

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

Members: Chairwoman Addonizio and Legislators Nacerino & Sayegh

**Tuesday June 21, 2022
(Immediately following the Health Committee Meeting beginning at 6:00pm)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested Legislator Sayegh lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Nacerino & Sayegh and Chairwoman Addonizio were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2022

The minutes were approved as submitted.

- Item #4 - Approval/American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) & Sales Tax Funding**
- a. Approval/Authorization for Expenditure of Putnam County ARPA Funds on Qualifying Town and Village Projects**
 - b. Approval/Authorization for Expenditure of Putnam County Sales Tax Funds on Qualifying Town and Village Projects**
 - c. Approval/Budgetary Amendment 22A044/Commissioner of Finance/County ARPA Projects**

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that there will be an opportunity for the towns and villages to move allocations around.

Commissioner of Finance Bill Carlin stated that on March 11, 2021, ARPA was signed into law. He stated on May 17, 2021, the Treasury published their interim final rule, which described eligible and ineligible uses of funds. He stated on May 19, 2021, the County received the first half of funds totaling \$9.6million. He stated the second half of the funds is due now. He stated the County decided to wait for final rule, which was issued on January 6, 2022, before deciding projects. He stated the ARPA spending ideas were due from Department Heads by January 31, 2022. He stated the towns and villages also receive ARPA funds. He stated the Administration allocated \$5million in ARPA funds to the towns and villages for infrastructure projects, supplemented by \$5million sales tax funds. He stated the County Executive announced this plan at the State of the County on March 10, 2022 and recommended to the Legislature to come up with projects by May 15, 2022. He stated the Administration presented recommendations for project funding to the Legislature on June 8, 2022.

- a. Approval/Authorization for Expenditure of Putnam County ARPA Funds on Qualifying Town and Village Projects**

Commissioner Carlin stated 4a is the first of three (3) resolutions. He stated that the first two (2) resolve clauses discuss the authorized transfer of \$5million for scheduled projects. He stated that the third resolve clause will allow towns to allocate funds from one (1) project to another after approval. He stated that resolve clause four (4) discusses how the money is distributed. He stated the Law Department will develop an intermunicipal agreement with each local government describing the rights and responsibilities of both parties. He stated that the towns will receive a reimbursement within 30 days. He stated the fifth resolve clause addresses a claw back clause, which states agreements must be executed by December 31, 2024, and that spending is complete by December 31, 2026. He stated it is imperative that these projects begin now to remain within time frame. He stated resolve clause six (6) is a budgetary amendment to set up appropriate accounts.

b. Approval/Authorization for Expenditure of Putnam County Sales Tax Funds on Qualifying Town and Village Projects

Commissioner Carlin stated 4b discusses approval and allocation of \$5million in sales tax funds. He stated \$10million total is a strong number to get vital infrastructure projects started. He stated the 4b resolve clauses almost mirror the 4b clauses.

c. Approval/Budgetary Amendment 22A044/Commissioner of Finance/County ARPA Projects

Commissioner Carlin stated 4c allocates the remainder of the funding for the County projects. He states the total funding is \$19.1million. He stated \$2million will be allocated to creating a team to improve school safety led by Sheriff Kevin McConville and Social Services Commissioner Michael Piazza. He stated this initiative will identify safety enhancements for the schools. He stated \$1.5million will be allocated for public safety software to improve first responders' communication and coordination. He stated \$2.5million will be allocated for Police and Fire EMS Radio Project for more effective emergency responsiveness. He stated these projects account for a third of the County's ARPA funding and are focused on public safety, which is the Administration's highest priority. He stated \$5million will be allocated for county highway equipment and infrastructure. He stated that the use of ARPA funds will eliminate a need to borrow money. He stated \$2.5million will be allocated to a County Stabilization Center. He stated there will be a partnership with People USA to create a 24/7 Community Crisis Hub. He stated \$130,000 will be allocated to a Mobile Food Pantry Program. He stated \$25,000 will be allocated to purchase food pantry refrigeration units for Second Chance Foods, enabling them to serve more clients. He stated \$30,000 will be allocated for administrative fees.

Item #4 Continued

Commissioner Carlin stated infrastructure was the priority. He stated it was not in the County's best interests to fund personnel costs. He stated \$329,000 in opioid settlements would help fund mental health resources in the future and would be a more

appropriate source of funding. He stated these resolutions are just the beginning of the process for these projects. He noted that bonuses for County Employees was not a priority, compared to the infrastructure needs. He thanked Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale and Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo for their assistance with drafting the resolutions.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated on behalf of herself and the Town of Kent, they are pleased with the allocation they are receiving.

Legislator Nacerino thanked Commissioner Carlin and Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale for their dedication to this project. She stated this is a coordinated effort to take care of these vital projects. She stated many town supervisors are pleased to have this funding. She stated this initiative has been very well thought out.

Legislator Sayegh stated \$24million dollars should not be taken lightly. She questioned if the required timelines are realistic for these projects.

Commissioner Carlin stated he believes it is, as the towns have already started the planning process, so it is possible to complete these projects in time.

Legislator Sayegh stated she would have liked to see more funding towards mental health.

Commissioner Carlin stated that the Stabilization Center was the top mental health priority. He stated that the allocation towards mental health could increase.

