

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
TILLY FOSTER FARM – THE BARN
ROUTE 312
SOUTHEAST, NEW YORK
(Chairman Albano, Legislators Castellano & Gouldman)**

Thursday

August 25, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:30p.m. by Chairman Albano who requested Legislator Castellano lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Castellano, Gouldman and Chairman Albano were present.

Item #3 - Approval/ Physical Services Meeting Minutes/ July 21, 2022

Chairman Albano stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 - Presentation/Smart Outdoor Inc.- Bike Path Signage/ CEO Ivan Bellotto (copy of the fully presentation is with the on-line minutes)

Chairman Albano stated this is a program the County has been looking at for implementation along the County's Bike Path for over a year. He stated there is a brief video Smart Outdoor Inc. has to share at this meeting. The Video was played. Some of the highlighted goals of this program is to improve safety for the users of the Bike Path and provide exposure for the local businesses, and parks. There is no cost to the County.

Chairman Albano stated he brought this matter forward for informational purposes only. He clarified the Legislature will not be voting on this contract. He explained all contracts are negotiated by the County Executive. He stated that the County has been working with the other agencies who have jurisdiction of different areas of the Bike Path: MTA and the NYSDOT. He stated at this point it looks very positive that we will be seeing this program along the Putnam County Bike Path. He introduced Smart Outdoor Inc. CEO Ivan Bellotto to say a few words.

Smart Outdoor Inc. CEO Ivan Bellotto stated in Westchester County in the past two (2) years they have had 91 people use their signs for emergency services related matters. He stated there have had 1,000 people a month tapping into the QR codes to access the variety of information. He stated through the QR codes it will be very beneficial for the local businesses in Putnam County. He stated the users of the Bike Path come from all different areas, and to provide them with a way to navigate their time in the different towns along the ride is proving to be greatly used. It serves as a benefit to the user and the community in terms of increased tourists who explore the parks and visit the local businesses. He stated as an example Tilly Foster Farm will be listed as a possible place to visit. He stated it will serve as a great destination stop, to visit the

beautiful farm, restaurant etc. He stated they are starting their third year working in Westchester County. He stated it has been proving to be so successful, Westchester County is expanding the Smart Outdoor Inc. program onto the Bronx River Pathway. He stated they are moving into 10 different States. He stated they look forward to working with Putnam County.

Legislator Castellano stated he is very happy to hear this is moving forward in Putnam County. He stated he has heard a lot of positive feedback about the Smart Outdoor program in Westchester County. He stated he believes it will be a real benefit to the Emergency Services agencies and the local businesses. He stated every Saturday in the Village of Brewster he sees folks coming off the trains with their bicycles to get on the Bike Path. He stated he hopes this continues to move forward and is in operation in Putnam County very soon.

Item #5 - Tour the Tilly Foster Farm Grounds/ Chairman Albano

Chairman Albano stated this is a bit unusual. He stated he wanted to provide this opportunity, by conducting this meeting at Tilly Foster Farm, for folks to see what is going on at the farm. He stated approximately 10 years ago the County made the decision to put this County property on the map. He stated there was a lot of work that had to be done to bring to a level of safety and operation to the facility so County Residents and Visitors to the County could enjoy this beautiful location. He stated there was a Trolley outside that will provide, those interested, to get a tour around the grounds of the Tilly Foster Farm.

5:43p.m. Chairman Albano made a motion to recess the meeting; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

5:57p.m. Chairman Albano made a motion to reconvene the meeting; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Chairman Albano announced where the exits and restrooms were located in the Barn, where the meeting was held.

Item #6 - Presentation/ Status Update on Tilly Foster Farm and Educational Center – By: the Administration

- **History of Tilly Foster Farm**
- **Parks & Recreation/Soil and Water Projects**
- **WAC (Watershed Agricultural Council) Projects**
- **Agriculture, Farming & Animals**
- **BOCES UPDATE**
 - **Animal Care**
 - **Culinary Program**
 - **Future Plans**

- **Events on the Farm**
 - **Restaurant**
- **Tourism**
 - **Agritourism**
 - **Art on the Farm**
 - **Collaboration with CCE (Cornell Cooperative Extension)**
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension**
 - **History and Education**
 - **Capital Campaign**
 - **Collaboration Activities**
 - **Moving Forward**

Chairman Albano stated a presentation will be given that will speak to the different areas and programs that are located on the Farm. He stated for reference this presentation will be available on the County website, the Legislature’s page along with the minutes of this meeting. He stated Deputy Commissioner of Highways and Facilities John Tully will begin the presentation.

Deputy Commissioner of Highways and Facilities John Tully thanked the Legislature for agreeing to hold the meeting at the Tilly Foster Farm. He stated there was a lot of work that had to go into making this happen. He stated the Administration is very appreciative because it allows the opportunity to showcase all the wonderful things Tilly Foster has to offer the community. He stated there will be approximately six (6) presenters that will follow him. He requested that all questions be addressed at the end of the presentation.

Chairman Albano confirmed his agreement with that request to address any questions at after the entire presentation had been given.

Deputy Commissioner of Highways and Facilities John Tully started the presentation by providing an overview of the history of the Farm. He spoke to the Mission of the Tilly Foster Farm (Farm). “Tilly Foster Farm is a Putnam County owned property and facility that fosters financial, environmental, social and historical stewardship through a variety of program offerings by means of public-private partnerships.” The Farm was acquired by the County in 2002 and it is 199 acres located in the Town of Southeast. He stated currently an acquisition of property is being worked on that will add to that total. He provided further historical information. He stated the County Executive and team worked with the members of the public to come to agreement on the mission of the Farm. He explained sub-committees were formed: Agricultural, Health & Education, Business/ Economic Development, Soil & Water, Infrastructure, and Tourism. He explained the Mission of the Farm came from the collaboration of the sub-committees made up of Putnam County residents. He spoke to the infrastructure work that had to be done in order to make the buildings safe and operational all within the compliance of the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) restrictions. He spoke to some of the restrictions. He introduced Putnam County Parks Superintendent Chris Ruthven.

