

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
BUDGET MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM 318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
Members: Chairwoman Nacerino Legislators Sayegh & Sullivan**

**Tuesday**

**October 12, 2021**

(Immediately Followed the 6:00pm Health Budget Meeting)

The meeting was called to order at 7:51PM by Chairwoman Nacerino who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Sayegh, Sullivan and Chairwoman Nacerino were present.

**Item #3 - 2022 Budget Review**

**Judicial Expense (Cty.Share) - Account # 1162 (page 3)**

Commissioner Carlin stated the County receives reimbursement from the State Office of Court Administration for some operational expenses in the Courthouse and partially for the Historic Courthouse.

Legislator Albano questioned the increase in the Natural Gas budget line on page 3 -54630.

Commissioner Carlin stated the budget reflects the increase in cost of Natural Gas.

**District Attorney - Account # 1165 (page 4 – 6)**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated District Attorney Tandy was present, but had to leave, due to a previous engagement.

Chief Assistant District Attorney Krauss stated she will bring questions back to District Attorney Tandy.

Page 5 – 54313 -Books & Supplements budget line, Chairwoman Nacerino stated she would like an explanation for the increase.

Page 5 – 54682 - Special Services budget line, Chairwoman Nacerino stated she would like to know the reason for the increase.

Page 5 – 5460- Education & Training, Legislator Gouldman requested an explanation for the increase.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated for the record, District Attorney Tandy submitted a letter for consideration for approval as an additional item before he had to leave. She stated that the memo speaks to matters that fall under the purview of the Personnel Committee budget meeting, which will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. She explained she will defer the memo to the Chair of Personnel Paul Jonke. She clarified she will not be accepting it as an additional item for this meeting.

**Coroners - Account # 1185 (page 10 – 11)**

Commissioner Carlin explained most of the Coroners' budget is based on the number of autopsies. He stated the prediction for this year is 84, which is in line with what has been done in past years.

Chairwoman Nacerino confirmed with Sheriff Langley that his department's budget will be addressed at the end of this meeting, as it lengthier than the other departments.

**Probation - Account # 3140 (page 74 – 76)**

Commissioner Carlin introduced the newly appointed Director of Probation, John Osterhout.

Director of Probation Osterhout stated there is really no change in the request of the Probation Department's budget other than for a shredder.

**Stop DWI - Account # 3315 (page 83)**

**Probation Department – Stop DWI (page 83)**

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve the Amendment of Partnership Initiative (10331500 54936) from \$13,000 to \$17,500 (variance of \$4,500); Seconded by Legislator Sullivan; All in favor.

Page 83 – 426151 – Stop DWI Fines - Legislator Gouldman stated the revenue for the DWI Fines has been drastically reduced from last years.

Director of Probation Osterhout stated the 2021 projection was over projected. He explained due to COVID-19 they found fines were not imposed and collected.

**Sheriff - Account # 3110 (page 54 – 73)**

Undersheriff Cheverko stated the overall 2022 Tentative Budget for the Sheriff's Department is \$20,805,389, it is an increase of \$712,000 from the 2021 budget. He stated most of the increase to the 2022 tentative budget in the Sheriff's Department is due to increases outside of their control. He spoke to the increases throughout the department: in the Health Plan, Salaries, Gasoline and Body Worn Cameras. He continued reading his opening statement.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated throughout the Sheriff's Budget there are requests for Vehicles: Bureau of Criminal Investigation- \$90,000, Civil Division- \$45,000, and a request for the Undersheriff- \$33,500, totaling \$168,500. She stated each request will be addressed, as the funding was not approved in the Tentative 2022 Budget.

Page 54 – 52650 - Motor Vehicles - Chairwoman Nacerino stated the Sheriff stated the Undersheriff's current vehicle is in need of repair, estimating \$10,000. She explained it was stated that would not be prudent to invest that amount of money into this vehicle because it is an older vehicle.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested information on two (2) budget lines. Undersheriff Cheverko stated he would provide the information in a memo. The budget lines were:

Page – 56 – 52120 – Office Equipment

Page – 56 - 52180 – Other Equipment

Legislator Sayegh requested confirmation that the Sheriff's Department has worked with the IT Department, to get their approval for any computers the Sheriff's Department may be looking to purchase.

