

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM #318  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Gouldman & Legislators Gross & Wright**

**Thursday**

**April 14, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35p.m. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Gross, Wright were absent. Chairman Gouldman stated that Legislators LoBue and Nacerino have agreed to participate as members of the Committee for tonight's meeting, pursuant to the Legislature Manual.

**Item #3 – Approval/Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes/ March 14, 2016**

Legislator Gouldman accepted the minutes as submitted.

**Item #4 - Approval/New Proclamation: 2016 Safe Boating Day**

Chairman Gouldman stated that this is a new proclamation, requiring Committee approval to be presented at the May 3, 2016 Full meeting.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve Proclamation: 2016 Safe Boating Day; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

**Item #5 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment (16A017)/Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP)/Bureau of Emergency Services Awarded under the FY2015 Grant Program**

Legislator LoBue questioned if Commissioner Sutton had anything he would like to inform the Committee of in reference to what the funding from this Grant will be spent on.

Commissioner Sutton stated that he will allow Deputy Commissioner Lipton to provide that information.

Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Lipton stated that the correspondence that was forwarded to the Legislature pertaining to this matter is incorrect. He stated they will be sure to have the correct supporting documentation sent to the Legislature first thing in the morning. He stated the amount that is being received by the FY2016 Grant is in the amount of \$5,172.00.

Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Sutton requested the opportunity to speak to this matter. He apologized for the confusion with the incorrect backup. He stated the backup that was sent, incorrectly, speaks to 2015 Grant funding. He stated that they have used the 2015 Grant funding. He stated that an exercise was conducted a couple of weeks ago.

Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Lipton stated the funding was used to conduct a drill for the Putnam County HAZMAT Team. He stated that the Dutchess County and

Westchester County HAZMAT Teams participated as well. He explained a simulation of a car accident involving a tanker truck resulting in a fuel spill was conducted. He stated that it was very successful. He stated that there was positive feedback from all who were involved.

Legislator LoBue stated that is a good report. She stated in reference to the request that is being made tonight, what is the actual amount.

Commissioner Sutton stated the 2016 Grant amount is \$5,172.00. He confirmed that the correct backup to support that amount will be sent to the Legislature in time for the April 25, 2016 Audit & Administration meeting. He stated that he would like to provide a quick explanation. He stated that this is a recurring Grant. He stated the funding amounts change based on the number of participants. He stated the 2016 funds will be used to fund two (2) separate drills, on the West and East sides of the County. He stated that both will involve transportation accidents. He stated the hope is that Metro-North will participate in the drill. He stated that the hope is to stimulate a rail accident involving petroleum. He stated that the exercise will include, through the use of County resources, "Foam". He stated it is not a practice often used, however Putnam County's emergency response teams need to be able and ready to respond to those kinds of accidents. He stated again, he will get the correct paperwork to the Legislature. He stated the request before the Committee this evening is on a very tight timeline. He stated that discussions have already taken place with the New York State Homeland Security Office and the representatives involved in the Grant process to get approval for the planned drill. He stated the Grant funding is very limited in its scope of use. He stated it must be used for: Training and Education or Exercises. He stated the funding can be used to pay for supplies expended during the exercise. He stated no new equipment or supplies can be purchased to use in the drill.

Chairman Gouldman deferred to Legislative Counsel VanRoss as to whether an approval can be made out of this Committee without the correct backup.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated this matter with the correct backup, would be moved to the Audit & Administration Committee. He stated that it can be moved to the Audit & Administration Committee pending receipt of the proper backup (reference Reso #69 of 2015).

Legislator LoBue stated that the correct amount is \$5,172.00 and there is a 20% Match required by the County.

Commissioner Sutton explained the 20% Match is In-Kind services.