Putnam County Parks Superintendent Chris Ruthven stated WAC is a big part of the development on the Farm. He stated the easement on the Farm presents restrictions on what can be done on the Farm and where it can be done. He stated County Executive Odell has spoken to the zones on the Farm as being similar to the different zoning that exists in a Town. He stated there are many different zones on the Farm property. He stated the Mission of WAC: “To promote the economic viability of agricultural and forestry, the protection of water quality, and the conservation of working landscapes through strong local leadership and sustainable public-private partnerships” is truly what the County’s goal is for the Farm also. He stated the County and WAC work really well together. He stated they come to the Farm and have helped out on many different projects. He provided an overview of some of the projects WAC assisted on. He stated another partner is the Soil and Water Conservation District. He stated the Community Gardens is part of the recreational opportunities also there are biking trails, that are also used for cross country skiing, snow shoeing, there is sledding. He stated there is fishing. The County did the renovation of the Pond and had it stocked. He stated he believes the County has been very good stewards to the land. He stated they have great partners with WAC and the Soil and Water Conservation District, East of Hudson, who have helped fund some of the run off sales and Cornell Cooperative Extension, who are always available to offer valuable information. He introduced Farm Administrator Lisa Walker.

Farm Administrator Lisa Walker started by stating her theme for her part of the presentation: “Tilly Foster is, and Always Will Be, A FARM FIRST!” She stated the Farm is a destination which provides educational experiences for the visitors. She stated the vegetables grown on the farm are provided to Tilly’s Table, the Office of Senior Resources and BOCES culinary program with the highest quality product at a fair market value. She stated in 2019 a greenhouse was installed, and the vegetable production was doubled. She stated the County partnered with BOCES Animal Care Program providing hands on learning at the Farm. She explained (2) Percheron Draft Horses brought to the farm. She explained the animals at the farm coincide with what the people wanted, as expressed in the Mission Statement for the Farm. She stated animals were selected based on their ability to interact with public and students and have the least impact on the Farm financially and environmentally. She stated in 2020 during the global pandemic, the Farm was closed for a short time. She stated the County was able to get clearance to reopen. She stated in 2020 the Farm became a destination for people, it gave people an opportunity to come out and enjoy a bit of normalcy while adhering to the social distancing. She stated in 2021 the gardens were expanded to 2.5 acres, they added Khaki Campbell Duck, and they began partnering with BOCES culinary Students. She stated in 2021 they also began partnering with Cornell Cooperative. She stated in 2022 the farming production is at an all time high and they continue to care for the animals. She stated they brought in an Agronomist to assist in making the soil nutri-dense without chemicals. She stated we are all facing severe drought conditions this summer. She stated the Agronomist has been assisting in dealing with that as well. She stated

two (2) new Sardinian donkeys have been added to the animals at the farm. She introduced General Manager of Putnam Golf and Tilly Foster Farm Katie Hanrahand.

General Manager Hanrahand stated she oversees Tilly's Table and the Events at the Farm. She stated the Farm, since its opening has been focused on sharing the farming experience and give people a space to gather and celebrate life's events. She stated a farm to table experience is incorporated into the dining experience at the Farm. She stated the restaurant at Tilly's Table is operated by Homestyle Caterers. She stated Tilly's Table is open Wednesday through Saturday and on Sunday there is a brunch and dinner available. She stated they are booked through 2022 with events in the events spaces and they have weddings booked into 2023. She stated the Farm is a beautiful property and it offers diverse activities. She stated there are outdoor concerts held in the riding ring. She stated they have been very well attended by residents and visitors from outside the County. She stated there are two (2) more concert events to finish off the summer of 2022: August 27th, The Bon Jovi Tribute Band and September 23rd, Oktoberfest with the Billy Joel Tribute Band. She stated in 2021 there were 5,000 visitors who enjoyed the concerts in 2022 it is believed 7,000 plus visitors will have attend the concerts. She stated there are also programs held for Children and Adults. She stated the Farm is becoming very popular as a location to come and take wedding photos. She stated the Carmel High School Graduating class came and took pre-prom photos at the Farm. She introduced Putnam County Director of Tourism Tracey Walsh, who spoke next.

County Director of Tourism Tracey Walsh stated it has always been the belief of this Administration that tourism and the Farm are a natural fit. She stated in June of 2021 the Tourism Office was relocated to the Farm. She stated as they were still settling into their new space representatives from Hudson Valley Magazine and Valley Table paid a visit to the new Tourism Office. She stated the representatives were so impressed with the space and believed it totally represented the beauty of the Hudson Valley. She stated after a brief tour they asked if they could use the Barn to host the Fall 2021 Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Kick-off event. The Kick-off event, in collaboration with Homestyle Caterers and Economic Development Council (EDC), was very successful. She spoke to the events they have worked on with Cornell Cooperative. She spoke to the work she and EDC Director Kathleen Abels did in hosting events to spotlight bringing film making to Putnam County. She stated the Farm has been used in several commercials and has been visited by location scouts looking for places to film. She stated the Farm attracts families, as stated earlier. She stated it is a wonderful day trip because there is something for everyone. She spoke to a few of the different events hosted at the Farm. She stated these events, in addition to residents attracts people from outside of the County. She stated the small farm stand at the Farm in on the honor system. She stated the opening of Jar Worthy a store located on the Farm property attracts even more people to the Farm. Jar Worthy sells many great items and they sell the Tilly Foster Farm Honey. She continued to speak to the different events hosted at the Farm. She spoke to the value of "agritourism". She stated they

conducted a great deal of research and reviewed the analytics. She stated they took action based on the findings. She stated she is happy to report the different actions that were taken in terms of advertising and targeting families and couples interested in outdoor activities, shopping, dining, arts and culture. She stated they reached out to the five (5) boroughs of New York City and the Connecticut counties of Hartford, New Haven, Richfield, and Fairfield. She stated the results have been positive. She introduced the next speaker Putnam Norther Westchester (PNW) BOCES Director of Career & Technical Education Catherin Balestrieri.

