

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE
Putnam County Office Building
Room #318
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

(Chairman Oliverio, Legislators DiCarlo & Scuccimarra)

Thursday

November 14, 2013

6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Oliverio who requested Legislator Scuccimarra lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Chairman Oliverio and Legislator Scuccimarra were present. Legislator DiCarlo was absent.

**Item # 3 - Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2013
October 10, 2013**

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item # 5 - Approval/Memorialization/NYSAC Resolution/Urging New York State to Restore the Historic 50/50 State/Local Cost Sharing for the State's Mandated Safety Net Program or Provide More Program Control to Local Social Service Districts Commensurate with Counties Increased Fiscal Responsibility for the Program Department of Social Services

Chairman Oliverio requested input from Commissioner of Social Services, Mike Piazza, on whether or not the County should memorialize the resolutions.

Commissioner Piazza stated he supports the memorialization of both the resolutions as there are significant issues with passing costs of unfunded mandates onto the County from the State. He stated these decisions are being made by regulation and not legislation and the County is expected to pick up the cost.

Chairman Oliverio stated it is important to restore the 50/50 State/Local cost sharing of the State's mandated Safety Net program. He stated the burden on the County increased two-fold when paying the Safety Net costs along with the cost of unemployment.

Commissioner Piazza stated with the difficulty getting people into the State Psychiatric Hospital System, those people are being put into the Safety Net system and the costs, in turn increase. He stated the Safety Net population is growing and the jails are the biggest provider of mental health services in the Counties.

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve the memorialization of the resolution to restore the historic 50/50 State/Local cost sharing for the State's mandated Safety Net program; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

10a. Discussion/Resolution Calling on the Governor and State Legislature to Continue to Partner with Counties to Successfully Reform Juvenile Justice Programs While Avoiding Cost Shifts to Counties

Chairman Oliverio stated this resolution will increase the age at which a juvenile can be tried as an adult to eighteen. He stated this will reduce the burden on caseworkers and move the cases from adult court to a family court.

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to memorialize the resolution to reform Juvenile Justice Programs; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item # 4 - Correspondence/Dr. Beals/E-Waste/Discussion

Commissioner of Health, Dr. Allen Beals stated the company that was handling E-Waste in the County has withdrawn. He stated over a six month period when they were handling the waste, they collected over 120,000 pounds of material and the only way they could continue is if they charged the County \$0.25 per pound, which comes out to about \$40,000. He also stated along with the cost, the County would have to come up with a way to weigh the waste. He further stated the County was able to secure a company to manage the E-Waste at no cost and along the guidelines of the existing contract.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned what the change was that made this company agree.

Commissioner Beals stated there was no change, the company agreed to the guidelines already in place.

Chairman Oliverio questioned when the trailers will be in place at the municipalities.

Commissioner Beals stated they should be back by the end of the month.

Howard Carpenter, a volunteer at the Kent Recycling Center stated the recycling center got a temporary roll off from a recycling center in Yorktown to take electronic waste they were left with. He stated the arrangement that Commissioner Beals spoke about sounded great and he questioned if the County is making or paying any money.

Commissioner Beals stated no money is being spent or made.

Howard Carpenter questioned if a contract was in place with the new removal company.

Commissioner Beals stated the existing contract will be honored and it is currently being re-worded by the Law Department. He stated he expects the contract to be in place by the end of the month.

Legislator Albano state towns like Carmel have a contract with companies who will pick up everything. He questioned if having a company who is willing to take the E-waste should be a County-wide requirement.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated electronic waste cannot be combined with regular garbage; the two must be kept separate.

Legislator Albano suggested having the companies provide the service, separate from the regular garbage, to dispose of the electronic waste.

Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker stated E-waste is controlled by the DEC. He stated there are rules that require companies to pick the waste up and the disposal cost is covered when you originally pay for the product.

Commissioner Beals stated as a backup plan, he had come up with a model where twice a year residents could drop off their electronic waste.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated his concern with the taxpayers paying twice: once at the time of purchase, as a disposal fee is built into the price by the manufacturer, and another to the town for disposing of the waste.

Legislator Albano suggested a letter be written to incorporate e-waste upon renewal of a contract.

Deputy County Executive Walker stated if a letter is to be written, it should be written to the DEC, forcing them to follow their laws.

