

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
TO BE HELD IN ROOM 318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Sayegh, Sullivan**

**Thursday**

**6:00PM**

**June 23, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislator Sullivan lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Sayegh, Legislator Sullivan, and Chairwoman Nacerino were present.

**Item #3 - Approval/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ May 19, 2022**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 - Update/ School Bus Camera Program/ County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner & Director of Purchasing Alex Mazzotta**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Resolution #65 was passed on April 5, 2022, amending the code to add a section entitled "School Bus Camera Demonstration Program". She stated very little has been heard since then. She stated she was unaware a Request For Proposal (RFP) was needed to be executed. She stated there needs to be a discussion regarding which departments are intaking fees.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale stated it is not so much which department will be intaking the fees as it needs to be determined who will be administering the program. He stated Director of Purchasing Mazzotta will speak to the RFP process.

Director of Purchasing Alessandro Mazzotta stated a decision was made that it would be most appropriate to go out for an RFP and request other proposals for this service. He stated a proposal of the RFP was drafted on May 9, 2022, and was reviewed by the County Executive's Office. He stated it was decided that this proposal is not ready to be advertised until a department is designated the administrator of the program. He explained from an RFP perspective they are in a holding phase.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she respects the process. She questioned who determines what department the administrator will be and when this determination will be made.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated that this determination is made by the County Executive. He stated that he is unaware of when this will be done. He stated that the Traffic Safety Board, under the Department of Planning, handles the version of this program in Dutchess County. He stated Putnam County does not have the same infrastructure in place as Dutchess County. He stated that the Putnam County Department of Planning is an option for the administrating department, but the decision is ultimately left to County Executive Odell.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated it is better to start planning sooner rather than later. She stated Putnam County does not have a Traffic Safety Board to assist in the process like Dutchess County. She stated that a decision needs to be made for school districts to begin using the program.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale stated that he will speak with the County Executive. He stated that as far as he knows, the program is supported.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the program presentation specified that most work is done in the summer. She stated that with the timeline, this will not happen. She stated there is a possibility that the program could start during school recesses. She thanked Director Mazzotta and Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale for their update.

Legislator Sayegh questioned what the timeline for this process regarding RFP is.

Director Mazzotta stated once the Using Department/Administrator of the Contract is determined, he will then review the draft RFP, which has been prepared, with them. He stated this individuals who are designated will need to be well versed in the document and will need to approve it, as well as review the RFP submissions. He stated from the point that the County Executive identifies the department that will administer this program, and they have done their review of the draft RFP the document will be introduced to the public for four (4) weeks and then there is an intake process and a review process. He stated the entire process could take about ten (10) to twelve 12 weeks.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated school districts are eager for this process to come to fruition.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated he spoke with several school districts about the RFP. He stated that after speaking to the school districts, the general consensus was that the contract draft is acceptable and that they wish to move forward. He stated he will meet with the County Attorney and based on her recommendation on the direction to bring this to the County Executive he will take care of it.

Legislator Montgomery stated she brought questions on behalf of the Garrison School Board and others who were unable to attend this meeting. She questioned what the goal of the bus camera program is.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated that the program is aimed to cause a deterrence effect.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the cameras will be installed on all school vehicles.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale answered this is the intention. He stated that school boards can opt out of the program.

Legislator Montgomery questioned where on the vehicles the cameras will be installed.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated the cameras will be installed on the arm of the school bus, as authorized by statute. He stated that depending on the RFP, another option is to install cameras on the inside of the school bus, but this decision is strictly up to the school board. He stated clarification, that this law is specific to the Camera on the arm of the School Bus.

Legislator Montgomery questioned whether cameras placed inside buses will present privacy issues.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated that interior cameras are separate from the law in question.

Legislator Montgomery questioned where the data from the cameras go and who will have access to this data.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated that when the company, BusPatrol, made their presentation to the this committee on February 10, 2022 they discussed the storage matter of the data from the cameras. He stated there is no specific requirement by law for handling the data. He stated that the goal is to limit the amount of people that have access to this data. He stated he could not answer questions about specifics.

Legislator Montgomery stated it is in the County's best interest to have all of the information spelled out clearly. She questioned what would trigger the review of the camera data.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated that footage is reviewed when sensors and cameras detect someone bypassing a bus. He stated that an evidentiary package is then sent to the County for review. He stated that the designated department will handle the review process and contact the vehicle owner.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if something would trigger review after the vehicle owner receives the information on the infraction.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated the data on any incident will be saved for review and due process considerations while all other data will follow data retention policies.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the installment of the cameras depends on whether vehicles are owned by the district or contracted out.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated he does not know how the installment process works.

