

fund balance to pay for the 5-year PPU projects, instead of bonding for them and incurring more debt.

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

c. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 17A011/ Finance/ Reclassify Per Office of State Comptroller Chart of Accounts

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

d. Approval/ Budgetary Transfer 17T035/ Finance/ Transfer Funds Earmarked in Subcontingency for the Putnam County Visitor's Bureau to Continue Operations in 2017 (Also reviewed in Economic Development)

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

Item #6 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 17T032/ Emergency Services/ Purchase Technical Rescue Equipment (Also reviewed in Protective Svcs.)

Chairman Castellano made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 17T032; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #7 - Approval/ Memorialization/ Urging the State to Enact Legislation to Ensure a Fair and Level Playing Field for All Retailers by Addressing Loopholes in Internet Sales Tax Collection Practices

Chairman Castellano stated with online purchases becoming more frequent, there are concerns as to whether consumers are paying the correct sales tax on those items.

Legislator Sullivan stated when something is purchased on the Internet, many times sales tax is not charged if the business has no physical presence in New York. He stated there are many sales taking place that are not being taxed. He stated it is not fair to local businesses that they must charge sales tax, while retailers online may not have to.

Commissioner Carlin stated theoretically, those online purchases are supposed to be claimed on an individual's tax return; however many people do not know that.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how online purchases that did not charge sales tax could be tracked.

Commissioner Carlin stated the law would need to require the seller to collect the sales tax. He stated if the company does not have a physical presence in the State, sales tax is not collected.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if this would pertain to only a business or if it would include items being sold by an individual.

Commissioner Carlin stated it could be either however what Governor Cuomo put through is mainly for businesses.

Legislator Nacerino stated this issue is only going to accelerate due to the increase of online purchases.

Legislator Gouldman stated the Internet is putting small businesses out of business.

Town of Southeast Councilwoman Lynne Eckardt stated if an individual purchases an item from a physical store in Connecticut they do not pay New York State sales tax, only Connecticut State sales tax. She stated it is difficult for businesses in Putnam County to compete when the same product can be purchased for less money a few miles away. She stated reducing sales tax may level the playing field and keep business in the County.

Chairman Castellano stated it is the buyer's responsibility to claim online purchases on their taxes. He stated the Governor is attempting to level the playing field with this bill. He stated there was a time when people thought the Post Office might dissolve; however it has made a rebound with the increase of deliveries due to online purchases.

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

Item #8 - Approval/ Memorialization/ Calling on State Legislative Leaders to Reform the Home Rule Revenue Process by Enacting a 4 Year Authorization Period for All Local Sales Tax Extenders in 2017 with a Goal of Making this Local Renewal Authority Permanent

Chairman Castellano stated New York City no longer has to go to the State to get their extension every two (2) years.

Commissioner Carlin stated this proposal always passes through the Senate; however it does not pass through the Assembly. He stated this bill would enact a four (4) year sales tax extension rather than two (2) years.

Legislator Albano stated this extension is important because if the funds are not collected through sales tax, it would have to be made up for through increased property taxes.

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

Item #9 - Discussion/ Legislator Gouldman/ Send Letter to State Advocating for an Increase in Salary Threshold for New York State Disability Property Tax Exemption

Legislator Gouldman stated he was contacted by a constituent who lost their disability property tax exemption because the salary threshold was exceeded by a minimal amount. He stated he would like a letter to be sent the State Senate, Assembly, and Governor to advocate for increasing the threshold.

Legislator Jonke questioned which exemption this individual lost.

Legislator Gouldman requested that this item be tabled until next month so he can collect more information.

Legislator Jonke stated the sliding scale used for the property tax exemptions are in \$900 increments. He stated if an individual went from one level to the next, the difference in the amount would not add up to thousands of dollars of reduced benefits. He stated the STAR benefit has a locational factor based on where a piece of property in in the State. He stated this factor is not part of other exemptions, such as the disability exemption.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to table this item; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Item #10 - FYI/ Unaudited Annual Update for the Fiscal Year Ended 12/31/2016

Commissioner Carlin stated the auditors will be performing their audit in about two (2) weeks.

Item #11 - Other Business

Chairman Castellano made a motion to waive the rules and accept all of the other business; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

a. Approval/SEQRA Determination/Bond Issued for Reconstruction and/or Resurfacing of Various County Highways in Putnam County

Legislator Sullivan questioned what the current interest rate on the bond is.

Commissioner Carlin stated the interest rate is somewhere in the mid 2's.

Legislator Albano stated the rates are very low right now and the County may not see rates this low again.

Legislator Sullivan questioned how long the money would be borrowed for.

Commissioner Carlin stated about 10 -12 years.

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

b. Approval/ Bond Resolution/ Reconstruction and/or Resurfacing of Various County Highways in Putnam County

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

c. Approval/ Master Bridge NY Local Project Agreement/ Highways & Facilities/ Fairfield Drive Culvert Replacement PIN 8761.69

Commissioner Carlin stated this project is 100% funded through Bridge New York funds from New York State.

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

d. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (17A018)/ Highways & Facilities/ Fairfield Drive Culvert Replacement PIN 8761.69

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

Item #7 - Approval/ Memorialization/ Urging the State to Enact Legislation to Ensure a Fair and Level Playing Field for All Retailers by Addressing Loopholes in Internet Sales Tax Collection Practices (Continued)

Councilwoman Eckardt questioned if Commissioner Carlin has an estimate of how much sales tax may have been lost from online purchases.

Commissioner Carlin stated he is unsure. He stated the memorialization includes estimates however he is unsure how those numbers were found.

Item #12 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:03 p.m. Chairman Castellano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Green.