

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held in Room #318**  
**Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Sayegh & Sullivan**

**Wednesday**

**December 15, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislator Sullivan lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Sayegh, Sullivan and Chairwoman Nacerino were present.

**Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes/ November 18, 2021**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A106)/ To Amend the Town of Carmel Marine Enforcement Budget/ Commissioner of Finance Carlin**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is an annual expenditure. She stated there is no fiscal impact to the County budget.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve/ Budgetary Amendment (21A106)/ To Amend the Town of Carmel Marine Enforcement Budget; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Legislator Montgomery requested to see the tracking of funds for this agenda item Budgetary Amendment (21A106).

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she will confer with Commissioner Carlin and will see if it can be provided for the Audit meeting.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (22T002)/ Funding for the EMS Contract Relating to Ambulance Services Per the Awarded RFP/ Commissioner of Finance Carlin**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated funds were put in Sub-contingency because the award of the RFP occurred after the budget process. She stated this request is to transfer funds from the Sub-contingency budget line to the Contracts budget line.

Legislator Montgomery stated we are approving funds for a Contract that the Legislature has not seen, and an RFP the Legislature has not seen yet. She questioned why that is being done and she questioned why we are dropping the existing ALS provider and signing a new contract with a company we have no history with. She stated in 2016 when we were going to be without ambulance services, Robert Stuck Chief Operating Officer at EMStar Ambulance helped and basically saved the day, for Putnam County. She stated Putnam County has a long history with EMStar Ambulance. She stated the County will be saving \$400,000 - \$500,000, but to what end. She questioned why the Legislature hasn't received a copy of the Contract and why is the Legislature considering approving this without the information.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated at the request of the Commissioner of Finance Bill Carlin we are considering moving this forward. She stated the Contract has been awarded and will take effect January 1, 2022. She stated the County Executive has the authority to negotiate and approve Contracts.

Chris Tobin, Assistant Chief North Highlands Fire Department, questioned if Ambulnz came in as the lowest bid in the RFP process.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Purchasing Director Mazzotta will address that question during the next agenda item discussion.

Fran Brooks, Resident of Putnam County, stated she lives in Cold Spring and is a Physician practicing in the Hudson Valley since 1993. She stated she is offended that Ambulnz was awarded this contract without further discussion before this meeting. She listed her different titles, presently she is the Medical Director for Philipstown. She continued to express her concerns related to this decision. She stated the costs of 911 EMS services are very expensive. She stated you get what you pay for in the services that are delivered. She expressed her opinion that the low bid is unsustainable. She stated right now we have a high quality of care with good oversight. She stated she questions why the County is looking for an outside agency, when \$450,000 is not a lot of money when you are talking about a person's life. She stated the employees from EMStar will be going with them. She continued to express her concerns. She concluded by stating she hopes the Legislature will reconsider what is going on. She stated the \$450,000 savings will not help reduce the residents' taxes. She stated she would support putting the \$450,000 into good pre-hospital care.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she concurs that Putnam County has the best of the best in our emergency responders, many who are in the meeting room this evening. She stated this committee has a fund transfer to consider. She stated the Contract has been awarded after careful consideration. She stated under the next agenda item there will be information provided on the process that was carried out.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve/ Fund Transfer (22T002)/ Funding for the EMS Contract Relating to Ambulance Services Per the Awarded RFP; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Nick Falcone, Captain Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps, stated he is a paramedic in Putnam County, until January 1, 2022. He stated February 2016 is when the ambulance company that was providing service, at that time, went off the roads, and the County was uncovered. He stated Robert Stuck, Chief Operating Officer at EMStar Ambulance offered assistance in less than three (3) hours and provided ALS coverage for Putnam County. He stated he believes the way this contract was handled is a disgrace to the agency that is here. He stated the providers who live here and have worked here providing emergency services will be out of a job, because Ambulnz is bringing employees in from California to provide services. He stated the employees from California still need to get a MAC certification and if they do not pass it they cannot work. He stated Ambulnz is short staffed that is why they need to bring employees in from out of State. He stated it is his opinion that Empress Ambulance (they acquired EMStar

Ambulance in 2021) is the company that the County of Putnam should have selected. He stated in his opinion it is not about the dollar sign it is about patient care. He continued to speak to his opinion of this matter and concern for some of the employees who will be returning to work in Putnam County with Ambulnz.