Legislator Montgomery requested clarification on the Traffic Safety Board.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Putnam County has a Traffic Safety Board but not a Traffic Safety Department so it would not be conducive to this situation.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale stated the Traffic Safety Board is part of the Government and falls under the Department of Planning.

Legislator Montgomery stated the Traffic Safety Board should be involved in this discussion. She stated she is the member of said Board and they have had discussions and meetings pertaining to this matter.

Director of Purchasing Alex Mazzotta mentioned although one vendor has been mentioned this evening, that did present to the Legislature, he wanted to clarify that Putnam County through the RFP process, will consider all the applicants. He stated from this point forward said vendor will need to participate in RFP process in order to be given consideration.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale mentioned Dutchess County issued an RFP and spoke with several different companies.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that this is the process Putnam County is striving for as well.

**Item #5 - Discussion/ Law Enforcement Ensuring School Safety in Putnam County/ Sheriff Kevin McConville & Commissioner of Social Svcs., Mental Health & Youth Bureau Mike Piazza**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the County Executive announced a proposal to apply \$2 million in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money to the Sheriff's Office and the Department of Social Services and Mental Health to work with six (6) school districts.

Sheriff Kevin McConville started by stating that the program continues to evolve based upon recommendations of school superintendents and the Department of Social Services. He stated it is an inclusionary program including all law enforcement in Putnam County: the Sheriff's Office, the State Police, the Town of Carmel Police, the Town of Kent Police, the Village of Brewster and the Village of Cold Spring, and the Putnam County mental health professionals, and school personnel. He stated there will be a critical assessment and review of the existing school safety program as well as a school assessment and intervention program review. He stated preparedness and response training will be implemented. He stated that this training will include the use of technology and system integration where applicable and practicable. He stated the Department of Social Services incorporates mental health components for identification, training, and collaboration with the schools. He stated that families in need will be included.

Commissioner of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Michael Piazza stated also Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio was present to participate in this discussion. He stated DSS will be supporting law enforcement in early intervention and identification of potentially troubled children. He stated the DSS is looking to restructure with Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio as the point person for the schools and law enforcement to contact.

Sheriff McConville stated one of the goals is to make the existing process that is available to the schools clearer. He stated he found in his review and during discussions with the BOCES Regional Safety Coordinator Frank Guglieri it was determined the Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Program is outstanding. He stated various components of that program will be implemented into Putnam County. He stated consistent

training programs will hopefully be implemented in September of this coming year. He stated this process is expanded to include private schools and daycare centers. He stated the goal of the program is to make schools and personnel aware of existing programs while ensuring a consistent level of security across the School Boards in Putnam County. He stated \$2million will be spent for this endeavor and a list of needed materials is being compiled. He stated the school safety vulnerability assessments have been conducted and will be shared with the schools, so they are able to properly react and respond to situations.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is a wonderful, proactive approach. She questioned how this on-going process will be formulated.

Sheriff McConville stated Captain Michael Grossi, Commander of School Resources and the SPO program, will have monthly meetings with the school superintendents and there will be a meeting with all the superintendents in August to gauge needs, requirements, and requests. He stated the schools will be unified onto one security platform. He stated there are several existing technology applications meeting Alyssa's Law requirement that will be reviewed and assessed. He stated this will provide the capability to communicate with law enforcement immediately and engage in an appropriate manner.

Commissioner Piazza stated BOCES Coordinator for Crisis Response Frank O'Leary organizes threat assessment training for schools and he coordinates the responses when there has been a crisis in the schools. He stated he is responsible for all 18 school districts (12 Westchester & 6 in Putnam), and he also extends his expertise to Dutchess, Rockland and Southern Westchester Counties. He stated that is so valuable, because it creates a continuity.

Sheriff McConville stated they are in contact with colleagues in Rockland, Dutchess, and Westchester to ensure similarity of application and programming.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she is so happy to hear that the preschools and private schools will be included. She stated this is such a wonderful and proactive approach.

Legislator Sullivan stated he has heard feedback from the communities and believes this is a good use of ARPA funds. He expressed Putnam County should be doing everything we can to keep the children safe.

Sheriff McConville clarified the ARPA funds will be going directly towards the team for the School Safety Program. He stated that no consultants will be hired.

Legislator Sayegh questioned how the County's radio project will impact school safety and response.