Sheriff Langley stated that has been done.

Legislator Jonke stated the Sheriff has mentioned in the past that they have outdated software that prohibits them from providing reports that the Legislature has requested. He questioned if that is being addressed in this budget.

Sheriff Langley stated that is the CAD (Computer- Aided Design) System. He explained the Bureau of Emergency Services is working on upgrading that system.

Bureau of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Robert Lipton stated they are in the process of upgrading that software system.

Page 57- 426605 – Inmate Comm Use of Reserve - Legislator Sullivan stated he understands there is a revenue source that is used by the Sheriff's Department. He stated he stated in the future he would like that revenue to be reflected in the 2023 County Budget.

Page 58- 54560 - Chairwoman Nacerino – questioned if this is the budget line for body cameras.

Sheriff Langley confirmed it is.

Legislator Nacerino stated it has been mentioned by members of the public that they would like to see the use of body cameras in Putnam County. She stated the use of body cameras have been mentioned in the past. She stated during the previous discussions it has been stated prior to using the body cameras a policy has to be negotiation with the Union. She questioned if a policy has been negotiated.

County Attorney Bumgarner stated the County has not completed bargaining with the PBA (Policy Benevolent Association). She stated there was a policy drafted by the Sheriff's Department. She stated it has not been fully agreed to as of yet. She stated there is a request for a financial incentive in exchange for the wearing of body cameras.

Sheriff Langley stated the NYS PERB (Public Employment Relations Board) decision does not require a financial Incentive.

County Attorney Bumgarner stated she is not clear on what the Sheriff is referencing. She stated there was no NYS PERB decision related to Putnam County.

Legislator Sullivan stated he recommends putting all of the funding throughout the Sheriff's Tentative 2022 Budget for body cameras in sub contingency. He stated until the confirming of a policy and then the Legislature, County Attorney and Administration having an opportunity to review the policy.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she would argue that the County Executive kept the funding in the Tentative 2022 Budget. She stated it is an expenditure that will be realized in the upcoming year, it is just a matter of when.

Legislator Sayegh questioned when the Sheriff's plan to begin using the body cameras.

Sheriff Langley stated if the funding is left in his budget, he plans to begin using them January 2022.

Legislator Sayegh stated use of the body cameras would begin prior to having a policy in place.

Sheriff Langley stated there is a Sheriff's Policy in place. He said the Sheriff sets the policy for the Sheriff's Department. He stated he has sent a memo to the County Attorney, regarding the policy, the memo has not yet been responded to. He stated this is a need and the community has cried out to implement the use of the body cameras.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated further discussion on this matter.

Legislator Sayegh stated there is a lot of support for the use of body cameras in Putnam County. She stated however, she does not feel comfortable spending taxpayer money, without a policy in place.

Legislator Sullivan stated County Attorney Bumgarner clearly stated she does not agree with the Sheriff's thoughts on where we stand with the contract at this point. He stated he believes it would be premature to move forward.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this expenditure was approved by the County Executive. She stated she believes if the County Executive had any concern, she would not have approved the funding in the tentative 2022 budget. She stated she agrees with the need for a policy.

County Attorney Bumgarner stated we want this to move forward and get this great tool into work. She stated however the footage from the body cameras cannot be used for anything in respect to the Deputies until it is negotiated with the Union.

Chairwoman Nacerino confirmed there is no executed agreement.

County Attorney Bumgarner confirmed that is correct.

