

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairwoman Scuccimarra, Legislators Gross & Wright

Tuesday

6:30PM

November 18, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairwoman Scuccimarra who requested Legislator Oliverio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Gross, Wright and Chairwoman Scuccimarra were present.

Legislator Gross made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Wright. All in Favor.

Item # 3 – Approval of Minutes- August 18, 2014

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Item # 5 – Update/Putnam County Visitors Bureau

a. Pumpkin Palooza Event/ Financial Breakdown

Putnam County Visitors Bureau Director Libby Pataki stated the Pumpkin Palooza was a great event. She stated the Pumpkin Palooza Event was created to have an event in the fall especially because Thunder Ridge would not be hosting a Halloween event. She stated the Pumpkin Palooza was a great event for the children which, was free to the public except for the pumpkins. She stated the total cost in expenses came to \$10,978.35 and the total revenue came to \$11,020.00. She stated the Visitors Bureau received a lot of donations. For instance, Jessica Lynn, the performer only charged half of her price (\$1,500.00).

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated Jessica Lynn's performance was very good.

Director Pataki stated the pumpkins were supplied by the Walkill View Farm. She stated the radio station Kicks 105.5 provided assistance in advertising the event, which contributed to the big turnout.

Deputy Director of the Putnam County Visitors Bureau Frank Smith stated Kicks 105.5 was beneficial because the station broadcasts far out of the County.

Deputy Director of the Putnam County Visitors Bureau Katie DeMarco of the Visitors Bureau stated Kicks 105.5 also broadcasted at the Pumpkin Palooza event.

Director Pataki stated the signs for the event were produced at a company within the County. She stated due to the age range in children attending the event, it was decided to paint the pumpkins instead of carving pumpkins. She stated this was the first time organizing this event and the Visitor's Bureau would like to host this event again. She stated Tilly Foster Farm is a

great place to stage events such as the Pumpkin Palooza. She stated the Visitor's Bureau would like to host four (4) events a year at Tilly Foster Farm. She stated thus far the Visitor's Bureau would like to host the Pumpkin Palooza event, a fair event, Easter egg hunt event and a winter festival.

Legislator Oliverio stated the Pumpkin Palooza and the projected events utilize Tilly Foster Farm in a great way. He stated he was not a fan of the Carnival Event because that type of event can be redone at any location. He stated he likes the idea of keeping the events at Tilly Foster Farm close to its agricultural roots.

Director Pataki stated she would like to have more harvest events during the fall next year. She stated the Visitor's Bureau was very lucky with the weather for the Pumpkin Palooza. She stated 400 pumpkins were ordered and the pumpkins were sold out at the end of the day. She stated it is challenging to decide how many pumpkins to order because the event's success depends on the weather.

Legislator Albano stated he received feedback from residents stating they enjoyed the event.

Director Pataki stated the music from the Jessica Lynn's performance was a great addition to the country atmosphere.

Legislator Nacerino stated the Event occurred on a beautiful day. She stated the Pumpkin Palooza event supported the vision that the County has for the Tilly Foster Farm. She stated events such as the Pumpkin Palooza bring people to the County.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she attended the event and it appeared the children had a great time. She stated the Pumpkin Palooza event was very successful.

Legislator Gross stated it was a great event and he likes the Visitor's Bureau's vision of hosting events at Tilly Foster Farm during the various seasons. He questioned how the pumpkins were delivered to Tilly Foster Farm.

Director Pataki stated she has a family friend at the Wallkill Farm who delivered and unloaded the pumpkins at Tilly Foster Farm.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the Visitor's Bureau ran out of pumpkins at the Event.

Director Pataki stated correct, it was challenging to predict how many pumpkins to order. She stated she did not want the Visitor's Bureau to have too many pumpkins left over.

b. Putnam County Television and Film Commission Initiative/FYI

Director Pataki stated the first meeting of the Putnam County Television and Film Commission ("Television and Film Commission") occurred on October 21st. She stated the Television and Film Commission took approximately six (6) months to develop. However, there was a great response and more individuals would like to become part of the Television and Film Commission. She stated she was surprised in how many individuals within the County are affiliated with motion picture and television production. She stated people who came to the

meeting and are part of the real estate business wanted to assist in find lodging for actors. She stated there was an individual that wanted to assist in staging sets. She stated the Television and Film Commission is made up of a diverse group of members. She stated the purpose of the Television and Film Commission is to establish a network and create easy access to information for those that are interested in coming to the County to film.

Deputy Director Smith stated he wanted to gather all the permit information from each town in the County and Metro-North area for those who were interested in filming in the County. The Visitors Bureau would be a central location to gather all the needed information.

Director Pataki stated she will also be including a biography and a headshot of members of the Television and Film Commission on the Visitors Bureau website. She stated the Television and Film Commission has approximately 40 members.

Legislator Nacerino questioned how the Television and Film Commission members were gathered.

Director Pataki stated the Television and Film Commission has an open invitation. She stated some members were informed by word of mouth. She stated there also was an advertisement in the paper stating there is an open invitation to join the group.

Deputy Director Smith stated the community was very responsive to the advertisement.

Director Pataki stated the next Television and Film Commission meeting is in the process of being scheduled.

Item # 4 – Update/Industrial Development Agency (“IDA”) Loan Included in the 2015 County Budget

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated this loan for the IDA was passed in the 2015 County Budget. She stated she would like to know the status of the current IDA Loan.

Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker stated the beginning of the process was the Legislature approving of the actual loan to the IDA during the budget process. He stated the matter is currently being discussed in the Law Department where the wording of the contract is being conducted. He stated after the contract is drafted the contract will be presented to the IDA Board for approval. After the IDA Board approves of the contract, it will then be presented to the Legislature for Legislative Approval.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned when it is anticipated the Legislature will review the contract.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated it is anticipated this matter will be brought forth for Legislative approval at the December Economic Development & Energy Committee (“Committee”) meeting.

