

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

Item #6 – Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A044 – Emergency Services – Account for Insurance Proceeds – Maintenance Facility at Golf Course

Commissioner Carlin stated Risk Manager Bruno has been reviewing this case with NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal). He stated this \$50,000 in insurance proceeds is to begin clean up of the site.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the County will receive more insurance recoveries for the building itself.

Commissioner Carlin stated that is correct.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the cause of the fire has been determined and how it affects the vendor.

Commissioner of Department of General Services (DGS) John Tully stated it was deemed inconclusive. He stated this first portion is for the cleanup and Risk Manager Bruno is working with NYMIR in relation to the structure and the contents.

Legislator Regan questioned if the contents of the building were the County's property or the property of the vendor.

Commissioner Tully stated that is currently being worked out. He stated right now, it is being treated as though everything belongs to the County.

Legislator Regan stated in his experience it takes a long time for a final determination of the cause to be made. He questioned if inconclusive is the final answer or just the current status.

Commissioner Tully stated when he inquired about pursuing the recoveries for the cleanup, he was told the current status is inconclusive. He stated because of the nature of what was contained in the building, fuel, cleaning supplies, etc., the damage made it very difficult to make a determination.

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

Item #7 – Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A045 – DPW – Fund Jail HVAC Improvements

Commissioner Feighery stated this method is the most inexpensive, but as good as brand-new. He stated HVAC system at the jail is set up so the condensers are inside and

compressors are outside. He stated to change that would cost an astronomical amount of money. He stated the condensers are failing and need to be replaced. He stated this replacement should get the County another 20+ years out of the system.

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

Item #8 – Approval – Amend 22CP01 – Flooring Repair & Replacement Program – Add Funding

Deputy Commissioner of DPW Joseph Bellucci stated this will replenish this account used to replace flooring in various County facilities.

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

Item #9 – Approval – Amend 23CP17 – Furniture & Furnishings – Add Funding

Commissioner Feighery stated this account is used to replace outdated furnishings.

Legislator Montgomery appreciates the attention given to keeping facilities and furniture updated. She stated this makes such a difference for employees.

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

Item #10 – Approval – Fund Transfer 26T124 – DPW – Fund Amendments to 22CP01 & 23CP17

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

Item #11 – Approval – Renaming Putnam County Sheriff’s Department Substation at 276 Main Street, Nelsonville “The Kevin J. McConville Nelsonville Substation” to Honor the Late Sheriff Kevin J. McConville’s Service to Putnam County

Undersheriff James Menton thanked DPW Commissioner Feighery and Deputy Commissioner Bellucci for their work on the design. He stated they do not yet have a final price but are looking at a date of August 22nd for the unveiling.

Commissioner Feighery stated DPW is working with an outside contractor for the lettering; it will be individual letters rather than a sign. He stated they are making sure this is done right and the final cost should be available soon.

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

Item #12 – Approval – Planning Dept. – Ratification of Application for Grant Funds Available through the NY Places for Learning, Activity, and Youth Socialization (NY PLAYS) Initiative

Deputy Commissioner Bellucci stated the playground is being revamped to make it ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible. He stated the current playground will be demolished.

Legislator Regan questioned if the approval of the grant is anticipated.

Deputy Commissioner Bellucci stated it is likely.

Legislator Montgomery stated there is a \$43,000 County match. She stated this is a great program.

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

Item #13 – Approval – Utility Easement – Carmel Tax Map #53.19-1-12 & #64.7-1-5 – NYSEG Power Line Relocation – Stocum Ave Bridge Replacement Project

Chairman Gouldman stated the Legislature was notified this approval is no longer necessary.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to remove item #13 from the agenda; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

Item #14 – Approval – Potential Sale of County Property (backup to follow)

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

Chairman Gouldman stated the sale of this property has been discussed for a long time. He requested further information from Commissioner Tully.

Commissioner Tully stated the County has one (1) offer that meets the requirements set by the Legislature. He stated there are no contingencies on the offer and it exceeds the listing price.

Legislator Regan questioned if the property could be taken off the market.

Legislative Counsel Heather Abissi stated the Legislature would have to rescind the previous resolution directing the property to be sold.

Legislator Sayegh stated she was on the Legislature in 2019 and 2024 when it was decided to sell this property. She stated she is happy to vote on this particular resolution.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. By roll call vote: 2 Ayes. One Nay: Legislator Regan. Motion carries.