Chairwoman Nacerino expressed her appreciation for that input. She stated that during the discussion of the next agenda item, she believes some questions will be answered.

Legislator Montgomery stated the public needs to understand when this agenda item, #5, is approved it will be done. She stated the funding for the contract will be moved. She stated there are several people here to address this item and she requested the Chair permit them to speak. She stated she would think the members of this committee may rethink moving this item forward based on what is being said. She stated this Committee could table this until there is more information.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she disagreed with that. She stated the item is in front of this Committee to be moved to the Audit & Administration Meeting, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. She stated that will permit enough time to address any questions that are not answered.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Fund Transfer (22T002)/ Funding for the EMS Contract Relating to Ambulance Services Per the Awarded RFP; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

#### **Item #6 - Update/ Ambulnz Contract/ Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Clair & Director of Purchasing Mazzotta**

Director of Purchasing Alex Mazzotta stated this is the third time he has done this RFP. He stated this is not a new process to the County. He stated we have never had this interest level. He stated the process is as follows, as a contract reaches its expiration our Purchasing Laws require us to go back out and solicit new proposals through a Request For Proposal (RFP). He stated Empress Ambulance's contract is to expire December 31, 2021. He stated at the start of this summer they began the RFP process. He stated the County goes out and solicits offers from the business community. He stated that was done in conjunction with the Bureau of Emergency Services. He stated they developed the scope of services, which was then put in the RFP. He stated that the scope of information was compiled from the ALS Task Force. He stated that input was considered and put into the RFP. He stated the proposals were collected and evaluated by the internal evaluation team, that changes based on the proposals. He stated Purchasing is always involved. He stated the Law Department is involved and then the "using" department that has the most technical expertise that drives the RFP process. He stated there were two (2) proposals received, the incumbent, Empress (EMStar), and the new proposer, Ambulnz. He stated the evaluation was conducted against the criteria that had been established in the RFP. He stated both vendors were interviewed, a background check including financial background checks were conducted. He stated as a group the decision is made. He stated for clarification with the RFP process it does not go to the lowest bid. He explained the RFP is more of a best value review and allows for consideration of other criteria such as prior experience, technical expertise, etc. He stated to address the question stated by Legislator Montgomery as to why the Legislature did not

see the contract. He stated typically the Legislature approves funding through the budget process for the upcoming year. He stated often times that funding is based upon recurring contracts that occur annually. He stated the Legislature always is involved in that they approve the funding for the next years contracts. He stated there is no input from the Legislature in reviewing and approving contracts, other than approving the funding source. He stated so that is how they get to vendor selection. He stated now they are in the process of negotiating the Contract. He stated today the Contract was returned to the County signed by the vendor. He stated until the contract is signed by the vendor, it is a closed process, because we are still in negotiations. He stated the scope of services that flow in that contract came from this RFP document. He stated some changed negotiations and terminology sometimes occur. He stated for the most part this Contract contains the same scope of services that we have had for the past ten to fifteen years, with some changes. He stated for the most part the services received in the past, from a written perspective, are the same as what we will expect and demand for Ambulnz over this new contract cycle.

Commissioner BES Clair stated the Fire Advisory Board and ALS Task Force requested that three (3) Basic Life Services (BLS) Ambulances be added into the contract.

Purchasing Director Mazzotta stated when that was done the proposals that came back were approximately triple the County's budget amount. He stated so that is how they ended up with a scope closer to the current level of service and number of vehicles.

Commissioner BES Clair stated with this contract a fifth paramedic was gained, a 24-hour Supervisor, and two (2) 24 hour EMTs. He stated he has seen one (1) of the ambulances from Ambulnz and the other one should be at the BES by the end of this week. He stated they are both brand new ambulances fully stocked. He stated three (3) brand new Ford Explorer fly cars will be put into place also. He stated the staffing is at 34, with a mix of EMTs and Medics. He stated he feels very confident about moving forward with Ambulnz, they met all of needs in the RFP.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested that Commissioner Clair speak to the concerns of the staff that will be coming into Putnam County.

