

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
40 Gleneida Avenue Room #318
Carmel, NY 10512

Committee Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Addonizio, Sayegh

Tuesday

March 21, 2023

(Health Mtg. Immediately Followed)

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

Item #3 - Acceptance/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ February 21, 2023

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 – Update/ Community Engagement & Police Advisory Board

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Community Engagement & Policy Advisory Board (CEPAB) Member Jenie Fu and Secretary Tony Salas were present to provide an update.

CEPAB Board Member Jenie Fu expressed her appreciation for being invited on behalf of CEPAB to provide an update. She stated in December of 2022, CEPAB held a toy drive for local children in the area. She stated in February of 2023, CEPAB Members met with the Sheriff's Office to discuss safety issues in Putnam County. She stated in March, CEPAB Members attended a safety forum at the Carmel High School. She stated they continue to add members to CEPAB organization. She stated that the CEPAB Cultural Festival for 2023 will be held at the Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday, June 17th. She encouraged everyone to attend the Cultural Festival.

Legislator Sayegh requested an overview of the Cultural Festival.

CEPAB Board Member Jenie Fu stated the first Cultural Festival was held at the Tilly Foster Farm in 2021. She stated the purpose of the festival is to have residents and visitors come together to celebrate diversity. She stated Legislators, the Sheriff and members of the Sheriff's department have all come out. She stated that presents an opportunity for everyone to meet in a neutral and celebratory circumstances. She stated it is also an opportunity for the CEPAB Organization to fund raise. She stated they do support a local charity, Second Chance Foods. She stated CEPAB has a goal to start a scholarship fund this year. She stated it would be for high school students throughout Putnam County and they are looking to expand and grow.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Legislator Addonizio is very involved with Second Chance Foods, and volunteers there often.

Legislator Addonizio stated this is her third year working with Second Chance Foods. She stated she began volunteering with them in during COVID.

Legislator Montgomery questioned how much CEPAB has done in terms of working and helping the Sheriff's Department. She stated she recalls when this organization was first established the intent was to provide transparency, advise and bring the policies to the public.

CEPAB Board Member Jenie Fu stated the CEPAB members in February of 2023 met with the Sheriff and the Captains. She stated they have been trying to keep a schedule of meeting with the Sheriff's Department once a quarter. She stated in September of 2022 the Sheriff's Department gave them a Body Worn Camera (BWC) demonstration. She stated during the most recent meeting they discussed safety issues in Putnam County.

Legislator Montgomery stated the Sheriff indicated at the 2023 February Protective Services Committee Meeting that the BWC Policy had not been shared with CEPAB. She questioned based on the mission of the CEPAB when it was established do you have an interest in seeing said policy.

CEPAB Board Member Jenie Fu stated they were updated on the process and are aware that the Sheriff's Department is working on finalizing several of their policies. She stated as soon as they are ready for review, they would like to.

Legislator Montgomery stated as a reminder that when the CEPAB was established the Mission was: To support the equity and safety of all Putnam County residents by advocating for police policy changes. She stated related to the BWC Policy, the County has allocated funding for them, they are in use, yet the PBA has not signed onto the policy for them. She stated the BWC have been in use in the County's schools, without the schools having access to the policy. She thanked CEPAB for their work and look forward to their interest in the policies.

Judy Allen, Resident of Putnam Valley, spoke to her perception of the black and brown families who expressed their concerns at the Forum at the Carmel High School. She explained this was in regards to the TikTok videos made by Carmel High School students.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she would like to stay on topic.

Judy Allen, Resident of Putnam Valley, stated she would like the members of the CEPAB to address this matter.

CEPAB Board Member Jenie Fu stated she was not present at the Safety Forum. She stated other members of CEPAB were. She requested Matina Drew, a member of CEPAB read CEPAB's statement: "On Tuesday, March 6, 2023, members of CEPAB were present at the Safety Forum hosted at Carmel High School and as a community advocacy group we understand there are proper channels in which a situation of this nature must go through. However, we believe that transparency and communication between all parties involved such as the Carmel School District, Parents, School Board, Superintendent and District Attorney are imperative to facilitate trust within our community."

Eileen McDermott, Resident of Brewster, stated she was shocked that the members of CEPAB did not include this topic as part of their update this evening. She stated she sees this matter as a safety matter, and it is not just relegated to the schools. She stated the community at large is concerned about this and that is why they are here tonight. She continued to speak and express her opinion and emotions related to the TikTok videos and the handling of the matter.

