

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held In Room #318**

**PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**

**CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members:**

**Chairman Gross, Legislators Gouldman & Nacerino**

**Wednesday**

**February 11, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Chairman Roger Gross. He requested that Legislator Nacerino lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Gouldman, Nacerino and Chairman Gross were present.

**Item #3) Approval/Protective Services Committee Meeting Minutes/November 12<sup>th</sup>,  
December 9, 2014 & January 29, 2015**

Chairman Gross stated that the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4) Approval/Re-Appointment Traffic Safety Board/Patrick Perry**

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve the Re-Appointment to the Traffic Safety Board/Patrick Perry; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #5) Approval/2015 STOP DWI Plan for Putnam County**

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve the 2015 STOP DWI Plan for Putnam County; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Chairman Gross made a motion to waive the Rules and Accept All the Additional; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

**Item #6) Update/Putnam County E911 Call Center**

Chairman Gross stated that he requested that the Administration provide an update on the matter of the E911 Call Center in terms of the new Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services and the plans for the future. He stated that Deputy County Executive Walker was present to provide this information.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that the application process for the Commissioner position for the Bureau of Emergency Services expired last Friday, February 6, 2015. He stated that there are 30 plus candidates who have applied for the position. He stated that Personnel Director Eldridge is the Chairman of the committee who will conduct the selection of the candidate to fill the position. He stated that Legislator Gross is a member of the selection committee along with seven (7) other members that represent the various Fire and Emergency Services. He stated the interview process will begin soon. He stated that 30 plus candidates will take some time to get through. He stated that the process of compiling the members who will be a part of the selection process is being finalized. He stated then there will be a list of questions prepared that will be asked of each of the candidate.

Chairman Gross stated that Legislator William Gouldman, who is a volunteer member of the Putnam Valley Fire Department, has expressed interest in serving on the selection committee. He stated that he would not have a problem with.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he does not have a problem with that. He stated that Legislator Gross's name was submitted due to the fact that he serves as Chairman of the Protective Services Committee. He stated that Legal Counsel VanRoss and Chairman Albano would make the final decision on the representative for the Legislature. He stated that the intent to have a representative from the Legislature was all part of opening up the participation in the selection process to result in the best selection of the candidate for the position.

Legislator Nacerino stated that it had been mentioned by Legal Counsel VanRoss that it may be a conflict of interest to have a Legislator serve on the selection committee, since the Legislature will be voting to confirm the appointment of the Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services.

Legislative Counsel VanRoss stated yes to have a Legislator reviewing the credentials of a candidate and making a recommendation of a candidate that the Legislature will need to confirm in his professional opinion is a conflict. He stated the Legislature's vote on the confirmation of the recommendation, is a different step of the process.

Chairman Gross stated that he recalled a discussion where it was stated it would be a doable to have the designated Legislator recuse them self when the vote is taken.

Legislator Nacerino stated that would cause a problem because there needs to be a super majority of the Legislature in order to confirm the appointment.

Legislator Albano stated that he agrees that it is a conflict to have a Legislator on the review committee.

Chairman Gross questioned if a Legislator could be at the review selection committee meetings in an observer capacity.

Legislative Counsel VanRoss stated that he does not see a problem with that.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he was aware that County Attorney Bumgarner and Legislative Counsel VanRoss spoke on this matter. He stated that one of the solutions that was mentioned was for the Legislator who is designated to represent the Legislature on the review committee would not vote on the selection process. He stated so the designee could participate and see what is going on and be aware of all of the candidates, but not vote. He stated the only down side to this is that there will only be eight (8) voting members on the review selection committee so they could end up with a four (4) four (4) vote.

Chairman Gross believes it would be good to have Legislative representation.

Chairman Gross stated that he and many of the Legislators and the Legislative Office have received correspondences and comments from the Fire Chiefs Association, Mahopac Fire Department and other departments. He stated that they are expressing concern with the possible consolidation of the E-911 Call Center. He stated that there are a lot of thoughts and rumors going around in the County. He stated that he along with Legislators, Addonizio and Gouldman went on a tour of the Bureau of Emergency Services Building, after the Fire Advisory Board meeting on February 8, 2015. He stated that County Executive Odell has referred to the Bureau as a "Gold Standard". He stated that he agrees it is a "Gold Standard" facility.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated he would hope so it is a \$12million building.

Chairman Gross stated that he believes that Homeland Security funding paid for that building.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated there was no Homeland Security funding that paid for that building. He stated that it was paid for with \$8.5million bonds and approximately \$3.7million that came from the Tobacco Settlement.