PNW BOCES Director of Career & Technical Education Catherin Balestrieri stated they provided classes for middle school students to adult students. Several years ago a partnership was developed with PNW BOCES and Putnam County to develop an educational institute here at Tilly Foster Farm. She stated a structural education for students with special needs was created. She stated PNW BOCES conducted extensive research around the region, looking at employment needs. She stated based on the information, the programs were developed. The first program offered at the PNW BOCES Tilly Foster campus was the Culinary Program. She spoke to that program. She stated the enrollment for the classes are capped at 8 – 10 students per session. She stated the goal of the Culinary Program at Tilly Foster is that each student completes the program well prepared for employment by gaining the skills needed. She stated the second PNW BOCES program offered here at Tilly Foster Farm is the Animal Care Program. She spoke to the program. She stated the access to the farm animals on the Farm property is invaluable. She stated the resident expert on the animals, Farm Administrator Lisa Walker, has been tremendous with the students and is a vital part of the program. She stated the enrollment in the Animal Care Program continues to grow and the positive feedback and accolades from parents has been extraordinary. She stated they continue to look to the future to see what programs should be offered to meet the employment needs of the region. She stated possible programs they are looking at to bring to the Farm are: horticulture, clean energy, tourism, entrepreneurship. She stated in closing they are very excited to be partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension. She introduced Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County Executive Director Stefanie Hubert.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County Executive Director Stefanie Hubert began with a brief history of Cornell Cooperative Extension (Extension). She stated in 1944 the Putnam County Association was established. She explained they provided non-formal education for people throughout the County. She stated the emphasis is to take knowledge gained through research and education and bringing it directly to the people to create positive changes. She stated her favorite tag line is “Extension provides practical information on practically everything”. She stated in Putnam County there are subject matter experts in the following six (6) initiatives: Community & Economic Vitality, Protect & Enhance the Environment, Sustainable Agriculture, Individual & Community Health, Preparing Youth for the Future and Strengthening Families. She stated a program supporting everyone of these initiatives has been implemented at the Tilly

Foster Farm over the past few years. She stated during COVID with their Open House on the Farm in October of 2020 over 750 people and families came to the Farm for an outdoor educational opportunity. She stated over the past 44 months, while she has served as the Executive Director, they have utilized the 199 acres of the Farm for a myriad of experiential learning opportunities, which she briefly spoke to. She stated over 4,300 people from all different areas have come to learn with Cornell here at the Farm. She listed the different Universities and Putnam County Departments that they work with on an almost daily basis. She stated Cornell Connection Extension has future plans for future projects of which many are being discussed, vetted and supported by County Departments. She continued to speak to these proposed programs.

Deputy Commissioner of Highways and Facilities John Tully thanked all the presenters and Director of IT/GIS Tom Lannon and his staff for all of their help with this presentation. He stated he would be happy to address any questions.

Legislator Albano expressed his appreciation also to those who presented. He stated he believes the information shared demonstrates the complexity of the Farm. He stated it is a tourist destination, it is an educational site etc. and he believes there is even more potential for the Farm. He stated recognized two (2) past Legislators who were in the audience, and who served on the Legislature Board during the formative years of Tilly Foster Farm, Richie Othmer and Barbara Succimarra.

Legislator Gouldman stated the presentation showcased the wonderful job that is being done here at Tilly Foster Farm.

Deputy Commissioner of Highways and Facilities John Tully stated it is a collaborative effort. He stated the people who did the presentations are just a small sampling of the large number of people who work on the Farm and contribute to making it the sought-out destination the Farm has become.

Legislator Albano encouraged all of the attendees of the meeting to explore the Farm.

Marsha Waldman, Resident of Mahopac questioned why there are such exotic animals on the Farm. She stated she would like to see sheep and llamas. She stated there is interest by the residents in terms of the finances on the Farm. She stated there are several businesses. She stated she recognizes there are a lot of wonderful things going on here, but she does wonder how much money the County has spent. She stated she would also like to know what the balance between the profits that is made and what the County is investing. She stated it is her opinion that the County should not be in the business of hosting concerts, running restaurants, or running other shops.

Deputy Commissioner of Highways and Facilities John Tully stated from the purchase of Tilly Foster Farm and the protection of this land, which otherwise would have been a shopping center or condominium complex which would add to the tax burden and the local schools, it was decided that it would be best to preserve the property and work to do something with it that would serve the community. He stated the finances at one point there was a deficit. He explained the return on the investment in government is often not looked at through the narrow lens of just the dollars. He stated he believes the value of Tilly Foster Farm is in the community. He stated the return on this investment is seen in the children in the community and in the fact that it is a destination drawing people from outside our County. He stated the Administration, and the Legislature are concerned about the finances, and that is always at the forefront. He stated the County works to do things as economically efficient.

Chairman Albano stated he is a businessman and looks at the numbers and at the math. He stated there were two (2) options available to the County in terms of the Tilly Foster Farm property: 1) sell the property back to New York State for \$1.00 2) just let the property get overgrown and do not touch it. He stated a conscious decision was made to research the possibility for this property and use it to its fullest potential. He stated he believes the community deserves a place like the Farm. He stated also keep in mind that in the time he has served as a Legislator, which is 12 years, the County has reduced its debt by approximately \$30 million. He stated the finances of the County are tracked very closely. He stated the money that the Farm generates helps in offsetting the costs. He stated prior to all of the work and progress made at the Farm the facility was costing the County, yet the property could not be used. He stated he is very proud of the work the County has done and the current operation of the Farm.

