

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM 318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Addonizio, Sayegh

Wednesday

April 17, 2024

(The Health Meeting Immediately Followed)

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

Item #3 - Acceptance/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ March 21, 2024

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she was informed that the representatives of CEPAB are running late. She stated she will move agenda item #4 to the end of the agenda.

Item #5 - Approval/ Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application/ Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton

Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton stated every five (5) years the County is required to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He stated they are approaching the five (5) years. He stated they are about two (2) years away, but it takes about 18 months to update the plan. He stated the application is for \$150,000 worth of funding. He stated there is a County match of 25% that equals \$37,500. He stated five (5) years ago when the last update was done the County did not use all of the grant funding, therefore the matching portion for the County was less. He stated the process of updating the plan will include all of the communities, Towns and Villages. He stated the last two (2) times they did the update they hired the company Tetra Tech, and they did a fantastic job.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the deadline for the grant application is April 30, 2024.

Legislator Ellner questioned how much Tetra Tech charged the County.

Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton stated he did not have that information with him.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested that Commissioner Lipton please provide the Legislature with the information regarding the cost in relation to the past hiring of Tetra Tech to assist in the preparation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton confirmed he would do that.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve/ Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A030/ Bureau of Emergency Services and Sheriff’s Department/ Reallocation of NY State Homeland Security Grant (SHSP) Funds to Purchase Equipment for the Sheriff’s Department/ Sheriff Kevin McConville

Undersheriff Thomas Lindert stated this is a request to move funds from a contract line into an equipment line. He stated when the grant came in all the funds were placed in the contract line.

Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton stated this is internal housekeeping. He briefly spoke to that.

Neil Brown, Carmel Police Administrative Lieutenant, stated he understands what is being addressed is a budget transfer, but the money originally came from a grant that was for the Emergency Response Team (ERT). He spoke to the mission and function of the Putnam County ERT which was formed in 2006 as a multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction team. He spoke to his opinion of the formation process of the ERT. He continued to state in 2024 the Town of Carmel and Town of Kent’s reaffirmation of their commitment to the ERT has kept it in operation. He stated while the Sheriff’s Department is unable to participate in the ERT due to clerical errors in the past, it is his opinion the ERT does still exist. He stated according to the Administrative Manual of the Putnam County ERT it is funded by a grant from the NY State Homeland Security. He stated the grant was applied for by the County’s Bureau of Emergency Services and was used to back fill the costs of the ERT. He stated he submitted the ERT quarterly report for reimbursement and was denied. He stated the Putnam County Finance Commissioner Lewis and Deputy Commissioner Barrett advised per Captain Schepperly, of the Sheriff’s Department, the ERT no longer exists. He expressed his opinion that is false. He continued to speak to this matter. He concluded by stating they would love to have the Sheriff’s Department back on the ERT, however, to date they have not had any communications from the County or Sheriff’s Department to address that.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve/ Budgetary Amendment 24A030/ Bureau of Emergency Services and Sheriff’s Department/ Reallocation of NY State Homeland Security Grant (SHSP) Funds to Purchase Equipment for the Sheriff’s Department; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #7 – FYI/ Coroners Report- 2024 1st Quarter – Duly Noted

Item #4 - Update/ Community Engagement Police Advisory Board (CEPAB)/ Chairman of CEPAB Scott Rhodes

CEPAB Co-Chair Ronald Reid started by thanking Chairwoman Nacerino for welcoming CEPAB to give this update. He stated he hopes that when Chairwoman Nacerino finishes her final term as a Legislator that she recognizes the role she has played in improving the lives of the residents of Putnam County. He stated the CEPAB volunteers have been very busy. He introduced Jeffery Temper who was with him and spoke to a new member, Jon Scott Bennett and a new program he is running, The Peekskill Riots, he is running it in the Putnam Valley Free

Library. He stated the first one Mr. Bennett hosted was well attended. He stated it is a five-part series. He stated in February they hosted a community event at the Putnam Valley Free Library. He stated vital information from experts was shared about mental health, terror assessment management and school safety. He stated members from the Board of Education, School Administrators and some members of the Legislature were present and participated in the discussion. He stated that was coordinated and run by CEPAB Co-Chair Jenie Fu. He stated one topic raised is the need to extend the hours of the School Resource Officers, so they are on duty during the after-school activities. He stated Jeffery Temper will speak to that.