Legislator LoBue made a motion to approve of Budgetary Amendment (16A017)/Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP)/Bureau of Emergency Services Awarded under the FY2015 Grant Program, pending receipt of the proper supporting paperwork in time to be reviewed at the April 25, 2016 Audit & Administration meeting; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

**Item #6 - Approval/Traffic Safety Board Members: Lieutenant Owens, Councilwoman Montgomery, J. O'Connor, J. Oster**

Legislator LoBue made a motion to approve Appointment of the Traffic Safety Board Members: Lieutenant Owens, Councilwoman Montgomery, J. O'Connor, J. Oster; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

**Item #7 - Update/Agencies Confirmed to Assist at Town of Southeast 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks**  
**a. Corres. Response Fr: Sheriff Smith D: 04/06/2016**

(Response to Memo of 03/28/2016 Fr: Chair Protective Gouldman)

Captain Frank Christian from the Sheriff's Department, who is serving as the Sheriff's Operations Commander for the Town of Southeast 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Event (Event), stated it is too soon to provide the list of confirmed additional agencies who will be present and assist at the Event. He stated he will commit to keep the costs of the Sheriff's Department involvement to the amount discussed at last month's Protective Services Meeting (F.T. #16T040).

Chairman Gouldman thanked Captain Christian for his update, and confirmed as soon as a list of confirmed agencies is compiled, please provide a copy to the Legislature.

Captain Christian stated that the list will most likely be complete sometime in June. He stated that he will report this back to Undersheriff Convery.

**Item #8 - Discussion/ NY City Proposal to Amend NY City Charter –Related to Providing E-mail & Text Message Notifications**

**a. FYI/FEMA Launches New Preparedness Feature To Smartphone App**

Chairman Gouldman stated that he requested this item be on the agenda after reading an article on how New York City addressed the problem with notification of different polling locations as a result of the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. He stated that an Opt-In Text messaging program was developed. He stated he questioned Commissioner Sutton if there the County could develop something like this.

Commissioner Sutton stated that he is very familiar with the program that Chair Gouldman read about. He stated that he was very involved in the relocation of the voting polls when he worked in Albany during the Hurricane Sandy. He stated it was a very well-orchestrated effort. He stated that he brought some pamphlets and paperwork regarding the programs that are available for Putnam residents. He stated that he has brought two (2) NY-Alert pamphlets. He stated that they are identical. He stated one (1) was produced before he was hired in Putnam County. He stated the website is NYAlert.gov . He stated that it is a program that has been in operation for approximately ten (10) years. He stated that he finds it to be a phenomenal program. He stated that it is an "opt-in" program. He stated that he recommends that everyone have this program on their phone. He stated with that said, he also stated to be prudent when selecting the topics you want to be notified of. He stated if you select all, you will get it all. He recommended that the subscriber be specific to the matters that would involve them. He stated for example in Putnam County a subscriber would want to know about weather events, large emergencies and Indian Point events. He stated all of the selection options are clearly stated on the home page of the website. He stated once you log in, you will be instructed through the process. He stated that it is a free program, and Putnam County is allowed to use it. He stated the County does use it, but actually it is really a backup function for the Red Alert Program. He stated the Red Alert Program is an outbound notification supplied to the County at no cost from Indian Point –

Entergy. He stated in the past a P.A. System was used to notify people of incidents that they needed to be made aware of. He stated a lot has changed, people did not have all of the noise in their lives like they do today, ex: Central Air-conditioning, Bose Music Systems in their cars etc. Therefore, the effectiveness of a Public Alert System, consisting of Sirens has been diminished tremendously. He stated that in today's world the best way to reach people is via their Cell Phones. He continued to provide insight into the different ways that people can be contacted with critical information via their cell phones and televisions. He stated that there are some restrictions attached to availability and urgency of getting the messages transmitted. He stated the exception to that is when the President of the United States wants to utilize the Emergency Alert System all avenues must broadcast the message. He stated that in terms of the FEMA Launch of the New Preparedness Feature for use on Smartphone, it is an app that can be downloaded. He stated he recommends that the local NY Alert System be used for the people in this area because the information that comes from it is local. He stated that there continues to be enhancements made to the NY Alert System. He continued to discuss this matter and the different scenarios. In closing he stated that Social Media is a vehicle of communication in itself. When a person hears something they believe others should also know, it gets sent out over Social Media.

Legislator Addonizio stated that all of the means of communication are dependent on the fact that Cell Phones are working and or Televisions are working. She stated that many times the Cell Phone and Televisions are not working. She questioned what the backup is in that kind of situation.