Commissioner BES Clair stated every employee of EMStar had the opportunity to work with the new vendor, but many chose not to. He stated he is not conducting a background check on the employees that will be working for Ambulnz. He stated if there are concerns with the personnel that will be coming with Ambulnz, please contact him directly with the concerns.

Legislator Sullivan stated as discussed over the past couple months, please clarify that he has this correct in terms of the new contract: there will be more vehicles on the roads and there will be more or equal number to the same number of people we currently have.

Commissioner BES Clair stated they are adding a 24 hour supervisor, who can also serve as a medic if the need arises. He stated he has a different outlook on things and thinks sometimes new things are better, he repeated that he feels very confident.

Legislator Sullivan questioned what was the budgeted amount last year to this year.

Purchasing Director Mazzotta stated he believes the current contract is approximately \$1.45 million. He stated the 2022 contract will be just about that same amount. He stated he believes during the budget process in 2022 it was budgeted for \$1.6 million, because the RFP process was not completed, so rather than under budget, a buffer was included, coordinated with the Commissioner of Finance. He stated as it turns out we are comparable cost wise.

Commissioner BES Clair stated we kept the cost the same and are getting more service.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she is happy that Commissioner Clair stated that he is confident with this decision. She stated she feels confident in the County's process and Commissioner Clair's determination.

Legislator Sayegh stated during the RFP process the first response came back at approximately \$3 million. She requested clarification that the RFP was changed.

Purchasing Director Mazzotta stated the original RFP had expanded the level of service in the number of ambulances requested, based upon the recommendation of the task force. He stated to garner that level of service was equating to roughly three times our budget amount. He stated so they entered into negotiations with each of the parties and stated the County wanted to go back to a more comparable level of equipment and service that the County currently has.

Legislator Sayegh stated so that is what she wanted confirmation on, that the County will not get less services than what we had.

Commissioner BES Clair stated that is correct. He continued to speak to this.

Legislator Sayegh stated she believes people are fearful there will be gaps in service and service will fall short. She questioned what confidence can be given that is not the case.

Commissioner BES Clair stated they will be overseeing the contract and if there is an issue in the field, they will deal with it.

Legislator Sayegh stated the safety of the Putnam residents is the main concern.

Commissioner BES Clair stated he agrees, and it is a new service, new employees etc. and that is generating concern in itself, he understands that. He stated he is very confident with this decision.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated people are resistant to change. She stated Commissioner Clair stated there is a clause where the contract could be broken if there is a case of lack of services or errors put forth.

Legislator Montgomery repeated she does not agree with the process, that the Legislature is not permitted to see the contract. She stated there should be checks and balance.

David Jacobsen Chief of Carmel Ambulance Corps stated he is very concerned with the fact that people will be brought in from out of State to drive our ALS Trucks.

Bobby Kern Chief of EMS, Town of Patterson stated he has two (2) concerns. He stated he was directly told by the EMS Director at an EMS Council meeting that he was not legally permitted to have the RFP. He stated he had to finally get it from the Town of Patterson Supervisor. He stated for a County employee, the EMS Director, to tell him that, he believes the EMS Director needs to have the legalities explained to him. He stated roughly there is a difference of \$500,000. He stated his question to the Legislators is that difference going to be made up on the backs of the Ambulance Corps. He stated that is what he is hearing. He stated he does not plan on signing any contract that is going to take all our funding and place a financial burden on the backs of the Patterson residents. He stated the fee schedule has got to be the same.

Commissioner BES Clair stated the fee schedule has to be the same, it is stated in the contract. He stated that is something they recognized in the current contract that was recognized as needing to be changed.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated further discussion regarding Chief of EMS Kern's concern about an assessment fee and the overall potential financial impact of the new contract with Ambulnz on the Town of Patterson.

