

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Held In Room 318**  
**PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**  
**CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Sullivan and Legislators Addonizio & Albano**

**Thursday** **6:30pm** **December 14, 2017**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:31p.m. by Chairman Sullivan who requested that Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Albano, and Chairman Sullivan were present.

**Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2017**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #4 - Approval/ Putnam County Security & IT Use Policy**

Lynne Eckardt, Town of Southeast Councilwoman, questioned if any decisions had been made regarding using County email addresses to solicit political contributions.

Legislator Albano stated he does not believe political correspondence is allowed to be sent through County email.

Director of IT/GIS Thomas Lannon stated it is not allowed.

Councilwoman Eckardt stated for example, if someone who is not with the County is running for office, they should not be soliciting to County email addresses.

Legislator Albano stated the County can only control what is sent out from a County email address.

Chairman Sullivan stated he is unaware of how to prevent someone in the public from sending a specific email to a County address.

Director Lannon stated there is no way to stop it from coming in because legitimate emails could be blocked as well.

Councilwoman Eckardt questioned if the policy includes anything about prohibiting employees with County emails from soliciting to email addresses from other municipalities.

Legislator Albano stated political emails are not allowed to be sent from a County email address; only normal business.

Chairman Sullivan stated the topic of political campaigning may be addressed within personnel policies.

Councilwoman Eckardt stated she does not like receiving emails to her government email address. She stated she received a solicitation email on her town of Southeast email from a County official.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Shannon Brady stated what Councilwoman Eckardt is describing is someone who might work for the County, but is not sending the email from a County email address.

Councilwoman Eckardt stated that is correct. She stated the individual is sending the email to other governmental addresses.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Brady stated that is not a situation that would be appropriate to be addressed in the IT Policy.

Legislator Nacerino stated any political mail that comes into the Legislative Office is not forwarded to the Legislators. She stated she agrees with Councilwoman Eckardt that sending political correspondence via email should not be sent through governmental email.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated when a Legislator is having a political fundraiser any invitations are sent to home addresses and not placed in Legislative mailboxes.

Councilwoman Eckardt stated she does not mind receiving the correspondence, but does not want to receive it on her governmental email address.

Chairman Sullivan stated before email, people would call to solicit and there was no way to prevent that either, except to hang up the phone. He stated with email, there is a little more capability, but it is difficult to regulate.

Legislator Albano stated there needs to be a policy in place, and this is a good start. He stated amendments can always be made in the future.

Legislator Nacerino stated this policy has been worked on for a very long time and the County has been remiss is not having a policy in place. She stated a policy needs to be adopted that is consistent for every employee within the County. She stated this policy is a generic form of what is and is not acceptable and employees need to be cognizant of that.

Chairman Sullivan echoed Legislator Albano's statement regarding having the ability to make amendments to the policy as things arise.

Janet Canaday, President of Unit 8150 in Carmel, stated the Putnam County Unit 8150 has a contract with Putnam County. She stated implementing this IT Policy without

bargaining with CSEA would be a breach of the contract and CSEA will pursue legal action.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Brady this is a topic that has been raised in bargaining with the union and is currently on the table. She stated without getting into the specifics, it is her position that what needs to be bargained is how discipline would be handled with respect to the union; not the policy in general. She stated she believes the Legislature is perfectly able to pass this policy and it will apply to all employees of the County including CSEA; however the disciplinary actions will be bargained with CSEA.

Ms. Canaday stated her concern is that the members of the union should be able to say and do what they would like to on their personal time. She stated she understands that on County time, employees have the responsibility to the County.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Brady stated that is all this policy covers.

Ms. Canaday stated the policy also speaks to personal time.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Brady stated those issues were addressed. She stated she would be happy to address specific concerns Ms. Canaday had.

Ms. Canaday stated read a section from page 1 of the proposed policy which discusses personal time.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Brady stated she does not believe Ms. Canaday had the most current version of the proposed policy.

Ms. Canaday stated he has the version that was sent to the union.

Chairman Sullivan stated the current proposed policy is on the Legislative webpage as backup material to this item on the agenda.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Brady stated an amended version was provided to the Legislature on November 15, 2017.

Ms. Canaday questioned if there is anything in the policy that speaks to personal time.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Brady stated this policy addresses personal time in regards to instances when employees identify themselves as a County worker and state that what they are posting online or on social media is the County's position. She stated the policy does not address an individual's activity on the Internet if it does not involve the County or if the individual does not identify themselves as a County employee.

Ms. Canaday questioned what would be the case if she identified herself as the Union President.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Brady stated this policy says that when identifying as a County employee, County policies should not be violated. She stated many of the concerns that were raised with the previous version of the policy have been addressed, such as personal time and personal devices. She stated the amendments made to address these concerns were reviewed at the November 15, 2017 Rules, Enactments, & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting.

Legislator Nacerino stated she works for the Brewster Central School District as well and they are not permitted to conduct any union business on their school accounts. She stated there is a private distribution list for the union where all communications are conveyed. She stated she would speculate that the same rules would apply here, where the two should not be comingled.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Brady stated when addressing concerns about personal time, a lot was taken from the policy that is in place in Westchester County. She stated she believes the policy that is before the Committee tonight has addressed those concerns.

Ms. Canaday stated in regards to Legislator Nacerino's comments, if she has correspondence from the County regarding union information she believes that can be sent via the County network. She stated a discussion was had about two (2) years ago with the Union in regards to an IT Policy and was not brought back to the table; she questioned why this was.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Brady stated she would rather not get into the specifics of the negotiations.

