

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE
BUDGET MEETING
HELD IN ROOM 318 OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Addonizio & Sayegh

Wednesday

6:00pm

October 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Sayegh, and Chairman Gouldman were present.

Item #3 - 2019 Budget Review

Dues – Account 1920 – Page 43

Chairman Gouldman stated this consists of the Dues for the National Association of Counties, Pattern for Progress, New York State Association of Counties, and County Executives of America. He stated an increase is projected for 2019. He suggested decreasing the allotment for Dues from \$17,000 to \$16,000.

Legislator Addonizio questioned what the reason is for the projected increase.

Chairman Gouldman stated it is in case there is an increase in the required dues.

Legislator Nacerino stated she agrees with the suggested decrease.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to decrease the Dues budget to \$16,000; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Tourist Promotion Agency – Account 6410 – Page 162

Legislator Addonizio stated the Legislature received a letter stating that the estimated grant from New York State through the I Love New York Matching Funds program has increased, therefore the County will have to match the funds that the State provides. She stated it is now estimated at \$68,192.

Chairman Gouldman stated it is currently budgeted at \$65,000.

Legislator Sayegh noted this is an estimate from the State, not a guarantee.

Legislator Nacerino stated it would be prudent to increase the County Contribution in order to reserve the potential funds from the State.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to increase the County Contribution to \$68,192; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Chairman Gouldman questioned if the Advertising line 54664 is for advertising in Putnam County or additional advertising.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated it is for advertising within Putnam County.

Chairman Gouldman noted the I Love New York funds cannot be used within Putnam County.

Legislator Jonke questioned where the other part of the \$147,000 in funding is going towards, if only \$5,000 is spent on advertising.

Legislative Auditor Michele Sharkey stated the \$5,000 is only for local advertising.

Economic Development Corporation – Account 6420 – Page 163

Chairman Gouldman stated the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) requested \$200,000 for the 2019 budget, which was up from the 2018 budget of \$175,000. He questioned what the extra \$25,000 would be used for.

EDC President Jill Varrichio stated she expects the Accelerator to be up and running by the end of 2018 and money for marketing would be needed. She stated she would like to attend more trade shows to increase exposure for Putnam County. She stated it would also ensure the EDC has the most up to date information. She explained how a subscription service like Statebook, which provides various demographic information, could be used on the EDC's website to attract businesses.

Legislator Sullivan requested a breakdown of the EDC's budget.

Legislative Auditor Sharkey provided the Legislators with a copy of the breakdown.

Legislator Jonke questioned who is providing the necessary funding for the Accelerator.

EDC President Varrichio stated it is from an entity that supports workforce development.

Legislator Sayegh requested clarification on how the extra \$25,000 that the EDC requested would be spent.

EDC President Varricchio stated it would be used to more in depth marketing, such as having a booth at a convention floor.

Legislator Jonke questioned how much a booth costs.

EDC President Varricchio stated it varies, but could be up to \$15,000. She stated going to conventions could be facilitated through the HVEDC (Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation).

Legislator Jonke questioned how much a booth would cost through the HVEDC.

EDC President Varricchio stated approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Legislator Jonke questioned who does the accounting for the EDC.

EDC President Varricchio stated Alan Wolfson.

Legislator Sayegh questioned what memberships the EDC currently subscribes to.

EDC President Varricchio stated EDC is a member of the HVEDC, Pattern for Progress, New York Economic Development Corporation, three (3) different Chambers of Commerce, Costar, and Statebook. She stated the EDC has also raised money through businesses becoming members.

Legislator Addonizio questioned what the cost is to be a member of the EDC.

EDC President Varricchio stated it varies with the size of the organization.

Legislator Jonke questioned what projects have come through the EDC over the past two (2) years.

EDC President Varricchio stated the Romanian distillery project came through the EDC and will bring more than 60 jobs to Putnam County. She stated she helps facilitate discussions with prospective businesses. She stated another project that came through the EDC was Firematic Supply Company in the Town of Patterson. She stated she has monthly meetings regarding land use. She stated she works with the Department of Real Property to identify parcels for potential use.

Legislator Jonke questioned if commercial brokers are present at these meetings.

EDC President Varricchio stated there are. She stated she also invites elected officials from different municipalities.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the \$10,000 in membership fees collected by the EDC is not revenue.

Commissioner Carlin stated it is not revenue to the County, it is revenue to the EDC.

Putnam County IDA – Account 6460 – Page 165

IDA Board Chairman Bill Nulk stated the IDA has requested \$50,000 to be put into su-contingency. He stated now that the IDA has an official office, there are regular expenses that have been planned for. He stated the IDA is comfortably financed with money in the bank.

Legislator Addonizio requested clarification on where the funding is in the tentative budget.

Commissioner Carlin stated it is on Page 49, Line 54981.

Item #4 - Other Business – None.

Item #5 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:29 P.M., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn;
Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.