

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

Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan

Thursday **6:00PM** **September 24, 2020**
(Audit & Administration Immediately Followed)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairman Jonke who requested Legislator Castellano lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Nacerino and Chairman Jonke were present. Legislator Sullivan joined the Audio Webinar at 6:21PM.

Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes/ August 11, 2020

Chairman Jonke stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/ Protective Services Committee- Police Policy Review Panel Minutes/ August 13th and September 15, 2020

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Protective Services Committee- Police Policy Review Panel Minutes/ August 13th and September 15, 2020; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to make a comment. She stated the Police Policy Review Panel Meeting is the meeting that take place at the County's TOPS Building, in the Auditorium. She stated neither the members of the Public or any of the Legislators, who are not committee members of the Legislatures' Protective Services Committee, meeting can participate or contribute. She stated also the meeting of the Legislature has not been called to order, this is a committee of the Legislature meeting within a meeting. She stated if minutes are being taken and the Protective Services Committee members are participating, and the same Committee members will probably be voting on the actual document that will be adopted, they need to call themselves to order during the Police Policy Review Panel Meetings. She stated currently that is not being done.

Chairman Jonke stated he will request that Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo address that.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated he is not aware of what provision of the Open Meetings Law that Legislator Montgomery is referring to. He stated he would very much appreciate her citing the section of the law. He stated he will then review it and give an informed opinion.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she will pull the section she is referring to.

Chairman Jonke stated this is not an agenda item. He stated the minutes have been approved. He stated if Legislator Montgomery wants to bring this up at another meeting, she is welcome to do that. He stated he will move on with the evening's agenda.

Item #5 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (20T164)/ Cover Increase for Cell Phone Subscriber PESH Mitigation – LMR Equipment for Cell Integration – Radio Interface LMR and Cell Equipment/ Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley

Chairman Jonke requested that a member of the Sheriff’s Department please speak to this matter.

Sheriff Langley stated there was a Public Employee Safety & Health (PESH) violation, “violence in the workplace” due to a radio system failure when a Deputy was stabbed during a call in the Town of Putnam Valley. He stated part of the mitigation to resolve this issue was to implement cell phones and part of that cell phone is the push to talk feature. He stated that feature allows the cell phone to be used as a radio. He stated this fund transfer is to cover the cost of the Land Mobile Radio Equipment (LMR) for the cell phone integration.

Legislator Nacerino stated she believes this is a wonderful concept that should move forward, for the protection of the Officers as well as the residents.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if this technology would be available to the fire departments and the ambulance corps as well. He stated there are several areas in Putnam Valley and throughout the County where cell phone service is not available.

Sheriff Langley stated currently it will not be set up for that. He stated that it is possible. He stated it would require additional equipment to do so.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if this new system will work in all areas of Putnam Valley.

Sheriff Langley stated the service will be good everywhere, where there is a connection. He stated no radio system is perfect, as we all know. He stated according to New York State Public Employee Safety Administration, this will be a good resolution to the problem.

Legislator Gouldman stated it is important that the Officers have communication capabilities in all areas of the County. He stated this is a move in the right direction, he is happy this is getting done.

Chairman Jonke stated he believes this is money well spent to provide protection and security for our law enforcement Officers. He stated there are pockets throughout the County that make it difficult to communicate. He stated if this is going to help with the communication and protect our Officers, he is in favor of this.

Legislator Sayegh questioned will this technology be made obsolete with the new trunking system the County is currently working on with Motorola. She stated she understands and supports the need and this request. She stated she just wants to make sure the County is not spending money on a system that will not work with the new system.

Sheriff Langley stated it will work with any radio system.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Approval/ Fund Transfer (20T164)/ Cover Increase for Cell Phone Subscriber PESH Mitigation – LMR Equipment for Cell Integration – Radio Interface LMR and Cell Equipment; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #6 - Discussion/ 2020 Status Report to Date – Sheriff’s Department Overtime Lines/ Chairman Protective Services Paul Jonke

Chairman Jonke stated it was discussed earlier in the year, just after the first quarter of 2020 the status of the Sheriff’s Department Overtime. He stated he has requested an update on the Sheriff’s Department Overtime.

Sheriff Langley stated to date comp time cash out has been \$28,281.11. He provided a summary of Officers currently out due to on the job injuries. He stated also there are two (2) deputies who have been deployed with the military. He stated currently all the overtime lines are still within the parameters of where they should be. He stated the School Resource Officers (SROs) have been available, since the Schools were closed, due to the COVID-19 shutdown. He stated the SROs have been utilized to cover numerous shifts due to the shortage in staffing. He stated that has helped keep the overtime lines within the limits. He stated the weekly protests in front of the historic Courthouse, have in some cases required additional personnel for security reasons. He stated as of the September 11, 2020 payroll, everything is within the budget, nothing has gone over yet.

Chairman Jonke questioned as we come to the end of September, with three (3) more months to go in the year, does Sheriff Langley foresee anything that would drastically change; reasonably foresee. He questioned if Sheriff Langley believes he will be able to manage the next three (3) months within the overtime budget lines.

Sheriff Langley stated he thinks there will need to be a move of overtime funding from one division into the patrol to cover the shortages due to staffing. He stated there are four (4) Deputies out as a result of being deployed or due to injuries. He stated there are two (2) Deputies in the Police Academy currently. He stated realistically there are six (6) open patrol slots that must be filled with overtime. He stated so his department will probably be submitting a request requesting that the Legislators approve the transfer of monies from one overtime line into another overtime line to cover an anticipated shortfall in the Patrol Overtime.