Jeffery Temper, CEPAB Member stated he was a 30-year middle school counselor at John Jay in Cross River. He stated that he still coaches middle school track at John Jay. He stated John Jay has a security officer on duty, during the after-school hour activities until 6:30 - 7:30p.m. He stated the parents in the Carmel School District, George Fisher Middle School, stated their Security Officer leaves at the end of the school day. He stated that is a concern for them. He stated the parents said they were going to discuss their concerns with the School District. He stated they also discussed the drills that are practiced in the schools and why they are done. He stated the parents would like the schools to do a better job of disseminating the information related to the drills. He stated the parents also requested if the schools are doing anything about the social and emotional development around the drills for the students. He stated several parents say their kids come home afraid because of the drills.

CEPAB Co-Chair Ronald Reid stated, with his law enforcement background, he supports the practice of drills. He believes they need to be practiced until they become automatic. He stated at the same time he recognizes a compromise and solution needs to be arrived at. He stated he would like to recognize Putnam County Sheriff Captain Knox and a group of the Deputies who were present. He stated an event in recognition of Black History Month was held. He stated they hosted a movie screening of the Bob Marley movie. He stated the movie was very informative. He stated being a native of the island of Jamaca he found the information about the late Bob Marley and his family to be very fascinating. He stated it was a well-attended event. He recognized and thanked the Carmel Movie Theatre for hosting the event. He stated CEPAB looks forward to hosting future events. He stated on April 6, 2024, CEPAB embarked on their first blood drive, in partnership with the American Red Cross and Local 60. He spoke to the need for people to donate blood, if they can, and how important it is. He stated they are working on the plans for the 2024 Culture Festival. He stated it will be held on June 15, 2024, at Veterans Memorial Park. He stated there will be an animal free circus, local performers, and vendors. He stated the rain date will be Sunday, June 16, 2024. He stated last year CEPAB received a grant from the State of New York. He stated unfortunately to date, they have not received any funding. He thanked the Protective Services Committee for their time.

Jeffery Temper, CEPAB Member stated his appreciation to the Protective Services Committee. He stated he believes the Culture Festival is a great community and family event. He stated it is so great to see families spending time together, outside, and away from the "screens". He stated those who were present were having fun and that is what it is all about.

Chairwoman Nacerino thanked CEPAB Co-Chair Ronald Reid and Member Jeffery Temper for providing the update. She spoke to her opinion of the critical role CEPAB plays in our community. She stated as a retiree from the Brewster School District, she can attest to the busyness of schools after the school day ends. She stated she supports the need for School

Resource Officers (SROs) to be on duty during that time. She stated she also supports and agrees that the social and emotional well-being of our students need to be attended to.

Legislator Addonizio stated her support for having SROs present during after school activities. She thanked CEPAB and its members for all they do for the community.

CEPAB Co-Chair Ronald Reid stated he would also like to thank Sustainable Putnam for all of the work they do to try to improve the environment, so we can leave it here for generations to come.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she believes we have one goal together, and that is to improve, to evolve and to keep growing and keep communicating. She stated the CEPAB committee has brought that to the forefront.

Legislator Sayegh requested the particulars of the Culture Festival be provided again.

CEPAB Co-Chair Ronald Reid stated it will be on June 15, 2024, from 11:30 – 5:00p.m. at the Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park. He stated it will be a fun filled day. He stated anything the County can do to help out, would be much appreciated. He continued to speak to some of the programs they hope to have available.

Chairwoman Nacerino expressed her appreciation again.

Item #8 - Other Business - None

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:03PM Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trubuly.