Legislator Montgomery stated she believes we are setting a precedent. She stated we have approved funding for items that have not been fully vetted, such as \$100,000 in the County Executive's budget for consultants for studies. She stated we are discussing \$16,000 for body cameras, for future use. She stated it is understood there are contracts that still to be negotiated and discussions to be had. She stated we are talking about a budget for 2022. She continued to speak to different funding approvals of items, that in her opinion were lacking information. She stated this is equipment that we know we need and want, she supports leaving it in the budget.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she agrees with putting the funding in the budget. She stated however there will be a significant impact if there is not an agreement with the PBA. She stated the debate is not in terms of support for the use of body cameras. She stated we need to decide if we do it without a policy or without an agreement. She stated she is optimistic that everything that needs to be finalized, policy/contract will all get done before January. She stated she does not see the need to put the funding in sub contingency.

Legislator Albano stated a tremendous financial challenge in the County are the litigation cases. He stated the County Attorney is advising that certain things must be done. He supports putting the funding in sub contingency. He stated that way the body cameras are still funded, but nothing can be done until all the necessary steps have been taken and completed.

Commissioner Carlin stated last year the Administration put the funding for body cameras in sub contingency, but people did not know it was there. He stated in terms of transparency the Administration decided to leave the funding in the Sheriff's budget. He stated it never occurred to them that there would be any action to spend this funding before adopting a policy. He stated he recommends moving the funding into sub contingency to make sure it does not get spent before a policy is adopted and a contract is finalized with the PBA.

Legislator Sullivan explained there is a total of approximately \$140,000 for body cameras throughout the tentative budget.

***Legislator Sullivan made a motion to approve moving \$16,588 – Equipment Rental Lease-54560 (pg 58) into Sub Contingency; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh.  
Roll Call Vote: 2 Ayes 1- Nay motion carries.***

**Sheriff - Account # 3110- continued (page 54 – 73)**

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated discussion regarding the request for cars throughout the Sheriff's Budget. She began with page 59 52650- Motor Vehicles \$45,000.

Legislator Sullivan stated he does not know enough about the existing vehicles, how many there are and who is using what vehicles.

Legislator Albano stated he knows there are a lot of cars that are taken home. He stated in his opinion those are cars that could be used in the fleet of cars accessible to the members of the Sheriff's Department who are on duty. He questioned how many cars are taken home at night. He stated he believes there is room for improvement on that practice. He stated to have a vehicle sitting in someone's driveway, while the County is trying to cover the need for vehicles does not make sense.

Sheriff Langley cited an incident that occurred in Dutchess County, when they took all of the take home vehicles back.

County Attorney Bumgarner stated a Take Home Vehicle in Putnam County is a terms and conditions under employment matter.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the vehicles are a source of concern. She stated we need to consider if there is a better way to manage the vehicles that will work to the taxpayers' advantage. She stated this is a matter that has been discussed in the past. She stated she wants to make sure that we are managing the vehicles to the best advantage of the Sheriff's Department and the taxpayers.

Legislator Sullivan requested that Sheriff Langley tell them how many take home vehicles there are currently.

Sheriff Langley stated that is information that has been provided in the past. He stated he does not know the number off the top of his head. He stated he will have it sent to the Legislature.

Legislator Sullivan stated he would think that is a number that would be known, it does not give him comfort that the Sheriff nor his department members know the total.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated we are discussing the tentative budget. She stated a discussion about the reorganization of the fleet, which she agrees should occur, would occur at another meeting.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if there is a County Policy that dictates when a vehicle needs to be replaced.

Undersheriff Cheverko stated they take the recommendation from the County's Mechanics.

County Attorney Bumgarner stated the matter of reducing take home vehicles can be done through attrition. She explained that a take home car is a Term and Condition for the employee, not the position. She stated when the position is filled, there does not have to be a take home vehicle attached to the position.

Legislator Sullivan stated several years ago the Legislature changed the rules regarding the County Executive's take home vehicle. He stated currently the County Executive is not allowed to take a vehicle home. He stated things can be changed and improved upon.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the County Attorney has presented an option worth considering. She stated the County cannot keep funding and buying all of these vehicles. She repeated it is an important evaluation and consideration that needs to be had, but not this evening. She stated they will continue to review the 2022 Tentative Budget.