Chairman Jonke requested that Sheriff Langley put his projection in writing to the Legislature. He stated that would provide him with a guideline, as Chair of this Committee. He would be happy to review it with Commissioner of Finance to make sure things are lining up.

Sheriff Langley stated that he will work with Undersheriff Cheverko and Senior Account Clerk VanTassel and draft up a proposal.

Legislator Gouldman stated currently there is unrest throughout the County, which we are seeing locally, in Putnam County. He stated the Sheriff’s Department and the actual local police departments throughout the County are expected to be present more than they had in the past. He stated that will generate more overtime. He stated we will have to consider this when we

look as this in the next month or two (2). He stated there will be more overtime because there is a need to have more Police present to enforce stability in our society.

Item #7 - FYI/ Governor's Traffic Safety Committee – Grant Funding Awarded to the Sheriff's Department/ Putnam County Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Kevin McManus

Chairman Jonke stated that Lieutenant McManus in on the audio webinar to address this matter.

Lieutenant McManus stated this is a yearly grant that New York State makes available through the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for directed enforcement for Seatbelts and Aggressive Driving Initiates during the year.

Legislator Gouldman stated he believes the work done by the Putnam County Traffic Safety Committee is valuable to our County. He stated that he has sent many matters to said Committee for review and assistance. He stated this funding for said purpose from the State's Traffic Safety Committee is very good.

Item #8 - FYI/ Fund Transfer (20T266)/ To Cover Canine Stipend for Transfer of Sgt. Keith to YAB & Cover FICA Expense Related to Canine Stipend/ Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley

Sheriff Langley stated this is basically a wash. He stated Sergeant Keith was originally designated as a Patrol Supervisor. He stated with the requirement of additional supervision in the Youth and Community Services Division, it was decided Sergeant Keith was the best fit for that. He stated Sergeant Keith is a canine handler, this fund transfer is to cover the contractual stipend.

Legislator Sullivan (6:21pm) stated he has no questions. He apologized for his late arrival, he had gotten delayed. He wanted to let everyone know he was on the call.

Item #9 - Other Business

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

a. Approval/ Fund Transfer (20T195)/ Purchase AED Machines for the County Buildings and Equipment for Dive Team/ Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services Kenneth Clair

Chairman Jonke stated Commissioner Clair is on the Audio Webinar and will speak to this request.

Commissioner Clair stated this request will cover the cost for an AED Machine to be put in each County Building. He stated the AED Machines the County currently have in the County buildings, the FDA is no longer supporting. He stated the FDA has a lawsuit against the Philips AED Company. He stated the County will not be able to get replacement parts or other needed

equipment. He stated nine (9) of them need to be replaced ASAP. He stated three (3) of them will expire in 90 days. He stated also some of the funding will be used to purchase them for the Mahopac Falls Dive Team. He explained the money that is being requested to be transferred is money secured through a SHSP (State Homeland Security Program) Grant.

Legislator Sullivan questioned how many defibrillators does the County have currently.

Commissioner Clair stated in the area of 30 – 35. He stated nine (9) of them have already expired and three (3) will expire in 2021. He stated they are looking to purchase 12 of them this year. He stated he is staggering the replacement units, to avoid a large bill.

Legislator Sullivan stated, after some discussion of this agenda item, that he would like the County to look into the feasibility of donating the ones the County is removing to an organization or a not for profit. He made a recommendation of donating them to a Rotary Organization, so they can send them to South America. He stated he is aware of that being done with old Fire Engines.

Commissioner Clair confirmed he will look into whether that can be done.

Legislator Sullivan stated he really hopes they can be donated to a third world country that would put them to use, versus said equipment being discarded.

Legislator Sayegh stated the Mahopac Falls Fire Department has a very qualified Dive Team. She stated they are so valuable in our County, which has so many lakes. She stated she is pleased to see that the County is able to assist them.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Approval/ Fund Transfer (20T195)/ Purchase AED Machines for the County Buildings and Equipment for Dive Team; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

b. Comment from Legislator Montgomery

Legislator Montgomery requested the opportunity to provide clarification to a statement she made earlier in the meeting.

Chairman Jonke agreed.

Legislator Montgomery stated the Police Policy Review Panel, (Panel) is very important to the County. She stated the Public has a magnifying glass on this Panel. She stated it is her opinion we are not going about it the right way. She stated firstly, the Minority Leader of the Legislature, is not on the committee. She stated the sub-committee of the Protective Services Committee is on the Police Policy Review Panel. She stated the sub-committee of the Protective Services Committee is a quorum. She stated they are meeting to discuss a policy which will be a binding document. She stated her understanding of the Open Meetings Law is it is a legitimate

meeting of the Protective Services Committee, therefore the meeting should be called to order. She stated if the purpose of the sub-committee of the Protective Services Committee were to participate in discussion and gather information that would be different. She stated the goal of the Police Policy Review Panel is to establish a policy. She stated she does not know off the top of her head what the reference number is of the Opens Meeting Law. She stated Legislative Counsel can obtain that.

Chairman Jonke thanked Legislator Montgomery for her comments. He stated everything has gone through Legislative Counsel. He stated he relies on Legislative Counsel Firriolo and not Legislator Montgomery for the appropriate guidance.

Item #10 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:35PM Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trabulsy.