Legislator Sullivan stated it was mentioned that the contract awarded is very close to the existing budgeted amount. He stated he is not clear of the reference of having to make up \$500,000. He questioned what does that represent.

Purchasing Director Mazzotta stated it represents the difference between Ambulnz's contracted price and the price Empress was offering for the 2022 year. He stated it is the differential between the two (2) proposals.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned in regard to the concern about hidden fees that have been mentioned, how is it a cost savings.

Purchasing Director Mazzotta stated the County pays the contractor, Ambulnz in this instance, to provide these services. He stated he will not step into the discussion of the relationship between the company and the Towns, the transports and the sharing of fees. He stated he does not know enough about that, but that is not negotiated by the County in this contract. He stated that is a relationship that the contractor takes on with the individual Towns to have a disbursement of fees that are collected. He stated that has always been a separate process. He stated in summary there is a flat fee to render the service to the County. He stated there was a fee schedule to allow the County to add or deduct ambulances or fly cars or medics, if the County wanted to add or deduct to the service.

Chris Tobin, North Highlands Fire Department Assistant Chief stated the reason there has never been much discussion about the RFP for these vendors is because in the past, the First Responders were not made aware of it. He stated when it comes to billing, he did request a meeting with representatives of Ambulnz, unfortunately he has received no reply, it has been 2

weeks. He explained they need a billing contract. He stated without a billing contract they cannot bill for ALS, they can bill the patient directly. He stated the patient cannot use insurance to pay for that cost. He continued to speak his concerns for the increase in cost for his department, and to the patients. He stated this could literally bankrupt the ambulance corps. He stated his budget for 2022 was signed and submitted in September of 2021.

Legislator Jonke requested confirmation from Purchasing Director Mazzotta, that the Contract was awarded on November 4<sup>th</sup>. He stated to be fair to these good people, they are left with no time. He requested that the County contact Ambulnz and make the meetings happen for the departments.

Purchasing Director Mazzotta explained there are several steps before the Contract is negotiated. He stated the current contract is expiring and there is an award process, it is getting tight on time. He stated this is not an annual process, it happens every five (5) years.

Legislator Jonke stated hopefully this process produces something that works better for the people of Putnam County than what we had before. He repeated his request that the representative's from Ambulnz be contacted and have them meet with the Towns' first responder representatives.

Nick Falcone, Captain Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corp. stated today there are 71 providers in Putnam County, and earlier it was stated there will be 34. He stated that is a concern to him. He stated the one who will pay the ultimate price is the patient, the calls for an ambulance that do not get a paramedic. He stated he sees this as a gamble with people's lives. He stated he believes Ambulnz came in with a low bid, because they put the fees on the Towns. He continued to express his concerns. He stated there are 18 plus departments represented at this meeting, to express concern for this Contract.

Cindy Jacobsen, President of Carmel Ambulance Corps stated they did meet with a representative from Ambulnz. She stated they did not get a signed Contract. She stated she was shown a draft copy which was on the representative's phone. She confirmed the price in the draft contract was \$365 per call and also for an ALS assessment. She stated like the other departments their budget was submitted to the Town of Carmel in August- September time frame.

Jason Wheelock, Town of Patterson EMS provided an explanation of a scenario that results in an Advance Life Support (ALS) call.

Cindy Jacobsen, President of Carmel Ambulance Corps expressed concerns regarding potential abuse of the vendor, which has happened in years past, with conducting an ALS evaluation, when it is not needed. She stated they will not be able to afford that. She stated that is why a fixed fee is needed.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested that Commissioner Clair advocate on behalf of the agencies, even though it may not be under his purview to do so. She stated given the fact that the agencies

budgets have all already been set, and this would be unsustainable for them, something has to give.

Commissioner BES Clair confirmed he will do that.

Purchasing Director Mazzotta stated he believes we need to give Ambulnz time to develop a working relationship with the agencies. He stated when Empress first began working with the agencies, it took time to get everything settled. He stated he recognizes we are facing a timeline of two (2) weeks. He stated he does not want everyone to be making the assumption that Ambulnz will not listen. He stated he believes with the efforts of Commissioner Clair a smooth transition can occur. He stated he believes Ambulnz wants to work with the County and these departments.