Item #15 – Discussion – Upgrading Audio Visual Equipment for Legislative Meetings

Chairman Gouldman stated Legislators have provided feedback about the audio and visual quality of Legislative meetings. He stated ironically, our current livestream does not have audio, but it will be edited tomorrow and re-posted. He stated there are some town governments that have a higher quality stream; therefore this is being discussed with Director of IT/IS Thomas Lannon.

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

Director Lannon stated there are two (2) different systems; one for the Historic Courthouse and one for this meeting room #318 in the County Office Building. He stated both can be improved if the Legislature is willing to invest money into the systems. He stated room #318 is a long, narrow shape which does not lend itself to the best audio quality. He stated the speakers are currently in the ceiling pointing down; a better placement would be to have them at an angle facing away from the microphones. He stated the microphones could also be upgraded, but some issues contributing to the audio quality are not speaking directly into the microphone at close proximity and not having them turned on. He stated another option is using omni microphones, which pick up sound in the room rather than a direct individual microphone for each person; these are typically used in a conference room. He stated he has never heard a complaint about the video quality for meetings in room #318. He stated when the camera system was installed, it was done so with simplicity being a top priority. He stated the Clerk is who controls the audio and video among other tasks during the meeting. He stated the main issue in room #318 is sound and he got a quote of about \$10,000 for audio upgrades. He stated the Historic Courthouse is a completely different situation since it is a historic building. He stated the County has no control over the sound system over there, it belongs to New York State however it was upgraded in the last year or two and it is in great condition. He stated it would be great to put permanent mounted cameras in the Historic Courthouse; there are models that sit flush to the ceiling and only flip down when in use. He stated permission would be needed from New York State to install cameras. He stated right now, an IT staff member records the Legislative Meetings in the Historic Courthouse. He stated they are still working through some improvements that can be made.

Legislator Regan stated at the last Full Legislative Meeting he noticed there were various points when a Legislator did not have their microphone turned on, which is not an IT problem. He suggested maybe having microphones that are turned on automatically rather than by each Legislator.

Director Lannon stated when the staff member detects absence of audio they can bring it to the Legislature's attention. He clarified that IT cannot control the microphones, the only on and off button is located on the device itself. He stated a remotely controlled microphone system would be very expensive.

Chairman Gouldman suggested using lapel microphones.

Director Lannon stated lapel microphones are the best option for sound quality. However, they can be dangerous because there can be instances where the person wearing it believes they have muted it, but they haven't and their audio is feeding right into the recording.

Legislator Regan stated the current microphones have a light clearly indicating when they are on and off.

Director Lannon stated lapel microphones stay relatively steady so the audio would be more consistent, and they also do not detect too much background noise.

Chairman Gouldman requested that Director Lannon provide a quote for lapel microphones.

Legislator Sayegh stated she has never been contacted about the quality of the audio or video. She stated she is interested to review the quotes and options to make our meetings accessible.

Legislator Montgomery stated although there have been no complaints about the video, it is only one angle.

Director Lannon stated multiple cameras or a multi-view camera would require an operator.

Legislator Montgomery suggested the Owl system, which automatically detects the direction of the sound and turns itself to capture video and audio.

Director Lannon stated his concern with that type of device is that there are often multiple people speaking at once and it might have a difficult time detecting the correct direction.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is reluctant for this huge investment after just recently implementing streaming equipment.

Director Lannon stated smaller adjustments can be made, such as new microphones, rather than a complete re-do of the set up.

Legislator Montgomery stated it is important to think about where we are heading in terms of capabilities, such as remote public input.

Chairman Goldman stated he would like to see an improvement so anyone watching the livestream can understand what is being said.

Legislator Regan stated there is a difference between there being no audio and not being able to understand; it is important to understand what the issue is. He stated Legislators sitting back while speaking is an issue as they are too far from their microphone. He stated the podium should have a microphone on it for anyone who gets up to speak. He stated there are also procedural problems, such as guests not introducing themselves or not being introduced by the Chair of the meeting. He stated there are definitely problems but it would be ill advised to throw money at accusations that are not all founded in technology issues.

Director Lannon stated he also wanted to speak about the presentation of proclamations in the Historic Courthouse. He stated the audio during this portion of the meeting is not as good quality because they are presented in front of the tables where the microphones are.

Legislator Regan questioned if some of the easily identifiable issues can be addressed rather than a complete overhaul.

Director Lannon stated yes, there are some simple improvements that can be made. He stated it is also important to note there is a difference between the livestream and video quality. He stated once the stream ends, the video can be edited to enhance the audio.

Item #16 – Other Business – None

Item #17 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:10pm, Chairwoman Goldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Deputy Clerk, Beth Robinson.