Brian Amico, President of Yorktown Recycling, stated in 2011 DEC made a change to help lessen the burden to the County. He also stated the law Deputy County Executive Walker alluded to earlier regarding the manufacturer's responsibility to dispose of the waste has not yet begun, but will be in place beginning January 1, 2014. He further stated beginning in 2015, having any type of e-waste on the street or curb will be unacceptable; the reason being materials in such products can be hazardous to the environment if the product was to break while out on the curb.

Chairman Oliverio stated an issue that the County has is that the towns are in control of their waste pickup, be it regular or electronic. He stated in Putnam Valley alone there are four different waste removal companies. He stated Carmel recently instituted town-wide waste removal.

Brian Amico stated he is happy to help the County with the e-waste burden. He stated e-waste does have value and can be recycled, it is not just garbage.

**Item # 6 - New State Required Testing/APPR(Annual Professional Performance Review)/Common Core Curriculum/ Discussion
10b. Discussion/Empire State Supervisors and Administrators
Association Recommendations**

Chairman Oliverio stated there has been a large outcry to the State of New York regarding the Common Core Curriculum. He stated this curriculum was put together by President Obama to nationalize the Educational System. He stated this curriculum was implemented by New York State with the Race to the Top funding received from the Federal Government, however no training was provided for the instructors or

administrators, and because of this it was the students who suffered. He provided an example from the Putnam Valley School District whose average on the New York State performance test prior to the implementation of the Common Core was in the 85th – 95th percentile. He stated after the implementation of this Common Core the rate dropped, leaving the district in the 40th percentile; meaning 60% of the students did not perform up to 'par'. He stated the Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Association (ESSAA) are in favor of the Common Core because of its rigor; however they have some recommendations for the State. These include a slower approach to the curriculum, possibly implementing the program over a few years rather than all at once, which is how it was done this past year. He stated he would like to memorialize the recommendations made by the ESSAA and send them to the State to encourage them to take their time with the implementation of the Common Core. He stated he would also like to ask the State to listen to its constituents. He stated this is one of the biggest unfunded mandates New York has ever created for Education. He stated each test costs the district \$8.00 per student. He further stated computer based tests, which will be introduced in two years' time will cost \$27.00 per student, per test. He also stated the New York State regents tests will be included under the Common Core and will be given this year to 11th graders who have not been exposed to the Common Core prior to this.

President of the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce Bill Nulk stated the business community is also concerned with this because upon graduation, the students are not fit to perform the tasks given to them. He agreed with Chairman Oliverio in that the rigor of the curriculum is a good thing; however the implementation of it is a problem.

Legislator Albano questioned how the rest of the Country measured after the Common Core.

Chairman Oliverio stated the results were consistent throughout the States who introduced the Common Core. He also stated Texas has pulled out of the program altogether.

Legislator Scuccimarra questioned when the curriculum began to be implemented.

Chairman Oliverio stated it was implemented through the Race to the Top, where the President gave money to states who signed up for the Common Core, which forced the State to adopt the national standards. He stated New York State received \$750 million, all of which has been spent.

Legislator Albano questioned if New York State can drop the curriculum.

Chairman Oliverio stated there have been meetings held by New York State Senators who would like to do away with the Common Core. He stated there is a movement called Rescind New York State Ed. He stated he does not agree with this because he is in favor of the rigor, but should be implemented more slowly.

Legislator Castellano questioned how to implement the curriculum slower.

Chairman Oliverio stated he believes it should be introduced in first grade, increased in second grade, and in third grade given a bar to pass. He stated to then continue with the introduction. He stated last year, all third and eighth grade students were given the new test with no prior training.

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to memorialize the recommendations made by ESSAA; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item # 7 - Reappointment of Member of the Board of Health/Avanzato

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve the reappointment; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

**Item # 8 - Correspondence from Kent Beautification Committee/September 2013/
FYI – Duly Noted**

Item # 9 - Putnam County Discount Card Report October 2013/FYI – Duly Noted

Item # 10 - Other Business

- a. Discussion/Resolution Calling on the Governor and State Legislature to Continue to Partner with Counties to Successfully Reform Juvenile Justice Programs While Avoiding Cost Shifts to Counties**
- b. Discussion/Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Association Recommendations**

Item # 11 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:05 p.m. Chairman Oliverio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Green, Administrative Assistant.