

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
Held via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512
(Chairman Albano, Legislators Castellano & Gouldman)

Thursday **April 15, 2021**
(Immediately Followed 6:00pm Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Mtg)

The meeting was called to order at 7:07p.m. by Chairman Albano who requested Legislator Castellano lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Castellano, Gouldman, and Chairman Albano were present.

Item #3 - Approval/ Sale of County Property Pursuant to Chapter 31 of the Putnam County Code/ 20 Fair Street (The White House)/ First Deputy County Attorney Andrew Negro

Legislator Jonke stated he is opposed to this. He stated when the property was listed, he suggested the County get an appraisal on the property, because he understood the neighbor was interested in purchasing the property. He stated there was no appraisal done, the property was listed and in a short period of time, there is an accepted offer at \$40,000 less than the listing price. He stated he does not think this was the right way to do this, and for that reason he is opposed to the sale.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approval/ Sale of County Property Pursuant to Chapter 31 of the Putnam County Code/ 20 Fair Street (The White House); Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #4 - Approval/ Lease Agreement – Tilly Foster Farm Building #5/ First Deputy County Attorney Andrew Negro

Chairman Albano stated this is a proposal to lease a property at the Tilly Foster Farm (Farm) to an employee. He stated the person does work at the Farm. He stated he believes it is good to have people who work at the Farm living at the Farm.

Legislator Castellano stated he agrees with Chair Albano. He stated having people living on the property, in turn has people watching the property, which he believes is positive.

Legislator Sullivan stated additionally, it will be a positive to have this person on the property to help in the wintertime.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if this is the 3rd building being rented to an employee on the Farm property.

First Deputy County Attorney Andrew Negro confirmed it is the 3rd lease.

Legislator Montgomery stated the Farm is becoming a housing facility. She stated buildings that were intended to be used by the community are now being used for private tenants.

Chairman Albano stated there are residential structures on the Farm. He stated to leave them vacant would not be wise. He stated to have County employees living on this large piece of property that requires a lot of maintenance and a lot of attention is positive.

Legislator Montgomery requested to see, in the agreement, where it states these tenants will watch over the property and serve in that capacity.

Chairman Albano stated there is verbiage provided in the back up. He stated the County's Highways and Facilities Department will be working with them closely.

Legislator Montgomery questioned how the County is addressing having these tenants working on the property in terms of insurance. She questioned if one of them gets hurt on the property, that would be a worker's compensation issue.

Chairman Albano stated the tenant is a County employee, so if the tenant were to get injured it would be a worker's compensation matter. He stated the County holds liability insurance on the property, as it does have 100s of visitors.

Legislator Montgomery stated initially I believe the intent for the Farm was to be used for the residents of Putnam County. She stated she thought there were some programs that were going to occupy space at the Farm, such as the Putnam Arts Council, Women's Resource Center etc. She stated that is what was expressed as the intention of the Farm. She stated she does not recall ever hearing the intent was for the County to become a residential landlord.

Chairman Albano stated he believes the proper use is being made of the different structures on the property. He stated the residential structures would not be appropriate for the groups mentioned. He stated in the future if there are structures that will lend themselves to be used by the different groups throughout the County, that will be looked at. He stated inch by inch the structures are being renovated and being brought up to their full potential.

Legislator Montgomery stated the monthly rent of \$800 seems very low.

Chairman Albano stated it is a correct value in conjunction with what the tenant will do.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if this was advertised.

Chairman Albano stated it was a conscious decision to have a County employee on the Farm.

Legislator Sullivan stated the Farm is a tremendous asset to the County and it is a significant property that requires a lot of work. He stated if there are people living there who are also contributing to the benefit and productivity of the Farm as well as pay rent, he supports that. He stated structures are better when they are occupied rather than leaving them vacant.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve the Lease Agreement – Tilly Foster Farm Building #5; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/ Purchase Town of Putnam Valley TM #83.72-1-68/ First Deputy County Attorney Andrew Negro

Chairman Albano stated this is property acquired by the County via the tax lien process. He stated it is unbuildable. He stated the neighboring property owner is interested in purchasing it. He stated there were no other offers on this property.

Legislator Castellano stated this has been done in the past with other parcels. He stated it will put the property back on the tax map and will improve the property that is there, he sees this as a benefit to the Community and Putnam County.

Legislator Gouldman stated his agreement with the comments made by Legislator Castellano. He stated he will support this proposal.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve the Purchase of Town of Putnam Valley TM #83.72-1-68; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/ Bond – Pre-K/EI Vehicles/ Commissioner of Finance William Carlin

a. FYI/ Pre-K/EI Vehicles/ Invoices/ Transportation Manager Vincent Tamagna (email from VT receive 4/7)

Chairman Albano stated this is a bond in the amount of \$420,000. He stated it is a five (5) year bond, in alignment with the anticipated useful life of the vehicles. He stated this is a State mandated program.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve Bond – Pre-K/EI Vehicles; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #7 - Approval/ Bond for Highway Vehicles and Equipment/ Finance Commissioner William Carlin

Chairman Albano stated this is a bond in the amount of \$500,000.

