

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders**

**Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan**

**Tuesday** **May 12, 2020**  
**(Immediately Followed the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Mtg.)**

The meeting was called to order at 8:40PM by Chairman Jonke who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan and Chairman Jonke were present.

**Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes/ April 15, 2020**

Chairman Jonke stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 - Approval/ Budget Amendment (20A024)/ Asset Forfeiture Funding to Make Minor Renovations to Front Office/ District Attorney Tenny**

Chairman Jonke stated this is a request for funding to cover renovations in the District Attorney's office to address some conditions that require immediate attention because they will address the safety and welfare of the employees.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she is in support of this request. She stated that she reviewed the back up and the plans provided, she finds it to be feasible.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional information; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Legislator Albano stated he also supports this request.

District Attorney Tenny stated he would like to thank all the Legislators and Department Heads. He explained that he had been on the audio webinar since 6:00P.M. when the Health Committee meeting began. He stated after listening to all the discussion and hearing about all of the work and coordination of efforts being done, he wanted to express his appreciation. He stated what we are all going through at this time with the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, is a defining moment of our lives. He stated what is being dealt with by everyone is not easy. He stated he appreciates all the hard work everyone is putting into this.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Budget Amendment (20A024)/ Asset Forfeiture Funding to Make Minor Renovations to Front Office; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

**Item#5 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (20T081)/ Funds to Cover Overtime due to Three (3) Vacancies, One (1) Extended Sick Leave, and One (1) Officer on 207C During April of 2020/ Sheriff Langley (copied to Pers & Audit Mtgs)**

Legislator Sullivan stated he understands that the occupancy in the Putnam County Jail is low, in a historical perspective. He stated the County is in a financial situation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. He questioned if a request has been made to the Commissioner of Corrections to come to the Putnam County Jail to review the staffing levels. He stated we are fully staffed in the jail even though we are at approximately 50% occupancy. He stated the Jail is not at 100% occupancy. He stated as a County we need to be looking at every opportunity to reduce expenses. He stated that he has learned that the Commissioner of Corrections will come to the Jail and make recommendations. He stated he would like to know if there is any way we can save the taxpayers money.

Sheriff Langley stated staffing in the Jail is based on the hosts and housing units the Jail has. He stated the New York State Sheriff's Association has been trying to get answers from State Commissioner of Corrections Office in this time of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated the State Commissioner of Corrections has not provided any guidance. He stated in the Putnam County Sheriff's Department there have been changes made by attempting to reduce overtime where possible. He stated he would discuss the changes that have been made in executive session, if the Committee would like the details. He stated medical is responsible for a tremendous amount of overtime. He stated since January 2020 a defendant in the case of the stabbing of a Sheriff Deputy's was in the County Jail. He stated that the defendant required a constant watch, which requires a one-on-one supervision 24/7. He stated that resulted in a tremendous amount of overtime. He stated after much collaborative efforts and time working with the NYS Office of Mental Health the defendant was moved to a facility where the proper care of the individual needs is available.

Legislator Nacerino stated she would like to focus on the overtime request that is in front of this Committee. She stated this overtime was dictated by need, vacancies, sick leave and 207C.

Sheriff Langley stated that is correct. He stated under normal operations there needs to be a modified "B- Line" shift, that works on special programs in the Jail that they are required to have. He explained they do not have to operate those programs currently, therefore those employees are available to help fill in on shifts when needed. He stated that does result in overtime savings. He stated like all the Departments of the County, the Sheriff's Department is adapting and making necessary cuts to save tax dollars in anticipation of the financial crisis for the County, as this COVID-19 crisis continues.

Legislator Nacerino stated she appreciates that the Sheriff's Department is operating in a way that they are mindful of the financial challenges the County will be facing as we move forward.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (20T081)/ Funds to Cover Overtime due to Three (3) Vacancies, One (1) Extended Sick Leave, and One (1) Officer on 207C During April of 2020; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Legislator Gouldman stated he had a question for the Sheriff.

Chairman Jonke requested clarification that Legislator Gouldman's question was related to the Fund Transfer (20T081).

Legislator Gouldman stated it could, it is related to COVID-19 and the inmates currently in the Jail. He questioned is there an issue with COVID-19 in the Jail.

Sheriff Langley stated COVID-19 does not exist in the Jail. He stated there have been Correction Officers who tested positive. He explained thanks to the policy that they implemented early on nothing has extended on to any of the staff within the facility or to any of the inmates. He stated currently there are zero (0) inmate related COVID-19 cases in the Putnam County Jail.

Chairman Jonke requested that attention stay on the agenda items. He stated any questions off topic of the agenda items can be addressed through the proper channels with the Sheriff.

**Item #6 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (20A022)/ Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Grant Funds Awarded to Sheriff' Dept. To Cover expenses associated with purchase and installation of Livescan Equipment/ Sheriff Langley**

Legislator Nacerino questioned if this grant has a 50% match.

Sheriff Langley confirmed it does have a 50% match. He stated this equipment is mandated by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (20A022)/ Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Grant Funds Awarded to Sheriff' Dept. To Cover expenses associated with purchase and installation of Livescan Equipment; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (20T088)/ 2018 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant Funding (Reso #36/2019)- Transfer Funds To Purchase Headsets/ Sheriff Langley**

Chairman Jonke stated he believes the headsets that would be purchased are for the members of the Emergency Response Team (ERT).

Sheriff Langley confirmed that is correct. He requested that Sergeant Meyer be unmuted, permitting him to speak to this item. He stated he is the one who filled out the paperwork for this grant.

Chairman Jonke stated that Sergeant Meyer is not showing up as being on the call.

Sheriff Langley stated the current earpieces for the ERT members are failing. He stated communication is essential during operations for that team. He stated this is a Homeland Security Grant with zero (0) fiscal impact to the County taxpayers.

Chairman Jonke stated the Homeland Security Program has a 25% threshold to fund anti-terrorism, he requested with this change of not using the funds for a generator, is the threshold still being met with the purchase of the Headsets for the ERT.

Sheriff Langley confirmed that is correct.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (20T088)/ 2018 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant Funding (Reso #36/2019) Transfer Funds To Purchase Headsets; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**Item #6 - Other Business – None**

**Item #7 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 9:00PM Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trabulsky.