Sheriff McConville stated the radio project will eliminate dead spots and improve communication. He stated the CAD and RMS systems could provide the capability to see the ongoings inside the schools from any device. He stated currently those capabilities do not yet exist. He stated on a different grant, they are looking into purchasing a program that will create digital mappings of the buildings to provide valuable information instantaneously.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if there is a general safety rule at schools, so law enforcement knows what to expect upon arrival.

Sheriff McConville stated most security systems have the capability of advising the user of an open door. He stated a major problem with this is that the alert shows up on a singular program and is emailed to specific individual, so timeliness is key. He stated that there is new technology coming out that will help highlight vulnerabilities as seen in past incidents of violence in schools and address them appropriately.

Legislator Addonizio stated that private schools cannot afford SPO. She questioned if this will be addressed.

Sheriff McConville stated ARPA funding will not cover reoccurring costs. He stated each school is allocated a certain amount of money and will have time to identify and develop ways to fund incurring costs. He stated Albany and/or the Federal Government may fund such programs in the future.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if Connecticut was being reached out to as well.

Sheriff McConville confirmed that they are reaching out to Connecticut. He stated a big concern is the mental health component. He stated they hit a stone wall in previous investigations of mental health issues with students. He stated they are working with Intel Centers in NYS and Westchester to scrub social media and train social media investigators. He stated they are looking to interact with the school psychologists and Deputy Commissioner Servadio's team to come up with a treatment regimen and an identification program. He stated they are working to create a collective approach to addressing a students/individuals who have been identified as a potential threat versus having a one-on-one approach with the individual. He stated this way a plan of action will be determined in a cohesive response.

Legislator Gouldman questioned what was the May number of mental health issues in the school environment.

Sheriff McConville stated the number was approximately 40. He stated there has been a significant increase in these numbers. He stated ironically, prior to the incident in Texas, the Sheriff's Department has been working Commissioner Piazza in addressing these matters with the Schools Districts.

Legislator Montgomery questioned, on behalf of Garrison School Board Member Jocelyn Apicello, what the process will be for learning the needs of schools and school boards in relation with safety.

Sheriff McConville stated he has begun initial discussions with superintendents in preparation for the general meeting, but it has been difficult to set up meetings due to many events they are coordinating.

Legislator Montgomery questioned what school districts have been met with.

Sheriff McConville stated he has met with Putnam Valley, Haldane, Brewster, and Mahopac. He stated he will soon be meeting with Garrison and Carmel.

Legislator Montgomery communicated another inquiry from Jocelyn Apicello, is school safety going to narrowly focus on gun control and school shooting prevention or will it be more broadly interpreted to include mental health, bullying, substance use, stress, cyber security, privacy, etc.

Commissioner Piazza stated absolutely. He stated some of the events that have occurred are not due to mental illness. He continued to speak to the different factors that are contributing to these incidents. He stated a main focus is to intervene early on in hopes to achieving prevention.

Sheriff McConville stated that there will be a broader interpretation because the goal is to recognize the trauma that occurs for the student and working with the schools to intervene at an earlier stage.

Legislator Montgomery expressed she is pleased to see the inclusion of mental health in this program. She questioned if the School Safety Shield Program created by the National Rifle Association after Sandy Hook will be incorporated in Putnam County.

Sheriff McConville stated the schools will be in charge in terms of their needs to a degree and it will be determined whether there is sufficient funding for those needs. He stated they are looking to augment the funding allocated to the schools by Albany and the Federal Government for these safety programs. He stated typically a child's bad behavior ends in punishment and the program will address that by looking at personal issues occurring in child's life in order to take proper action.

Commissioner Piazza stated that what often occurs in schools is that there is no report or follow up after a student crisis. He stated this is another goal of the program. He stated there is mental health treatment included in the bill being debated in the Senate. He stated people struggling with mental illness are victims more often than perpetrators of crimes.

Legislator Montgomery stated she was astounded that the Rules Committee allowed the passage of \$2 million for this school task force at their meeting on June 21, 2022. She stated there is a great need to assess the needs of schools and that schools must be involved. She stated that the Haldane Central School District denied having met with Sheriff McConville.

Sheriff McConville stated that he met with Superintendent Dr. Philip Benante of Haldane Central School District on June 22, 2022.

Legislator Montgomery stated that the wish of the school districts that she represents is that they take lead on the project. She asked for clarification on the vulnerabilities assessment.

