

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairwoman Addonizio and Legislators Nacerino & Sayegh

Tuesday 6:30pm **November 15, 2022**
(Health Meeting to immediately follow)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested Legislator Sayegh lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Nacerino and Sayegh and Chairwoman Addonizio were present.

Item #3 – Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2022 & October 11, 2022 (Budget Mtg.)

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 – Presentation/ Putnam Recreation Programs & Habilitation/ Executive Director Jim Sullivan

Executive Director of Putnam Recreation Programs & Habilitation Jim Sullivan expressed his appreciation for the funding included in the 2023 budget for Putnam Recreation Programs & Habilitation (PRPH). He stated PRPH is a non-profit organization founded in 1979 that provides recreation and socialization programs for families in Putnam County who have a disabled family member. He stated they also provide services for residents of Putnam who are in congregate care facilities. He stated there is a nine (9) member Board of Directors who set policy for PRPH. He stated as of 2022, PRPH is serving 105 families from Putnam County which include members who have various developmental disabilities and handicaps. He stated non-disabled family members are included in the programs as well; he provided the example of schools being closed for holiday break and all children in a family attending a program, not just the sibling with a disability. He stated the services offered include a weekly bowling and social skills program, special Olympic training and competitions, community outings, various camps, theme-based social events, formal dinners, golf instruction, and many others. He stated they partner with the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities through the family support services program. He stated they will be operating a contract in cooperation with the New York State Office for Children and Family Services and the Putnam County Youth Bureau beginning in 2023. He stated they refer to other agencies as well for services they do not provide. He stated PRPH is a family-run organization that was founded by parents in 1979. He stated they still serve seven (7) individuals who were children in 1979. He stated funding metrics in New York State are changing and fundraising efforts are the not the same as they once were. He stated with the funding received from the County,

they are leveraging the \$200,000 they receive from the State and everything is spent in Putnam County on Putnam County families.

Chairwoman Addonizio thanked Executive Director Sullivan for his overview.

Executive Director Sullivan directed everyone to their website, www.prphny.org.

Legislator Nacerino stated she wholeheartedly supports PRPH and thanked all involved for the invaluable service they provide for the Putnam County community.

Legislator Sayegh stated her support for PRPH as well.

Legislator Jonke stated he has seen first-hand how valuable PRPH is within the community.

Executive Director Sullivan stated PRPH has a staff of 20 individuals, about 10 of whom have worked with PRPH for 15 years. He stated the staff range in ages, which enhances the atmosphere when conducting activities for the individuals they serve.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if PRPH works with PARC.

Executive Director Sullivan stated PRPH and PARC used to coordinate their activities not to overlap. He stated PARC has now changed and is part of the Arc of the Hudson Valley located in Kingston.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if PRPH works with group homes, or mostly with private families.

Executive Director Sullivan stated individuals who reside in group homes who receive services through PRPH are those who have been receiving services since before they lived in the group home. He stated group homes are independent in how they determine what someone's leisure participation might be.

Legislator Montgomery questioned how people are getting to the programs held by PRPH.

Executive Director Sullivan stated for events such as the bowling on Mondays, group homes and schools provide transportation there and PRPH provides a shuttle to get everyone home. He stated door-to-door transportation is included in the fee of the camps they hold. He stated when PRPH has trips, they charter a bus. He stated they also sometimes hire taxis as needed.

Item #5 – Approval/ Litigation Settlement/ Cameron Bridge Works, LLC v. County of Putnam, et al. (to go to 11/22/2022 Special Full Meeting)

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval/ Fund Transfer 22T282/ County Attorney/ Litigation Settlement/ Cameron Bridge Works, LLC v. County of Putnam, et al. (to go to 11/22/2022 Special Full Meeting)

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #7 – Approval/ Budgetary Transfer 22T322/ County Attorney/ Legal Services Invoices through year End

Legislator Sayegh questioned what this entails.

Legislator Nacerino stated this will keep the books correct through the end of the year and any leftover funds in the line will go back into the general fund.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #8 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 22A075/ County Clerk/ Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grant Receipt (to go to 11/22/2022 Special Full Mtg.)

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #9 – Local Laws/ Real Property Tax Law Updates

Director of Real Property Lisa Johnson stated the State passed an increase in the income threshold for property tax exemption for senior citizens and disabled individuals. She stated the increase will be phased in through 2025. She stated currently, the annual income threshold is \$29,000. She stated the State increased that to \$40,000 for 2023, \$45,000 for 2024, and \$50,000 for 2025. She stated the last time this was increased was in 2009.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated she would like to see the schools do this as well.