Commissioner Sutton stated that is true, and in those instances people should get in their car and listen to their radio. He stated that a community can be brought to their knees very quickly in a time of disaster. He stated that the County has purchased some Satellite Phones, paid for by Homeland Security funds, for use by key people. He stated unfortunately there are some drawbacks to the effectiveness of Cell Phones. He stated when there is cloud coverage it interferes with their effectiveness. He stated that there are drawbacks to everything. He stated there have been updates made since the occurrence of the bigger disasters. He stated that the Cell Phone Companies have a lot of portable cell sites on wheels called C.O.W.S. (Cellular On Wheels). There are a lot of portable radio transmitters available. He stated the awareness is on the fact that the re-establishment of communication is a priority in times of disaster. He stated that one (1) more feature with the Red Alert System is that hardwire phones (house phones) are able to be selected to notify residents of a situation in their specific area. He stated the existing resistance to having a person's privacy invaded is what is behind many people hesitating to enroll in these programs.

Legislator Nacerino stated that there is also the concern, and it is permissible, that once you enroll your phone number it will be sold. She stated that she is not meaning to devalue the importance of these programs, but this is also a concern that people have.

Chairman Gouldman requested that Commissioner Sutton find out the total number of Putnam County Residents that are enrolled in the NY Alert System.

Legislator LoBue stated two (2) of the main concerns of people during the past two (2) storms was where do they get dry ice and where can they recharge their cell phones. She stated that she has noticed in her neighborhood that NYSEG came through and trimmed back the trees, which she believes has had a positive impact. She stated that there has been some very strong winds in this area recently and there has been no loss of power.

Commissioner Sutton stated that he was at a NYSEG meeting recently and it was reported that some property owners were resisting and not allowing them to trim their trees. He stated the majority of people are allowing them. He stated that there have been public awareness educational programs stating that the well-being of an individual begins with that person. He stated that people need to take the initiative to be prepared for the case of an emergency. He stated there is plenty of information available to guide people on action that can be taken to get them prepared.

**Item #9 - FYI/2016 Coroner Cases To Date**

Chairman Gouldman stated the distribution of cases is not equitable among the three (3) Coroners.

Legislator LoBue stated that this has been an ongoing issue.

Legislative Counsel VanRoss stated that Chairman Gouldman may want to send the Coroner's Case List Report to the Putnam County Commissioner of the Republican Party for his review.

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

**Item #10 - Other Business**

**10a.) Discussion/2016-17 State Budget-District Attorney Salaries**

Legislator Nacerino stated that is a matter of an unfunded mandate. She stated she did send a memorandum to the County Executive dated April 13, 2016 requesting the position of the Administration on this matter be documented and provided to the Legislature.

Legislative Counsel VanRoss explained that there was a bill submitted to the State Legislature which included increases to the Judges salaries. He stated in the law, the District Attorney's salaries were linked. He stated that no action was taken so the salary raises all went into effect. However, there was no funding put in place, so now the Counties need to fund the raises. He stated starting April 1, 2016 Putnam County will receive a bill for \$20,000- \$30,000 for the Putnam County District Attorney to be covered. He stated the NYSAC proposed resolution is asking the State to cover this cost.

Legislator Nacerino stated that Legislative Counsel VanRoss will finalize a resolution to be approved at the May 3, 2016 Full Meeting.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve the NYSAC Resolution Calling On the State of New York to Fully Reimburse Counties for District Attorney Salary Increases Set by the Sated; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

**10b.) Approval/Fund Transfer (16T056)/Sheriff's Department/Transfer To OT Due To Open Personnel Line** (item also go to the Personnel & Audit &Admin April Mtgs.)

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to Approve Fund Transfer (16T056); Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

**10c) Approval/Fund Transfer (16T057)/Sheriff's Department/Transfer from Open Personnel Line To Temp Personnel Line** (item also go to the Personnel & Audit &Admin April Mtgs.)

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to Approve Fund Transfer (16T057); Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

**Item #11- Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:20 p.m., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Trabuhsy, Deputy Clerk.