Sheriff McConville stated that the vulnerabilities assessments are done and will be redone when any change to a school is made, or when any recommendation to a school is made.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she would like to be included in the outcomes of the vulnerabilities assessments for the school districts that she represents.

Sheriff McConville stated that some of these programs are confidential and that the school has the right to restrict access.

Legislator Montgomery stated that the outcome of Haldane is online and is not confidential. She stated that she wants to work with Sheriff McConville. She reiterated that she is astounded that the members of the Rules Committee moved funding for this program forward with no proposal for the program.

Legislator Sullivan stated there have been some comments stated that there is little funding from the County available to address mental health. He questioned Commissioner Piazza to provide an overview of the mental health resources provided by Putnam County.

Commissioner Piazza stated that there are contracts with CoveCare for outpatient mental health and substance abuse services. He stated that Arms Acres provides a rehabilitation program, methadone outpatient clinic. He stated that Lifestance is a private, proprietary provider of mental health services in the community. He stated that St. Christopher's Inn is a residential facility in Cold Spring. He stated that there are a lot of services and there are some programs in the County that provide peer advocacy. He stated that there are some gaps because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated there are concerns about programs not being fully back in-person. He stated that the programs have concerns over loss of staffing and the challenges they are facing in filling the vacancies, for a variety reasons.

Legislator Sayegh stated that there are not as many scholarships available to fund education for programs in the field of social work. She stated that society is lacking in encouraging students to seek this field of work. She stated that this could be adding to the issue of mental health professional retention. She stated she believes the country as a whole needs to encourage students to go into professions where people help other people.

Deputy Commissioner Servadio stated there are great services available in Putnam County, we also have significant wait times for outpatient clinicians and psychiatrists. She stated they coordinate with the hospital and outpatient programs to minimize the gap of the medication time. She stated it is their hope the Stabilization Center will fill a significant gap in Putnam County. She stated she and Commissioner Piazza are working to help fill the gaps when and where possible.

Legislator Sullivan stated it is his opinion this is all the more reason to put the \$2million dollar ARPA fund towards the Stabilization Center.

Chairwoman Nacerino thanked Commissioner Piazza for his commitment to mental health and the citizens of Putnam County. She stated she feels confident to move forward with the task force because it is desperately needed. She stated a fully formulated plan will soon come to fruition.

Legislator Montgomery specified the funding of mental health resources. She stated \$7,000 is allocated to the Prevention Council, \$7,000 to NHA, and around \$430,000 to CoveCare. She stated the Social Services Department contracts a lot of their services out. She stated there are a

host of other services in the County that beg, borrow, and steal to stay afloat. She stated she has been asking for years for proper funding for mental health resources. She stated caution must be taken about mental health partnering with Law Enforcement to solve problems. She stated she understands infrastructure in schools need to change for tactical reasons, but to make sure the program is not all about pro-gun.

Sheriff McConville clarified the partnership is between Law Enforcement, Department of Social Services, and the schools to provide a pathway to treatment for each individual.

Commissioner Piazza stated the goal is for SROs and SPOs to refer kids in trouble for mental health services so they will not be dealt with through law enforcement.

Legislator Montgomery stated it is her hope more resources will be provided to SROs and SPOs. She questioned if the County will be catering to each school's needs. She questioned if the County will be in charge of providing tactical equipment for infrastructure changes

Sheriff McConville stated each school's needs will be catered to. He stated there was no mention of tactical equipment for the schools. He stated a fiscal plan will be used to create a safer environment.

Legislator Montgomery stated this plan requires review from the State Department.

Sheriff McConville stated it is the responsibility of the school to handle the State Department review.

Legislator Montgomery stated this is a big burden on the school. She stated support is necessary for the schools during this process.

BOCES Regional Safety Coordinator Frank Guglieri program stated he works closely with all the SROs and SPOs. He thanked sheriff office for helping with the SRO training and maintaining effective communication. He stated it is critical to break down the silos and create communication between everyone involved in this process. He stated this procedure is pre-evolving and it is advantageous that Putnam County is small. He provided further feedback on the working relationship between law enforcement, social service agencies/departments and the schools.

Legislator Montgomery stated the open process is beneficial to the public and the schools. She expressed concern about allocating \$2 million to a project that does not have a clear plan.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated there is a plan and a coordinated effort. She stated this is a great opportunity to move forward with safety, mental health, and helping children in need. She stated she is in total support of this endeavor.

