

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM #318  
40 GLENEIDA AVENUE  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512  
(Chairman Albano, Legislators Castellano & Gouldman)**

**Thursday**

**September 15, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Chairman Albano who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Castellano, Gouldman and Chairman Albano were present.

**Item #3 - Approval/ Physical Services Meeting Minutes/ August 25, 2022**

Chairman Albano stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 - Discussion/ Approval/ Local Law To Amend the Code of the County of Putnam by Adding a New Chapter 117 Entitled “Apprenticeship Training Program”/ Chairman Albano**

Chairman Albano stated this is a law already in place in New York State. He explained this request would outline the law as it applies to Putnam County. He stated projects over the projected cost of \$350,000 would require the Contractor who the County is working with to have some type of Apprenticeship Training Program in place. He stated he had the opportunity to visit one of the training facilities. He stated it was a great facility. He explained there is a big need for qualified trades people.

Legislator Castellano stated this appears to be an excellent program. He stated in Brewster the Labor Union has a training center that is phenomenal. He stated not all young people want to take the route of college. He stated this gives our youth a great opportunity to learn about the trades. He stated he supports keeping our work force educated.

Legislator Gouldman expressed his agreement that the apprenticeship programs offer a great opportunity to young Americans. He stated that he went to a trade school and found it very beneficial. He stated he is in support of this proposal.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Local Law To Amend the Code of the County of Putnam by Adding a New Chapter 117 Entitled “Apprenticeship Training Program”; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment – 22A061/ To Adjust the Capital Budget to Include Funding for the Snake Hill Road Culvert Replacement Project PIN 8762.77/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Chairman Albano stated this Budgetary Amendment is to establish the budget line for said project that was approved at the September 6, 2022, Full Meeting (Reso #168). He stated the County will be reimbursed, but the County’s needs to take this step in order to be eligible to receive the reimbursement.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment – 22A061/ To Adjust the Capital Budget to Include Funding for the Snake Hill Road Culvert Replacement Project PIN 8762.77; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #6 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment – 22A062/ To Adjust the Capital Budget to Include Funding for the Peekskill Hollow Road Culvert Replacement Project PIN 8762.76/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena**

Chairman Albano stated this Budgetary Amendment is to establish the budget line for said project that was approved at the September 6, 2022, Full Meeting (Reso #167). He stated the County will be reimbursed, but the County needs to take this step in order to be eligible to receive the reimbursement.

Legislator Gouldman stated he has mentioned that Peekskill Hollow Road is a historic road. He stated the work that has been done on that road and the bridge projects lately have been problematic for the residents. He stated he has a letter from the Town Board of Putnam Valley that stated they support the County moving forward to review grant funding opportunities. He stated they are not in favor of any culvert repairs to occur until the current bridge work at Oregon Corners and Peekskill Hollow Road and the culvert work at Lovers Lane is completed. He expressed his agreement with that statement from the Town Board of Putnam Valley. He stated a memo dated September 6, 2022 from Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the County was “awarded up to \$1M towards the replacement of culvert #21-6 on Peekskill Hollow Road (CR21) through the Bridge NY grant program”. He stated in said memo Commissioner Pena also stated “the construction of the Peekskill Hollow Road Rehabilitation project will be completed prior to the start of culvert #21-6 replacement”. He stated he is in support of the funding, but will not support any work beginning until the existing work on the Peekskill Hollow Road Rehabilitation project is completed.

Chairman Albano stated he is in total agreement with Legislator Gouldman. He stated the County is looking at every option to move the Peekskill Hollow Road Rehabilitation project forward and to completion.

Victor Tiship, Resident of Putnam Valley, questioned if there is a report that demonstrates the need for this culvert to be replaced.

Chairman Albano stated that paperwork is not part of the backup for this agenda item. He stated he is confident that the County's Highway Department would have that information.

Victor Tiship, Resident of Putnam Valley, spoke to past projects done by the previous Commissioner of Highways & Facilities. He spoke to his frustration over the years with the current Commissioner of Highways and Facilities and Peekskill Hollow Road, related to several different categories, truck traffic, speeding etc. He questioned the status of what has occurred with the Peekskill Hollow Road Rehabilitation project.