Larry Burke, Philipstown, North Highlands Fire Department stated he was at this meeting for the Radio Project agenda item #8, but felt compelled to share his opinion. He stated the fact that the vendor's bid was \$400,000 less, but is going to give more in service, he agrees with the comments made that the company will need to make that money somehow. He stated after listening to the EMS professionals in the room, and given the amount of questions that are still pending he does not think the County should move forward with the Contract.

John VanTassel Deputy Supervisor of Town of Philipstown stated he sees two (2) phases to this. He stated a financial side and the quality of care. He presented additional questions. He stated in his opinion if Empress is going to provide the same service for a \$400,000 difference, it seems menial to him that the County would not continue working the Empress.

Legislator Montgomery requested a recap of the action taken thus far in this process.

Purchasing Director Mazzotta stated the RFP was awarded to Ambulnz on November 4, 2021, that allowed the County to enter into negotiations to finalize the terms of a contract. He stated last Thursday, December 9, 2021, the County Law Department gave Ambulnz that Contract to review and to turn back to the County with their signature. He stated today, December 15, 2021, the Contract was received from Ambulnz and it was signed.

Legislator Montgomery stated there are ambulances with radios and Ambulnz letter on them without a fully executed contract.

Purchasing Director Mazzotta stated that was done at their own risk. He stated it was Ambulnz that took that action.

Legislator Montgomery expressed her concern for the area in Philipstown, Putnam Valley and Cold Spring. She explained those towns have a lot of dirt roads, wooded areas and due to that she is concerned with people from California finding the homes of the people in her district.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned if the Contract that was received today from Ambulnz has been executed by the County Executive.



Purchasing Director Mazzotta stated no, there is not a fully executed Contract at this time.

Kristen VanTassel, resident of Philipstown and member of North Highlands Fire Department questioned why the County did not offer an extension to the existing Contract.

Purchasing Director Mazzotta stated they were exhausted under the original agreement.

Sandy Bohl, Captain Putnam Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corps questioned if the County has a contingency plan in place.

Commissioner BES Clair stated Plan B would be to go back to the previous vendor, because they have a Certificate of Need (CON). He stated he does not believe that will be necessary.

Legislator Montgomery expressed her appreciation to all of the volunteers who came to the meeting to have their voices heard on this important matter.

Kathy Lewis, EMT for Lake Carmel presented questions as to transportation details for the EMT who work for Ambulnz without a driver.

Commissioner BES Clair explained the different ways they are looking to address that.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated further discussion. There was confirmation that the Contract being discussed is a five (5) year contract, with five (5) one (1) year extensions, equating potentially to a 10 year contract.

Legislator Sullivan expressed his appreciation to the crowd for attending the meeting and expressing themselves regarding this matter.

Chairwoman Nacerino concluded the discussion by thanking everyone for attending and for their input on this important matter. She stated she will recommend that the County Executive listen to the audio from this meeting prior to her signing this Contract. She stated this is a group of concerned and dedicated people who have brought to the forefront valuable and very serious concerns. She wants to make sure that the same confidence Commissioner Clair has expressed this evening the County Executive possesses as well as she executes this Contract.

#### **Item #7 - Discussion/ Proposal- Formation of Advance Life Support (ALS) Oversight Committee/ Member of the P.C. Fire Advisory Board Chris Tobin**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated at the November Fire Advisory Board meeting, Chris Tobin brought forward the recommendation to form an Advance Life Support (ALS) Oversight Committee. She stated she invited Mr. Tobin to discuss this concept. She stated this is a discussion item, no action will be taken.