Legislator Jonke stated Tilly Foster Farm is in his Legislative District. He stated to look at what is happening at the Farm only is a narrow way to look at this. He stated the businesses around the Farm benefit when the Concerts are held. He stated those concerts attract people from Putnam County as well as the surrounding areas. He stated these visitors to the County are discovering these businesses such as The Red Rooster, they are filling up their cars with gas at our gas stations. He stated Tilly Foster Farm is drawing people to the Town of Southeast and it is benefiting our businesses and our taxpayers. He expressed his appreciation to the presenters and recognized that it is a team effort, and he believes a wonderful job is being done here. He stated he cannot understand how anyone could look at this property and not be proud of it and the work that has been done.

Legislator Montgomery expressed her appreciation to all the presenters. She stated she has been asking for the numbers for the past four (4) years. She referenced the unanswered memos she has sent to the Administration that have not been answered. She stated she wrote and asked even for basic information such as what happened to the previous two (2) Percheron Draft Horses, what was the expense in transporting them off the Farm, and what were the veterinary bills. She

stated the Farm is beautiful, but the basic purpose of government and her job is to know exactly what the financials are, and she has yet to get the requested information.

Alison Junguera, Resident from Westchester County, stated her son is 18 years old and he has autism. She stated that he attended the BOCES Culinary Program here at the Farm. She stated her son recently got an internship at Second Chance Foods. She stated she wanted to say that because of the Farm and the BOCES Program offered here her son has an opportunity to have a career and it gives him purpose every day. She expressed her sincere appreciation.

Item # 7 - Approval/ Re-Appointments to the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District: Chris Ruthven, Brian Bergen & Ervin Raboy/ Director Soil, Water & Conservation District Vincent Tamagna

Legislator Gouldman questioned why some of the terms have been changed.

Legislative Council Firriolo explained the goal is to have staggered terms, in order to always have active members.

Legislator Montgomery stated, as she always does with appointments to our County Boards, she requested a copy of the resumes of these people who were being appointed. She stated she sent a memo dated August 15, 2022 requesting a copy of the resumes for these folks. She stated also this is listed as re-appointments she stated she does not believe Brian Bergen was a current member. She stated she believes this to be a big responsibility to vote on approving people to the boards. She stated the final vote for this request will at the September Full Meeting. She stated in her experience as a member of several boards all over the country she has always had to submit a resume, a letter of interest and have an interview. She stated possibly some of her colleagues may know these people, but she does not. She stated she does not understand why the Legislature does not have a copy of their resumes.

Chairman Albano stated your point is taken.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Re-Appointments to the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District: Chris Ruthven, Brian Bergen & Ervin Raboy; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #8 - Approval/Support the New York State Legislature Bills A6652/S4162/ Legislator Nancy Montgomery

Chairman Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Legislator Gouldman stated that he is very concerned about the quality of our water. He read into the record a letter from the Town of Putnam Valley Supervisor Jacquie Annabi. In summary the letter requested Legislator Gouldman along with his fellow Legislators ask that Governor Hochul veto Bills A6652/S4162. He stated he has discussed this matter with many people. He stated at this time he believes the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is underfunded and understaffed, these proposed bills would put additional work on that department. He stated at this time he does not support this. He stated possibly in the future, but not at this time.

Legislator Montgomery stated that the Governor has lifted the hiring moratorium. She stated we can rest assured the DEC will be fully staffed. She stated she knows they are hiring engineers, who are the folks who issue these permits. She stated to speak to the resolution that she wrote, in support of the Governor passing said Bills. She stated that local governments highway departments, etc. are exempt from the proposed permit requirements. She stated this is not the old Bill that was vetoed by Governor Cuomo. She stated it does not include the class D streams. She read from her proposed resolution. She stated this resolution also recognizes the legislation does not prevent Soil and Water Districts from doing the work they are doing throughout the State. She stated Putnam County has not had a Senior Environmental Planner heading up Putnam County's Soil and Water Board for over a year. She stated that is very concerning to her. She stated our soil and water deserve protection. She stated she believes we can all agree that we need to protect our water. She stated she hopes her colleagues will support her resolution asking the Governor to pass Bills A6652/S4162.

Chairman Albano stated for clarification the next agenda item is about Bills A6652/S4162. He explained it is a resolution that is requesting the Governor to Veto Bills A6652/S4162. He invited the public to speak.

Wendy Whetsel, Resident of Putnam Valley, requested the Legislature vote no for the resolution asking the Governor to Veto the Bills. She stated water is the most important and precious commodity and asset on our planet. She stated less than 3% of water is drinkable. She stated all of life on this planet depends on water. She stated protecting our water is the most important think we can do. She cited information she found when researching water on National Geographic. She concluded by urging the Legislature to vote No for agenda item #9.

Mia Azcue, Resident of Putnam Valley and Member of the Putnam Valley Commission for the Conservation of the Environment, stated Legislator Gouldman chose to read the letter from Putnam Valley Supervisor Annabi, when she knows that there were other lettersrs sent to him, that expressed a different opinion. She stated she has lived in Putnam Valley for over 30 years. She stated she has a stream that runs at the bottom of her property that has easements on it. She stated she is incredibly careful with what she does on her property. She stated Putnam Valley has grown tremendously since she moved there. She stated there is more stress on the water sources. She

stated she understands what the Legislature is concerned about, saying there are already levels of protection in place. She stated it is her opinion that there cannot be enough. She stated she sees how laws change. She stated she has lived in areas where water is a very scarce commodity. She stated we are very spoiled here. She stated she believes we in Putnam County have a responsibility to keeping our water clean since we are supplying water to the 10 million people in New York City. She stated in closing she does not believe we can have enough layers of protection.

Two Residents whose names were not stated clearly spoke to their support in Legislator Montgomery's Resolution.