Legislator Catellano stated now is a great opportunity to secure great bond ratings. He stated this is equipment that the County needs. He stated this is an appropriate time to do it.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve the Bond for Highway Vehicles and Equipment; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #8 - Approval/ State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination/ Resurfacing Various County Highways/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena

Chairman Albano stated this is something that is done on an annual basis. He stated the County paves, repaves, and repairs the County roads throughout the County. He stated the SEQR is a Type II which means there is no environmental impact.

Legislator Montgomery requested that the Chairman read the list of roadways that are set to be addressed.

Chairman Albano stated that there are County Roads that are listed, however the list is not set in stone. He stated if there is a need to reprioritize and work on a road that is not listed, that can be done. He stated currently the following is the list of County Roads: Towners Road, Carmel - Lake Carmel, Stoneleigh Avenue, Haviland Drive, Haviland Hollow Road, Drewville Road, Snake Hill Road, Fair Street and Ludingtonville Road. He stated again these are the roads they have the intention of addressing, but it is not set in stone.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination/ Resurfacing Various County Highways; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #9- Approval/ Bond for Highway/ Parking Improvements/ Finance Commissioner William Carlin

Chairman Albano stated this is the bond in the amount of \$1,000,000 related to the road work discussed in Item #8.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena requested an opportunity to speak. He provided an explanation as to why the County has accepted this practice of working on the roads throughout the County on an annual basis. He stated good science and engineering shows if we invest in the care of our roadways, we avoid much more costly repairs. He stated also annually a condition survey is done of each County road. He explained based on the survey, that is how the roads are selected to be worked on.

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve Bond for Highway/ Parking Improvements; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #10 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A034)/ Amend Capital Project Budget to Provide for 2021 Highway Equipment Purchases, Infrastructure, & Bridges & Culverts Repairs/ Finance Commissioner William Carlin

Chairman Albano made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment (21A034)/ Amend Capital Project Budget to Provide for 2021 Highway Equipment Purchases, Infrastructure, & Bridges & Culverts Repairs; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #11- Approval/ Additional Funding Request – 20CP01- Access Control/ Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena

Chairman Albano stated this is to get funding in place to bring our systems up to date. He stated the improvements will not be made until they are discussed in detail at the Capital Projects Meeting.

Chairman Albano made a motion to approve Additional Funding Request – 20CP01- Access Control; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #12 - Update/ Putnam County Road Projects/ Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities John Tully

- **Fairfield Drive**
- **Maybrook Bikeway II Phase B**
- **Peekskill Hollow Road**
- **Sodom Road**

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated Fairfield Drive is an active project. He stated it is a 50 plus year old culvert that was inspected and identified as being in very poor condition. He stated a couple of years back they applied for funding and the County received \$750,000 which is being applied to replace the culvert. He provided further details of the project. He stated the completion date is projected for early August 2021. He stated for the record there is always the risk that something may be uncovered during the excavation process, weather delays and/or delays of material deliveries. He stated so far everything is progressing forward.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the Maybrook Bikeway II Phase B is the portion of the bikeway that will go to the Connecticut border. He stated the project is moving

forward. He stated they are looking to have a permanent easement established, which they hope to have ready for consideration and approval by the Legislature in time for the May or June Physical Services Meeting.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the Peekskill Hollow Road project has been awarded to a contractor. He stated the Notice to Proceed should be issued in the first or second week of May 2021.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the Sodom Road project has also been awarded to a contractor. He stated the Notice to Proceed should be issued in the first or second week of May 2021.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated those are three (3) major projects that will be active during the 2021 Summer. He stated he would like to address a project that is not on the list, Bridge 5, which was part of the Maybrook II Phase A. He stated that was not completed due to areas of deterioration identified on the abutments of the Metro North bridges. He stated there have been many meetings and they are getting closer to a solution. He stated there is a meeting tomorrow with the County's consultant. He stated the goal of the meeting is to decide on the alternative action, discuss funding and projected costs. He stated at last month's Physical Services meeting the matter of the delay of the Fair Street and Stoneleigh- Drewville Road Intersection, which are the two (2) largest Federal Projects the County has on the TIP, still are not moving. He stated they have contacted Senator Harckham. He stated they have a meeting coming up with Senator Harckham to request his assistance and get these projects moving again.

Legislator Gouldman stated he is glad to hear of the update on the work on Peekskill Hollow Road. He expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Pena and the members of his department for their quick and thorough responses to the calls he has placed regarding road matters in his district.

