it is not currently funded. He explained these organization codes that have "0" are being consolidated to eliminate the blank ones.

Legislator Birmingham hypothesized that the organizational code for Sheriff's Domestic Violence was added to the budget with the receipt of a grant, which is typically done.

Commissioner Carlin stated that is correct.

Legislator Birmingham stated that would explain the zeros.

Captain Chiumento stated if a grant were to come through that would necessitate a budget line they could establish a project code and track it that way. He stated the use of project codes would have been a better function rather than object codes. He clarified that the Jail and Law Enforcement side of the Sheriff's Office will remain separate. He further explained the benefits of consolidation and how expenditures would be tracked. He stated he believes this will improve efficiency and save money.

Chairman Regan questioned if there would be a negative impact on any other department and asked Commissioner Carlin for verification.

Captain Chiumento stated no, it would not affect other departments.

Commissioner Carlin stated he would have to further look into it. He stated any lines with zero should not have to be reported.

Legislator Birmingham stated perhaps that could be made more clear through the Legislature's decentralized budget process.

Legislator Sayegh stated it would be interesting to find out if there was any effect on the Auditing Department.

Captain Chiumento stated that the consolidation amounts to about 6% of their budget.

Legislator D'Angelo stated he was appreciative of the Sheriff's Office for their effort since taking office. He stated his support for this proposal.

Legislative Counsel Abissi stated that this consolidation aligns with the initiative presented by Commissioner of Department of General Services John Tully during the last budget. She stated she believes this harmonizes well with what is trying to be implemented throughout the County.

Legislator Gouldman stated if this pilot works well, it could be a guide for other departments.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he and Chairman Regan met with Sheriff Hess the week prior and said he was appreciative of their efforts. He stated how transparency is important. He discussed the necessity of budgetary amendments for these lines.

Captain Chiumento stated that budgetary amendments would still be needed for any changes across those consolidated organization codes.

Legislator Birmingham questioned how transparency of the funding would work once the consolidation takes place.

Captain Chiumento stated once the consolidation takes place, what is grouped together will be in one line so the whole budget would be provided, but what comes from each budgeted line would not appear as an amendment.

Legislator Birmingham stated he is comfortable with that. He stated the Legislature relies heavily on the Sheriff's Office expertise of where the need for funding is.

Legislator Sayegh questioned the bike path patrol especially in light of the recent incidents. She stated she utilizes the bike path a lot and has never seen patrol.

Undersheriff Menton stated they plan to add patrol to the bike path therefore it would not be a separate project code.

Captain Chiumento stated that as of this spring and summer, a specific person would be assigned to the bike path. He said that they would be able to give answers to their questions about what division is used for what.

Legislator Russo stated she thinks this program is great and financially makes sense.

Captain Chiumento stated that nothing will change operationally; this will streamline the process and make it more efficient.

Commissioner Carlin pointed out that by combining lines past history may be lost since the funding is not in the same line it had been; therefore it is not as simple to look back to the previous years' budget.

Chairman Regan questioned what the next steps are.

Captain Chiumento stated that he would like to meet with the Finance and Audit Departments to make sure this is done correctly.

Item #11 – FYI – Coroner 1st Quarter Case Statistics – Duly Noted

Item #12 – Other Business – None

Item #13 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:51, Chairman Regan made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Montgomery. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by PILOT Intern Molly Hall.