Wendy Whetsel, Resident of Putnam Valley, stated her support of Legislator Montgomery's resolution. She stated she supports Bills A6652/S4162 and thanked Senator Harckham for bringing this matter forward at the State level. She continued to speak to her support. She stated the current protection in place in the local Towns is not working. She spoke to situations in the Town of Carmel and Kirk Lake. She stated the some of the elected officials are not enforcing the rules and regulations that are in place.

Richard Robbins, Resident of Kent Cliffs, stated he has lived here for 50 years. He stated he supports local control. He recognized his Highway Superintendent Richard Othmer who was in the audience. He stated whenever he has called Superintendent Othmer he has always responded quickly. He stated that is great. He stated however there is an issue with an area that has been officially identified as a wetland in his neighborhood. He spoke to the problems he faced with a construction project that was not respecting the wetlands. He stated he placed many calls: to the Town, County, DEC but no one was interested. He stated he was finally informed by the Town of Kent's Building Inspector who informed him that there was nobody in the local government that has any jurisdiction over wetlands. He stated that is not acceptable.

Eileen Reilly, Resident of Putnam Valley, began by saying everyone knows how important water is, we cannot live without clean water. She requested this Legislative Body support the New York State Legislative Bills to protect our water.

Victor Tiship, Resident of Putnam Valley, stated he is trying to understand the rationale as to why the Legislature would oppose something rather than support something. He stated he believes it sends a terrible message that by opposing this it will support to protect our water, in his opinion it will not. He continued to speak to his lack of understanding as to why the Legislature would be opposing these Bills. He stated he does not see any proactive demands from the Legislature to support the protection of our water. He offered suggestions. He stated these Bills have been approved by the New York State's Assembly and Senate and now await the approval or veto of the Governor. He stated he supports Legislator Montgomery's effort to support the Governor's approval of the Bills.

Chairman Albano requested if there is a motion to move Approval/Support the New York State Legislature Bills A6652/S4162. There was no motion. He stated he would move on to the next agenda item.

Item #9 - Approval/ Request that Governor Veto A6652/S4162, Which Make Changes to New York State Environmental Conservation Law Article 15/ Legislator Amy Sayegh

Chairman Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Chairman Albano read the statement from the Legislator Sayegh, who was unable to attend the meeting. The statement spoke to the goal of the 58 Soil and Water Districts among the 62 counties in New York State, which is to protect our soil and water locally and serve as a resource for our community. She wrote she is a Legislative Representative along with Legislator Albano on the Putnam County Soil and Water District Board. She stated at the last Soil and Water District Meeting Bills A6652/S4162 were discussed. There were concerns about the proposed legislation and how it will affect the work and mission of the 58 Soil and Water Conservation Districts across New York State. It was decided to bring forward the proposed resolution: Request that Governor Veto Bills A6652/S4162, Which Make Changes to New York State Environmental Conservation Law Article 15. There are many concerned citizens and organizations alike throughout the State, including the New York State Association of Counties, New York Association of Conservation Districts, The New York State County Highway Superintendents Association, and the New York State Association of Town Superintendents, who have concerns about the Bills. There are several concerns with the proposed Bills from the halt or delay the proposed permit process could result in for critical projects, the fact that the DEC permitting process could be critically overloaded and the major funding and staffing that would be required, which was the reason Governor Cuomo vetoed the Bill previously. Protecting our water and our soil is the goal of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout New York State. Adding an additional layer of required permitting will not result in protecting our valued resource, water. Our precious streams are protected locally. Finally, the letter stated, she along with Neal Tomann, Soil and Water Conservation District Director met with Senator Harckham and his staff. She thanked Senator Harckham for listening to the concerns of the Soil and Water Conservation District. They discussed possible chapter amendments to the proposed Bill to make it workable with the Soil and Water Districts as well as the local municipalities and highway departments across New York State. In closing she wrote about the need to keep Putnam beautiful by acknowledging that keeping our infrastructure and roads maintained is important in maintaining the health and safety of our citizens. She thanked Chairman of Physical Services Legislator Albano for agreeing to place this matter on the evening's agenda.

Legislator Castellano stated he agrees with the statement read from Putnam Valley that this is a local issue. He stated adding another layer of bureaucracy, in his opinion, would have an adverse effect. He stated it will ultimately be the decision of the Governor. He stated we all want to have safe drinking water. He stated he believes it should be handled at the local level.

Legislator Montgomery stated in Putnam Valley there are many unprotected tributaries that run into the drinking water of the City of Peekskill. She stated we should care about our neighbors. She stated the reference made by Legislator Sayegh, via here statement, about the Bill Governor Cuomo vetoed, that was related to Class D streams, that was a different Bill. She stated she is disappointed that her proposed resolution was not supported. She spoke to past resolutions this Legislature passed that requested Albany Veto laws, that in her opinion were laws to protect people. She stated the Legislature have letters from Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, Riverkeepers, Citizens Ecological Projects and 63 emails have been received in the Legislature Office from constituents appealing to the Legislature to vote no against this resolution. She stated she was watching her email and could see there were still emails coming in against the passing of this resolution, asking the Governor to Veto Bills A6652/S4162. She spoke to the tradition of standing for a prayer at the Full Legislative Meetings, which she respectfully and dutifully stands for, event though she thinks it is weird to be an American Citizen and praying at Legislative Meetings. She stated she has her own prayer that she says it is an indication handed down by the Six Nations. She spoke to the prayers and the thanks that she gives. She stated she likes the part of the prayer that gives thanks for the Water. She continued to speak to this matter. She requested the Legislature not request that the Governor veto a law that adds protections for our water. She stated in Putnam County, she believes we are not doing the job of protecting our water. She stated we do not have a qualified Soil and Water Manager in Putnam County. She stated approximately two (2) years ago, along Fishkill Road, the County's Highway Department was using pesticides right at the water supply. He stated constituent John Allen wrote in one of the 63 emails that there was a lack of oversight when Putnam County Highway Department placed the road salt storage facility on the Town of Putnam Valley property on Oscawana Lake Road, resulting in a widespread salt contamination of water wells in the area that still persist. She stated she is a supporter of Home Rule, but she does not trust that our water is being protected properly.

