

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM #318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairwoman Nacerino, Legislators Addonizio & Sayegh**

**Monday** **6:00PM** **June 18, 2024**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo lead in the pledge of allegiance. Upon roll call, Chairwoman Nacerino and Legislator Addonizio were present. Legislator Sayegh was absent.

**Item #3 – Acceptance/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ May 21, 2024**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A050/ Reimbursement from Farmers**

Chairwoman Nacerino explained that this is insurance money that has come into the Sheriff’s Department. She stated that there is an insurance check of \$23,435.01 from Allstate, a check for Sheriff’s BCI recoveries of \$1,044.95, and a Sheriff’s Narcotics department check for \$1,827.76. The total amount is \$26,307.72. This money has been appropriated accordingly.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 24A050 – Reimbursement from Farmers; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #5 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A053/ Required to Adjust Federal Aid Allocated for Stop-DWI HVEC (High Visibility Engagement Campaign)/ Director of Probation John Osterhout**

Chairwoman Nacerino explained this \$7,500 of incoming money is in addition to what was already allocated in the amount of \$24,000 during the grant cycle of September 2023-September 2024.

Director of Probation John Osterhout clarified that the money has not been sent to the County yet, but it will be sent as they expend the funds. He explained that they have arranged for extra DWI patrols; as the police agencies do that, they are reimbursed through these grant funds.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested an explanation of the High Visibility Engagement Campaign for the record.

Director of Probation John Osterhout stated that every year, the County receives a grant through the Stop-DWI foundation. He explained that this is a State-wide grant that is allocated to counties based on their population size and the amount of money they used last year. He stated that his department is glad to have gotten \$24,000 this year, but they have already come close to

spending that \$24,000 and they are not close to the end of the grant cycle yet. He stated that he asked for an additional \$10,000 and they have received \$7,500. He stated hopefully this will allow the County to put some extra patrols out this summer. The Probation Department will be working with Carmel Police, Kent Police, and the Sheriff's Department to set up these extra patrols.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 24A053/ Required to Adjust Federal Aid Allocated for Stop-DWI HVEC (High Visibility Engagement Campaign)/ Director of Probation John Osterhout; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #6 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A054/ Use of Federally Seized Asset Forfeiture Funds/ Purchase Computers for Bureau of Criminal Investigation**

Captain James Schepperly explained that the computer labs used for cases pertaining to pornography and child pornography are overwhelmed. He explained that these computers are sealed off from the rest of the Department. He also stated that they need to be replaced, as they require a lot of storage.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that this was a request in the amount of \$74,712.33. She also clarified that this purchase would not be using taxpayer money.

Captain Schepperly stated that this is a portion of money received from seized assets in a State narcotics case from several years ago.

Legislator Ellner commented on the size of the computers, stating that their storage capacity is huge.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 24054/ Use of Federally Seized Asset Forfeiture Funds/ Purchase Computers for Bureau of Criminal Investigation; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #7 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A055/ Use of Federally Seized Asset Forfeiture Funds/ Purchase Crime Scene Camera Equipment and Laser Scanner for Bureau of Criminal Investigation/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that this is in the amount of \$100,379.07.

Captain Schepperly stated the Sheriff's Department is looking to purchase a piece of equipment called FARO, a 360-degree crime scene camera that can plot 3D models of crime scenes, recreating the area and evidence present. He stated the use of this camera negates the need to go out and measure/diagram manually.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that this is amazing technology.

Captain Schepperly mentioned that the State police use this technology to plot scenes of fatal accidents.

Legislator Addonizio asked if there is special training required to use the FARO technology.

Captain Schepperly stated that there will be some, although it is not overly technical; the user will just have to learn its capabilities. He stated it will be used specifically by the investigators in the Crime Scene Unit.

Legislator Crowley questioned if the Sheriff's Department is reinstating the accident reconstruction unit as well.

Captain Schepperly stated the accident reconstruction unit has not yet been reinstated, as it would require a lot of funding and they would need the interested personnel. He stated that they had reactivated the weight/scales unit this year, but not the accident reconstruction unit.

Legislator Crowley asked if the Sheriff's Department would be using the FARO technology for accident reconstruction.

Captain Schepperly stated they are not anticipating using it at fatal accidents because the State Police would come out and generate the entire report, and it is then sent to the State for review. He further explained that when their fatal reports come back, they have peer reviews with them. He explained that the State Police will handle serious fatal accidents.

Legislator Montgomery pointed out that it is stated in the backup material that there would be a licensing fee attached to the FARO product. She questioned if this is an annual fee and what the fee is.

Captain Schepperly stated he does not currently have that information in front of him.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she loves that this technology is being used in criminal narcotics investigations. She stated that when families lose a loved one to the opioid epidemic, one of the major frustrations is that they are never able to catch the dealer.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested the cost of the licensing fee be provided prior to the June 24, 2024 Audit & Administration Committee Meeting.

County Auditor Michele Sharkey clarified that there is a three-year licensing period.

Legislator Crowley asked if there is a procedure in place for how long the department has to store this footage.

Captain Schepperly stated that a is determined by the investigation and what the use is. He stated they often have to hold on to evidence for a years. He explained that the Sheriff's Department currently stores digital evidence, such as footage from the body cameras, in their evidence security areas. He stated there is a retention schedule that is followed when evidence is secured.

