

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Nacerino

Wednesday

August 25, 2021

(Immediately Following the Physical Services Meeting at 6:15PM)

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. by Chairwoman Sayegh who requested that Legislator Nacerino lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Addonizio, Nacerino and Chairwoman Sayegh were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – June 23, 2021 Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 21A072/Youth Bureau/9-11 Flag of Honor Across America Memorial and Day of Service Grant

Youth Bureau Executive Director Janeen Cunningham stated they are very excited to receive this funding. She stated the event will be at 8:30 A.M. on September 11th at the Bureau of Emergency Services. She stated the event will be geared to having children involved. She stated there will be 50 names read, including names of Putnam County residents who perished that day. She stated donations will be collected for United for the Troops. She stated they will also have people sign letters to be sent to the troops.

Legislator Nacerino stated this is great way to involve children to bring awareness to the gravity of this day. She thanked Executive Director Cunningham for putting the event together.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated it is the next phase of “never forget.”

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the additional material was informational fliers for the event.

Youth Services Specialist Pamela Phillips-Zeller stated there are community organizations that have reached out to have tables set up at the event.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 21A072; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/Fund Transfer 21T180/Health Department/Purchase COVID Tests for Schools

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this funding is from a Federal Grant which this Committee approved last month. She stated there is no fiscal impact.

Legislator Nacerino noted that the testing protocols are decided by the school districts, not the County.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 21T180; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #6 - FYI/Fund Transfer 21T150/Health Department/Purchase Medical Supplies in Anticipation of Future Outbreaks or PODs

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is also from a grant that was approved last month and there is no fiscal impact.

Legislator Nacerino stated this is in the interest of preparedness.

Item #7 - FYI/Fund Transfer 21T173/Office for Senior Resources/Supplies for OSR Nutrition Site Kitchens

Office for Senior Resources Director Michael Cunningham stated this separates the kitchen supplies from the food budget line. He stated this is how it will be budgeted in the future.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if this includes the plasticware.

Director Cunningham stated it will include many items, including the plastic utensils.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the nutrition sites could use real plates and silverware, instead of single use items. She questioned if there is a dishwasher at the Philipstown Senior Center.

Director Cunningham stated there is no commercial dishwasher. He stated the dishwashing is done by hand. He noted that many of the senior center properties use well water.

Legislator Montgomery stated the County should look into installing dishwashers. She noted that it is environmentally friendly and could help with Climate Smart actions. She questioned why there is no dishwasher.

Director Cunningham stated it was never in the scope of the project.

Legislator Gouldman stated the County could potentially lease dishwashers.

Item #8 - FYI/Press Release from County Executive Odell/COVID-19 Delta Variant

Legislator Montgomery questioned when there will be an update on COVID from the Commissioner of Health. She stated she has specific questions regarding COVID, about the variants, vaccinations, etc. She stated it would be beneficial to have the Health Commissioner provide an update at the monthly Health Committee meetings. She spoke about some of the things she is hearing regarding a recent surge in COVID cases.

Chairwoman Sayegh noted that the County is well below the second tier of mitigation.

Legislator Sullivan stated he does not know anyone with COVID and does not believe there are many cases in the hospitals. He noted that Putnam County has a high vaccination rate.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated there are only two (2) cases in the hospital. She stated the vaccination rate is approximately 79%.

Legislator Castellano there is a lot of positive news regarding COVID including the natural immunity people have after contracting COVID. He stated anyone who wants a vaccine is able to get it.

Legislator Montgomery reiterated her request to have the Commissioner of Health attend these meetings monthly.

Legislator Sullivan stated, regarding masks, people should be able to make the decision for themselves.

Item #9 - Other Business - None

Item #10 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:30 P.M. Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.