#### **Item #6 - Update/ Bonadio Report/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the County has been struggling with patrol costs under the administrations of Sheriff Langley, Sheriff Smith, and Sheriff Thouborron. She stated it was

challenging to find a balance between fiscal accountability and community protection for the reduction of overtime costs as Sheriff Langley requested. She stated fund transfers were submitted after work was performed and that violated Section 7.08 of the County Charter. She stated Resolution #34, adopted 2/4/2020 states that no county officer, employee, administrative unit, or other agency shall expend or borrow any money or incur any liability in excess of the amount appropriated to them in a fiscal year. She stated the Legislature was left little recourse after the Sheriff's Office ignored this resolution. She stated on 10/2/2020 the County Executive requested a consideration of funding and independent analysis by Bonadio & Company to analyze Sheriff Department scheduling, overtime usage, and payroll functions. She stated hiring consultants is a common practice in Local Government. She stated this has been done in Putnam County with the departments of Social Services Department to weed out Medicaid fraud and the County Executive budgeted for a consultant for the Emergency Services Department in the 2022 budget. She stated Resolution 215 issued on 12/1/2020 approved \$45,000 to cover consulting services by Bonadio & Company. She stated that there is some agreement with the report while other parts were deemed deficient or speculative which impact the conclusions retained in the report. She continued to briefly speak to this matter and then requested Sheriff McConville speak to this matter.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated after he and members of his staff reviewed the Bonadio report one concern is the report uses an average of data collected from 28 different unidentified law enforcement agencies. He stated without information on these agencies and data the Putnam County Sheriff's Department can be no comparison. He stated this method is used by the ICMA and CPSM and they are required to isolate every call for service and calculate total time officers were on the call. He stated the statement is reasonable but not factual because it does not accurately capture the internal data or functions of the Sheriff's Department. He stated the Bonadio Group claims their report is more accurate than the Sheriff's own data and it would have been ideal for them to use the department's own data. He stated the report does not accurately account for all law enforcement agencies that perform law enforcement functions in Putnam County, notably the State Police. He stated the Bonadio Group did not provide any explanation for why this information was not included. He stated the report indicated the deputies assigned to shifts should be arrived at through discretionary analysis. He stated part of the ARPA funding will be used to review patrol zone assignments with the goal of using the CAD RMS system to synchronize data from geographical locations. He stated this will create a more effective way to deploy personnel accurately and responsibly. He stated the Bonadio Group was not afforded the opportunity to interview members of the Sheriff's Office to gain information on policies, practices, and procedures that provide valuable context for analysis. He stated a flaw of the report is the Bonadio Group did not have insight to accurately capture the performance of the Department members and it is unclear who they spoke with to make the deductions stated in the report. He stated the report discusses the Sheriff's Department allocating resources to calls for service in areas that have a local Police Department. He stated different methodologies, such as walk-ins, must be employed to contact the Deputy and file complaints because communications do not exist in the building. He stated the evaluation of the shared service agreement with Carmel will be done as suggested by the Bonadio Group, but the report does not reference the context of the shared service agreement and its application to law enforcement. He stated a critical aspect of the report is the three (3) year analysis used for calls and services indicates the largest concentration of calls for services derive from Philipstown, Putnam Valley, Patterson, and Southeast. He stated it was unclear on what resources they used

in terms of mapping to arrive at that. He stated overtime allocations mostly result from shift cover vacancies. He stated that is in line with what his administration is seeing as well. He stated the Bonadio report premised on ICMA's operational and data analysis in 61 towns and cities with different populations and located in 26 states in all regions of the United States. He stated this report as admitted by the ICMA and CPSM has shortcomings as it only relies on the examination of calls for services received by 911 and ignores other elements of community demands and engagement. He stated the ICMA and CPSM are required to look at population, crime data, patrol staffing, the total number of calls for service, response times, total service time for calls, and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile response time for calls for service to evaluate Department staffing. He stated the report asserts 60% of total sworn personnel should be in patrol division, the average workload should not exceed 60%, and total service time should not exceed a factor of 60. He continued to offer his feedback on the Bonadio Report. He stated this report does not take in a number of important factors. He stated through better management and oversight of his team they have begun to administer strategies to supervise the use of overtime and time off, noting that when the situation requires the use of allocated overtime funds his department will utilize them. He provided some examples. He stated when he took office, he reported this to this Committee earlier this year, he and his team were shocked to learn that overtime and time off authorization were being performed and line supervisory levels. He stated for an agency of this size, that is incomprehensible. He stated he stated that has been changed under his management. He stated Road Patrol Captain Kevin Junjulas, his lieutenants and sergeants work tediously ensuring there is appropriate staffing and that members of the department are able to take their time off. He stated additionally there is a responsibility to the taxpayers that overtime is spent accurately. He continued to speak to some past practices in relation to overtime, which he as the Sheriff, along with his team have discontinued. He stated from a managerial perspective of the Sheriff's Department, it is believed the Bonadio Report fails on a number of different levels.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the report contained inconclusive information and did not provide data applicable to Putnam County.

