BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ROOM #318 PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Thursday	October 17, 2019	6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 P.M. by Chairman Castellano who requested Legislator Montgomery lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Nacerino, Albano, Jonke and Chairman Castellano were present. Legislators Addonizio, Sayegh and Sullivan were absent. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo.

Chairman Castellano stated that they would now review the proposed changes submitted by each Committee.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE (Chairman Jonke, Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan)

Item #1 – District Attorney – Special Services – Decrease to \$35,000 placing difference of \$30,000 in Subcontingency was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following; seconded by Jonke. All in favor.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the reason why we were doing this.

Legislator Jonke believed this was a request from the District Attorney.

Putnam County Auditor, Michele Alfano-Sharkey stated that they only spent \$19,000 so far in 2019.

Legislator Albano stated that based on what was spent in 2019, the Legislature was putting some of their funding in subcontingency. If these funds are needed the District Attorney can request them from the Legislature.

Chairman Castellano stated that we are reducing the requested \$65,000 to \$35,000 and placing the balance of \$30,000 in subcontingency.

Legislator Nacerino stated that the District Attorney agreed to this.

District Atternation

District Attorney	FROM:	TO:
Special Services 10116500 54682	65,000	35,000
Subcontingency	0	30,000

10199000 54983

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATORS ADDONIZIO, SAYEGH & SULLIVAN WERE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #2 – Sheriff's Department – Narcotics – Reduce Motor Vehicles Line -Subcontingency was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

Legislator Jonke stated that the Sheriff explained that they had \$33,000 in the budget for a vehicle and they were willing to give up the \$33,000 for the vehicle if we would put \$15,000 in subcontingency for license plate readers. He stated at the time there seemed to be a favorable opinion to do that. He stated that the County does not have a policy for the license plate readers. He explained that he was uncomfortable putting the funds aside for the license plate readers because what if the Legislature does not like the policy?

Chairman Castellano stated that we haven't promised them the funding; it would be placed in subcontingency. He explained that they would have to make the request to get it back.

Legislator Albano believed that the license plate readers had tremendous potential, however, in light of potential litigation there are many things that need to be addressed before this can be implemented. He stated that he was on the fence with this. He did not believe it was necessary at this point.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she was a little reluctant to approve the license plate readers in Putnam County. She believed that we value our privacy; as well as our constituents. She stated that she always says upon approval to demonstrate the need. She stated she did not believe the need has been demonstrated by citing just one (1) incident that occurred where they could have possibly helped. She stated that it is very frightening from another perspective to have license plate readers and people having their routes tracked. She believed the jury was out on whether that is good for us to have here in Putnam County.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that it was his understanding that the County already has license plate readers and they are in use mounted in vehicles. He explained that it was also mentioned in an accident report. He stated that he is pointing this out so that the Committee doesn't think that if they don't move this into subcontingency, the issue of the policy and using the data from license plate readers won't be addressed or they will have to address it in order to get this funding. He stated that they are already using them and whether they have a policy or not is independent of this appropriation. Legislator Nacerino believed that we knew they had them in the vehicles; however this is a whole new consideration as far as she was concerned. She believed we need more discussion on it. She stated that she was very reluctant to implement this in Putnam County.

Legislator Jonke explained that although we do have license plate readers in Putnam County, he believed this was different and that they would be pole mounted. He believed it would be a great tool down the road, however he did not know what they were doing with the information.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if they were going to be temporary or permanent fixtures. She believed they were going to be moved around in different areas.

Legislator Jonke understood that they were going to be fixed around the boarders of the County.

Legislator Montgomery explained that she does not like big brother, however just like EZ pass, license plate readers are everywhere. She stated that she sat through a few days of training for human trafficking. She believed that the license plate readers were tools to address these issues as well. She stated that the Sheriff's Department has a need for these beyond what she understands. She stated that with human trafficking and drug trafficking she believed they were a necessity. She believed it was a matter of public safety.