Legislator Albano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Re-Appointments/ Home Improvement Board/ Cusanelli, Harnish, Hull, & Korin**

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #6 - Approval/ Proposed Resolution/ In Support of Increase in State Support for Cornell Cooperative Extension County Associations in the State of New York**

Executive Director of Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension Marjorie Keith stated Cornell Cooperative Extension is a partnership between the County, the State, and the Federal Government. She stated when funding is appropriated by the County for Cornell Cooperative Extension, it then triggers State and Federal funding. She stated the New York State funding comes through County law 224 and is money that comes directly to the Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension through Cornell

University. She stated State funding has remained level at \$4 million for the past 20 years and is divided between the 57 counties in New York State. She stated last year Cooperative Extension Administration at Cornell University started an effort with State legislators to increase the State funding. She stated the proposal is to double the amount to \$8 million. She stated Extension Administration has asked the counties to support this effort by approving a resolution that would be forwarded to the New York State Governor and State Representatives. She stated if the request is fully funded at \$8 million, Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension would receive an additional \$56,000. She stated this additional funding would be used for professional staff to extend the program within the community. She stated the resolution she is requesting be approved by the Legislature has been prepared by Extension Administration and circulated to all counties within New York State.

Chairman Sullivan stated 20 years is a long time to go without an increase. He stated knowing what great work Cornell Cooperative Extension does, he would be happy to support this resolution.

Legislator Addonizio stated Cornell Cooperative Extension does wonderful things for Putnam County.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated her support of this resolution.

Legislator Albano made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

#### **Item #7 - Discussion/ Proposed Monthly Legislative Updates in Local Newspapers**

Legislator Addonizio stated she would like to bring forward information to the local newspapers in a monthly "Legislative Corner" which would include topics that may not be otherwise covered within the newspaper. She stated she believes this will make the Legislature more transparent while providing information to the public.

Chairman Sullivan stated currently, the Legislature takes steps to be transparent such as having the Legislative Meeting audio and written minutes and video from the Full Legislative Meetings on the Legislative webpage. He stated anything the Legislature can do to get more information out to the public is a good idea.

Chairman Sullivan stated Legislator Gouldman was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but requested the following statement be read into the record:

*"Having a monthly update in the local newspapers is a great idea. The Legislature takes steps to be as transparent as possible, but there is always room for improvement. For instance, the audio minutes from the Committee Meetings are posted on the Legislature's webpage the next business day after the meeting. Also, the Full Legislative Meetings are videotaped and available for viewing on the Legislature's webpage as well as played on local television stations.*

*As the Legislative Representative for District #2, I strive to bring transparency to the Town of Putnam Valley. I bring a DVD copy of each Full Legislative Meeting to the Town of Putnam Valley to ensure that it is played on the local television stations. Also, I provide updates on what is happening on the County level through attending Putnam Valley Town Board Meetings and utilizing social media.*

*The more transparent the Legislature is and the more information that is assimilated to the residents of Putnam County, the better Putnam County Government will be.”*

Legislator Nacerino stated this is a great idea. She stated this was also discussed with Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo. She stated this would highlight things being done by the Legislature on a monthly basis, which would give some of the topics more credibility while being more transparent. She stated Legislative Counsel Firriolo will assist in writing the information for the newspaper.

Phyllis Hoenig, resident of Mahopac, stated she likes this idea very much as most residents do not attend the Legislative Meetings. She stated her concern regarding the sound quality of the audio posted on the website.

Legislator Albano stated the sound quality will be looked into.

Chairman Sullivan stated improvements have been made in the Historic Courthouse.

Ms. Hoenig suggested placing a microphone directly on the podium for the public to speak into.

Lynne Eckardt, speaking as a resident of the Town of Southeast, stated this is a great idea. She questioned which newspaper the Legislative Corner would be in. She also questioned if there is any cost associated with it.

Legislator Addonizio stated it would be in all the County newspapers and there is no cost associated.

Ms. Eckardt stated this would convey more information to the public, making the Legislature more transparent. She stated especially with a one (1) party system, this gives opportunity for rebuttal, to ask questions, or write letters to the editor. She stated in regards to Ms. Hoenig’s concern about the sound quality, at Full Legislative Meetings in the Historic Courthouse some Legislators do not speak directly into their microphone. She stated she is grateful for the audio posted on the Legislative webpage because it is helpful to her when she cannot attend meetings.

**Item #8 - FYI/ Year End Full Litigation Report – Duly Noted**

**Item #9 - Other Business**

**a. Resident Inquiry/ Paul Morini/ Sheriff Term Limits**

Paul Morini, Town of Southeast resident, stated he would like to open discussion about terms limits of the Sheriff.

Chairman Sullivan questioned what terms Mr. Morini would like to have for the Sheriff.

Mr. Morini stated he would like there to be two (2) four (4) year terms, although three (3) four (4) year terms would be an improvement.

Legislator Castellano stated setting term limits for the Sheriff is beyond the Legislature's control, he stated he believes the State Legislature would make that determination. He stated because it is a constitutional office it cannot be term limited by the County Legislature.

Legislator Nacerino stated she believes everyone should be term limited.

Legislator Castellano stated the Putnam County Legislature voted in favor of four (4) three (3) year term limits for Legislators, which he believes should be throughout government even on a Federal level.

#### **Item #10 – Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:02pm Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.