Director Johnson stated the schools and towns are looking to the County to see if this passes and they will then follow suit.

Legislator Montgomery stated her support for this initiative, which helps these populations stay in their homes. She questioned why the increase is being phased in and not being increased to the extent allowable by the State; \$50,000.

Director Johnson stated going right to \$50,000 would have a bigger impact on the non-eligible taxpayers, especially if and when the schools and towns pass the same.

Legislator Jonke stated this sliding scale has been in place for many years and this is not much higher than when he started in the late 1980's. He stated these increases are going to be so helpful to these residents in Putnam County.

a. Approval/ Local Law/ Amend Article V of Chapter 220 of the Code of Putnam County by Increasing the Income Threshold of the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

b. Approval/ Local Law/ Amend Article IX of Chapter 220 of the Code of Putnam County by Increasing the Income Threshold of the Disabled Persons Property Tax Exemption

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #10 – Approval/ Payment in Lieu of Taxes/ Town of Southeast Solar Project

Director Johnson stated the Town of Southeast and Ameresco have been working on this project for many years; they came to an agreement in 2020 and are now moving forward with it. She stated this is a 15 year term exemption, the County, towns and schools will all get paid a certain amount each year through the 15 year term. He stated the Town of Southeast is placing the solar equipment on their landfill, making it less visible.

Legislator Nacerino stated this is a great initiative, the Town of Patterson did a similar project.

Director Johnson stated that this is a 25 year lease with two (2) five-year extensions.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #11 – Approval/ Appointment/ Election Commissioner/ Republican Party/ Primavera

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #12 – Approval/ Appointment/ Election Commissioner/ Democratic Party/ Croft

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is happy to support the appointment of both Commissioner Primavera and Commissioner Croft.

Legislator Sayegh thanked Commissioners Primavera and Croft for their dedication to the Board of Elections.

Legislator Montgomery stated both Commissioners Primavera and Croft do a wonderful job. She stated she has worked closely with Commissioner Croft and she is happy to support these appointments. She stated she is impressed by how nicely our Board of Elections is run.

Board of Elections Commissioner Catherine Croft thanked everyone. She stated the room where the meeting is being held this evening was used for early voting and she thanked the County for the use of the room.

Item #13 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 22A081/ Veterans Peer to Peer Program Funding from NYS Office of Mental Health

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #14 – Approval/ Re-Appointments/ Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board/ Alonge, Mancone, & Capalbo

Chairwoman Addonizio thanked the volunteers on the Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board.

Legislator Sayegh stated these are all re-appointments of current Board members. She thanked the members for providing their professional expertise on the Board.

Legislator Nacerino echoed the comments made by her colleagues. She stated Putnam County is fortunate to have tradesman volunteering their time.

Legislator Montgomery requested that this item be tabled due to the lack of resumes and information. She stated she understands these individuals have served on the Board, but she has requested this information many times. She stated beginning in 2019, she has requested multiple times that Board appointments be sent to the Legislature with resumes and letters of interest.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated in the past, recommendations of the Board have been followed. She stated she sent a memorandum to all the boards requesting that Board

memberships requiring Legislative appointment or confirmation be submitted with a resume, statement of qualifications, and/or a letter of interest.

Legislator Montgomery requested that this item be tabled.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated she was not in favor of tabling this item.

Legislator Nacerino stated it is not the role of the Legislature to micromanage the Boards. She stated it is the responsibility of the Boards to vet potential members and submit their recommendations to the Legislature. She stated the Legislature does not have the expertise to know what the Boards are looking for. She stated she would not support tabling these reappointments at this time.

Legislator Sayegh stated the Legislature is sent a copy of the minutes from the Boards, which can be read through to stay up to date on the proceedings of the Board.

Legislator Nacerino stated the Board meetings are also open to the public.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolutions; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #15 – Approval/ Re-Appointments/ Home Improvement Board/ Domin, Porcelli, Morrison, & Donovan

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated moving forward, information should be received on all Board members upon their appointment or reappointment.

Legislator Montgomery stated she has read through Board meeting minutes and they do not provide detail about Board members. She stated she understands Chairwoman Addonizio sent a memorandum requested information on board members, however she has been making that same request since 2019.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated the Legislature does not vet the members, they confirm or approve the recommendations of the Board.