Legislator Nacerino stated that Legislator Montgomery's point is well taken, however, she explained that the Legislature has not had the opportunity to have a comprehensive review. She stated that one (1) incident was cited in defense of implementing this program. She believed that more discussion needed to ensue. She stated that before moving forward she would like to know all the facts and who would be sharing the information and where they are going to be installed.

Legislator Albano explained that we did not have enough information, however he believed that it did have potential. He liked the idea of having it as a place holder in subcontingency.

Legislator Gouldman explained that the County was using these license plate readers in the vehicles. He believed it was a useful tool. He suggested putting the funds in subcontingency pending the Legislature receiving and approving their plan of how the information would be used.

Chairman Castellano believed it was technology that would be useful to Putnam County. He concurred with placing the funds in subcontingency until the Legislature receives a plan that we all understand before we move any further. He stated that there are many questions that still need to be answered. He explained that the Sheriff's Department should come to the Legislature with a policy and at that time we can cover both aspects; the license place readers on the cars and the ones they want to place in fixed locations.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the \$33,000 that the Sheriff's Department conceded they don't need was eliminated.

Chairman Castellano said, "yes".

Legislator Nacerino stated that she would support putting the \$15,000 in subcontingency, however she would like it to be clear that she hopes there was no miscommunication in the assumption that bringing forth a policy would release the funds. She stated that this was still up for consideration. She stated that there is a lot of dialogue that needs to take place before we approve this.

Chairman Castellano concurred. He stated that if the Legislature does not like the policy put forward, we can say no and the funding can stay in subcontingency until they come forward with a policy that is appropriate.

Legislator Nacerino believed that they should not only provide a policy, but also to demonstrate the need of this type of technology in Putnam County as well.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that he had a question for County Auditor Alfano-Sharkey, he had a notation from the Committee meeting that account 52680 – Other Equipment below the Vehicles line was for license plate readers as well. He stated if the idea was that the Legislature wanted to defund future spending on license plate readers, he suggested also taking out the funding in account 52680 under Sheriff Narcotics. He believed this line could also be designated for pole mounted vehicles.

County Auditor Alfano-Sharkey stated that it said convert mobile surveillance camera with remote monitoring ability.

Legislator Gouldman did not believe this should be taken away from the Narcotics Division. He explained how Putnam County is situated between New York City and Poughkeepsie and through the Taconic State Parkway and Route 9 drugs can be transported from the Bronx to Poughkeepsie. He believed the license plate readers would track a person to where they live.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she has Newburgh in close proximity to Philipstown.

Chairman Castellano stated that the Sheriff has agreed to defund the \$33,000 and has requested that \$15,000 be put into Subcontingency until there is a policy in place for the license plate readers. He stated that apparently there is another line designated for license plate readers. He believed that wouldn't be appropriate until there is a policy in place, so he suggested putting that in Subcontingency as well. He stated that County Auditor Alfano-Sharkey will provide more information about the line in question.

Chairman Castellano called for a Roll Call Vote on the first resolution.

Sheriff's Department - Narcotics		
	FROM:	TO:
Motor Vehicles		
14311000 52650	33,000	0
A DIFFERENCE OF: (33,000)		
Sheriff's Department – Communication	<u>s</u>	
	FROM:	TO:
Subcontingency		
10199000 54986	0	15,000
(other equip line in Communications was designated for license plate readers		
and cut from Tentative Budget)		

A DIFFERENCE OF: 15,000

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. LEGISLATORS ADDONIZIO, SAYEGH & SULLIVAN WERE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #2a – Sheriff's Department – Narcotics – Reduce Other Equipment Line (designated for license plate readers) – place in Subcontingency was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following pending having a policy in place for the license plate readers; seconded by Jonke.

