

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

Members: Chairwoman Addonizio and Legislators Ellner & Gouldman

Tuesday **May 16, 2023**
(Immediately following Physical Mtg. beginning at 6:30pm)

The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested Legislator Ellner lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Ellner and Gouldman and Chairwoman Addonizio were present.

Item #3 – Acceptance of Minutes – April 18, 2023

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 – Approval/ Local Law to Amend Article 9 of the Putnam County Charter
Entitled “Department of Highways & Facilities”**

Chairwoman Addonizio stated the Department of Highways & Facilities is being renamed to the Department of Public Works. She stated there will be a Commissioner of the Department of Public Works appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Legislature.

Legislator Jonke stated his support for this change. He stated the title of “Department of Highways & Facilities” does not accurately reflect what they do; they are more than a Highway Department.

Legislator Sayegh stated there are other departments such as Parks & Recreation that fall under this department and she agreed that the name of Department of Public Works better describes the work done.

Legislator Nacerino stated this new name better reflects the broader scope of work done by this department.

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

**Item #5 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 23A025/ Veterans Service Agency/
Peer to Peer Program/ Additional Funding from NYS Office of Mental
Health for SFY 2023-2024**

Chairwoman Addonizio stated she is glad to see this vital additional funding.

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

Item #6 – Approval/ Appointments/ Putnam County Board of Ethics/ Eldridge, Cassidy, Sweeny, Scuccimarra, & DeMarzo

Chairwoman Addonizio stated of the five (5) member board there have been two (2) resignations and the terms of the other three (3) members are expired. She stated these appointments will fill all five (5) positions.

Legislator Ellner stated he is personally acquainted with two of the candidates, Mr. Sweeny and Mr. DeMarzo. He spoke to their character, and he believes they will do an excellent and fair job.

Legislator Nacerino stated she knows all individuals being appointed and they have the utmost integrity.

Legislator Gouldman stated this group of individuals are qualified community members that will make up a bipartisan Ethics Board. He stated he is happy to see this Board back on track.

Legislator Sayegh stated she is in favor of the eligible candidates.

Legislator Jonke recognized County Executive Byrne for making this Board current through these recommended appointments. He stated he is acquainted with all of the candidates and there couldn't be a better group of people.

Legislator Montgomery requested that the Committee make a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss important information she has pertaining to a recommended candidate.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated she would take the agenda out of order to address item #7 – Other Business before making a motion to go into Executive Session.

Item #7 – Other Business

a. Approval/ Appointment/ Home Improvement Board/ Koffer

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Chairwoman Addonizio read the letter of necessity into the record.

Legislator Gouldman stated this is a qualified individual.

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

Item #6 – Approval/ Appointments/ Putnam County Board of Ethics/ Eldridge, Cassidy, Sweeny, Scuccimarra, & DeMarzo – Continued

At 7:00pm Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a matter leading to the appointment of a particular person; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

At 7:12pm Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated no action was taken in Executive Session.

Legislator Ellner stated he would be voting in favor of the appointments. He requested that in the future, factual documentation be provided to support a claim being made by a fellow Legislator.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is not responsible for providing documentation, she does her own homework. She stated there was a comment made that backup would need to be provided to get votes, but she is not requesting anyone to vote a certain way. She stated she is pointing out important information about a member that is going to be appointed to the Ethics Board. She stated there was an ethics accusation against a person the Committee is ready to appoint, the Attorney General got involved and had to dissolve the not-for-profit established by this person.

Legislator Ellner stated it is not correct that the person established the not-for-profit.

Legislator Nacerino agreed with Legislator Ellner; that statement is not true.

Legislator Jonke stated an allegation was made and there was no evidence to support the allegation. He stated what he believes Legislator Ellner meant earlier is when an accusation like this is made, the person making the accusation should have supporting documents to back up their claim.

Legislator Nacerino stated all of these candidates, in her opinion, have the utmost integrity. She stated she knows them all personally and she has worked with many of them. She stated an accusation was made without any supporting evidence of the outcome. She stated the not-for-profit was not established by this person, that is a fallacy. She stated these are the recommendations of the County Executive who has vetted each individual.

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

Item #8 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:16pm, Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Robinson.