

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

Members: Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Montgomery

Monday

December 9, 2019

(Immediately following the Health Mtg beginning at 6:30pm)

The meeting was called to order at 6:52 P.M. by Chairwoman Sayegh who requested that Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Montgomery, and Chairwoman Sayegh were present

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2019 & October 11, 2019 Budget Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/Putnam County Industrial Development Agency/Board Reappointments/Cooke, Tamagna Hawes, and Nulk

Legislator Addonizio stated these are for three (3) year terms.

Legislator Montgomery thanked the volunteers for their commitment and time.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move Approval/Putnam County Industrial Development Agency/Board Reappointments to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/Fund Transfer 19T408/Office of Tourism/Cover remaining bills incurred since September

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is due to needing to cover expenses by the previous agency, the Visitors Bureau. She stated this is something that Tourism Director Tracey Walsh discovered these expenses

Tourism Director Walsh stated items #5 and #6 tie in to each other. She stated the State reporting of spending for the first two (2) quarters was \$0. She stated after she did more digging, she found \$4,112 of expenses for the first quarter and the second quarter had no report submitted to the State but there was actually \$16,818 of spending that is now reported to the State. She stated the State is very happy with the County and appreciates the diligence. She stated after finding these documentations of previous expenses she realized the amount of money the County had apportioned for the Tourism Department was not going to be enough. She stated item #6 is for these expenses that were not paid before she took over Tourism. She stated item #5 is for funds that are being transferred from the previous agency's budget. She stated both items #5 and #6 are both necessary to pay expenses that were due prior to her arrival.

Chairwoman Sayegh noted that Director Walsh found all of this information after only being in her position for 10 weeks.

Tourism Director Walsh noted that all of these expenses were already approved by the State, they just needed to be reported properly.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated when transitioning from the previous agency, the County asked the State for the expense reports. She stated the previous agency did not report anything that was spent.

Tourism Director Walsh stated when she contracted for advertising, she made the contracts based on thinking she had a certain amount of money, though, after the previous expenses were paid, the Department no longer had all of that money available. She stated this created a shortfall.

Legislator Montgomery requested more vendors in Putnam County be considered. She stated the Tourism Department is using a graphic designer from Pennsylvania.

Tourism Director Walsh stated she agrees and Tourism does use some Putnam based vendors.

Legislator Nacerino stated she appreciates Tourism Director Walsh's candor and integrity. She stated the Tourism Department is ready to move forward in 2020.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is exactly why Tourism was brought into the County's purview. She stated this creates clear transparency for all to see. She stated it was difficult to pinpoint where the last agency was spending the money. She stated there are good things to come for tourism in Putnam County, especially with a new hotel opening in 2020.

Tourism Director Walsh stated the paving at the hotel is done and the sign is going up.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if it will be opening in January.

Tourism Director Walsh stated yes in early January.

Legislator Sullivan thanked Tourism Director Walsh for doing a tremendous job. He questioned what events are coming up in Putnam County.

Tourism Director Walsh stated they have been working closely with the EDC (Economic Development Corporation) on a summit on January 31, 2020 through the Culinary Institute at Tilly Foster with organizations such as Glynwood, Green Chimney, Space at Ryder Farm to help raise awareness.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move Fund Transfer 19T408 to the Audit & Administration Committee; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #6 - FYI/Fund Transfer 19T404/Office of Tourism/Cover prior Agency's obligations

Duly Noted.

Item #7 - FYI/Unemployment Report – Duly Noted

Item #8 - FYI/Foreclosure Report

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there are HUD (Housing and Urban Development) approved units in Carmel, Patterson, and/or Mahopac.

Legislator Addonizio stated there are very few.

Legislator Montgomery questioned where they are. She stated Philipstown does have a large HUD approved housing unit and also made an agreement with a developer for affordable housing for school teachers, first responders, and those in need who contribute to the community but do not have the income.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the zoning and planning issues are more at the town levels. She suggested the Legislators discuss it with their towns.

Legislator Montgomery stated with the grant opportunities that the Department of Social Services has, it is worth exploring.

Legislator Nacerino agreed and stated it is something that the County has to recognize the need for.

Legislator Montgomery stated if the population changes more, the County may be mandated to have more affordable housing.

Legislator Nacerino agreed and the 2020 census is going to reflect that.

Legislator Jonke stated there are 94 HUD units on Hughson Road in Carmel, 150 units in the Hillcrest project on the border of Carmel and Kent, and there is Mitchell Court in the Village of Brewster.

Legislator Montgomery stated it would be good to know how many HUD units are in the County.

Legislator Jonke stated the Towns would have that information available.

Legislator Addonizio stated the Putnam County Housing Corporation would also have the information.

Legislator Nacerino stated the need for this housing is on the uptick.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she is hoping to have Ashley Brody, CEO of Search for Change come to a future committee meeting.

Legislator Jonke noted that he believes there is an area in Carmel that was zoned for housing that is available for purchase.

Item #9 - Other Business - None

Item #10 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:19 P.M., Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.