Legislator Sullivan thanked Chairwoman Nacerino for the historical background and overview of why the Bonadio Group was hired. He stated the reason the Bonadio Company was contracted was to conduct an objective analysis based on the data that would support why or why not overtime was required. He stated we were not looking for a subjective opinion. He stated the excessive overtime costs has been a long-standing problem and one that the County was trying to address from many, many years. He stated the Sheriff's analysis of the report was excellent because it revealed the flaws in the Bonadio Report. He stated these reports require a lot of review on many levels to provide factual reports. He stated it was money well spent to hire the Bonadio Group, but the report failed on the respect of receiving the answer that was sought. He stated the report did enable them to gather information on weaker areas that need to be addressed and corrected in a quantitative and objective manner.

Legislator Sayegh no report received is a substitute for the report done by law enforcement. She stated her hope is the CAD system will provide more valuable information. She stated she is disappointed the report did not show what they hoped. She stated she looks forward to the future progression of the police department.

Sheriff McConville stated he met with Undersheriff Thomas H. Lindert and Commissioner of Finance Bill Carlin prior to receiving the Bonadio report. He stated they would like to see the budget broken out differently in terms of providing cause and effect. He stated the hope is a causality for the overtime grant will be more defined within a two-year period. He stated the key component is the managerial oversight of authorization of overtime and its usage.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated there is no way to predict unforeseen circumstances that will dictate overtime. She stated it is important to know overtime usage before the fact to be in accordance with the Charter.

Sheriff McConville stated the Sheriff's Department will request additional funding if/when it is needed. He stated they have a monthly meeting on the budget with their fiscal manager so that all divisions and units are aware of where they are in the budget process.

Undersheriff Thomas H. Lindert stated he is unsure of how the Bonadio Group arrived at their conclusion as the statistical data in the report was not proven.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated there were some take aways, but overall, it was a disappointment. She stated she believes hesitation to bring the report forward caused a bigger stir than the actual report.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if Chairwoman Nacerino initiated this report with the Bonadio Group.

Chairwoman Nacerino clarified County Executive Mary Ellen Odell initiated the Bonadio Report.

Legislator Montgomery stated she spoke to Sheriff McConville and learned he did not see the Bonadio Report until it was presented to the Legislature. She stated the report was sent to the Legislature from the County Executive on June 8, 2022. She stated she was surprised that the Sheriff was speaking to the report. She stated she requested a representative from the Bonadio Group attend a Protective Services meeting to present their findings. She stated neither she nor Sheriff McConville have seen the previous drafts of the Bonadio Report. She stated for \$45,000, all the Bonadio information should be presented including previous drafts.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated it is unnecessary to have a representative of the Bonadio Group present at the Protective Services Meeting and it is under her discretion to make that decision. She stated the Legislature is capable of reviewing the report on their own with the guidance of the presentation done by Sheriff McConville.

Legislator Montgomery stated usually consultants are presenting the report they wrote. She stated the meetings set up between the Bonadio Group and the patrol and members of the Sheriff's Department were cancelled by County Executive Odell. She stated \$45,000 was wasted due to a political vendetta.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated overtime has been an issue for years and the report was not directed at Sheriff Langley. She expressed the majority opinion does not line up with that of Legislator Montgomery.