Sheriff's Department – Narcotics

	FROM:	TO:
Other Equipment (license plate readers) 14311000 52680	12,000	0
Subcontingency 10199000 54986	0	12,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATORS ADDONIZIO, SAYEGH & SULLIVAN WERE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (Chairman Albano, Legislators Gouldman & Nacerino)

Item #3 – Planning Department – Reduce Printing & Forms was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

Planning Department		
	FROM:	TO:
Printing & Forms		
95630000 54311	3,000	2,000
A DIFFERENCE OF: (1,000)		
Transportation Fund Revenue		
Fund Balance		
09021310 427161	175,000	174,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: (1,000)

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATORS ADDONIZIO, SAYEGH & SULLIVAN WERE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #4 – Parks & Recreation – Maintenance & Repairs – Subcontingency was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislators Montgomery and Nacerino.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the reason why we do this.

County Auditor Alfano-Sharkey explained that according to our transfer policy, Park Maintenance needs to go into subcontingency. She stated that these are the items that Legislator Albano signs off on as Chair of the Physical Committee.

Legislator Albano suggested leaving the funds in the Maintenance & Repairs line.

County Auditor Alfano-Sharkey stated that it is part of the policy that requires the funding be placed in subcontingency.

Commissioner of Finance Carlin stated that Parks & Recreation was singled out because of past history. The Legislature wanted to review the items being approved.

Legislator Albano explained that he did not see the need for them to request approval on the smaller projects.

Chairman Castellano stated that he did not recall this being an issue over the years. However, he thought it was odd that it only pertained to Parks & Recreation. Legislator Montgomery stated that it is certainly not the reason for them to come to us, however she appreciated when we have these opportunities because that is when the Legislature has interaction with these departments.

Legislator Albano explained that the County has many large projects that we will be looking at. He believed that \$15,000 was an appropriate amount for the smaller Maintenance & Repair items.

Legislator Nacerino stated that the policy couldn't be modified tonight.

County Auditor Alfano-Sharkey stated that it is a local law.

Chairman Castellano called for a Roll Call Vote.

Parks & Recreation		
	FROM:	TO:
Maintenance & Repairs		
10711000 54710	15,000	0
Subcontingency		
10199000 54985	0	15,000
		•

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: FIVE AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR ALBANO. LEGISLATORS ADDONIZIO, SAYEGH & SULLIVAN WERE ABSENT.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE (Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Montgomery)

Item #5 – Putnam Industrial Development Agency – Contracts – Decrease to \$30,000 placing difference of \$20,000 in Subcontingency was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Montgomery.

Chairman Castellano stated that he did not believe this was the right thing to do during the Committee meeting and voiced his concerns at that time. He stated that the IDA did an excellent job in 2019 and he did not see the need to move some of the funding into subcontingency. He stated that he would be voting no on this tonight.

Legislator Nacerino concurred. She believed that people who don't realize the past history of the IDA and the progress we have made in the last several years has been monumental. She did not see the need to put any money in subcontingency. She stated that she would also vote to keep it the funds in place.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she would vote to put it in subcontingency. She explained that it allows for a healthy discussion before the Legislature when the funds

are requested to be released. She believed that sometimes that is the only opportunity we get as a Legislative body to listen to these different departments.

Legislator Jonke explained that this is nothing against the IDA. He stated that there is \$50,000 in the 2019 budget and they have not spent any money. He stated that if next year he needs more than the \$30,000 he can come before the Legislature and explain the need. He believed that it would open up some dialogue.

Chairman Castellano stated that the IDA is at the Committee meeting every month. He stated that they are willing to show up even when we do not ask them to be here.

Legislator Montgomery stated that they are here every month, however they are not always on the agenda and we don't always have an open dialogue about the IDA.

Chairman Castellano stated that the IDA did not use the funding this year, however he believed that time was of the essence on some of the projects and they don't need to wait.

Legislator Nacerino stated that it was not indicative of what he may need moving forward.

Chairman Castellano called for a Roll Call Vote.