Legislator Castellano questioned, related to the Maybrook Bikeway II Phase B project, will the bridge located behind the Honda Dealer in Brewster be connected to the main portion of the bike path.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated that is correct. He stated it should have been done a few years back, but there were some issues with the structure that had to be addressed. He provided more detailed information to the work and the cause for the delay. He stated some repair work still needs to be done, which could result in a large expense. He stated the County does have Transit Funding that may apply. He stated this will be discussed in an upcoming meeting he has and offered to provide an update at the May Physical Services Meeting.

Legislator Castellano stated he would appreciate hearing the update. He questioned, at the bike path access point near the Honda Dealer on Route 6 heading towards Connecticut, will it be open soon.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated that is correct. He stated the scope of the project to connect with the Danbury portion of the bike path was put in place before he joined employment with the County. He stated they do not see activity on the Danbury side or the commitment to make the connection to New York. He stated the Putnam County portion has gone approximately to the park and ride off of Interstate 84 in Connecticut.

Legislator Castellano questioned the status of the bridge over the Metro North train tracks in the Village of Brewster.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated there is a contractor in default in relation to that section of the Putnam Bikeway. He stated the County is working with the County Law Department to find a solution so that section can be completed. He stated that would complete the bikeway in Putnam County. He stated the Bikeway goes from South Westchester through Putnam County, north into Dutchess County or East into Connecticut. He stated that was the original scope of the project. He stated the project is almost complete.

Legislator Castellano stated there was discussion by the State of Connecticut considering the use of the rail line connecting Danbury to Brewster. He questioned if that is still being discussed.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated he believes they are studying the connector tracks between Danbury and Brewster as possibly being a light passenger rail line between both locations. He stated he does not have a current update.

Legislator Castellano stated he is in full support of that and hopes that Connecticut continues with that. He stated he hopes Putnam County will participate. He questioned if the Sodom Road Bridge work will be done before the start of school in September 2021.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated that is the plan.

Legislator Nacerino stated she wanted to thank Commissioner Pena and Deputy Commissioner Tully for their participation in this meeting and providing important updates. She stated the projects discussed are very important to their communities.

Legislator Montgomery stated related to the light rail study, Legislator Castellano asked about, Putnam County is a part of that proposed project. She stated the County is paying the

Transportation Manager a stipend to interface on behalf of the County. She expressed her thanks and appreciation for the information shared this evening in regards the Peekskill Hollow Road project, it is great news. She questioned if the Supervisor has been contacted because there are major concerns on the part of some of the residents. She stated primarily there is a concern that the widening of Peekskill Hollow Road will make it a major throughfare for large trucks.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated the County has worked to keep the Legislature and the Town Supervisors updated. He stated there was a presentation in March of 2020, which showed the complete project. He stated comments received during the design process and the best middle ground while meeting today's standards as far as intersection compliance were all part of the final design.

Legislator Montgomery stated she knows a major concern was the possibility of rescinding the weight limit on Peekskill Hollow Road. She stated she believes the limit is still in place and the hope is it will stay in place. She questioned if that might change when the project is completed.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated yes. He stated what was explained to the Town Supervisor is once the bridge and culvert work is completed along Peekskill Hollow Road, the weight restriction on that roadway will no longer be necessary.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there is any way she can advocate to keep the weight restriction to remain.

Chairman Albano stated that is a matter to be discussed at another meeting.

Legislator Gouldman stated he also would like to revisit that topic of not removing the weight restriction.

Commissioner Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stated he agrees this is a discussion that should be had. He stated the residents of the community need to understand when you close off one road to truck and or large vehicle traffic, you are forcing trucks and vehicles onto smaller roads. He stated also there are no short cuts through Peekskill Hollow Road. He stated finally, legally the County cannot shut down traffic on a roadway in the way it is being suggested in this matter.

Legislator Montgomery expressed her appreciation to Legislator Gouldman for presenting the question and getting a response.

Chairman Albano stated this is a complicated issue that can be looked at in the future. He stated it does not look promising that the weight limitation will remain. He stated it can be addressed at

another time. He stated that he hopes the meeting with Senator Harckham is productive. He stated the Senator has been very helpful in the past with several projects.

Item #13 – Other Business

- a) Approval/ SEQRA/ Negative Declaration/ Highway Infrastructure Improvements Project at U.S. Route 6 & Farrington Road, Town of Southeast, New York (Project ID 24088)

Chairman Albano made the motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Chairman Albano made the motion Approve SEQRA/ Negative Declaration/ Highway Infrastructure Improvements Project at U.S. Route 6 & Farrington Road, Town of Southeast, New York; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #14 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:57PM Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.