Jean Hopper, Resident of Carmel, expressed in her opinion, the lack of communications regarding the TikTok videos matter, which were made available around February 15, 2023. She stated from what she has heard there was no communication about the matter between the Putnam County Elected Officials. She stated she believes they should all have been made aware of this. She stated CEPAB was formed two (2) years ago quote: (source not provided) “in an effort for all residents to feel included, protected, and fairly treated by law enforcement by using an open dialogue to uncover our community’s needs.” She presented questions related to the communication between the different agencies and departments regarding this matter. She stated to her knowledge there has been no public comment by any local elected official regarding the videos. She concluded her statements by listing her requests for action by the County’s elected officials.

Linda Paris, Resident of Kent, stated that she emailed the Legislature regarding the Black History Celebration, Saturday, February 18, 2023. She expressed her opinion and emotions related to an incident in 2018 regarding the arrest of a Brewster High School student versus the handling of this current situation that involved Carmel High School students. She continued expressing, in her opinion, the lack of action and the need for urgency in the handling of this current matter with an action of substance, to discourage a repeat action or an action that will take it even further. She continued to express her requests for action.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the comments shared this evening did not fall on deaf ears. She stated speaking on her own behalf, she did not personally see the TikTok videos. She stated for the past two (2) years the Legislature has been working with the CEPAB members and support the mission of said board.

Nick Kuvach, Resident of Putnam Valley, urged that the members of the Legislature to view the TikTok videos. He expressed his opinion about the videos and his interpretation of what this type of action leads to.

Legislator Jonke expressed his appreciation for the public attending the meeting and expressing themselves. He stated on behalf of himself, everything described is deplorable. He stated that is not what Putnam County is, should be, or should be perceived as. He requested if someone would send him the information on where to find the videos.

Chairwoman Nacerino thanked the members of the CEPAB for their attendance and participation.

Item#5 - Update/ Body Worn Camera Policy/ Sheriff Kevin McConville

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she will be moving this agenda item to the end of the agenda. She explained the Sheriff has expressed that the discussion that will ensue on Item#5 will need to occur in Executive Session due to the detail of law enforcement information that will be shared and for officer safety. She stated the next item to be addressed would be Item #6.

Item#6 - Discussion-Approval/ Proposal- Fleet Leasing Program for Vehicles Utilized by Sheriff's Office/ Sheriff Kevin McConville (copy of PowerPoint presentation attached)

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

Chairwoman Nacerino welcomed First Sergeant Tim Keith, Sheriff McConville and Director of Purchasing John Tully to address agenda Item #6.

Sheriff McConville stated First Sergeant Keith and Director of Purchasing Tully have met with several counties throughout the Hudson Valley Region with respect to leasing vehicles for the Sheriff's Department as opposed to purchasing the vehicles. He stated the presentation will show that there is a potential for a substantial cost savings by utilizing the Fleet Leasing Program and reduce the costs for the maintenance of the Sheriff's Department vehicles.

First Sergeant Keith stated due to COVID there has been a supply chain interruption. He stated it has gotten more difficult to source and procure vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. He stated the County has already begun to lease some County Vehicles from Enterprise. He stated Enterprise has reached out to other forms of fleet management that offer several different platforms that are useful to municipalities. He stated the discussions and review of this option began with then Director of Purchasing, Alex Mazzotta. He stated the existing leases were rolled into a "equity base leasing" program. He explained this is different from the original lease programs. He stated at the end of most of the police vehicles lease terms \$1.00 will be owed on the vehicle and the equity is the County's to keep. He presented his PowerPoint presentation. In summary many of the Sheriff's vehicles being considered for said program currently have extremely high mileage. He explained that equates to a higher cost for ownership, due to the cost of maintenance on a vehicle with excessive mileage. He spoke to the different costs that have been incurred due to excessive mileage. He explained the entire aim of the equity leasing structure is to keep the vehicle fleet young and to keep low mileage on the vehicles, so the total cost is reduced, and the money out laid on the vehicles is offset by the money saved in maintenance, full costs etc. He stated in the Sheriff's Department they are currently leasing vehicles in the Narcotics Unit, Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Civil Division. He stated there have been 10 vehicles decommissioned since January 2022 due to excessive wear and tear: 2- Narcotics, 3- Youth Aid Bureau, 3- Patrol, 1- Administration, 1- Jail. He stated in 2022 due to COVID delays and Manufacturer cancellations there have been no vehicles received to replace these. He stated they have vehicles on order from 2022. He stated one of the Jail Vehicles was received on March 20, 2023. He stated currently there is 1- Jail Vehicle still on back order from 2022. He stated currently \$95,500 is budgeted for Vehicle purchases. He stated

