Economic Development & Energy Committee Meeting Held In Room #318

Putnam County Office Building Members: Chairwoman Scuccimarra & Legislators LoBue and Gross

<u>Tuesday</u> <u>March 26, 2013</u> @ 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairwoman Scuccimarra. Chairwoman Scuccimarra led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators LoBue, Gross and Chairwoman Scuccimarra were present.

Item #3) 2013 Shop Putnam Business & Home Expo to be held on May 11, 2013/Marjorie Keith/Update

Marjorie Keith, Executive Director for Cornell Cooperative Extension, along with her colleagues Bill Nulk, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Putnam County and Jim Reilly, Co-Chair of the Business Expo and Laurie Ford, the President of the Greater Home Town of Carmel Chamber of Commerce were present to give the committee an update on the Business Expo to be held on May 11, 2013.

Ms. Keith stated this is the eighth Expo that has been done. They had missed last year due to looking for a new Venue. They are very pleased to tell the Committee this evening about the changes that are forthcoming for this year's Business Expo. The purpose of this Expo is to promote businesses in Putnam County and to encourage our Putnam residents to shop local.

Mr. Reilly Co-Chair of the Business Expo stated that Cornell Cooperative has been a great support, and they continue to do so. This Expo will be a very different one as it is totally unique. It has always been a local Expo held at the Villa Barrone. They are now opening this Expo up to every single business in the County. They are working with all the Chambers of Commerce to accomplish this, and make one unique organization. The model Expo that was held at the Villa Barrone worked very well, but it did not have the horse power to support this new type of Venue. The event will be covered by Radio with Social Media, as well as being tied into the Putnam Tourist Board to attract people from New York City. Also included in the Expo will be a Seminar on the new Di Vinci Robot which does some special types of surgeries, as well as routine surgeries, and Raffles for the Public. They are expecting approximately 5,000 people to attend this Expo, which has never happened in the Expo's history, which makes this the largest Expo ever held in Putnam County.

Mr. Reilly went on to state that they now have a website called Shop Putnam, where anyone can access information.

Mr. Reilly asked the Committee if it would be possible to receive a Proclamation from the County Legislators regarding this event, which they would in turn be able to use as a marketing tool to promote business in Putnam County. They also will be hosting a "Post Shop Putnam Workshop" that will be held at Putnam Hospital which will be offered to help businesses learn more strategies to help boost their businesses.

Ms. Ford stated that they have reached out to the families, the small communities, as well as anyone who would like to come to the Expo and show what their best products are. There will also be Restaurants from Carmel, Kent and Brewster joining them.

Mr. Reilly stated that their goal is to get as many people interested in your business as they can. They have also just launched "The Best in Putnam Contest" where you can sample some of the signature dishes from these Restaurants.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that he would recommend through the Committee, that we pass a Proclamation forward to the Full Legislative Meeting, proclaiming May 11, 2013, and perhaps include the entire week, as "Focus on Business Week."

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to approve a Proclamation declaring the month of May as Business and Home Expo month. Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

#4) NYSAC Resolution (#3) Opposing the Governor's Proposal to Limit
Industrial Development Agencies Ability to Grant State Sales Tax
Exemptions as Part of Local Economic Development Efforts/Discussion

Legislator Gross made a motion to table NYSAC Resolution #3 Opposing the Governor's Proposal to Limit Industrial Development Agencies Ability to Grant State Sales Tax Exemptions as Part of Local Economic Development Efforts until our April 2013 Meeting. Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

#5) NYSAC Resolution # (4) Urging Renewed State Investment in Airports to Promote Economic Development and Job Creation/Discussion

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to move Resolution #4- Urging Renewed State Investment in Airports to Promote Economic Development and Job Creation to the Full Legislative Meeting scheduled for May 1, 2013. Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to accept the additional. Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

#6) Call Center/Possible Business Venture for Putnam County/Discussion

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that this item will also be tabled as Legislator Othmer could not be here this evening and he would like to discuss this, as well as Commissioner of Planning Anthony Ruggiero, who will also be here next month to discuss this item.

Legislator LoBue made a motion to table the **Call Center/Possible Business Center for Putnam County** until next month. Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

#7) Carmel New York Comcast Office Relocation/Discussion

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that the Committee has received a letter from Comcast stating that they had notified the New York Public Service Commission and each Town Supervisor and every Town they serve in New York, of the relocation of their office. Please note that Comcast will still maintain a presence in the Carmel area. The Carmel office will remain open for technical operations workforce and other functions. They will be re-locating the customer portion of their operation to Danbury Connecticut which is only 13 miles from our Carmel office.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated it is a shame that any business would leave Putnam County to go to another state, not to mention the loss of revenue this will cause. The people here in this area that will now be inconvenienced due to the fact of having to travel 13 miles away.

Supervisor Schmitt of the Town of Carmel stated that the Town of Carmel is opposed to the relocation of Comcast, as it will definitely create a hardship for our local residents. Currently there is no breach in their franchise agreement that was originally made. The agreement will be up at this time next year and the Town of Carmel will demand that Comcast provide a local office for the customers.

Legislator LoBue stated that a lot of people will now switch their service over to Verizon due to the move.

Supervisor Schmitt stated he agrees with Legislator LoBue.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that perhaps we could contact Comcast and state that we are getting a lot of feedback from our constituents, and could we possible arrange a sit down to discuss this move. We are hearing comments from people in the town that if they are going to be treated this way by Comcast, they will be switching providers. Comcast will have to understand what the consequences are relating to this move to Connecticut.

Legislator Oliverio asked if the Town of Carmel will negotiate with Verizon as they did with Comcast.

Supervisor Schmitt stated yes. In the agreement with Verizon, it states that they must maintain a local Customer Service Center which is located in the Shop Rite Plaza.

Legislator Gross suggested that a letter be sent from the Committee to Comcast expressing our concerns regarding the distance that people will need to travel.

Supervisor Schmitt stated he had sent a letter to Comcast himself, and it did not do any good.

Legislator LoBue made the suggestion to Supervisor Schmitt that perhaps he could make an announcement at the Town of Carmel Board Meeting about Comcast's plan to relocate, and give the residents a chance to call Comcast and complain.

- **#8) FYI/Foreclosure report for January 2013** was duly noted.
- **#9**) **FYI/Unemployment Report** was duly noted.

There being no further business to discuss, at 7:05 P.M., Legislator Gross made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted: Claire E. Muller Administrative Assistant