Putnam Industrial Development Agency (IDA)			
	FROM:	TO:	
Contracts			
25646000 54646	50,000	30,000	
Subcontingency			
10199000 54988	0	20,000	

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: TWO AYES. FOUR NAYS – LEGISLATORS ALBANO, GOULDMAN, NACERINO & CHAIRMAN CASTELLANO. LEGISLATORS ADDONIZIO, SAYEGH & SULLIVAN WERE ABSENT. MOTION FAILED.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

(Chairwoman Nacerino, Legislators Jonke & Montgomery)

Item #6 - Sheriff's Department – Jail – Proposed Personnel Positions – Reducing two (2) Additional Correction Officers to one (1) and providing one (1) Correction Sergeant Upgrade was next. Chairman Castellano moved the following; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

Sheriff's Department – Jail

	FROM:	TO:
Correction Officer		
10315000 51000 (160)	25,044	50,088

Correction Officer		_
10315000 51000 (161)	25,044	0
Correction Sergeant		
10315000 51000 (999)	0	15,380
A DIFFERENCE OF: 15,380		
A DITTERENCE OF . 13,300		
Correction Overtime		
10315000 51093	414,000	394,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: (20,000)

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATORS ADDONIZIO, SAYEGH & SULLIVAN WERE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #7 – Bureau of Emergency Services – Emergency Services Dispatcher – Information Requested from Personnel Committee was next.

Legislator Nacerino explained that we are still fact finding and getting feedback from our Department Heads.

Legislator Jonke stated that he spoke with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services, Kenny Clair today. He stated that he would be withdrawing this request.

OTHER BUSINESS

Item #8 - Purchasing Department – Central Services – Reduce Vehicle Leasing/Rental was next.

Chairman Castellano stated that this was briefly discussed at the Audit Budget meeting and was not addressed during the Physical Budget meeting. He believed it was a great plan and was looking forward to leasing new vehicles that will be more fuel efficient, rather than trying to maintain an older fleet of vehicles that were originally purchased outright. He stated that during the discussion of the costs, he believed that \$100,000 would be too much money in the first year.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to reduce the \$100,000 to \$75,000, placing the balance of \$25,000 in subcontingency to see how it plays out in the first year; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

Legislator Albano believed it would take three (3) years to see if it works. He believed it was a better system and believed that it might cost a little more in the end but he thought that it would be worth it.

<u>Central Services</u>	55.014	
	FROM:	TO:
Vehicle Leasing/Rental	400.000	
10161000 54210	100,000	75,000
Subcontingency	0	25,000
	0	25,000
10199000 54988		

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATORS ADDONIZIO, SAYEGH & SULLIVAN WERE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Legislator Montgomery explained that she spoke about mental health issues in our County during the Health Budget meeting, the need for more services on the western side of the County and what has developed with the newly formed Behavioral Health Hub. She explained that the western side of the County is sorely lacking in services and Philipstown has made up for what the County should be providing by creating a position to address the issue the County was not addressing. She questioned, between now and when we adopt the budget, is there any information the Legislators would like her to bring forward regarding the Behavioral Health Hub. She believed that some in-kind contribution such as finding \$5,000 or \$10,000 in the budget for the Behavioral Health Hub would help them pay rent in Philipstown.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to discuss the Behavioral Health Hub in Philipstown; seconded by Chairman Castellano. All in favor.

Chairman Castellano appreciated what Legislator Montgomery brought forward. He believed it was difficult to move \$5,000 into one (1) town. He stated that it would be great to find \$5,000 in the budget, but believed it would be great to put \$5,000 towards every town.

Legislator Nacerino believed this was an issue for all the Legislators. She stated that what the Town of Philipstown did was what all Town Boards do; make allocations where the needs are. She believed this would cause a domino effect because every other municipality has the need and will want the funds. She did not believe the County could sustain that.

Legislator Montgomery explained that this side of the County has CoveCare and public transportation to every resource available offered through the County. She stated that

the Town of Philipstown created this position because the County failed to provide these services in her town.

Legislator Gouldman concurred that what Legislator Montgomery is stating is correct in many ways. He stated that there are fewer services provided by the County on the other side of the Taconic Parkway than what is provided on this side. He stated that the services are available if they can drive here, however there is a lack of that occurring. He stated that the County did try to put a bus service in Putnam Valley, however, it didn't work because of the lack of ridership. He stated moving forward, if it doesn't happen during this budget season, we should look at the whole County and try to bring more services to the western side.