Maureen Fleming, Resident of Town of Kent, stated she does not understand wanting to ask the Governor to veto something that was passed by the State's Assembly and Senate. She stated it is being said that we have everything in place and are totally prepared in Putnam County to protect our water. She stated yet this Legislature is looking to approve members the Soil and Water Board without seeing the resumes of these folks. She stated as Chair Albano read Legislator Sayegh's comment she heard for the first time a reference to a carve out. She stated she has had discussions with Town of Kent Councilwoman, Anne Campbell, who has submitted a letter to Senator Harckham and Assemblyman Englebright. She read the letter from Councilwoman Campbell which proposed chapter amendment for Bills A6652/S4162. Councilwoman Campbell's letter

began with explaining the concerns of the Town of Kent with the proposed Bills in their current form. Councilwoman Campbell's recommendation requested a chapter amendment that would allow Home Rule Exemption, because it would address the concerns of the Town of Kent and many of the surrounding Towns. She continued to read and quote sections from Councilwoman Campbell's letter. Maureen Fleming stated we in Putnam County are concerned about Putnam County, however this is a State Law, and there lots of places in New York State that do not have protections in place for these Class C streams. She stated again that she does not support the Putnam County Legislature asking the New York State Governor to Veto Bills A6652/S4162, which legislation would be very valuable to the areas that do not have the protections. She stated the big picture needs to be looked at, let us not be so provincial. She stated water affects us all. She stated possibly amendments could be made to the existing Bills. She requested the Legislature not approve this resolution requesting the Governor Veto this.

Rich Othmer, Town of Kent Highway Superintendent, stated he is in the midst of educating himself on this matter, as he had not heard anything about this until a couple of weeks ago. He stated he knows everyone wants clean water. He stated his comments will be shared from two (2) different perspectives: former Mason Contractor and Town Highway Superintendent. He stated he was unaware of what was stated by Legislator Montgomery, that municipalities were exempt from this. He stated the Town of Kent is a town of water. He stated there are hundreds of homes with bridges going across their streams on their driveways. He stated they wash out with severe weather. He stated he would like to understand why Former Governor Cuomo vetoed these Bills. He stated if you have a government job, and you get a pay check every two (2) weeks you are kind of secure in your position. He stated there are a lot of private contractors and as stated earlier he was a Mason Contractor for almost 40 years. He stated he did a lot of bridge, wall and dock building work throughout those years. He stated he believes these Bills will have an adverse effect on homeowners and local contractors. He spoke to a particular incident in the Town of Kent. He stated most of the bridges in the Town of Kent were built in the 1920s, 1930s, pre-World War II. He stated they are falling apart. He stated the Town of Kent received funding from a Bridge New York Grant. He stated the work to address the bridges in the Town of Kent which will be funding from said Grant will have to go to an outside sub-contractor, it is too big of a job the the Town of Kent. He questioned would the passing the Bills A6652/S4162 add more costs to these projects. He stated what happens in an office and what happens in the real world are two different things. He stated problems arise with construction work projects. He stated he is split on this matter. He stated he would like to see it reviewed more. He stated he is concerned about how Bills A6652/S4162 will affect homeowners and small businesses.

Deputy Commissioner John Tully stated we all agree water quality is important. He stated the investment the County makes per the Administration and the Legislature along with the relationship the County has with the East of Hudson Watershed Corporation is evidence of the focus and support of the need to protect our quality of water. He stated in the communications that

the County had directly with Senator Harckham's Office the County did not see any exemption provided. He stated he would like to see evidence of that brought forward. He stated every Highway Superintendent in Putnam County care greatly about the water, and they also care about keeping the roads open, maintained to the level they need to be maintained. He stated he believes, the Highway Superintendents Association and all Soil and Water Districts in New York State do not want the proposed Bills approved. He stated it has nothing to do with them not caring about water quality, it is because the level of bureaucracy that would be added will come at a cost of responsibility, enforcement etc. He cited an area on the bike path that was recently maintained. He stated if the new Bills are approved the County will not be allowed to control the vegetation and maintain the area to the satisfaction that it has because there is a water way that runs along said area that would fall under the jurisdiction of the Bills. He stated the County is very supportive and understand where Senator Harckham is coming from and are willing to work with him on revising the legislation. He stated in its current form, they cannot support these Bills.

Rich Othmer, Town of Kent Highway Superintendent, stated he believes a very big problem in terms of water quality is the use of road salt. He stated in the Town of Kent he uses a 50/50 sand and salt mixture. He stated there is Road Salt Task Force in the Adirondacks and Buffalo. He stated he had heard about two (2) years ago that Senator Harckham was going to lead a task force in the Hudson Valley area. He stated he has reached out several times offering to help, but he has not heard back. He spoke to some of the organic measures he has been using effectively as a deicer, along with the Town of Carmel Highway Superintendent Mike Simone. He stated the Road Salt Task Force, in his opinion, should be the priority. He stated restrictions can be put in place, but if tons and tons of road salt is being used each year it is a waste. He stated he hopes Senator Hackham's Office will get in touch with him.

Chairman Albano stated we all agree that we need to protect the quality of our water. He stated now the way to accomplish that needs to be determined. He listed the environmental groups that oppose the passing of these Bills and stated the New York Association of Conservation Districts oppose the Bills also. He read an excerpt of a letter from the Empire State Forest Products "New York 's forests are under assault from invasive pests and diseases, over browsing from deer and a lack of age diversification which is critical to wildlife. Our forests are already under performing in regard to regeneration and if we expect to have the environmental benefits, they afford society as well as the economic benefits of a healthy forest economy we need active forest management. This legislation would serve to discourage sustainable forest management rather than encourage it." He stated he has a small construction company and has dealt with environmental boards in the Putnam County. He stated they do a good job. He stated there are always going to be things that go wrong. He stated the proposed Bills are not going to prevent that. He stated he would be in favor of giving the local environment groups funding to build the staffing and give them more authority. He stated he does not agree with supporting these Bills, when we know in their current form, they are not correct. He stated Town of Kent Councilwoman Campbell has a great

recommendation. He would like to see these current Bills vetoed by the Governor. He stated then collaboratively work on putting a Bill forward that will address the issues.