Chris Tobin, North Highlands Fire Department Assistant Chief stated this is his fifth time that he has been involved with the ALS contract. He stated he would like to have an Oversight Committee Board. He stated it could be a subcommittee of the Fire Advisory Board or chosen

by the Legislature through resolution. He stated he believes not only does the Vendor need somewhere to go, that would be middle ground, so do the members of the Bureau of Emergency Services, in the event the two (2) groups are having a difficult time communicating. He stated it would also provide insight to the RFP process for the members of the Fire Advisory Board. He stated he would like everyone to be at a level playing field. He stated he knows there are many details to be determined. He stated his main objective is to allow this proposed board the ability to have a say.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she will support fostering open communication and transparency, while having ongoing dialogue and checks and balances. She stated in actuality, the Fire and EMS Advisory Board, under their purview, can form this sub-committee. She stated she would recommend that the Fire Advisory Board at their next meeting form a clear and distinct objective of what the will is of the members of the Fire Advisory Board.

Bobby Kern Chief of EMS, Town of Patterson questioned who was solicited for the RFP.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated those folks who may have the answer to that question, have left. She stated she will request that information. She thanked Mr. Tobin for bringing this forward and looks forward to future discussions.

#### **Item #8- Update/ Radio Project/ Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated, again, at the November Fire Advisory Board Meeting, there was a discussion about the distribution of Radios. She stated the general consensus is that there is an inadequate number of Radios for the various departments. She stated she has requested Director IT/GIS Lannon provide an update.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon began by providing an update to the Cell Towers. He stated they are working to complete the Nelsonville Tower. He stated in the event the current location does not come through the County has alternate sites. He stated the Putnam County Schools will be receiving, via a donation from Motorola, one (1) radio with a button on it. He explained if there is an emergency in a School, they hit the button, which will open the microphone and the Police Department will be alerted. He stated also, the School Resource Officers (SRO) radios would be opened so they would be able to hear what is going on immediately in the School Office. He stated as for all the other subscribers, nothing has been finalized. He stated the subscribers Radios do not need to be ordered yet. He stated they are not ordered until they are ready to go live. He stated which they project will be Spring of 2022. He stated there are two (2) models. He stated the final pricing has not yet come in from Motorola. He stated he is comfortable with the County providing the Fire Departments with what is needed. He stated based on grants, the County has not had to put any money into this. He stated when working with the grants, they run approximately a year behind. He stated Putnam receives a sustainability grant that goes up and down. He stated he believes, based on the last list provided from Commissioner Clair, that they will be able to provide the needed number of radios: First Response Radios and a Portable in each First Response Vehicle. He stated on average, that works out to be about nine (9) pieces of equipment per department. He stated the most uncertain part is the funding from New York State. He stated if New York State says they are providing no funding, then the County would

have to change plans, and funding would need to be requested. He stated they are planning to test the new Radios in 2022, late Spring. He stated the testing needs to be done when the leaves are on the trees. He stated the projection is to go live in the Fall of 2022.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated in summary we are subject to change if the State does not come through with the grant funding.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon confirmed that is correct. He stated the Tower rentals alone are going to cost the County \$46,000 per year. He explained that is a great improvement to the amount the County was paying, which was \$80,000 per year. He stated the County negotiated it down. He stated in Putnam Valley, Supervisor Sam Oliverio, his team, and the homeowner helped in the negotiations with American Tower.

Legislator Montgomery requested a written list of the radios and who they will be distributed to.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated Commissioner Clair's team can speak to that, as they were the ones collecting that information. He stated the first response vehicles will receive a radio. He stated the average number of radios per department is approximately nine (9).

Commissioner Clair & Director Lannon confirmed a written list of radios and the agency they will be distributed to will be sent to the Legislature. They stated for the record the list is still in a draft form, it has not been finalized.

Legislator Montgomery said Cold Spring Mayor Elect Foley emailed some questions which she will ask on her behalf. She questioned if radios are going to be distributed to local Police Departments.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated that was discussed initially, however it has not been finalized yet.

Legislator Montgomery questioned what the cost per radio is.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated they are currently negotiating the price per radio. He stated a mobile radio will coast approximately \$4,000 - \$6,000 depending on the model needed. He stated the portables are usually about \$1,000 more than that.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the new radios will be compatible with other counties. She stated they provide mutual aid to Dutchess.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated what needs to be adjusted between the Counties are all of the different frequencies. He stated anyone on the 700 - 800 frequency, which is what most areas are going to, an agreement will be done and they will be moved in our system. He stated if they are not in the 700-800, then a radio that is compatible will be needed or we could put it in our dispatch center and kind of marry it through that, so it will work. He stated they are very aware of that and have been meeting with the surrounding agencies to get an idea of what is needed.