Legislator Nacerino stated although it may be preliminary, the reason this matter was brought forward this evening is because the Legislators have been inundated with correspondence, calls and comments regarding this matter. She stated from her personal perspective it is all speculations and emotions. She stated that she cannot speak to the matter in any formal manner at all as a Legislator. She stated that her concern is that everyone perceivably seems to know what is going on and formally the Legislators cannot engage in any conversation, because formally the Legislators have not had any dialogue on the floor of the Legislature. She stated that she has met with the Fire Departments in her District on this matter. She stated they have well documented their reasons for concern. She stated, she believes she speaks on behalf of all the Fire Departments when she says, there is great concern and for a very valid reason. She stated again the Legislature has had no formal dialogue so the Legislators cannot speak to the matter with any accuracy.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he would like to address the fact that there has been no formal dialogue. He stated that, as the Administration has done for the past three (3) years, they are looking across the County at every opportunity they have to save money and more importantly provide quality services to our Constituents. He stated, as Legislator Oliverio always use to say, the role of the government is to serve the people; provide health and safety to the residents. He stated that interestingly enough, earlier tonight the STOP DWI Program was approved. He stated that, Director of Probation Funicelli can tell you that the Administration has spent a significant amount of time looking at that program. He stated that arguably, on face value, it looks great the County receives the funding. However when the statistics and how the Administration measures a program, there are other things that could be done that would be better for the Constituents that the County serves. He stated the reason that there has been no dialogue with the Legislator regarding the E-911 Call Center is because there has not been a decision made to do anything with the E-911 Call Center. He stated that they did look at the program and a team was put together consisting of members from the Bureau of Emergency Services and the Sheriff's Department. He stated that he told the Team that they would need to convince him to merge the two (2) services, because he was not convinced that they should be merged. He stated that there was never a decision made and that is why the Administration did not communicate anything to the Legislature; there was nothing to report. He stated that it is still on the shelf as a possibility to further consolidate, but that is it. He stated that he believes that on January 10, 2015, County Executive Odell explained that. He stated that there are probably ten (10) other areas in the County that the Administration is conducting a similar analysis. He stated because that is the job of the Administration. He stated that the members of the Administration work for the people who need the response to a 911 call. He stated at times he believes it is forgotten that the real purpose of the E-911 Call Center is to help the person in the car accident, the person who has a fire, the person who has a home invasion or is a victim of domestic violence. He stated that frankly when you review the processes in place, it can be debated if the best process is in place. He stated for instance when a call comes into the 911 center and the 911 center forwards the call to the Sheriff's Department. He stated the questions needs to be asked

is that the best way to do that; maybe it is. He stated that possibly the processes needs to be changed. He stated that the team that was compiled looked at consolidation as an option in the big picture, also they were looking to see if there are ways to streamline the processes: off shifts, utilization of the resources that the county has in duplication of the furniture and modules the County has, the generators the County has, etc. all of this was being looked at.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she agrees with everything Deputy County Executive Walker is saying, she stated that she wholeheartedly agrees with his position. She stated that what is concerning is that people are speculating and drawing conclusions based on misinformation or emotion.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he cannot stop that.

Legislator Nacerino stated the she knows that. She stated if the Legislators were given tangible information to say or to unveil then the Legislators could speak to that. She stated that if there is an innovative plan that speaks to the future and projects and says we are not repeating the mistakes of the past that would be understood. She stated then the Fire Departments, she is confident, would grasp the concept. She stated until tonight nothing has been referenced as “this is the plan, this is the rationale and the reason why we are doing...whatever”. This is a very big issue in Putnam County. She stated there is a lot of cross conversation going on and information being passed around, that may be inaccurate. She stated that a lot of people are very concerned. She stated that maybe the information could be more forthcoming sooner rather than later. She stated that she is certainly not going to reply to an inquiry without any formal information that is on the floor of this Legislature. She stated that she believes it is important that the Administration and the Executive Branch need to know that everyone in this audience are very concerned and they are the experts in their field and perhaps they should have been engaged in the discussions for them to share the expertise to a solution. She stated we all agree in that the County wants to save money and do the best we can with what we have; being effective and efficient in each year forthcoming.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he understands that perspective. He stated that there is no point in having a conversation when no decision has been made that is worth pursuing. He stated that the Administration would have to come to the Legislature to move budget lines.