Legislator Albano explained that in taking geography into consideration, it made sense to have most of the services where the densest population is. He explained that as we look at the requests, we would also need to determine how many people would be utilizing the service in order to justify the cost.

Legislator Gouldman concurred with Legislator Albano, however, whatever we can do to look at bringing more services to the western side of the County might be beneficial to the County as a whole.

Legislator Nacerino stated that people living in North Salem or Bedford are not receiving the same services and still need to travel 40 minutes to get to the County seat.

Legislator Montgomery stated 40 minutes to the County seat possibly but I believe Westchester County provides services for their locations that are not right in White Plains. She stated that she knows they do because she worked down there. She explained that the taxpayers of Philipstown and Putnam Valley are paying for amenities that most of them will never use such as; the Putnam County Golf Course, Tilly Foster Farm and Parks & Recreation.

Legislator Nacerino stated that her constituents aren't using Butterfield Senior Center.

Legislator Montgomery asked the Legislators to think outside of the box. She stated that she was elected by the people of her district to get them services. She believed the Administration and Legislators have failed to do that for so many years.

Legislator Albano disagreed. He stated that it means a lot to him to represent his district, but he also represents the entire county. He stated that when he looks at services he wants the most amount of services where 90% of the population is, with consideration to the outskirts of the County as well. He stated that we have major arteries such as Interstate 684 on this side of the County with the majority of the traffic and sales tax revenue. He explained, as Chairman of the Physical Services Committee, he hasn't seen anyone come from that side of the County to ask for anything in particular or who had a concern. He explained with respect to Tilly Foster Farm and the Golf Course, these properties were given to us in a sense with the agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation because people wanted greenspace. He stated that no one from the western side of the County offered any properties or stated that they wanted to create something like this; so it was never a consideration. He stated that he is glad to consider things if they come up, however, he hasn't seen a lot come up or a tremendous demand from the population on the western side of the County. He stated that if it does, he would be glad to look at it because he wanted to be fair.

Legislator Nacerino concurred with Legislator Albano; we represent our districts but we are not in town positions. We have County positions and represent all people in Putnam County.

Legislator Montgomery stated that this was a great opportunity for representation.

Legislator Nacerino stated that we approved Butterfield in Philipstown and every taxpayer in Putnam County is paying for that. She explained how the Legislature thought it was a great project which serviced the needs of the people of Putnam County in an appropriate fashion. She explained how the Legislature approaches the needs presented to them in a global mindset; not just for their individual districts.

Legislator Gouldman explained how Putnam Valley is a rural part of Putnam County. He explained how the demographics are changing and he was thankful of the way the County has facilitated with the many issues brought to them. He stated that as we move forward and as the population continues to change, he believed we needed to consider some other way to reach the population.

Legislator Nacerino stated that we can certainly analyze that moving forward. She stated that we have a request tonight for the 2020 Budget that she does not support.

Legislator Jonke stated that when you live in Putnam County he believed that you needed a car. He questioned if there was an issue in Philipstown with people not having access to a motorvehicle.

Legislator Montgomery stated that they do have cars. She explained the PINS program that is only offered on this side of the County where parents are required to leave their jobs in order to bring their children to counseling. She stated that it is inconvenient, a time issue and an expense issue. She stated that there are also 20 year olds that need to get to the methadone clinic who don't have a car.

Legislator Albano explained that up until a few months ago there were people that needed to get to the methadone clinic in Peekskill.

Legislator Jonke stated that transportation in general, not just in Putnam County, but in our area is difficult. He explained a situation regarding a woman in Kent who had a disabled child who wanted to go to Dutchess Community College. She found it very

difficult to find transportation for him and we worked with the Transportation Department to do that. He stated that it's not convenient, but it's not impossible.

Chairman Castellano stated that he appreciates Legislator Montgomery's argument on this matter. However, he believed if we set this precedence, we would have other towns stating what they have created and would then request the County to provide funding for it.

There being no other business, at 7:03 P.M., Chairman Castellano made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.