

Chairwoman Russo, Legislators Crowley & D'Angelo

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Paula Hernandez, Putnam County IDA Executive Director stated the IDA is happy to now be fully staffed. She thanked the Legislature for continued support of the IDA's mission of advancing job growth, economic prosperity and welfare of County residents. She stated that for the first time in many years, the IDA was able to submit their NY State PARIS (Public Authorities Reporting Information System) compliance reporting on time, and their annual audit to Finance Commissioner William Carlin. She stated that last week public hearings were held in the Town of Southeast for two new project proposals with no public opposition: 20 Fields Lane in Southeast from the Kinsley Group, to expand their building, and APAP Land Management, a painting and renovation firm moving to Southeast. She stated that current projects for Hanna Hospitality, Ace Endico, and 101 and 201 Pugsley Road are progressing. She stated at the new owners of 101 Pugsley have increased their workforce by 50%, hiring local residents.

Chairwoman Russo stated that she's happy to see these interesting projects moving forward.

Legislator D'Angelo stated it's great to hear of the increase in local hiring and that it's important for people who live in Putnam have the opportunity to work here.

Legislator Regan questioned what business now owns 101 and 201 Pugsley Road.

Director Hernandez stated Sage Hall is the new owner of 101 Pugsley Road and owns Lesser Evil Snacks, housed there. She stated that Lincoln Logistics owns 201 Pugsley Road and is working to fill the warehouse with one to two businesses or they may purchase the building for a single business.

Legislator Regan asked Executive Director Hernandez if she had the opportunity to tour those buildings.

Director Hernandez stated yes.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if Amazon is a possibility for Pugsley Road.

Executive Director Hernandez stated no, not with the town ordinances.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the IDA had minutes on their agenda.

Executive Director Hernandez stated yes, they are on the website.

Legislator Crowley questioned if there are any design plans for the future to block the noise, as constituents have asked.

Executive Director Hernandez stated not that she is aware of.

Item #5 - Approval - Memorialization of NYS Senator Rolison Proposed Utility Tax Holiday Amendment – Legislator Gouldman

Legislator Gouldman thanked the Committee for putting this item on the agenda and stated Legislators have received calls from residents about utility bills being too high. He stated that Senator Rolison added an amendment to a bill that would give a tax holiday on utility bills, but the amendment was rejected, not passed. He stated that Senator Rolison's bill would suspend the gross receipts tax, sales tax, the systems benefit charge, the temporary state assessment, the increment state assessment charge, and the renewable portfolio standard charge for 1 year, and that these are taxes

that residents may not even be aware of but would help them save money on utility bills. He stated the State Legislature ends their session at the end of June and that residents should reach out to them now and urged the Economic Committee to pass this on to the Full Legislature for approval.

Legislator D'Angelo thanked Legislator Gouldman for bringing this issue to committee and that it's troubling to him that Democrats in Albany refuse to do anything to address the cost of living and cost of energy right now. He stated he would like to see the Legislature send a resolution urging reopening of Indian Point, to also help lower utility costs.

Legislator Crowley agreed and stated that it's very problematic that with the rise in electric bills, people have to decide if they can pay for medication or keep the lights on.

Chairwoman Russo stated she is in full support and would like to thank Legislator Gouldman for bringing this issue forward, as she is contacted daily from residents looking for help on this.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to pre file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator D'Angelo. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval - Resolution Opposing Senate Bill S5506 & Assembly Bill A89378 - Energy Storage Systems – Legislator Sayegh

Legislator Sayegh stated she brought this item forward at the request of her town supervisor. The town of Carmel unanimously passed a resolution opposing Senate Bill S5506 and Assembly Bill A8378, related to zoning and allowing the state to override local zoning in the state of New York. She stated that in her town, there was a proposed battery storage facility on private property, but it needed town board approval. She stated it's a dangerous setup in a residential area, but if the bill is passed, the state would shift the permitting authority for battery storage facilities to state run offices. This would mean developers or large-scale battery projects could bypass local planning boards and receive approval directly from the state.

Chairwoman Russo stated she would like to thank Legislator Sayegh and supports this.

Legislator D'Angelo stated he would like to thank Legislator Sayegh for bringing this issue forward, and that these facilities are a safety risk to the public, which our community has spoken out against.

Legislator Crowley stated she agreed with Legislator Sayegh, and this an ongoing issue affecting not just Carmel residents but other towns too. She stated that battery storage facilities do not benefit Putnam County.

Legislator D'Angelo stated that in his opinion, big government is not good and when local zoning ordinances and codes can be overruled by the State, there is serious risk and residents do not know how to handle these dangerous and risky situations.

Legislator Sayegh stated she reached out to the developer and also the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services and facilitated a meeting, to explore her concerns of how emergency response would be handled at a facility like this, and it confirmed to her that neither the town nor county are ready for this.

Cassandra Roth, Chairwoman of the Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) stated that SWCD Board will talk about opposing this bill at their meeting. She stated battery and

solar facilities dig twelve feet into the ground and when projects fail, farmers are left with unusable land, and that in Putnam County, only 4% of the land base is prime agricultural land. She stated that she is very much against this and appreciates that the Legislature has this on the agenda.

Chairwoman Russo stated she doesn't live in Carmel, but she was there supporting all the residents who came out to oppose this, as in her opinion, it's detrimental to everything.

Chairwoman Russo made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator D'Angelo. All in favor.

Item #7 - FYI – Unemployment Report

Legislator Russo stated there was a 1 % increase, but it was good to hear earlier that the new business on Pugsley Road is trying to employ more County residents.

Legislator Sayegh agreed and stated that she was just at a ribbon cutting for a new business in Mahopac, that hired 100 employees from our area and will provide \$7 million in sales. She stated that small businesses are the backbone of our County and should be encouraged to come here.

Legislator Montgomery noted that a 1% increase is notable, and a contributing factor is workforce leaving Putnam County, due to lack of services.

Item #8 - Other Business (None)

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:20 P.M., Chairwoman Russo made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Mary Dechiaro.