Legislator Nacerino questioned when a decision would be made; she believes there are many people waiting to hear that.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated the Administration is not making a decision. He stated that the County Executive has stated that. He stated that people will speculate and cross talk all day long; he cannot control that. He stated on January 10, 2015, County Executive Odell spoke to this; he stated that he thought she made it crystal clear. He stated that County Executive Odell stated that she was not consolidating. He stated “were they looking at it? Absolutely, and they will continue to look at it.” He stated, frankly, with an open Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services position, nothing will be done until there is a person hired into that position. He stated that in the event that they were going to pursue it and follow through, the Administration would bring in the people with the expertise to evaluate the fine details. He stated that the Administration just has not gotten that far yet.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she believes that is what needed to be heard.

Chair Gross read from an e-mail sent to the Legislature dated February 10, 2015 from W. Walters which stated “the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department and the County Executive have generally agreed on staffing if such a move is made, and the measurements and a floor plan have been established for renovation at the PCSO Communications (Putnam County Sheriff’s Office) to enlarge it to accommodate the addition of 911 staff at that location. The Bureau of Emergency Services has NOT been a part of that on-going discussion.”

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that is clearly misinformation. He stated that he knows for a fact, and the only person who designs space around the County is done in-house by Commissioner Pena’s staff in Highways & Facilities. He stated as far as he knows, his Commissioner of Highways & Facilities, who is not here tonight, no body from the Highways & Facilities Department has been to the Sheriff’s Department to take measurements or do floor plans, or anything like that. He stated that they did debate putting the E911 Call Center at the Sheriff’s Department and they also debated it going in the Bureau of Emergency Services Building. He stated however there was no decision made.

Legislator Gouldman stated moving forward if there is an indication that the Administration may want to do that, open the discussion up to the Fire Departments, Legislature and the Ambulance Corps.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated they would absolutely do that. He stated that the Administration needed to their due diligence by going through this review process to educate them to prepare to make a decision. He stated until the Administration did the research there was no point, in his opinion, to have discussions on this matter.

Legislator LoBue stated that she had also heard that consoles had been installed in the Sheriff’s Office.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated he is not aware of that.

Legislator LoBue stated you are not aware of it; maybe you are not aware of it. She stated she has heard that construction has taken place in the Sheriff’s Department.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated he is not aware of who would be doing the construction, since the construction department is within his responsibility.

Legislator LoBue stated for the record , per the information provided by Deputy County Executive Walker in reference to the proposed construction/renovation work reported to be taking place at the Sheriff’s Department “no construction is taking place, they have not installed any consoles for the 911”.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated he has not been in the Sheriff’s Department in a month.

Chair Gross invited Undersheriff Convery to address this matter

Undersheriff Convery stated that there is no construction. He stated that he has not seen anyone from the Highway Department. He stated that they have a three (3) person set up.

Legislator Albano stated that he has also received a lot of calls on this matter. However he explains that there are two (2) branches of government. He stated he continues to explain that the matter is not before the Legislature to address at this time. However when it comes to the Legislature, that is when the

information will be presented to the people. He stated that he also tells them that in the last three (3) years he has been here, everything is being looked at.

Bob Ridpath stated that he is going into his 11<sup>th</sup> year as a Putnam County Dispatcher for 911. He stated that he is a Dutchess County resident. He stated in the interest in presenting and correcting any misinformation indicated by Mr. Walker he would like to point out that there is one (1) 911 Center in Putnam County. He stated that there is a physical back up at the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, but it is not a 911 PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point). He stated it is a single answering point at which 911 dispatchers are trained to a different standards to answer three (3) kinds of calls. He stated that the 911 dispatchers are trained to answer Police, Fire and EMS calls. He stated that they are certified nationally at that level. He stated he would like to correct some misinformation stated earlier. He stated that the emergency calls are only transferred to the Sheriff's Office after they are handled at the Putnam County E-911 Call Center. He stated that non-emergency calls and request for service are transferred to the Sheriff's Office, because that is what the dispatchers have been told to do. He stated that those calls could be handled by the E-911 Dispatchers, they are trained to do that. He stated that he wanted to make sure that the process is understood clearly by stating factual information.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he would like to point out the fact that Mr. Ridpath stated that the Dispatchers were asked to do something in a certain way and that could be debated because maybe that way is not the best way for the Constituents we serve. He stated that process flaw would get identified in the analysis.