Chairman Albano stated he is not able to speak to it, per the direction of the County Attorney.

Victor Tiship, Resident of Putnam Valley, questioned if the County will be doing the work on this culvert project or will the work be done by an outside company.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated this request in front of this committee this evening speaks to the preliminary engineering and design that may be done in the future related to this project (Project PIN 8762.76). He stated he does not believe any of the details in terms of who is going to do the work have been finalized. He stated this is a request to allow the County to accept grant funding to allow the preliminary engineering to move forward.

Victor Tiship, Resident of Putnam Valley, continued to speak to the culvert that is being discussed and his assessment of what may need to be done. He stated he does not understand how this amount was arrived at. He questioned if the Historic designation of Peekskill Hollow Road will be brought into consideration to the planning of this project. He stated he is suspicious that part of the reason that this culvert project is being looked at is to strengthen the area of the culvert for truck traffic.

Chairman Albano stated if New York State recognizes a bridge and/ or culvert need to be replaced, the work has to be done. He stated the process related to Project PIN 8762.76 is just starting. He stated the County does not want to miss out on this funding, therefore they are taking the steps to set up the budget lines.

Victor Tiship, Resident Putnam Valley, stated the people who live along Peekskill Hollow Road and nearby are very concerned with their safety, property values, and everything else that comes along with these so-called improvements.

Chairman Albano continued to explain this is the part of the process to secure funding for a project that may be determined by the State, that it must be done. He stated this funding will allow for the engineering studies to begin.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated New York State inspects bridges and culverts, and it is their determination of their condition. He stated based on their findings they may order that the work be done. He stated it is not the County who determines the need. He stated for clarity that if the State determines a bridge or culvert must be replaced because they are unsafe, that will supersede County preservation law.

Chairman Albano facilitated further discussion on this matter.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment – 22A062/ To Adjust the Capital Budget to Include Funding for the Peekskill Hollow Road Culvert Replacement Project PIN 8762.76; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item # 7 - Approval/ Request to Donate/ Town of Southeast – Brewster Industrial Owner LLC/ Approval of Permanent Drainage Easement (Tilly Foster & Pugsley Road)/ County Attorney Bumgarner**

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Request to Donate/ Town of Southeast – Brewster Industrial Owner LLC/ Approval of Permanent Drainage Easement (Tilly Foster & Pugsley Road); Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

**Item #8 - Other Business**

Chairman Albano made a motion to waive the rules and accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in Favor.

**a. Comments/Putnam Valley Residents Regarding Oregon Corners Bridge Project**

John Allen, Resident Putnam Valley, stated he would like to go back to the topic of the work being done at Oregon Corners, mentioned earlier by Legislator Gouldman. He stated for 10 years he worked as the Building and Zoning Inspector for Putnam Valley. He stated one of his responsibilities was to make sure that job sites had proper storm water mitigation. He stated the condition of the work site of the Oregon Corners Bridge project, in his opinion, is appalling.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated the members of the Legislature have been advised by the County Attorney, due to potential litigation, to not make comment to anything related to said project.

Chairman Albano stated the County follows the proper procedure. He facilitated further comments from Mr. Allen in relation to the project and his concerns with the harsh weather conditions combined with the poor condition of the Oregon Corners area.

Legislator Gouldman stated that he appreciates that these folks have come out and spoke to their concerns and frustrations with the road projects in the Putnam Valley. He stated the fire department, the ambulance corps, the schools have all expressed concerns as well. He stated that he did have a conversation with members of Sheriff's Department during recent Traffic Safety Board Meeting about the concerns that have been expressed. He encouraged them to keep speaking up.

Chairman Albano stated he agrees and hears what has been said. He stated the County is aware of the situation and is working on it.

Victor Tiship, Resident of Putnam Valley spoke to his concern and frustration with the lack of information that is available with these jobs that are contracted out.

Chairman Albano explained the authority of negotiating contracts for the County falls within the purview of the Administration and Law Department. He clarified the Legislature is not involved with those negotiations. He stated there have been a great number of contracted jobs that have been completed throughout the County and have worked out very well. He facilitated further conversation.

### **Item #9 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:07PM Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trubulsky.