Page 64 – 50193- Overtime – Undersheriff Cheverko stated the request from the Sheriff's Department was \$750,000. He stated the County Executive reduced it to \$635,000. He spoke to the calculations that the Sheriff's Department used to arrive at their requested amount, which took into consideration the contractual raises.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested Commissioner Carlin speak to the rationale of the Administration's recommendation of \$635,000.

Commissioner Carlin stated they did not cut down on the vacancies in the Sheriff's Department. He stated the vacancies will be 100% budgeted as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated as it has been done in past years, the money will get transferred from the vacant lines into the Overtime budget line. He stated the hope is that the vacancies will be filled and there will be less need for overtime.

Legislator Sullivan stated hopefully the Bonadio Group report will provide needed insight.

Legislator Montgomery questioned why the Legislature has not received a copy of the Bonadio Group report, when it has been stated that the County Executive has been sent the report.

County Attorney Bumgarner stated there is not a final Bonadio Group report yet that has been issued. She stated the County Executive has seen a draft of the report. She stated it is her understanding the Bonadio Group is working on finalizing the report. She stated in their attempt for accuracy in the final report, she believes a draft will be sent to the Sheriff for his review. She stated when all of that is done and finalized a final report will be issued. She stated that is a contract that came out of the County Executive's Office.

Legislator Montgomery clarified that she believes the Legislature should have a copy of the draft at the same time the County Executive's Office is provided a draft.

Undersheriff Cheverko stated that their contact from the Bonadio Group has stated that three (3) separate drafts have been provided to the County. He stated the Sheriff's Department has not received a draft yet.

Page- 64 - 54560 – Equipment Rental Lease- Legislator Sayegh stated there is a big increase in that line.

Chairwoman Nacerino confirmed that is funding for body cameras.

Legislator Sullivan made a motion to move this into sub contingency as was done earlier, with body camera funding.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo recommended getting confirmation from the Sheriff's Department if all of the funding in this line is for body cameras.

Undersheriff Cheverko stated \$93,000 is to pay for the patrol cars video system contract and the balance of \$97,800 is for body cameras.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she will be supporting this motion to have consistency in throughout the budget.

***Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Amend Legislator Sullivan's motion to move the \$190,800 from budget line Equip Rental Lease – 54560 (pg. 65) into Sub Contingency; Secoded by Legislator Sullivan. All if favor.***

***Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to transfer \$97,800 from Equip Rental Lease – 54560 (pg. 65) line into Sub Contingency; Secoded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.***

**Sheriff - Account # 3110 continued (page 54 – 73)**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated on page 72 - 52650 Motor Vehicle the Sheriff's Department requested \$90,000.

Undersheriff Cheverko stated the funding was going to be used to replace two (2) vehicles that have a ton of mileage on them.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated all the requests for motor vehicles in the Sheriff's Department budget were denied. She questioned what the rationale was behind denying the requests.

Sheriff Langley stated there was no rationale provided.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned if Commissioner Carlin could provide some insight to the proposal of the County Executive.

Commissioner Carlin stated all of funding for the Road Patrol Vehicles is included in the tentative 2022 budget, thinking some other vehicles could be disbursed throughout the fleet. He stated as you have heard this evening there are more questions than there are answers regarding the funding of vehicles. He stated there needs to be a comprehensive policy. He stated the future of vehicles is a matter with many questions, what is the plan in terms of electric vehicles, marked and unmarked cars, tinted windows and un-tinted windows etc. He stated that was the rationale behind the recommendations made regarding vehicle funding.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated in summary the requested funding for Vehicles that were not included in the 2022 Tentative Budgets: \$45,000 Civil Division, \$90,000 Bureau of Criminal



Investigation for two (2) vehicles and \$33,500 for the Undersheriff's. She stated in her opinion she does not see that they can all be approved in one (1) budget.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated continued discussion on the matter of Vehicles.