they have a quote, based on research. He stated with a May 2023 vehicle delivery, which is when the payments begin, there would be a costs savings the first year. He stated the money would be moved from a vehicle purchase budget line to a vehicle leasing base line. He provided an overview of the actual models of vehicles they are looking to lease for each department and provided the financials. He provided information on the success of the Equity Leasing Program from Orange County. He stated that Enterprise through their software will be able to determine the equity in the vehicle and make the recommendation to the County that Enterprise be allowed to sell it, cash in on that and enter into another Enterprise lease. He stated for the record the amounts listed on his “Example of Equity Leasing/Revenue Model” slide are theoretical. He stated there is always an out with the leasing structure. He stated for clarity this is not a dealership lease, it is equity. He stated the County owns the vehicle and can do what needs to be done to a vehicle. He stated there are no fixed terms, or mileage restrictions, there are no early term penalties, it is very flexible. He concluded his presentation by stating that last year the Sheriff’s Association did a survey to learn how the Equity Fleet Leasing Program is being received. He stated the overwhelming response is that the Enterprise Equity Fleet Leasing Program is a very positive program. He stated that a comment from the Sheriff of Delaware County, New York was that they were very skeptical at first, however the Enterprise Equity Fleet Leasing Program actually beat their projected cost savings since they started the program. He stated the couple of negative comments about the program involved transit vans and prisoner transport vans. He stated in closing, he speaks to the First Sergeant in Orange County quite regularly. He stated he asked him would they consider switching back to purchasing the vehicles. He stated the reply was, “absolutely not”.

Sheriff McConville stated the savings in repairs and maintenance will be substantial. He stated the County will be responsible for essentially monthly maintenance: oil change, wind shield wipers, breaks and tires.

First Sergeant Keith stated the County’s garage can address these minor repairs.

Director of Purchasing Tully stated he would like to compliment the members of Sheriff’s Department on making his job easy. He stated they gathered all of the information that was necessary to evaluate, and it facilitated the process of analyzing and evaluating this option. He stated also this program satisfies all the County’s legal requirements from a procurement perspective. He stated as First Sergeant Keith stated at the end of this lease/purchase program, the County owns the vehicle that has equity. He explained that equity will go towards offsetting future costs of the next round of procurement. He stated there is also going to be an indirect cost savings and efficiency that will be gained in cycling these vehicles at a quicker pace. He continued to speak to his support of this proposal, as the Purchasing Director.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she had her reservations at first glance. She explained after speaking with Sheriff McConville, First Sergeant Keith and Personnel Director Tully, before the PowerPoint presentation was provided, she now believes it is a cutting-edge concept. She spoke to the different facets of this program.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated further discussion and clarification on the PowerPoint presentation and the future of electric vehicles being brought into the County Fleet.

Linda Paris, Resident of Kent, questioned is the County putting funding aside to build the infrastructure for electric vehicles and will Putnam County be working with the surrounding Counties on this.

Purchasing Director Tully stated the projection of introducing electric vehicles to the County Fleet, will most likely not begin with the Sheriff's Department. He explained because of their need for a 24/7 availability to vehicles. He stated the County will work to secure grant funding, as mentioned earlier by Legislator Montgomery. He stated grant funding would help to fund said infrastructure. He stated Putnam will work with the surrounding Counties. He stated also the hope is that when that time comes the technology of the electric vehicles will be suitable for a Sheriff's Department fleet.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve to the Audit Committee Proposal- Fleet Leasing Program for Vehicles Utilized by Sheriff's Office; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item#5 - Update/ Body Worn Camera Policy/ Sheriff Kevin McConville

7:43P.M.

Chairwoman made a motion to go into Executive Session, due to the detail of law enforcement information that will be shared and Officer safety; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

8:30P.M.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated no action was taken in Executive Session.

Item#7 Other Business - None

Item #8 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:30PM Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.