Legislator Montgomery stated she has an interest in knowing who is on the board and how long they have been on the board. She stated it is a very important responsibility for the Legislature to make these appointments. She stated for example, the County recommends an appointment to the MTA Board and the Governor approves it and the State needs to vote on those approvals. She stated the MTA Board is charged with implementing policy and passing regulations. She stated she takes this very seriously.

Legislator Jonke stated he values the volunteers and the work they do for the County. He stated he believes it is bad practice not to have a resume in our files.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #16 – Update/ Reapportionment Commission/ Legislative Counsel Firriolo

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo gave the attached PowerPoint presentation. He stated as soon as the 2020 census data was released, he began working with the IT/GIS Department to make an interactive mapping tool to be used while reconfiguring the districts. He stated in the process of doing this, they realized there was a problem that the Federal Government created when they redid the census. He stated the structure of the population within the Legislative districts must be within 2.5% of one another. He stated the Legislative districts are comprised of election districts, which are set by the County Board of Elections. He stated those election districts are comprised of census blocks. He stated census blocks are set by the Federal Government and cannot be changed or divided. He stated they can be as small as a few houses or a much larger geographic area with many houses in it. He presented the nine (9) legislative districts on the mapping tool with layers of election districts, census blocks, and legislative districts which can be turned on and off. He stated it is important that the election districts are correct and within the census blocks before the Legislature adopts the redistricting because each election district will be listed on the local law. He stated the smallest election district in the County is Philipstown 10 and is made up of 493 residents. He stated the largest election district in the County is Patterson 5 and is made up of 2,282 residents. He reminded the Committee that the number of residents is based on total population, not only registered voters. He stated in fixing the census blocks into the election districts the Board of Elections will have to consider the voters, but as far as the Redistricting Commission (Commission) is concerned, they will not be looking at voters; only population. He stated once the Board of Elections sets the election districts, the Commission will pick and choose from the election districts by census blocks. He drew the Committee's attention to his PowerPoint, which showed the mapping tool with the election districts highlighted within a legislative district. He stated within each election district, the census blocks are mapped out. He stated the sizes of the census blocks vary; in the example shown on the slide there are census blocks with populations of 35, 289, 640, and 17. He stated the Federal government sets the census blocks and the County cannot change them, therefore lines must be moved around the blocks. He stated the tool provides information on each census block including its geographic location, its population, and which legislative and election district it is located in. He stated slide 14 shows the entire County and has an example of how moving election districts between legislative districts would effect the numbers. He stated with the use of this tool, the census blocks can be moved around to see how the numbers change, which will allow the Commission to visualize the potential changes to be made. He stated slide 17 highlights a few "orphan blocks" that do not belong to any particular legislative or election district because they are now split across lines. He provided an example of a census block being split between two election districts in

Carmel. He stated the Board of Elections will need to work with IT/GIS to reunite the split census blocks so they no longer cross election districts. He stated once those election districts are fixed they can hold their first official meeting of the Commission to create proposed solutions. He stated a proposal can then be submitted to the Rules Committee and the Legislature can then select a recommended plan, ask the Commission to make changes, or create its own plan. He stated the Legislature then votes on a resolution to adopt a plan by local law, and there will then be a public hearing on the proposed local law. He stated the Legislature will then vote to enact the local law and the County Executive will sign or veto it. He stated this is different from the standard local law procedure where the County Executive holds a public hearing; the new law passed by New York State specifically says the Legislature must hold a public hearing before the local law is adopted.

Legislator Sayegh requested clarification on the orphan districts.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated the orphan districts are split between election districts and may also be split between legislative districts. He provided an example where a census block is in two (2) election districts, therefore the Board of Elections will have to decide which election district to put the block in. He stated the Legislature has no say in the configuration of the election districts. He stated most orphan districts do not cross legislative district lines. He stated all election districts within a legislative district must not be split.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated it is a possibility that the constituents in a legislative district could change.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated yes, populations will have to move from district to district to even it out. He stated the only district that is not going to change is legislative district 9 because it is so close to the average.

Legislator Montgomery requested clarification on how the population is counted since it is not based on the voting population. She stated the law references political subdivisions.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated political subdivisions refers to towns, villages, municipalities; it does not refer to parties. He stated this is a bipartisan commission, but the way they do this work should be nonpartisan. He stated they will only be looking at population numbers, not at voter numbers.

Legislator Albano thanked Legislative Counsel Firriolo for his explanation of this complicated process.

Item #17 – FYI/ Litigation Report

There was no litigation report to review this month.

Item #18 – Other Business – None

Item #19 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:40pm Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Beth Robinson.