

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE
BUDGET MEETING
HELD IN ROOM 318 OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairman Ellner, Legislators Addonizio & Crowley

Tuesday

6:30pm

October 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Chairman Ellner who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Addonizio, Crowley and Chairman Ellner were present.

Item #3 - 2024 Budget Review

Dues – Account 1920 – Page 50

Chairman Ellner requested Finance Commissioner Michael Lewis elaborate on the dues.

Finance Commissioner Lewis stated these are the annual dues for NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties, NACo (National Association of Counties), County Executives of America, and Pattern for Progress.

Chairman Ellner noted it is level funding.

Legislator Montgomery requested the County look into becoming part of the Hudson Valley Regional Council.

Commissioner Lewis stated he will look into it.

Legislator Gouldman questioned why only \$4,800 has been paid so far this year and if the payments are made at the end of the year.

Commissioner Lewis stated the date of payments vary.

Tourism – Account 6410 – Pages 173-174

Chairman Ellner stated Tourism Director Tracey Walsh was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but he met with her to go over her budget. He stated the funding is basically level other than a slight increase in payroll items.

Commissioner Lewis noted that the I Love New York Program requires a match.

Legislator Montgomery thanked the Tourism Department for all it does. She encouraged the other Legislators to follow what goes on locally in Philipstown. She stated the locals are completely outraged at the tourists' behavior. She stated she has issue with advertising for more

tourism in that area, especially considering the County's lack of support for the inundated area. She stated the County does not provide any resources for the tax revenue that goes back to the County.

Legislator Nacerino stated the I Love New York advertising is not exclusive to Cold Spring, it promotes county wide.

Legislator Montgomery clarified that she is referring to the advertising budget, line 54664 on page 173, not the I Love New York Funds.

Legislator Jonke stated Tourism Director Walsh is sensitive to the area's concerns and a former Town Supervisor of Philipstown asked the County not to promote Cold Spring anymore.

Economic Development Corporation – Account 6420 – Page 175

Chairman Ellner stated he has many questions and there is nobody from the EDC at the meeting to answer them.

Commissioner Lewis stated the EDC asked for a 6% increase and County Executive Byrne granted a 2.75% increase which is universal for all outside agencies. He noted they must provide many documents with their budget request, as with all outside agencies.

Legislator Crowley stated she has many questions about this budget and the EDC's justification for it.

Chairman Ellner questioned Legislative Counsel Firriolo if this budget could be moved into sub-contingency.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that is an option.

Chairman Ellner made a motion to move the EDC's budget into sub-contingency.

Legislator Addonizio clarified that Commissioner Lewis has the required paperwork from the EDC. She questioned if anything has changed with the EDC.

Commissioner Lewis stated he would defer to EDC President Kathleen Abels.

Legislator Nacerino stated she agrees with Chairman Ellner's motion because this is the time for the Legislature to vet the budget requests and their justifications.

Chairman Ellner asked for a second on his motion. Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Putnam County Industrial Development Agency – Account 6460 – Page 178

IDA Chairman Nulk stated the IDA is not asking for any funding. He stated the IDA is now self-sustaining from the fees they collect.

Legislator Nacerino stated her regard for IDA Chairman Nulk for what he has accomplished with the IDA. She stated the IDA was in total disarray prior to IDA Chairman Nulk and thanked him for all his hard work.

IDA Chairman Nulk thanked Legislator Nacerino and noted that the IDA is looking to restructure in 2024.

Legislator Gouldman stated IDA Chairman Nulk has done a wonderful job. He questioned if the budgeted funds for 2023 have been spent or will it be coming back to the County.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated it has not and will not be spent.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the IDA has built up a reserve fund from the County's funding.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated they never banked the County's funds, they only used and asked for funds when they were needed. He stated they are now at the point where they can start establishing a reserve fund.

Legislator Jonke requested clarification on where the reserve funds will come from.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated it is from developers through fees from projects.

Legislator Jonke stated that is great work by the IDA.

Item #4 - Other Business – None

Item #5 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:46 pm Chairman Ellner made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.