Corinne Musella-Pitt, a Putnam County Police Benevolent Association (PBA) Representative stated those who work for the PBA recognize the balance that has been arrived at over the years, referred to community-oriented policing built on collaborative relationships with the public creates a proactive approach to solving existing problems. She stated the main goal of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) PBA is to improve the lives of all who work, live and raise their families within Putnam County. Sheriff's Department cannot improve the lives of the Putnam County citizens if they do not have adequate resources. She stated PCSO PBA believes a five (5) car allotment, previously six (6), for road patrol is inadequate and is substantiated by the Bonadio Report. She stated difference in opinion arises from fiscal responsibility. She stated Sheriffs would have more incentive to remain working at the Police Department as overtime would decrease with additional manpower. She stated the needs and demands of the Police Department and the people have changed dramatically due to State laws, technology, and population. She stated some key concepts for maintaining a peacekeeping force include leadership, management, respect, transparency, training, officer safety, and unrealistic expectations. She stated it is unrealistic to maintain previous levels of service to the community with the decrease in patrol and manpower. She stated this issue directly affects taxpayers, response time, policy, and tactics. She stated the State Police are not always available to assist our County. She stated there are concerns regarding officer safety as backup response times currently take 20-25 minutes. She stated the Substation in Putnam Valley covered patrol areas with much lower response times before it closed. She stated current patrols are turning out from the main Police Office in Carmel or the Substation in Nelsonville. She stated areas in between garner extended response when patrols are not adequate. She stated the time it takes to deal with arrest, paperwork, interviews, and arraignment should be taken into consideration. She stated manpower must increase with the workload presented in new mandates and changes to law as the data in the Bonadio Report reflects. She stated effective police work; community interactions; and the time it takes to handle calls, cases, complainants, suspects, and victims cannot be rushed. She stated it is not fiscally responsible and in the best interest of the community to pull patrol cars from their routine post to cover special detail requests. She stated the Sheriff's Office was given an unrealistic budget to adequately run the Department and this cannot continue for the rest of 2022 or 2023. She stated the release of the Bonadio Report provides the opportunity to discuss with Officials and the public why the data within is important. She stated a fully staffed Police Department will generate a positive impact on employees and tax base as a whole. She stated this Sheriff's Department has never been fully staffed. She stated the shortage effects every unit and service in the Department, forcing Deputies and Sergeants to stay for additional shift covers. She stated the Bonadio Report highlights the needs of the public and the Police Department. She stated six (6) patrol cars is a necessity.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Sheriff McConville is currently working on the budget and will address any budget changes necessary when the time arises.

Sheriff McConville stated he began his department's budget meetings in March of 2022. He stated the Police Department had no input in their finite 2022 budget. He stated each division Captain is reviewing their overtime expenditure and submitting requests for the 2023 budget.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned if there had been an increase in crimes or gaps in procedures since the patrol cars have decreased from six (6) to five (5).

Sheriff McConville stated there has been an increase in financial crimes in terms of check related or forgery related cases. He stated there is an increase with person in crisis, mental health, addiction, and behavioral problems.

Legislator Montgomery questioned whether the six (6) patrol cars will be restored in the 2023 budget and whether there will be additional personnel for road patrol and the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff McConville stated that everything is on the table and the discussions are currently being had.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated it was crucial to determine whether these propositions are feasible.

Legislator Sullivan stated that the budget process had not started yet.

Sheriff McConville stated that he was referring to the Sheriff's Department own budget process.

Former Sheriff Robert Langley stated that he and his command staff met with a representative from the Bonadio group to discuss the process of information collection in 2020. He stated that from his correspondence with Bonadio representative Joseph Dillon, he learned that the report leading into 2021 had undergone no fewer than four (4) revisions per the request of County Executive Odell. He stated that Mr. Dillon made requests to speak to multiple personnel from the Sheriff's Department. He stated that County Executive Odell directed PBA members were not to be interviewed. He stated that all information provided to Mr. Dillon was factual. He stated that the outcome of the Bonadio report shows the Putnam County Sheriff's Department Road Patrol is understaffed. He stated the overtime report was in alignment with the staffing and information he provided the Legislature. He stated that the staffing levels of Putnam County's Sheriff's Department do not meet national standards. He stated that the current staffing levels have been reduced from the levels had during Former Sheriff Donald Smith's and his own administration. He stated that he had previously recommended at least two (2) patrol cars for each town that did not have a dedicated police service. He stated that part of fiduciary responsibility by the Legislature is investing in resources. He stated that Putnam County should increase deputies on the streets. He stated that many deputies have sustained injuries while handling violent individuals due to lack of backup. He stated that this creates violence in the workplace for deputies and that this is a liability.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that Putnam County is one of the safest counties in New York State.

Sheriff McConville stated that the crime analysis still holds. He stated he does not expect a major change. He stated that the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) were never filed in 2021. He stated that the Department currently has an individual assigned to catching up on the UCRs considering that they affect opportunities to receive funding at the state and federal level.

Legislator Sullivan questioned what UCRs are.