Bob Ridpath stated that only non-emergency calls are transferred in that fashion. He stated that the 911 Call Center is responsible for dispatching police patrols, fire and ems to all emergency calls received at the 911 center. He stated that they are trained to handle suicide intervention, disputes and they are tremendously concerned with issues of Officers safety. He stated that the dispatchers want to work with everyone in the County and saving money is a tremendous focus. However as it was stated there is a \$12 million dollar first class facility that is staffed and ready to bring police dispatchers who are trained to a different standard into that room.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that he does not disagree with anything that Mr. Ridpath said.

Chair Gross stated in closing, the key will be to get a new Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services on Board.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated that is correct.

**Item #7) Update-Bureau of Emergency Services/Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton**

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton stated that he has requested to be on the Protective Services Agenda to provide an update on what is being done at the Bureau. He stated the Emergency Action Plans which were developed last year included conducting Fire Drills throughout the County and provide classroom training. He stated that the classroom training was conducted in 2014. He stated they will restart the Fired Drills in the Spring of 2015 throughout the County Buildings. He stated in 2014 they revitalized the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). He stated that by Law the LEPC needs to meet at least once a year, the committee looks at hazardous material plans and

hazardous material throughout the County. He stated that information is given out to the citizens of the County. He stated in 2015 the plan is to meet quarterly, the first meeting being April. He stated another board that got going in 2014 was the Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board (ESSAB). He stated the ESSAB is the board that was established in 2009, by then Commissioner Robert McMahon, when the Fire Advisory Board (FAB) was dissolved. He stated the board is made of Police Officers, Fire Department representatives, EMS representatives and members of the community. He stated that the ESSAB reviews matters in the community that affect emergency services in an adverse manner and try to correct them. He stated as an example currently they are looking at radio communications for all emergency personnel when responding to a situation in a building that is constructed of concrete and steel. The concrete and steel prevents proper radio communication, which obviously is a real problem. He stated that they have been working with Putnam Hospital Center, which is a very difficult building for emergency response personnel to enter due to the great amount of steel and concrete in the construction of the buildings. He stated that Putnam Hospital has specked out a Radio Computer System within the building walls. He stated once it is installed the frequencies for the systems will be sent out to all of the emergency response agencies facilitating proper radio communication with the responders and the Incident Control Center. He stated additionally they look at roadways in terms of emergency personnel responding to situations. He cited as an example Nichols Street is currently being investigated. He stated that the Fire Advisory Board (FAB), which was reinstated in January of 2015 has held their first meeting. They elected their Chairman, Co-chairman and a member of the FAB to be a participant of the Commission that will select the new Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services. He stated that the FAB looks at problems that are facing the Fire Service Departments and the Ambulance Service Departments. He stated that the ten (10) year mandate to swap Firemen's Turnout Gear is a main focus of the FAB. He stated this mandate is extremely expensive. He stated the FAB is looking at the problem with EMTs. He stated that ambulance business is getting busier in Putnam County and there is a lack of support in the way of EMTs. He stated that the training classes are longer making it more difficult for a person who wants to join the ambulance to thus get educated and become an EMT and join the ambulance service. He stated that Putnam County is working on its Hazardous Mitigation Plan. He stated that it should be finalized very shortly. He stated towards the end of 2014 it passed the 45 Day Public Review, it was then moved to the New York State Review. He stated that there were some comments and corrections made at that time. He stated that they have now finished the corrections, and it will be sent back to New York State and then get sent to the Federal Government for the final stamp of approval. He stated that the target to have the process completed is March 2015. He stated that they are working alongside the Putnam County's Sheriff Department and researching a new CAD (computer-aided dispatch) System for the County. He stated that a RFP was requested. However before steps are taken to design a system he is working with Captain Martin on the justification for the system to be presented to the Administration. He stated there will not be any action taken to secure a consultant until everyone is aware and on board with the proposal. He stated that the Bureau was ramping in case there was a need for response in terms of EBOLA. He stated at this time EBOLA has quieted down. He stated that in the Communications Center a new Dispatcher has been hired. He stated that she is in training currently. He stated that she has experience; therefore her training should go quickly. He stated that they are in the process of creating a part-time pool of Dispatchers. He stated currently there are two (2) part-time dispatchers that are going through the hiring process. He stated the goal is to create a pool of part-time dispatchers resulting in a reduction in overtime. He stated they are beginning talks to coordinate an Indian Point drill. He stated that in 2014 there was the "Hostile Action Based Drill." He stated that Putnam County was the County to watch. He stated that Putnam County did not receive any corrections. He stated that due to a snow storm the first meeting for the "Ingestion Pathway Exercise" was cancelled. He stated it is rescheduled for the end of February. He stated

approximately it takes a year and a half in preparation for these drills. He stated that the “Ingestion Pathway Exercise” is scheduled to be conducted approximately June or July of 2016.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how many of the buildings in Putnam County have an issue with the Repeater Systems.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton stated that the Bureau is actually being approached by different people asking about their Repeater Systems. He stated Judge Reitz has reached out because the new courthouse never received the system that it was supposed to during construction. He stated that also the School buildings are made out of steel and concrete, so they are being looked at.

