

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
40 Gleneida Avenue Room #318
Carmel, NY 10512**

Committee Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Castellano & Montgomery

Thursday

September 7, 2023

(Personnel Mtg. Immediately Followed)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Chairman Gouldman and he led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Castellano and Chairman Gouldman were present. Legislator Montgomery was absent. Chairman Gouldman stated Legislator Ellner would be sitting as a member of the committee in Legislator Montgomery's absence.

Item #3 - Acceptance/ Physical Services Meeting Minutes/ August 17, 2023

Chairman Gouldman stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 - Approval/ SEQRA/Intent to Serve As Lead Agency/ Fair Street - Department of Public Works Maintenance Facility Project/ Acting Deputy Commissioner of DPW Joseph Bellucci

Chairman Gouldman invited Acting Deputy Commissioner of DPW Joseph Bellucci to speak to this item.

Acting Deputy Commissioner of DPW Joseph Bellucci provided a brief overview of what the project would entail.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to Approve/ SEQRA/Intent to Serve As Lead Agency/ Fair Street - Department of Public Works Maintenance Facility Project; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #5 – Approval/ Grant Application/ State and Municipal Facilities Grant Program/ Municipal Electrification and Renewable Energy Projects/ Acting Administrator of Planning John Tully

Director of Transportation Vinny Tamagna stated due to personal reasons Acting Administrator of Planning John Tully was unable to be in attendance. He stated he would be addressing Mr. Tully's agenda items. He stated there is no County match required with this grant. He stated the details of what work would be done with this funding will be brought forward. He stated the submission of the application was a time of the essence situation. He stated the County

Executive is considering several different projects, but nothing has been confirmed as of this time.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to Approve/ Grant Application/ State and Municipal Facilities Grant Program/ Municipal Electrification and Renewable Energy Projects; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/ Grant Application/ State and Municipal Facilities Grant Program/ Putnam County Fire Training Center/ Acting Administrator of Planning John Tully

Director of Transportation Vinny Tamagna stated this project has been previously discussed in prior meetings of the Legislature and the Capital Projects Committee Meeting. He stated there is no County match with this grant. He stated the funds will help to pay for the Fire Training Center project.

Chairman Gouldman stated his support of this project. He acknowledged the County Executive and his foresight to bring this project forward.

Legislator Sayegh requested clarification that this grant in the amount of \$200,000, is the one that Senator Peter Harckham has assisted Putnam County with.

Director of Transportation Vinny Tamagna stated that is correct. He stated as discussed at the Capital Projects Committee Meeting last week, thanks to this funding Putnam County does not have to use County Taxpayer money.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to Approve/ Grant Application/ State and Municipal Facilities Grant Program/ Putnam County Fire Training Center; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #7 - Approval/ Ratification of Application for 2023/ 2024 Grant Funds Available Through the New York State Department of Transportation's Public Transportation Modernization and Enhancement Program (MEP)/ Acting Administrator of Planning John Tully

Director of Transportation Vinny Tamagna explained the County receives funding from the New York State Department of Transportation annually. He stated the New York State Department of Transportation's Public Transportation MEP funds must be utilized on transportation, transportation services, rolling stock or transportation facilities to support the Putnam County Public Transit System. He stated this year the County will look to replace rotary bus lifts and include EV charging stations.

Legislator Ellner questioned if the EV charging stations must be at the County's Planning facility.

Director of Transportation Vinny Tamagna replied yes. He explained there is a hybrid vehicle that should arrive this week and it is trolley. He stated currently the County does not have any all-electric vehicles. He stated by the time the EV charging stations are in place the County will have a service vehicle that will be electric, etc. He stated the vehicles used to do short trips will be folding into the County's fleet cautiously.

Legislator Crowley questioned if the County has an employee who is trained and qualified to service EVs.

Director of Transportation Vinny Tamagna explained MV Transit, who is the County's Operator, does.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to Approve/ Ratification of Application for 2023/ 2024 Grant Funds Available Through the New York State Department of Transportation's Public Transportation Modernization and Enhancement Program; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #8– Other Business

Legislator Ellner made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Additional; Seconded by Chairman Gouldman. All in favor.

a. Discussion/ Draft Letter - To NYC Department of Environmental Protection Re: Preservation of the Historic Belden House, Carmel, New York/ Legislator Greg Ellner

Legislator Ellner stated the Belden House is located in his Legislative District. He stated a number of his constituents have approached him and urged that he, as their Legislator, write to the NYC Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner. He stated a letter has been crafted and he has circulated it to his colleagues on the Legislature with an invitation for them to sign the letter with him.

Legislator Jonke stated he has already sent a letter to the County's NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) contact person, John Milgrim, who is the DEP Director of Outreach. He stated his letter was worded similarly to the letter that Legislator Ellner has crafted. He stated he believes it is an exercise in futility after speaking with Director Milgrim. He stated he would be opposed to any further correspondence on this matter. He stated he will not be signing the letter.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve to Waive the Rules and Accept the Additional; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Chairman Gouldman explained the additional that was accepted was a copy of the Letter that Legislator Ellner is speaking to.

Legislator Ellner stated he wanted to be clear that the purpose of his letter is to have the NYC DEP fund this project. He stated there is no intent on himself to have the County fund this. He stated the purpose of his letter is to request the NYC DEP live up to their previous promise to fund this project.

Legislator Jonke stated whatever promise was made, it was made 17 years ago. He stated the structure has been dormant and deteriorating for 17 years. He stated the commitment of funds from 2006 would be greatly different from what the cost would be today. He stated that he has been told that the DEP would not commit; but if they were to commit the funding would be coming out of rate payers of Putnam County's bills. He stated indirectly we would be funding it, and he is not in support of that.

Legislator Castellano stated that is an interesting point that the funding discussed in 2006 would be much different than the cost of the project today. He stated he would think it may cost as much as \$15 million to repair the building. He stated it is a shame and a disgrace that the NYC DEP has allowed this to happen. He stated it is a historic building in Putnam County and he wishes they did take better care of it. He stated he also would not support the Putnam County taxpayers footing the bill for the NYC DEP's mistake.

Chairman Gouldman clarified this matter was on for discussion purposes only.

Item #9 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:15P.M. Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.