Legislator Jonke requested information be provided before the Budget & Finance Meeting, October 19<sup>th</sup>. He stated he would like to know the total number of cars the Sheriff's Department has, how many employees take the vehicles home, and how many employees who have just started under the tenure of Sheriff Langley who previously did not have a car are now taking a vehicle home. He stated it seems to him that there are enough cars in the Sheriff's Department, but the cars are not in the lots but rather are parked in employees' driveways. He stated he would like that to be reviewed before finalizing the budget.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated continued discussion on the matter of Vehicles.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated in accordance with the two (2) other motions to move money for body camera funding into sub contingency, she will make a motion in relation to the Equip Rental Lease budget line on page 72.

***Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to transfer \$23,376 from Equip Rental Lease – 54560 (pg. 72) line into Sub Contingency; Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.***

Legislator Sullivan stated before moving on to the next section of the Sheriff's Department Budget – Jail, he wanted to make a comment. He stated he is pointing out for the members of the public the Sheriff's Tentative Budget, (not including the Jail) is \$20,805,000. He stated the 2021 adopted Sheriff's Budget was \$19,775,000. He stated therefore the tentative 2022 Budget for the Sheriff's Department is an increase of \$1,030,000 from the 2021 approved Sheriff's Budget.

Legislator Montgomery stated during the year she requested the matter of re-establishing the Marine Unit be placed on the Protective Service Agendas. She stated Chairwoman Nacerino told her it would be addressed during the 2022 Budget Review. She stated the district she represents is on the Hudson River. She stated her constituents are very concerned there is not a County Marine Unit on the Hudson River any longer. She stated in June of 2021 she requested a copy of the Memorandums of Understanding that the County Executive was working on with the other agencies that patrol on the Hudson River. She stated she understands the Sheriff's budget was increased by \$1 million dollars, as did other department's budget. She stated we all know the increase in the Sheriff's Department is not related to more services.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she did go over that part of the budget where the budget line is funded for the Marine Patrol on Lake Oscawana and there were no questions raised. She stated Director of Emergency Services John O'Connor is at a meeting with the other agencies. She stated the meeting is taking place at West Point. She stated that they are discussing the Hudson River Response plan. She stated information will be shared with us when they have a plan.

**Jail - Account # 3150 (page. 77 – 82)**

Legislator Sullivan stated this topic has been discussed many times, unfortunately no changes have been made. He stated the Putnam County Jail is not at its full capacity, yet the budget is over \$11 million. He questioned if there is anything that can be done to reduce that cost.

Undersheriff Cheverko stated the Putnam County Jail has not been filled to its capacity in over six (6) to seven (7) years. He stated, as reported previously the State sets the classifications.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated in essence the County is mandated.

Undersheriff Cheverko stated that is correct.

Lieutenant Mike Villani from the Corrections Department stated for the record they have made initiatives in the County Jail to save money. He stated that due to COVID, visitations and certain programs were suspended. He explained during that time they utilized the Officers that would have covered those programs or visitations to cover some of the overtime shifts.

Constituent Robert Buckley – resident of Mahopac for 28 years requested to speak. He spoke to some of the issues that had been discussed during the review of the Sheriff's Department budget. He spoke to his history as an employee in a correctional facility and his opinion of what was discussed during the consideration of the body cameras.

#### **Bureau of Emergency Services - Account # 3989 (page 85 – 92)**

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned the status of the funding the County receives from Indian Point.

Commissioner of Bureau of Emergency Services Ken Clair stated Indian Point will be providing funding to Putnam County in 2022 and 2023. He stated it is all dependent on how fast the project closes.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned the status of the RFP (Request for Proposal) process, related to the ALS (Advanced Life Support) provider for the County.

Director of Emergency Medical Services Casey Quake explained they are still going through the process. He stated that two (2) vendors applied to the RFP.

#### **Item #4 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 10:12PM Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Diane Trabulsy.