

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ROOM 318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512
(Chairman Albano, Legislators Castellano & Scuccimarra)**

Wednesday

December 14, 2016

(Immediately Following the Personnel Mtg @ 6:30p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 6:45p.m. by Chairman Albano who requested Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Chairman Albano and Legislators Scuccimarra and Castellano were present.

Chairman Albano stated he would be proceeding through the agenda out of order, starting with Item #6.

Item #6 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment #16A088/Required to set up the Fair Street Federal Road Project/Commissioner Pena

Highway and Facilities Commissioner Fred Pena stated the Highway Department had a productive meeting with the New York State Department of Transportation Local Projects unit and clarified some issues. He stated he feels the Fair Street project is close to being locked in, financially and schedule wise. He stated he cannot guarantee the State Marcheselli funds.

Highway and Facilities Deputy Commissioner John Tully stated the State Marcheselli funds are based, in part, on the State Legislative Budget. He stated it is typically funded.

Chairman Albano stated whether the funds are brought in or not, there are still very important projects that have to get done, such as bridges.

Commissioner Pena stated the Fair Street project will cost \$15.6 million overall and the County's share of that number is \$1.5 million. He stated there is also approximately \$250,000 that has been deobligated and they will be looking to get it back.

Chairman Albano questioned if this will take time to get started.

Commissioner Pena stated there will be Eminent Domain Proceedings Law (EDPL) Public Hearings that will need to take place. He stated there is only one (1) house that the Highway Departments feels should be a part of those hearings.

Legislator Addonizio questioned where the house is located.

Commissioner Pena stated it is at the lowest point of Fair Street, because it is going to be raised up, which will affect that property greatly. He stated the road will be raised to protect it from flooding.

Chairman Albano stated that is a big improvement from when this project started, at which time many houses were considered to be part of the project.

Legislator LoBue questioned if there has been communication with the homeowner.

Commissioner Pena stated not yet. He stated it would not be appropriate at this time, due to the fact that the project is not approved yet.

Legislator Addonizio questioned what would happen if the homeowner did not agree.

Chairman Albano stated in compliance with the EDPL the County Highway Department would still be able to complete the project. He stated when this project first was designed there were many houses that were going to be affected, so this is a step in the right direction.

Legislator LoBue questioned what would be done with the property.

Commissioner Pena stated it would be purchased at fair market value.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated the construction phase of the project would not start until 2019 but it is essential to have the financial plan in place.

Legislator Castellano questioned when the residents on the street would be notified about the project.

Deputy Commissioner Tully stated most have an idea that a project is in the works.

Legislator Castellano made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment #16A088, Required to set up the Fair Street Federal Road Project to the Audit & Administration Committee Meeting; Seconded by Chairman Albano. All in favor.

Item #7 - Update/Capital Projects Monthly Report/Commissioner Pena

Chairman Albano requested an update on the lighting project in the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Pena stated it is a valid project. He stated it will be discussed at the next Capital Projects meeting before bringing it in front of the Physical Services Committee.

Item #3 - Discussion/County Transportation Service/Legislator LoBue

Legislator LoBue stated a constituent contacted her regarding the County Buses he rides home from work. She stated the constituent has stated that the bus is consistently late at pick up. She stated there have been a few issues since the County changed busing companies and complaints from the bus drivers. She stated there is a new schedule and she would like a copy of it. She stated she has been told that there are buses going back and forth between Senior Centers. She stated the reports she has received state that there is no ridership with the trips into the Senior Centers because the Seniors are accustomed to the on call service. She stated unfortunately the constituent could not attend the meeting due to illness. She stated this constituent is one of many who have contacted her in regards to the County Buses not being on time.

Chairman Albano stated there are approximately 230 square miles to cover and the busing routes may not be cost effective. He stated the routes where only a handful of people are being picked

up should be looked at for their cost effectiveness. He stated he has not received any constituent complaints.

Legislator LoBue noted there were bus drivers who came to a Physical Services Committee Meeting and complained that the buses are never on time because of issues with maintenance. She stated the solution is not to cut down routes.

Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna stated the buses do approximately 110,000 trips a year and he receives six (6) to eight (8) complaints a month. He stated he believes that is a decent service being provided to people and at a low cost. He acknowledged there have been issues with additional congestion, particularly in Brewster. He stated there is always a reason for the delays, it is not the fault of the bus company. He stated the Transportation Department is doing their best to improve and make the routes more efficient. He stated there are not 12 trips to the Senior Center complexes.

Legislator LoBue stated bus drivers have told her that there are 12 trips a day.

Transportation Manager Tamagna disputed this. He stated there is a schedule online that can be viewed. He stated that the “on calls” on the schedule were always on there, it has not been changed. He stated the drivers now go into the Senior Center complexes (complexes), in the conscious effort to accommodate the Seniors who utilize the complexes. He stated that they go into Hughson Commons and Hill Crest. He stated this began in October 2016. He stated according to the Federal Transit Authority, these trips to the complexes do not constitute a change in the schedule because the complexes were already on the route. He stated the current bus fleet is aging. He stated the bus drivers have complained about the aging buses. He stated eight (8) buses are approaching 200,000 miles. He stated due to the fact that the Federal Government pays for 80% of the vehicle, they require that they are driven to at least 200,000 miles. He stated eight (8) buses have been ordered and will be delivered around March 1, 2017. He stated another eight (8) buses are on pace to hit 200,000 miles in 2017 and they will be replaced in 2018.

Legislator LoBue questioned who changes the schedule.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated it has not been changed.