Legislator Crowley requested to see that retention schedule.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 24A055/ Use of Federally Seized Asset Forfeiture Funds/ Purchase Crime Scene Camera Equipment and Laser Scanner for Bureau of Criminal Investigation/ Sheriff Kevin McConville; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #8 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A056/ Use of Federally Seized Asset Forfeiture Funds/ Purchase Cameras and Accessories for Narcotics Division/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Captain Schepperly stated that this is to provide the Narcotic Unit the opportunity to install pole cameras, a tool frequently used in narcotic investigations to temporarily see what is going on.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the backup material is the same for both agenda items #7 and #8.

Chairwoman Nacerino explained that they are the same backup but for two different departments.

Legislator Ellner asked if this would create a situation in which there is much more review for the District Attorney, due to all the stored footage from the cameras that has to be reviewed.

Captain Schepperly stated only the relevant footage would be examined and not all footage is saved. He stated the equipment has significant storage capacity. He stated any unnecessary footage will be removed and this is done in consultation with the District Attorney following extensive protocol.

Legislator Crowley asked for clarification on whether this increased footage will lead to an impact in the procedure of reviewing footage.

Captain Schepperly stated that when the police make an arrest, they attach a written report, any written documentation, as well as the body-worn camera and the in-car camera footage.

Legislator Ellner stated that he just wants to make sure they are not making more work for the District Attorney's office in this endeavor.

Legislator Crowley stated she wants to make sure that the County has the staff capacity to handle a potential drastic increase in footage to be reviewed.

Legislator Montgomery asked if there is any sharing of equipment between the County and municipal law enforcement agencies.

Captain Schepperly stated that the Sheriff's Department will sometimes share data but rarely share equipment like this. He stated if a municipality needs the use of the equipment, typically

they would call the County and the Sheriff's Department would come out and conduct proper usage of the equipment.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the County would get called in to conduct an investigation if there was a narcotics arrest in the Village of Cold Spring.

Captain Schepperly explained that Cold Spring's police would make the initial arrest and then the County would get called to handle the processing and the evidence.

Chairwoman Nacerino motioned to approve Budgetary Amendment 24A056/ Use of Federally Seized Asset Forfeiture Funds/ Purchase Cameras and Accessories for Narcotics Division/ Sheriff Kevin McConville; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #9 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A057/ Additional Revenue for Sheriff Response Team (SRT)/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Chairwoman Nacerino explained that this is incoming money in the amount of \$15,709.

Legislator Crowley stated that this new fund transfer request is increasing the outside services overtime line by \$15,709, however the voucher sent to finance is for \$27,708.74. She explained that an additional \$11,999.74 that was discussed at the April meeting was transferred by Budgetary Amendment 24A030 in the amount of \$42,156 for rescue equipment. She stated that this is another \$27,708 for a grand total of \$69,864 from the grant.

Captain Schepperly stated that these are different grants with three-year lifecycles. He stated they are not dead until you have used the money and can even extend them into a fourth year by request. He stated that this is the first quarter billing for SRT (Sheriff Response Team) related expenses. He stated that it was submitted to the State who then reviewed and signed off on it as an appropriate use and the State then sent a check to the County. He explained that in the past, they have generally done those filings late in October. He explained that the Sheriff's Department did these filings earlier this year so that they could get funds back earlier, knowing they had more SRT training to do than expected. He stated that it is State money that has been sitting in the 2022 grant, not used yet, that has come in and partially supported some of the SRT training that has been done thus far.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that the request before the Legislature is not for the things Captain Schepperly is speaking of, but just for overtime and FICA in the amount of \$15,709.

Legislator Crowley stated that these are all SHSP (State Homeland Security Program) Grants. Though they are different, the County is still paying money even though it has outstanding balances. She explained that the County is spending money on a new team when ERT still exists. She stated that the County is taking money out of a grant that was written for something completely different. She further stated that the County is essentially defunding other departments and she finds this atrocious.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that tonight, the Legislature is only considering the agenda item at hand, the \$15,709 for overtime and FICA.

Chairwoman Nacerino motioned to approve Budgetary Amendment 24A057/ Additional Revenue for Sheriff Response Team (SRT)/ Sheriff Kevin McConville; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #10 – Approval/ Grant Application – FY204 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)/ Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton**

Chairwoman Nacerino explained that this is an emergency management grant application that was due on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, so it is technically past due. She asked Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Ralph Falloon how the procedure works for past due grant applications.

Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Ralph Falloon stated that these are reoccurring, and the state was behind and had put them out on short notices, so the Bureau of Emergency Services struggled to get them in on time.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that this is in the amount of \$39,382. She also explained that 50% of matching funds are required and will be used to offset salaries.

Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Ralph Falloon added that the Bureau of Emergency Services is going to use this for the Commissioner’s salary.

Chairwoman Nacerino motioned Approval/ Grant Application FY204 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)/ Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton; seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #11 – FYI/ Grant Application – FY2024 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)/ Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton**

Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Ralph Falloon stated that this application comes out every year. The Bureau of Emergency Services applies but does not know how much funding they will receive. He stated that in the previous year, they had received \$234,731, so they hope to receive a similar amount.

Chairwoman Nacerino asked if they intend to use this funding for equipment and supplies.

Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Ralph Falloon stated yes, they will use it for equipment and supplies, and that 35% of this funding goes towards law enforcement.

**Item #12 – FYI/ Grant Application – FY2023 Domestic Terrorism Prevention Grant/  
Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton**

Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Ralph Falloon stated that last year they had received \$172,000, and they hope for at least that amount.

**Item #13 – Adjournment**

There being no further business at 6:31pm Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn;  
Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor

Respectfully submitted by Owen Lennon, PILOT Intern.