Joe Montouri, Resident of Mahopac, stated he contacted Senator Harckham and asked about some of the concerns listed by Legislator Sayegh. He stated he learned that the chapter amendment made by Councilwoman Campbell can be incorporated before the signing of the Bills. He stated since that can be done, rather than this Legislature asking for a veto lets collaborate with Senator Harckham and the Governor's Office and tell them what you want done to prevent the onerous process of permitting which is anticipated. He stated also what is being proposed in the current Bills is putting back in place requirements that once were in place. He stated again he encourages this Legislative Board to issue a chapter amendment, interval chapter amendments and interval. He stated they can all be incorporated before the law is implemented. He stated finally, this does not just concern Putnam County, it concerns the areas down stream from Putnam County. He stated he has had discussions with people in Peekskill.

Elaine Caccoma, Resident of Peekskill, stated she did send an email to this Legislature. She stated she is a lifelong resident of Peekskill and has family in the Putnam Valley and Putnam County and is the Chairperson of the Peekskill Conservation Advisory Council. She stated she agrees with the many of the points already raised, in urging this Legislature to not pass this resolution. She stated in Peekskill we rely on Putnam County to protect their water, and they are thankful for that. She stated Peekskill's drinking water source is the Peekskill Hollow Brook and the many tributaries (class C streams) that flow approximately 17 miles across Putnam County before reaching the Peekskill plant. She stated there are lots of climate events happening that require we protect our waters against. She spoke to the different groups that she works with to identify sources of contamination along with reasonable remediation efforts and keeping an eye on the changing world. She stated 28,000 people are served with the drinking water in Peekskill and Buchanan and is a backup source for 10,000 plus. She stated again she thanked Putnam for the work they have done to protect the water and for working collaboratively with Peekskill. She stated she would like this to continue in the future. She stated she believes great suggestions have been made this evening about how to fix the proposed legislation. She requested the Legislature not rush to ask the Governor to veto the Bills. She stated she would like Putnam County to work with Senator Harckham to give ideas on how to improve the legislation and keep that dialogue going. She thanked the Legislature for the opportunity to speak. She stated looks forward to a continued working relationship and continued clean water.

Kathleen Valletta, Esq, Resident of Putnam County, stated there have been many positions presented this evening, which she supports this process. She stated she does not understand and requested Chair Albano speak to the Bill that is on the Governor's desk; Why wasn't this conversation had when the Bill was being crafted? She stated that would have been the time to gather all the concerns and recommendations and present them to Senator Harckham.

Chairman Albano stated it is a good point. He explained Legislator Sayegh brought this matter forward a week ago and he got it on this agenda. He stated the proposal of this Legislature being considered is for the Governor to Veto the Bills and then work together and come up with a better version. He stated he was unaware that Senator Hareckham's office was working to propose the Bill. He stated he is addressing what is in front of him now.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to clarify some statements she believes need to be addressed. She stated in response to Chair Albano's comment about the rigorous permit process: the application is a joint one (1) application, which is four (4) pages. She stated the Governor will lift the moratorium on hiring for the DEC, therefore she is confident they will be fully staffed. She stated NYSAC never commented on this matter when it was in front of the Assembly or the Senate. She stated that is odd and leads her to believe this is getting political. She stated Highway Superintendent Othmer's comments on how this will affect small businesses: there is a whole district in Mahopac that cannot drink their water because a small business contaminated the water. She stated the point made by Deputy Commissioner Tully about the work done along the bikepath and projects throughout the County and Superintendent Othmer made as well, she stated those are County projects. She stated in Article 15 of the Bills there are exemptions listed. She stated she supports the Governor passing the Bills. She stated all and everything that can be done should be done to protect our water.

Chairman Albano stated this is not political. He stated there are real concerns with putting this additional responsibility on the NYS DEC.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Request that Governor Veto A6652/S4162, Which Make Changes to New York State Environmental Conservation Law Article 15; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #10 - Approval/Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100%of the State-Aid and/or Bridge NY Eligible Costs of a State-Aid and/or Bridge NY Transportation Project and Appropriating Funds – Snake Hill Road over Philipse Brook Tributary Culvert Replacement – Town of Philipstown/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100%of the State-Aid and/or Bridge NY Eligible Costs of a State-Aid and/or Bridge NY Transportation Project and Appropriating Funds – Snake Hill Road over Philipse Brook Tributary Culvert Replacement – Town of Philipstown; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #11 - Approval/Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100%of the State-Aid and/or Bridge NY Eligible Costs of a State-Aid and/or Bridge NY Transportation Project and Appropriating Funds – Peekskill Hollow Road over Wiccopee Brook Culvert Replacement in Town of Putnam Valley/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena

Resident, name not provided, had concerns about the impact of this project on the Cultural Center, where he volunteers.