Sheriff McConville answered that any time a crime is committed, it is reviewed. He stated that it is then transmitted to the state for data collection. He stated that in 2021, the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) mandated that every law enforcement agency transition from UCR to Incident Based Reporting, (IBR) because it is more accurate as it accounts for all the crimes in an incident. He stated that UCRs did not account for sub-crimes. He stated that UCRs were not filed in 2021 and that the transition to IBR was not made. He stated that the Department is currently working on this transition. He stated that the CAD/RMS system will translate reports into IBRs.

Legislator Sullivan questioned why the reports were not filed.

Sheriff McConville stated that he does not have an answer. He stated that the crime statistics from 2021 are off since they were never filed. He stated the Department is going back through all reports from the year to send to the DCJS for a compilation to be made.

Erin Crowley, a resident of Mahopac, stated that as of April 2022, Sheriff's department is nine months behind on UCR compliance. She stated that this is four (4) months longer than the previous administration at any time. She stated that in May 2022, the Department submitted information but is still two (2) months behind.

Sheriff McConville stated that the Department is doing a great job of catching up.

Ms. Crowley stated that she is concerned about the UCRs because the speed of the catch-up process will lead to more inaccuracies in reporting.

Sheriff McConville stated that this is incorrect. He stated the data is transmitted to DCJS and is broken down by month.

Ms. Crowley stated her opposition to recent fiscal decisions that place deputies and Putnam County residents at risk. She stated that there has been a reduction of patrol cars in Putnam County with the new administration in the Sheriffs' Department. She stated that having fewer cars on the road increases response time, which decreases public safety and increases hazardous conditions for deputies. She stated that the County has the responsibility to ensure that essential services never go understaffed. She stated that the County should consider overfilling positions to ensure constant staffing levels. She stated that the Bonadio report makes it clear that the Sheriff's Department is understaffed.

Sheriff McConville reiterated that the UCRs are being filed. He stated that the Department is finding more efficient ways to handle the training process to get deputies into work quicker.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that the process is arduous. She stated that she looks forward to the assessment and rationale of Sheriff McConville in creating the budget for 2023. She reiterated that sustainability is important. She questioned whether the reduction from six (6) to five (5) cars has caused a risk to residents.

Sheriff McConville stated that he has modified assignments. He stated that the current staffing meets the Department's needs. He stated that it may increase based on continued review. He

stated that the Department is proud of the work they are doing. He stated that data is analyzed to predict incidents based on previous patterns and staff accordingly.

Legislator Gouldman requested that the committee ask the Bonadio group to attend a meeting and speak about the report.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she would not be inclined to do that because the group would only defend their report.

Legislator Gouldman stated that this could help Sheriff McConville with the budget process.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that Sheriff McConville has not requested this.

Legislator Montgomery stated that Putnam County never works within the confines of the budget. She stated that in 2021, the County went \$45,000 over budget to have this report made. She stated her concern is about the safety of deputies. She stated that this cannot be held off for the 2023 budget. She stated that budgets have been adjusted in the past to accommodate needs and requests that this issue be taken care of soon. She stated that other offices have received an increase, like the County Executive's office.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that the work of the Sheriff's Department and the deputies is not being undermined. She questioned whether the statistics prove the claims that have been made. She stated that everyone has the best interests of the deputies in mind.

**Item #7 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A038)/ Sheriff Dept./ Reimbursement from National General Insurance to Offset Cost of Repair to Sheriff's Vehicle, Unit 45/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated \$1,261 will be reimbursed to the Sheriff's Department for repairs to Unit 45 after an accident on 2/15/22.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A038)/ Sheriff Dept./ Reimbursement from National General Insurance to Offset Cost of Repair to Sheriff's Vehicle, Unit 45; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #8 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A046)/ District Attorney/ Asset Forfeiture Fund to Replace Damaged Furniture & Worn Carpeting in the District Attorney's Office District Attorney Robert Tendy**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated \$23,500 will be used for this project.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment (22A046)/ District Attorney/ Asset Forfeiture Fund to Replace Damaged Furniture & Worn Carpeting in the District Attorney's Office; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**Item #9 - Other Business**

**a. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 22A049/ Sheriff's Dept./ Request the Use of Inmate T-Commissioner Reserve Funds- Purchase Protective Disorder Control Equipment for the Correction Officers and Deputies/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 22A049/ Sheriff's Dept./ Request the Use of Inmate T-Commissioner Reserve Funds- Purchase Protective Disorder Control Equipment for the Correction Officers and Deputies; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

**Item #10 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 8:31 PM Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Legislative Interns, Eden Barone and Tanya Ramirez