Legislator LoBue stated she would like to have a copy of the draft contract before the Committee meeting to provide the Legislature time to review the document.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated the draft contract will be submitted seven (7) days before the Committee meeting.

Legislator Gross stated that he commends the Administration for coming forward during budget time and requesting the \$75,000 loan for the IDA. He stated the IDA could benefit from the funding.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated the Economic Development Corporation has made tremendous progress and he would like for the IDA to make great progress as well.

Item # 10 – Other Business

a. Approval/IDA Members Re-Appointment

IDA Board Chairman Richard Ruchala stated there are two (2) IDA Members up for re-appointment; Town of Patterson resident Bill Nulk and Town of Kent resident Vincent Murphy. He stated Town of Carmel resident Kevin Baily's appointment will be expiring at the end of the year.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if the two (2) alternate IDA Members can fill a position.

IDA Board Chairman Ruchala stated IDA Alternate Member Jim Meyer is a resident in the Town of Carmel who could potentially fill that position. However, Jim Meyer has declined to be a part of the IDA Board. He stated he is looking for an individual from the Town of Carmel to fill the open IDA Member position.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if IDA Alternate Member John Zarcone could fill the open position.

IDA Board Chairman Ruchala stated the issue with John Zarcone is that he is a resident from the Town of Putnam Valley.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated IDA Member Ms. Maureen McLaughlin spends six (6) months out of the year in Florida.

IDA Board Chairman Ruchala stated Ms. McLaughlin is a very active member.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it is her understanding a member did not have to be part of a specific town to be a member of the IDA.

IDA Board Chairman Ruchala stated there is documentation that was done that states it is best to have each town have representation. He stated he can provide the Legislative Office with that documentation.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it is her understanding there are four (4) vacancies; Bill Nulk, Neal Sullivan, Vincent Murhphy and Kevin Bailey.

IDA Board Chairman Ruchala stated Neal Sullivan is the IDA CEO; he is not an IDA Board Member. He stated the only position open is Kevin Bailey's position. He stated in terms of IDA Board Members, a person that is an IDA Board Member remains to be a member until the position has been replaced.

Legislator Nacerino stated Bill Nulk and Vincent Murphy are excellent and she would like to see that both IDA Board Members are re-appointed. She questioned how potential candidates are informed about the opened position.

IDA Board Chairman Ruchala stated an advertisement can be put in the paper. However, advertising by word of mouth is the most successful way in having IDA Member candidates. He stated he is happy with how the IDA Board is developing. He stated the Board Members each have a specific role in terms of the work they conduct.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she has some reservations with Ms. McLaughlin being an IDA Board Member.

IDA Board Chairman Ruchala stated the only task Ms. McLaughlin cannot do is vote. He stated she is excellent in terms of human resources. He stated if the IDA has questions she answers them in a very timely manner.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questions how Ms. McLaughlin can answer questions in a timely manner when she is in Florida.

IDA Board Chairman Ruchala stated Ms. McLaughlin is still very beneficial to the IDA when she is in Florida. She stated a lot of her information is passed through e-mail. He stated IDA Member Raymond Ruyack is currently working on the IDA website. He stated he is open to suggestions to fill the open position with a resident from the Town of Carmel. He stated he is looking for someone who has connections within the community.

Legislator Gross made a motion to approve the re-appointments of IDA Members Bill Nulk (Town of Kent) and Vincent Murphy (Town of Patterson); Seconded by Legislator Wright. All in favor.

Item # 6 – Discussion/New Capacity Zone/Energy Rate Hike/Vetoed Resolution #234 of 2014

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated Resolution #234 of 2014 was vetoed at the October Full Legislative meeting due the exclusion of the County Executive's support and U.S. Senator Kristen Gillibrand's support of this Resolution.

Legislator Nacerino stated she agrees to amend Resolution #234 of 2014 to include the two (2) names. She stated adding the two (2) names illustrated a collaborative effort.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to approve amending Resolution #234 of 2014/Energy Rate Hike; Seconded by Legislator Wright. All in favor.

Item # 7 – Putnam County Economic Development Corporation/October Business of the Month/Bull & Barrel Brew Pub/FYI

Putnam County Economic Development Corporation (“EDC”) President Meghan Taylor stated a marketing initiative the EDC has is the Business of the Month. She stated the October Business of the Month was the Bull & Barrel Brew Pub because they are the first brewery in Putnam County. The establishment was also selected because they have the ability to host large events at their facility. She stated Bull & Barrel Brew Pub requested the EDC’s assistance in promoting their ability to host large events. She stated Governor Cuomo just signed a Bill relating to the craft brewing industry. She stated this Bill would limit the restrictions brewers have for marketing their products. She stated this is currently a “hot topic” throughout New York State.

Item # 8 – Foreclosure Report-FYI

Legislator LoBue stated year to date it is approximately 126 in 2014 as opposed to in 2013 it was 81. She stated the foreclosures have increased.

Item # 9 – Unemployment Report-FYI- Duly Noted

Item # 10 – Other Business

b. Discussion/Senator Schumer’s Mass Transit Tax Benefit Initiative

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she wanted to inform the Committee of Senator Schumer’s initiative on passing legislation to give commuters a tax break. She stated perhaps the Committee can support this initiative. She stated commuting to New York City is not cheap.

Legislator Gross stated he agrees with Chairwoman Scuccimarra. He stated the MTA Tax and the Energy Rate Increase has impacted the community and therefore, this initiative would be a break for the community.

Item # 11 –Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:02P.M. Legislator Wright made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Lisa Sommers.