

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MEETING
HELD VIA AUDIO WEBINAR
PURSUANT TO TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDERS**

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Nacerino

Tuesday

May 18, 2021

(Immediately Following the Protective Meeting at 6PM)

The meeting was called to order via audio webinar at 6:56 P.M. by Chairwoman Sayegh who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Committee Legislator Nacerino and Chairwoman Sayegh were present. Chairwoman Sayegh stated Legislator Addonizio was absent and that Legislator Albano would be sitting on the committee in her absence.

Item #3 - Approval/Appointments/Board of Health/McConnell, Schoolman, Bessen

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is a request to re-appoint Kristin McConnell and approve two (2) appointments to fill two (2) vacancies on the Board of Health, Dr. Michael Schoolman and Dr. Herb Bessen. She stated Dr. Schoolman and Dr. Bessen both had served as members of the Board of Health in the past. She stated they were interviewed by the Board of Health Members and come highly recommended to fill the terms of Dr. Avanzato and Dr. Nesheiwat. She continued to speak to the recommended Board of Health candidates. She stated she will be supporting these appointments and stated her appreciation for them volunteering to serve as members of the County Board of Health.

Legislator Albano reiterated his appreciation to these people for volunteering their services to the community.

Legislator Nacerino stated these are well recognized names and individuals of the County. She believes we are fortunate to have people of this caliber step up and volunteer their time to serve as members of the Board of Health.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to Approve Three (3) Appointments to the Board of Health/McConnell, Schoolman, Bessen; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if Chairwoman Sayegh was going to open the discussion up to the other members of the Legislature before the vote is completed.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated not at this time, she is conducting the vote.

Legislator Montgomery questioned why Chairwoman Sayegh did not open the discussion up to the members of the Legislature.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that is her prerogative as Chair of the Committee. She stated any comments and or discussion can be brought to the Full Meeting or at any time from here until the Full Meeting.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to table this agenda item because there is no information. She stated this is no disrespect to the proposed Board of Health Committee candidates. She stated all that has been submitted with this request was three (3) names. She stated she recognizes one (1) name, and is sure they are well qualified people, but to move forward with the appointment she would like more information on the recommended members.

Legislator Nacerino stated a motion has been made on the approval and seconded.

Legislator Montgomery stated you are not going to open this up as protocol, to the rest of the Legislature, this is out of order, this is not what we have done as a Legislature.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Legislator Montgomery is out of order, as she is in the middle of a vote.

Legislator Montgomery stated Chairwoman Sayegh is disenfranchising an entire district and the members of the public. She stated a vote is being taken with no information on the people who are being appointed.

Chairwoman Sayegh continued with the vote, by requesting a Roll Call Vote:
Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to Approve three (3) Appointments to the Board of Health/
McConnell, Schoolman, Bessen; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Roll Call Vote:

Legislator Albano – Aye

Legislator Nacerino – Aye

Chairwoman Sayegh – Aye

All in favor.

Item #4 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 21A044/Social Services/Include \$45,000 of State Aid to Support Connectivity to Homeless Management Information System and Other Administrative Actions Related to Homeless Services Plans

Chairwoman Sayegh stated if anyone has any questions, they can let her know and she will have them addressed by the June Full meeting. She stated there was no one available to be at this meeting from the Social Service Department.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment 21A044/Social Services/ Include \$45,000 of State Aid to Support Connectivity to Homeless Management Information System and Other Administrative Actions Related to Homeless Services Plans; Seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/Budgetary Amendment 21A045/Social Services/Appropriate Funds in Accordance with Putnam's Safe Harbor Project Plan

Chairwoman Sayegh stated again, there was no one available to be at this meeting from Social Services. She stated if there are any questions, she will get them addressed. She stated the funding will be contracted out for services through Green Chimneys.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment 21A045/Social Services/Appropriate Funds in Accordance with Putnam's Safe Harbor Project Plan; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if Chairwoman Sayegh would not be opening this committee meeting to any other Legislators. She stated as Chairperson of this committee Legislator Sayegh has closed off comment from other Legislators.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she will not be opening up for comment at this time. She explained she did not see a need to discuss this matter, it is an increase in State Aid. She stated this will fund programs that are vital to our community. She repeated there was no one available to attend this meeting from Social Services. She stated if there are questions, they can be emailed to her and she will get them answered.

Legislator Montgomery stated she likes to conduct her governing in public, she does not need to send an email.

Item #6 - FYI/Grant Application/Youth Bureau/Governor's Traffic Safety Committee

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Executive Director of Youth Bureau Janeen Cunningham will be speaking to this item.

Executive Director Cunningham stated she also had with her Youth Services Specialist/ Runaway and Homeless Youth Coordinator Pamela Phillips-Zeller. She stated they are very excited with this grant opportunity. She stated they are trying to be proactive in light of the newly passed marijuana laws. She stated the funding would be used for additional programs and initiatives. She stated it would start in September and run for a year, with an opportunity to reapply. She stated in summary the funding would pay for programming and a part-time person that would oversee the grant application.

Chairwoman Sayegh requested Executive Director Cunningham speak to the projected programs.

Executive Director Cunningham stated already they are involved with the schools running the SIDNE Program. She stated the hope is to help add more programs to them. The SIDNE program is a prevention initiative that delivers engaging hands-on lessons about the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other drugs and the dangers of distracted driving. She stated they have partnered with the County Clerk's Office with the Parents As Driving Partners program, they are looking to enhance that program also. She explained they would like to make more brochures to get the word out about the programs. She stated also they would look to enhance the Youth Court Program by implementing a Teen Driving Court program. She provided some details to that proposed program. She stated they are also proposing the Alive at 25 program, which

would be an educational program. She spoke in more detail to this proposed program, specifically designed for young adults.

Legislator Albano stated his appreciation for the work that is being done, to provide our young people with positive guidance and valuable information. He stated he is in support of this.

Legislator Nacerino stated she agrees with Legislator Albano. She stated she believes these proposed programs are a great expansion to educate our youth about the perils of alcohol use and marijuana use when driving. She stated she is very glad to hear of the proactive approach to bring the topic of marijuana use into the programs, in light of the newly passed law. She stated she supports these educational programs.

Chairman Sayegh stated she is a mother of three (3) young adults, and very much appreciates the educational component and awareness these programs would bring forward to the young adult drivers of our County.

Item #7 - Other Business - None

Item #10 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:12 P.M. Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.