Economic Development Committee Meeting Held In Room #318 Putnam County Office Building Members: Chairman Birmingham & Legislators DiCarlo & Tamagna

Thursday	December 27, 2012	6:30 P.M.
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The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Birmingham. Legislator Tamagna led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Tamagna, DiCarlo and Chairman Birmingham were present.

#3) Approval/Re-Appointments/Putnam County Industrial Development Agency/Marissa Brett/Theresa Waivada

Legislator Tamagna made a motion to approve the Re-Appointment/Putnam County Industrial Development Agency/Marissa Brett and Theresa Waivada. Seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

#4) FYI/Foreclosure Report

Duly Noted.

#5) FYI/Unemployment Report

Legislator DiCarlo stated that it has just been reported that Putnam County is now down to 6.2%, which is second to the lowest in the state. Hopefully this trend will continue to continue moving down through 2013.

#6) Other Business

Legislator Oliverio stated that he is very disturbed by an article he read in the local paper, criticizing the great works that our President of the EDC (Kevin Bailey) has done. That is not what he has seen and witnessed over the years. We have had great success with our EDC. The State of New York and the Federal Government simply does not give Grants now. He knows this from working at his School and also from the Town. He and Supervisor Tendy have been working on three or four Grants, and it was not approved each time. These are very tough economic times, and to throw this person under the Bus, as this individual who for many years has done such great work is sad and unnecessary as well as uncalled for. Legislator Oliverio wanted to state for the record, that as the minority in the Legislature, he found it "VERY" distasteful to read.

Legislator Oliverio's second concern is that he noticed that the County Executive has put forward a request for a proposal for the head of the EDC. The EDC is a separate Board. We do not ask or choose another Organization to come forward to us, and we look for their head of their organization. The EDC stands alone, even though he believes there is a movement in the Executive Office to make it a pawn under that authority, and he is appalled by that as we have no right to tamper in the EDC's affairs. That organization is being kicked around like a poor disowned dog, and it is wrong. It is very distasteful and he wanted to be sure that he expressed that for the record from the head of the minority party, even though he is only one. He feels very strongly about this and also knows that many of his peers also feel the same way.

Chairman Birmingham stated that he does not feel that Legislator Oliverio is a minority in that viewpoint, as Legislator Oliverio is a member of the majority.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that a lot of Grants both on the State and Federal level are drying up, and that same individual who was spoken about in the paper, last year had two major projects that was not funded. When you are looking at the Grants and looking at some of these opportunities, what the State does and what the people who give out Grants look at, is who has not had an opportunity and who may have had something the year before. They try to be (quote un-quote) as equitable as possible. Sometimes it is just the matter of how the cycle runs. As people move forward, where you leave a specific job and of course it is very easy to play not to reflect on our own self, but on others. He feels that there is some better way to do things today and that we had opportunity to do things better this year, but it didn't happen.

The reason for the development of the EDC, the quote of "separation of powers," is we should not get involved. The person who is running the EDC should not be looking at it as though any weight is being pulled by other branches. Echoing what Legislator Oliver has stated and moving forward, as the new Legislators come on, and those of us who are present, we want to make sure that we do adhere to that as there should be a third party looking in at Economic Development in Putnam County.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he wanted to just sum up that the EDC is their own separate Board that makes the recommendation as to who should run that organization, not County government. He will oppose any recommendation that comes out of County government for that position. He will not support that individual based upon the fact that we need to separate the EDC from all political concerns. He has said that and many of us have stated that before, and that point needs to be made very clear. Just like this Legislature, it is separate and distinct from the Executive Branch, and we need to make that very clear also. In history when the Legislative branch is held down by the Executive branch, you end up with nothing but a dictatorship and that is the way Putnam County should be run.

Chairman Birmingham stated that he has known Kevin Bailey for almost twenty years now, and he know the work that he has done with his leadership with the EDC. He knows that Kevin will be retiring soon of his own volition for his personal character. He wants to thank him for being a friend not only personally to him, but to Putnam County as well. He would like to make a motion from this Committee to be forwarded to the Full Legislative Meeting to express the will of the Legislature, as a vote of confidence, in our, not only in Kevin's abilities, but also that of the EDC Board.

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to express the will of the Legislature, as a vote of confidence, not only Kevin's abilities, but that of his Board. Seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

#7) Adjournment

Being no further business to discuss, Legislator Tamagna made a motion to adjourn the meet. Seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Claire E. Muller Administrative Assistant