

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

Members: Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislators Gouldman & Gross

Tuesday **6:00 p.m.** **September 13, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested that Legislator Gross lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Gouldman, Legislator Gross and Chairwoman Addonizio were present.

Item #3 – Approval of Minutes – July 21, 2016

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Update / Putnam County Industrial Development Agency / Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended 2015 / Extension Request to NYS Comptroller

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that this is in regards to the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) having not yet filed the Annual Financial Report.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated that he and County Executive MaryEllen Odell received a response from the New York State (NYS) Comptroller to the original extension request stating that the request should come from the CFO of the IDA. He stated that he, Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker, and IDA Chairman Bill Nulk signed and sent another request to the NYS Comptroller's office. He stated that there has been no response yet. He stated that the IDA is still moving forward, with or without the extension. He added that the Board has approved funding and the IDA is currently putting together the funding contracts with outside agencies. He stated that the IDA Board is finalizing a contract with a consultant and is moving forward to get back into compliance.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned when the letter was sent.

Commissioner Carlin stated it was sent September 8, 2016. He stated the original request was sent about a month before that.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the Comptroller's office usually grants extensions.

Commissioner Carlin stated that he is unaware of their past decisions. He stated that Chairman Nulk spoke with the Comptroller's office and was told that once the IDA is in compliance it will be immediately reinstated.

Chairman Bill Nulk stated that once the IDA is in compliance, it will receive a letter rescinding the previous letters of non-compliance.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if there are any fines or penalties for being non-compliant past the deadline.

Chairman Nulk stated that there are no fines or penalties. He stated that it is only a function of being in or out of the IDA business.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the IDA has done any site visits.

Chairman Nulk stated that they have not, because they are waiting to become compliant first, however they are currently setting up meetings. He stated that the IDA has spoken with a consultant. He stated that they are ready to move forward.

Legislator LoBue questioned what attorneys the IDA would be using.

Chairman Nulk stated that there are no attorneys currently on retainer.

Legislator LoBue questioned if that is dangerous, because the IDA is left without an attorney to turn to for advice. She stated that with potential clients waiting, it would be good to have an attorney with IDA knowledge available.

Chairman Nulk stated that when the IDA gets to the point of moving forward with clients, they will bring on an attorney to assist. He stated that there are a very small number of attorneys who are knowledgeable in the IDA business.

Legislator LoBue stated that the reason she brought up the site visits is because there is revenue waiting in these sites.

Chairman Nulk stated that the IDA currently does not have the expertise or previous information to move forward.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the past files are available.

Chairman Nulk stated that the past files are not accessible at this time. He stated that any past information that is available has not helped in moving forward. He stated the IDA needs more specific guidance on what needs to be done and where they currently stand.

Legislator LoBue stated that the IDA had an accountant who should have all the prior documents that are needed.

Chairman Nulk stated that since the IDA has the approval of the Legislature, it can now move forward with these types of inquiries.

Legislator Nacerino stated that it is important to get all necessary details and processes in place before moving forward.

Chairman Nulk stated that is what they are currently working towards.

Legislator LoBue questioned how long Bill Nulk has been on the IDA Board.

Chairman Nulk stated that he was on the previous board from June 2015 to January 2016 and he has been on the current board since May.

Legislator Albano stated that the IDA is headed towards a good place to start.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that the IDA is on the right track.

Item #5 - FYI/Unemployment Report – Duly noted.

Item #6 - FYI/Foreclosure Report

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that for same time period in 2015, foreclosures in 2016 have increased.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if these numbers are truly reflective of the time period and added that the foreclosure process takes a long time.

Chairwoman Addonizio agreed and stated that some of these foreclosure numbers could have been in the works for years.

Legislator Albano stated that he spoke with County Clerk Michael Bartolotti, and he stated that while the number of finalized foreclosures is up, the number of new foreclosures has been down every year since 2013.

Legislator LoBue stated that Putnam County is in the top five (5) counties of foreclosures in the State. She stated that these foreclosures drag down property values in the County.

Item #7a - Other Business / Discussion /Tourism Director Position Status /Legislator LoBue
Item #7b. – Other Business /Discussion /Outside Agencies/ Putnam County Email Address/
Legislator LoBue

Legislator LoBue stated that a constituent who applied for the Director of Tourism position was contacted by Acting Director of the Visitor's Bureau Frank Smith and was told that the job description was changed and that everyone who has applied should read over the new job description and reapply for the position. She stated at a ceremony at Tilly Foster, Frank Smith was introduced as "Deputy Director of Tourism" which makes it sound like someone has been appointed as director.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that nobody has been appointed.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that a memo should be sent to Frank Smith seeking clarification on the status of the Director position.

Legislator LoBue stated that she noticed that while Tourism is an outside agency, they have a Putnam County email address. She stated that outside agencies do not usually have government email addresses.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that the Committee would reach out to Acting Director Smith to find out why Tourism has a County email address.

Legislator LoBue requested Legislative Counsel Clement Van Ross' opinion.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated that since they are an outside agency who promotes tourism as a non-profit, they should have their own email address.

Legislator Albano stated that this should be looked into and make sure it is done right. He stated that while the email address does not grant any special privilege, the Legislature should make sure the process is correct.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that people who receive emails from Tourism may believe they are a Government agency because of their email address.

Legislator Gross questioned if Legislator LoBue stated that all of the previous applicants for the Tourism Director position have to reapply.

Legislator LoBue stated that the Visitor's Bureau is also changing its name to "Putnam County Tourism Bureau and Economic Development". She stated the name change was not discussed with the Legislature. She stated that the Legislature should be made aware of these changes.

Legislator Gross stated that the name change including "Economic Development" does not make sense because of the already established Putnam County Economic Development Corporation.

Legislator Gouldman requested copies of the correspondence that Legislator LoBue is referring to.

Legislator LoBue stated that she will distribute copies to all the Legislators. She stated that will contact the State for clarification on the email address issue.

Legislator Nacerino stated that Legislator LoBue's request for clarity on the subject is viable. She questioned if this may be the exception for any non-profits utilizing office space in a county facility.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how long Tourism has been using the County email address.

Legislator LoBue stated that she did not know. She stated that the Legislature is not the one who gave them the email address. She stated she would like to find out how they got the address and from whom.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that she and Chairwoman Addonizio attended the Visitor's Bureau board meeting. She stated that they are reorganizing and they fully intend to come to the November Committee meeting to give a full report.

Legislator LoBue stated that she is still waiting for the financial information she requested earlier in the year.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated that the financial information should be part of October's budget presentation.

Item #8 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:24 P.M. Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Ed Gordon.