Deputy Commissioner Highways and Facilities Tully stated he would speak to the gentleman off - line regarding his concerns.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100%of the State-Aid and/or Bridge NY Eligible Costs of a State-Aid and/or Bridge NY Transportation Project and Appropriating Funds – Peekskill Hollow Road over Wiccopee Brook Culvert Replacement in Town of Putnam Valley; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #12 - Approval/Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100%of the State-Aid AND State “Marchiselli” Program -Aid Eligible Costs, of a Transportation Federal -Aid Project, and Appropriating Funds – Drewville Road Bridge/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100%of the State-Aid AND State “Marchiselli” Program -Aid Eligible Costs, of a Transportation Federal -Aid Project, and Appropriating Funds – Drewville Road Bridge; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #13 - Approval/ Amend 20 CP03 – Water Systems Throughout County Facilities/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Amend 20 CP03 – Water Systems Throughout County Facilities; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #14 - Approval/ Amend 21CP05 – Generator Repairs Throughout County Facilities/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Amend 21CP05 – Generator Repairs Throughout County Facilities; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #15 - Approval/ 22CP02 – Power Monitoring and Conditioning Data Collection from County Facilities/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve 22CP02 – Power Monitoring and Conditioning Data Collection from County Facilities; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #16 - Approval/ Eminent Domain Acquisition/Stoneleigh Avenue & Drewville Road Intersection Reconstruction Project (PIN 8761.97)/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena

Chairman Albano stated there will be a roundabout installed at this intersection. He explained it will require the action of Eminent Domain Acquisition.

Legislator Castellano presented questions in terms of the number of properties and the overall opinion of the residents involved.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated for the most part the residents are willing. He stated what is in front of the Board this evening involves a condominium complex. He can provide additional information to Legislator Castellano before the Full meeting.

Legislator Castellano stated he would appreciate that. He stated his support for the installation of the Roundabout.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Eminent Domain Acquisition/Stoneleigh Avenue & Drewville Road Intersection Reconstruction Project (PIN 8761.97); Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #17 - Approval/ Offer of a Certain County Property to the Contiguous Owner Pursuant to Chapter 31 of the Putnam County Code/ Deputy County Attorney Conor McKiernan

Deputy County Attorney Conor McKiernan stated this property has been through the Auction process three (3) times and it was not sold. He stated an offer was received by the contiguous owner to purchase the property and that is what is before the Committee this evening.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Offer of a Certain County Property to the Contiguous Owner Pursuant to Chapter 31 of the Putnam County Code; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #18 - Approval/ Lease Renewals Putnam County Veteran's Residence/ Deputy County Attorney Conor McKiernan

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Lease Renewals Putnam County Veteran's Residence; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in Favor.

Item #19 - Approval/ Lease Putnam County Veteran's Residence Room #1/ Deputy County Attorney Conor McKiernan

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Lease Putnam County Veteran's Residence Room #1; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in Favor.

Item #20 - Other Business

Chairman Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**a. Discussion/ Peekskill Hollow Road Bride & Oregon Corners Bridge Projects/
Legislator Gouldman**

Legislator Gouldman requested an update from Deputy Commissioner Highways & Facilities Tully on two (2) bridge projects: Peekskill Hollow Road and Oregon Corners.

Deputy Commissioner Highways & Facilities Tully stated he is limited to what he can say based on certain circumstances of the project. He stated the is stalled and the County hopes is that it is temporary. He stated if the Committee would like any additional information, it would require an Executive Session.

Legislator Gouldman stated he has been asking for information and updates on this work and has been getting no answers. He stated we are coming to the end of the good weather, the time in which a road project should be done. He stated he believes the work stopped back in June. He stated the residents, the fire department the ambulances are all being negatively affected by this situation. He stated a similar thing happened with the Mill Street project. He stated the residents are not happy. He stated school is starting in two (2) weeks and the obstacles being faced on the roadways in Putnam Valley are presenting safety concerns. He spoke to the numerous memos and phone calls he sent and made to the County's Highway and Facility Department. He stated he appreciates the fact that when they can help with a situation they respond quickly. He stated but we are now coming into the winter months. He stated the metal plates that have been put down temporarily, when it rains, become slippery. He stated that poses the question what will happen when there is snow and / or ice. He stated there is a problem with a traffic light at Oregon Corners that he has been calling on for years. He stated every time the power goes out in

Putnam Valley, the Traffic Light stops working. He stated that is not a problem that should still be existing. He stated the last status date on the County website for when work was done on Peekskill Hollow Road was June 7, 2022, today it is August 25, 2022, that is a long time. He stated he has a letter stating concerns with this situation from the Putnam Valley Town Board, the Chief of the Fire Department, Putnam Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corp. they have major concerns. He stated these conditions are crippling the Town of Putnam Valley and this situation is disgusting. He stated he also has a letter from the Superintendent of the Putnam Valley Schools listing concerns with how they will get the students to and from school. He stated this should have all been taken care of. He stated he has received multiple emails from residents. He stated the reality is what is happening in the ivory tower of Putnam County and what is happening on the streets of Putnam Valley is very different, there is a disconnect. He stated something has to be done.

Deputy Commissioner Highways & Facilities Tully stated every project the County engages in they intend to finish on time on schedule and within the budget. He stated the County has been very successful in doing that. He stated the project Legislator Gouldman is speaking of, which he already stated he cannot speak to. However, he stated he can say that all of the concerns stated by Legislator Gouldman are concerns the County has as well. He stated if any of the correspondence that were listed have not been sent to the Administration, he requested they be forwarded. He stated the safety concerns are paramount, he can assure that they will be addressed prior to the winter season.

Chairman Albano stated he believes an Executive Session would be premature. He recommended it be considered to have it possibly before the Audit Meeting on August 29, 2022.

Deputy Commissioner Highways & Facilities Tully stated his agreement to that and stated he would be happy to meet with Legislator Gouldman in confidence.

Legislator Montgomery stated she wants the constituents of Dist. 2, Legislator Gouldman's District, to know he has been advocating for information on this project since she has been here.

Resident, no name provided, who stated she has a background in construction management, and spoke to how they operated. She stated they met with contractors on a monthly basis to look at the schedule they were required to maintain, and they only got paid for the work that was accomplished. She questioned how the work in the County is controlled and who oversees the contractor's performance.

Deputy Commissioner Highways & Facilities Tully stated there is a tremendous amount of oversight that is done, and the contractor has only been paid for work that has been completed. He stated that is all he can speak to.

Item #21 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:35PM Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn;
Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.