

have created similar registries and the proposed Local Law states that links to their websites will be available on Putnam County's Animal Abuse Registry website.

Chief Ross questioned who would be responsible for enforcement.

Deputy County Attorney Diaz stated the law shall be enforced by the Sheriff's Department, local Law Enforcement Officers, and the PCSPCA.

Chief Ross stated if a law is unclear, it can result in a problem if someone is brought to court on a charge under that law. He stated it was very important to make this law as clear as possible.

Legislator Albano made a motion to approve the Local Law with the recommended amendment by Legislative Counsel Van Ross; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/ Local Law to Amend Subsection 3 of Section 7.05 of the Putnam County Charter Entitled "Review by the Capital Projects Committee"

Legislator Albano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/ Letter of Support/ Putnam County Housing Corporation Home Improvement Grant

Chairwoman LoBue stated a letter was received from the Putnam County Housing Corporation (PCHC) requesting a letter of support for a home improvement grant they are applying for. She stated the PCHC would utilize the grant money for boilers, furnaces, outdoor siding, upgrading electrical systems, septic system replacements, new roofs, water heaters, windows, doors, and insulation for homes within Putnam County. She stated these upgrades are open to homeowners who meet income requirements based on the amount of people living at the residence.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated a letter of support could be written by each individual Legislator or sent by the Legislature as a whole.

Legislator Gouldman stated last year there was a similar project where septic systems were being replaced. He questioned if this grant would cover the total replacement of a septic system.

Legislator Albano stated the whole grant is \$200,000 so it may not go very far.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated this is not a County grant, it is a grant for a private organization, therefore they are not limited by what the County may be limited by. He stated the PCHC would need to decide how the grant money is allocated.

Chairwoman LoBue stated that if improvements are made to a home, the homeowner is expected to stay at the residence for a number of years depending on the amount spent on the repairs.

Chairwoman LoBue made a motion to approve sending a letter of support; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item #7 - Discussion/ Prohibition of Sales of Commercially Bred Dogs and Cats

Legislator Scuccimarra stated the Legislature is responsible for the welfare of animals and citizens within the County and having a prohibition such as this one does both. She stated she researched and found information stating that most dogs in pet stores come from “puppy mills” and they are often living in poor conditions. She stated there are not any pet stores in Putnam County right now, however they are in surrounding locations. She stated there are many cities throughout New Jersey that are banning the sale of commercially bred dogs and cats and Mayor Bill de Blasio is considering a similar bill for the City of New York.

Chief Ross stated in New York State, if a breeder breeds nine (9) or fewer animals per year, they can sell those animals without a license and some of these breeders sell their animals to the pet stores. He stated these breeders are not subject to inspections, and some have poor living conditions. He stated there are no stores in Putnam County that sell dogs. He stated it is also very difficult to prove where the dog in a pet store came from originally. He stated when inspections are done at pet stores it can be difficult to determine if the place where an animal came from was a puppy mill.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she would like to do more research and look into the legislation being considered by New York City.

Chief Ross stated he believes there are more “backyard breeders” in this area. He suggested looking into oversight of all breeders who breed any amount of animals to sell.

Legislator Nacerino stated she agrees with the spirit of the law, however she does not believe this law should be considered because it does not pertain to Putnam County as there are no retail locations within the County that sell dogs. She stated she agrees with Chief Ross in that the County should research the things that do apply to the County, such as the backyard breeders. She questioned if all dogs in a pet store come from a puppy mill.

Chief Ross stated not all dogs that are sold in pet stores come from puppy mills.

Legislator Nacerino stated there are pet stores that do not sell commercially bred animals. She stated having a law like this may prevent a reputable pet store from conducting business within the County.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated this could become a problem within Putnam County in the future; therefore the law would be a preventative measure. She stated even in pet stores, the animals are in cages for long periods of time and lack human socialization.

Legislator Nacerino stated she does not support implementing a law that does not affect the County at this point in time.

Chairwoman LoBue stated the Village of Mamaroneck and the Town of Mount Pleasant both passed a Local Law that states any dog or cat purchased or adopted shall be from a shelter or humane society. She stated she would not want to hinder a legitimate pet store by passing this type of law.

Chief Ross stated it is difficult to define a breeder as a puppy mill and it is also difficult to prove that animal came from a mill. He stated it is sometimes easier to protect against something before it happens rather than trying to correct it after it happens.

Item #8 - FYI/ Fund Transfer 16T112/ Board of Elections/ Purchase Barcoded Security Seals

Chairwoman LoBue made a motion to send Fund Transfer 16T112 to the Audit & Administration Committee; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Item #9 - FYI/ Mid-Year Full Litigation Report – Duly Noted

Item #10 - Other Business – None

Item #11 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:35 p.m. Chairwoman LoBue made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green