Legislator Montgomery stated she wanted to thank Director Lannon. She stated she happened to be at Nelsonville when the equipment was delivered, which was exciting. She stated it was just after the trip Director Lannon and others took out west. She stated there have been many questions from the departments and the public officials. She expressed her appreciation to Director Lannon for the information that he brought forward this evening.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated questions from the Fire Service people would be directed to Commissioner Clair. He stated anyone else can contact him, he is happy to answer any questions.

Chris Tobin, North Highlands Fire Department Assistant Chief questioned if they will be permitted to choose their radios, or will it be the 6,000 or 6,500.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated he believes the Deputy Chiefs met and spoke with each department. He stated the draft list he received he believes was based on the discussion and needs from those meetings.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the need for the Radios has been recognized. Director Lannon is optimistic that we will be able to meet the needs. She facilitated further discussion on the different types of radios.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated he believes Motorola will submit their final pricing by the first week of January 2022. He stated Deputy Commissioner BES Lipton has been great helping with the grants.

Chris Tobin, North Highlands Fire Department Assistant Chief requested that the list of the Radios be provided to the Fire Advisory Board, so if there is an opportunity to add anything to the list, they could recommend it.

Commissioner BES Clair stated he will provide them a copy of the Radio list.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated if there are needs that have not been addressed by the Fire Advisory Board, he requested that they add them to the list as soon as possible. He stated it is easier to submit our package in a complete form, versus trying to add to it after.

Justyn Lewis President Fire Advisory Board expressed his appreciation to Director Lannon for the clarification on the Radios. He questioned if they want to update the Radios, can they do that. He expressed a concern in terms of the Radios that are being discussed and their interoperability standpoint.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated with the Department picking up the difference, from Motorola's standpoint absolutely. He stated it becomes a County issue, because then the County needs to collect the money from the Departments. He stated they could work with Commissioner Carlin to figure out how to do that. He stated he agrees the Departments should get the Radios they need, with the Department paying the difference in cost.

Justyn Lewis President Fire Advisory Board stated as an “fyi” the Lake Carmel Fire Department recently purchased four (4) mobiles with dual heads and four (4) portables that cost them \$64,000. He stated there are a lot of expenses coming at the Fire and Emergency Services in the County, he would like to make sure that the Legislature is aware of that. He questioned if leasing from the County is an option. He stated also it is understood the County was issued \$19 million in COVID funds. He stated the County received half of it in May of 2021 and the other half is still to be issued. He questioned if any of that money can be used towards this project.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the Towns received said COVID funds also.

Justyn Lewis President Fire Advisory Board stated that is correct and is a possible option.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated Motorola has stated the option of leasing. He stated we prefer to purchase them.

Justyn Lewis President Fire Advisory Board stated as it has been clearly communicated this evening, there is a real concern about the finances. He stated the list of Radios may not reflect the current needs.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon stated the Radio list is approximately two (2) weeks old.

Sheriff Elect Kevin McConville recommended that Director Lannon host a meeting with the executive level of the stakeholders to provide them with options. He stated they will then be able to make their requests and in doing so giving them a short window of time to confer with their department personnel. He requested that he be a part of that meeting, in fact he will host it, if Director Lannon would like.

Director IT/GIS Tom Lannon confirmed he would work on that and keep Sheriff Elect McConville updated on it.

Chairwoman Nacerino thanked everyone for their input.

**Item #9- FYI/ Fund Transfer (21T345)/ Funds to Purchase Medical Supplies for School Resource Officers/ Sheriff Langley – Duly Noted**

**Item #10- FYI/ Fund Transfer (21T326)/ To Cover Automotive Chargebacks/ District Attorney Tendy – Duly Noted**

**Item#11 - Other Business - None**

**Item #12 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 8:46p.m. Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.