Legislator LoBue stated there are bus drivers who have told her the schedule changed. She stated drivers have told her they go six (6) times in the morning and six (6) in the afternoon to the Mahopac Hills Housing and the buses are empty. She stated the County switched bus companies and the new company was of much less cost. She stated this is because of the lack of efficient maintenance. She stated the buses running late is due to the current contract with the new company, it is not because of the age of the buses. She stated she brought this forward to be on record to state that she hopes the County will take a look at the system and improve it. She stated it is not the level of quality service that the County had in the past. She stated the ridership has gone down, based on the revenue.

Chairman Albano stated he has not received any communication that can justify what has been said by Legislator LoBue. He questioned if any other of the Legislators have received complaints.

Legislator Nacerino stated she has received no complaints. She stated there are two (2) different issues, the maintenance of the buses and the efficiency of the routes. She stated that based on the number of riders versus the number of complaints received per year, she does not see a problem. She stated there are unforeseen circumstances that occur. She stated that she believes this is normal operation procedure. She stated if this was problematic to a different extent, then she believes it would warrant the utmost attention of the Legislature.

Legislator LoBue stated the lack of maintenance of the buses causes the buses to be late to their pickups.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated he would be interested in bringing his team to the next committee meeting.

Legislator Gross questioned if there is a problem with the parts.

Transportation Manager Tamagna stated the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) is on site weekly, on Wednesday. He stated the DOT issues inspections and no bus goes more than 30,000 miles without a rigorous inspection. He stated considering there are only 22 buses, he cannot afford to have buses breaking down. He stated the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) checks in on the buses to make sure they are being maintained using an electronic Transit Management Asset System. He stated currently there is a much better handle on the bus parts. He stated in the past there were parts being purchased sitting on shelves and were obsolete. He stated the way maintenance is included for the maintenance of the buses is included in the cost per mile. He stated that is how the current contract for the buses saved the County approximately \$1 million. He stated the County buses are not breaking down, as Legislator LoBue stated is being reported to her. He stated the routes have not been changed and the maintenance of the buses is fine. He stated he would be happy to bring the maintenance team and the General Manager from MV Transportation in front of this committee. He stated if a bus is towed in he has to call the FTA, as part of “continuing satisfactory control.” He stated if he does not call it in, it could jeopardize future grants. He stated the schedule has been the same since 2012. He stated the only changes have been to go into and through the senior complexes to make it more convenient for them and in hopes that it increases the ridership as a result of the Seniors seeing a bus regularly going through their development. He stated that they are just trying this in an effort to increase ridership. He stated the more frequent runs will present more flexibility to the Seniors. He stated this is a test. He stated it will be evaluated. He stated it has been less than two (2) months. He stated that he understands that Drivers are not getting the extra 3-4 minutes for their break. He stated, however he believes the County Transportation Department needs to do what serves the public best.

Chairman Albano stated the routes should be checked for efficiency.

Legislator Nacerino noted that there have been some disgruntled drivers in the past. She stated unless the drivers approach the Legislature in the proper manner then she is just going to dismiss their concerns under the assumption that they are disgruntled for one reason or another. She stated this has been all hearsay with no solid facts.

Lynne Eckardt, Town of Southeast Councilwoman, noted that she has ridden on some of the buses and they are old. She suggested the Legislators, and anyone interested, should ride the buses to check their status and maintenance.

Legislator Nacerino stated Legislators have ridden the buses.

Item #4 - Approval/Second Amendment to Lease Agreement County of Putnam with Mt. Tremper Outdoor Ministries, Inc., Camp Wilbur Herrlich Property/First Deputy County Attorney Negro

First Deputy County Attorney Andrew Negro stated pursuant to Resolution #140 of 2016 the Law Department worked with Mount Tremper and Executive Director of Camp Herrlich Bob Gentile in order to finalize a proposed second amendment to the Lease. He stated the first amendment was in 2012. He stated the main points of this amendment are to extend the lease for a 20 year term, to fix the rental payments at \$36,000 per year from 2017-2026, with it escalating to \$45,000 for the five (5) years after that, and then \$60,000 for the final five (5) years. He stated some of the capital improvements language was changed. He stated if Mount Tremper was to build a new building, which he believes they plan on doing, the County would have to approve plans, the County would not be responsible for reimbursements in the event that the lease terminates or at the end of the lease. He stated the right for the County to terminate for convenience was removed, so it is a true 20 year lease. He stated if there is a State or Judicial decree that requires termination or if there is cause, the County would have the right to terminate. He stated the right for the County to terminate for convenience was removed to assist Mount Tremper with their financing abilities. He stated if for any reason the lease is terminated, the County would not have to fulfill certain reimbursements to Mount Tremper, as in the previous lease.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is happy this is coming to fruition and is moving forward.

Legislator Castellano made a motion to move to approve the Second Amendment to Lease Agreement County of Putnam with Mt. Tremper Outdoor Ministries, Inc., Camp Wilbur Herrlich Property to the Year End Meeting; Seconded by Chairman Albano. All in favor.

Item # 5 - Approval/Sale of County Property Pursuant to Chapter 31 of the Putnam County Code/Town of Kent TM#33.73-1-60/ First Deputy County Attorney Negro

Chairman Albano stated the property was purchased for \$20,000.

Legislator Castellano questioned the original price of the property.

First Deputy County Attorney Negro stated it was listed for \$45,000.

Chairman Albano made a motion to move approve the Sale of County Property Pursuant to Chapter 31 of the Putnam County Code, Town of Kent TM#33.73-1-60 to the Year End Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

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

Item #9 - Other Business

- a. Approval/Lease Agreement Renewal/American Legion Post #275, Town of Philipstown**

Chairman Albano made a motion to move approve the Lease Agreement Renewal, American Legion Post #275, Town of Philipstown to the Year End Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #8 - Update/4th Quarter Spreadsheet-County Owned Properties on MLS- Duly Noted.

Item #10 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:15pm Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Ed Gordon.