Chair Gross requested for clarification and description of a Repeater System be provided.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton stated a Repeater System picks up a signal that transmits from a radio and then the Bureau broadcast to a system of radios. He stated that if a Chief is outside one of the buildings with the concrete and steel construction he cannot transmit to his Firefighters inside the building. He stated that a Repeater System would pick up the signal with a much stronger wattage. That is a basic explanation of a highly technical system.

Legislator LoBue stated she was thankful for all of the information that Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Lipton provided. She stated that she would like to readdress the review of the CAD system. She questioned why the CAD system is being looked at.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton stated that on March 2, 2015 it will be the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) year anniversary of the E-911 Call Center. He stated the CAD system was a showroom model. He stated that the software is not being supported anymore. He stated it is being supported in terms of if something goes wrong with it, a technician will come and fix it, however there are no longer any updates being made to it. He stated that also over the years there have been multiple issues with it. He stated the coding functions don't work. He continued to provide the inefficiencies with the current CAD system.

Legislator LoBue questioned how many Dispatchers are there currently in the County's E-911 Call Center.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton stated currently there are 13 Full Time Dispatchers.

Legislator LoBue questioned how many part-time Dispatchers are there.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton stated that they are in the process of hiring two (2) part-time Dispatchers. He stated that they would like to have a total of five (5) part-timers.

Legislator LoBue questioned what the shifts are at the E-911 Call Center.



Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton stated that there are three (3) shifts, ABC: A= 12midnight to 8:00a.m. B= 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. C= 4:00p.m. 12midnight the shift coincide with the shifts at the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Nacerino stated that while she was in attendance at the NYSAC conference, earlier this month, there was a lot of talk about "Next Generation 911." She questioned if Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton could speak to this subject.

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton stated they are looking at newer, greater, radio systems. He stated that the CAD system would have to support that radio system. He stated that Putnam County had put in a new Radio System , which the current CAD system does not support.

**Item #8) Approval/E-911 Advisory Board/Amendment Requests to be made to the Membership**

Acting Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services R. Lipton stated that the request is to amend the membership of the E-911 Advisory Board to include a representative from the Village of Brewster Police Department, and remove the wording from the original resolution #75 of 2005 that stated "Chairman of the Putnam County Fire & EMS Advisory Board" and include a representative from the Fire Advisory Board and the EMS Council.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve as noted the amendment to the E-911 Advisory Board; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

**Item #9) Discussion/Resolutions passed by Chemung County & Yates County/Calling NYS to Develop a 100% State-Funded Indigent Legal Defense System As a Way To Provide Mandate Relief and Lower Property Taxes**

Chairman Gross stated that he would like to read from a portion of the backup. He stated that the financial burden has been placed on the Counties since 1965 to provide the Indigent Legal Defense. The Chemung County and Yates County have passed resolutions requesting that the State of New York Develop a 100% State – Funded Indigent Legal Defense System. He stated he has been told that this would not have a negative impact on the Legal Aid, it would be additional funding.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve Memorialization/Calling on the State of New York to Increase Indigent Legal Defense system Funding; Seconded by Chair Gross. All in favor.

**Item #10) FYI/Correspondence Fr-Chair of Protective R. Gross To: Putnam County Executive Odell & Putnam County Sheriff Smith cc: Putnam County Attorney Bumgarner Re: NYSAC/Opt-In Provision to Enact a Local Law Authorizing the Sale and Use of Smaller Fireworks, Such as a Sparkler or Sparkler Devices**

Chairman Gross stated that he has sent a request to the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Sheriff requesting their position on this proposal, as well as requesting that the County Law Department send their legal opinion.

Legislator Nacerino stated at NYSAC they were advocating for this Opt-In Provision. She stated that it has been approved by Governor Cuomo. She read from a handout that she received. She stated in her opinion she believes this should be considered by Putnam County.

Chairman Gross stated that the sales would only be permitted June 1 through to July 5 and December 26 to January 2. He stated that this matter will be discussed again at the March Protective Services meeting.

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

**Item #12) Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 7:20 P.M., Legislator Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trabulsy.