Legislator Sullivan thanked Commissioner Carlin for all the work he has done. He stated towns have been asking for a share of sales tax for a long time. He stated he is happy that the County is in a position to share sales tax revenue now. He stated he is pleased with the proceedings that have occurred and looks forward to future discussions.

Legislator Gouldman thanked Putnam Valley Supervisor Jacqueline Annabi for her presence at this meeting. He stated he would like to hear from the public, including the Town Supervisors in attendance.

Legislator Jonke stated that three months was too short of a process. He stated County Executive Odell has been opposed to the idea of sharing sales tax with the towns throughout her tenure. He stated the public meetings he requested with town and village officials never occurred. He stated there is a fiduciary responsibility to the residents. He stated this is too much to consider in a short time span and requested this resolution be tabled for discussion.

Commissioner Carlin stated the Administration is still opposed to sharing sales tax as formula funding because it does not address the county's current financial position and

restricts spending. He stated this is why the “Share the Growth” initiative is being formulated.

Legislator Montgomery agreed with Legislator Jonke on the process. She expressed disappointment that County Executive Odell was not present. She stated discussion on this project should have started a year and a half ago. She stated this is the first time the ARPA funding has been discussed. She stated community based mental health organizations are suffering because ARPA funding is going to the radio project, which was promised before the ARPA funding was discussed. She stated the towns are pleased with the proposals and flexibility they receive. She stated the County should be funding the great projects that are on the table. She stated the Legislature is not aware of all the proposals submitted from community-based services. She stated mental health is not receiving enough funding. She questioned if there will be a partnership with the Putnam Hospital Center on the Stabilization Center.

Commissioner Carlin stated there will be discussion between Commissioner of Social Services Piazza and Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Servadio with the Health Committee.

Legislator Montgomery stated she disagrees with Putnam Hospital Center on its philosophy towards the opioid crisis. She stated constituents are suffering and the smaller mental health organizations should be receiving funding. She requested information on the rejected proposals be shared.

Commissioner Carlin stated he will share the other proposals.

Legislator Montgomery questioned why mental health resources are in the same resolution as highway equipment.

Commissioner Carlin stated having everything in one resolution is easier to track, now and in the future.

Legislator Montgomery stated programs that were promised prior to ARPA funding becoming available should not be financed under ARPA. She stated she appreciates the work of Commissioner Carlin.

Legislator Sayegh stated the fund balance is \$66million minus the \$5million sales tax. She questioned if this would impact the bond rating. She questioned how a possible recession will impact Putnam County and the fund balance. She questioned if this will be a concern.

Commissioner Carlin stated this would not affect the bond rating because the decrease is only to \$61million. He stated \$5million would not make a difference in a recession.

Legislator Sayegh stated the funding of radios for the Fire Department was never discussed.

Legislator Montgomery disagreed and referred to prior meeting minutes that show radios for Fire Departments was discussed.

Legislator Sayegh stated it was initially that the County would fund one (1) radio per department.

Legislator Nacerino clarified that both the radios and other equipment for this project are being funded. She stated this project is crucial and will benefit the entire County.

Legislator Sullivan clarified that the schools were notified about the safety team being created for school safety.

Commissioner Carlin stated the discussions with the schools were preliminary and the project will not be implemented without funding. He stated County Executives rarely come to Legislative Committee meetings and administrative representatives are there to represent County Executive Odell.

Legislator Montgomery stated previous County Executives attended meetings.

Putnam Valley Resident Judy Allen questioned if there was notification that went out to the public regarding project proposals. She questioned if there will be an opportunity for the towns to reach out to their constituents regarding this matter.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated this was a matter for the towns and it is their decision to reach out to their constituents or not.

Legislator Montgomery questioned when there will be public input for the County portion of the ARPA funding.

Legislator Jonke stated the towns and villages did not have enough time to reach out to their constituents. He stated there is no reason to pass this resolution tonight. He questioned who set the deadline for these projects.

Commissioner Carlin stated the deadline is fluid, but his opinion would be the sooner the better.

Legislator Jonke stated the decision to pass this resolution without public input would be reckless.

Legislator Sullivan disagreed with Legislator Jonke that this process was rushed. He stated he met with Supervisor Michael Cazzari and Legislator Albano for discussion prior to the three months and believes that Supervisor Cazzari knows what is best to serve the taxpayers. He stated this process has worked out.

Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley stated the County ARPA funding doubles the Village's allocation to \$400,000. She stated there was only three weeks to create a proposal with very little parameters and no time to consult an engineer. She stated that the 1865 Dam is failing and poses a major threat to Philipstown. She requested that there be a public hearing to discuss what will be done with the remaining \$14.1million. She stated there was no follow up about her proposals and the Legislature does not know any information on what is needed for her town. She stated technical expertise from engineers is vital for these projects. She questioned if the County's highway funding will be spent exclusively on county roads. She requested clarification on facilities. She questioned how much money is going to Tilly Foster Farm and Putnam County Golf Course.

Commissioner Carlin stated the highway money will only be used for County roads. He stated that no money will be going to facilities, only equipment. He stated no money will be going to Tilly Foster or the Golf Course. He stated this is all money that would have been borrowed.

Mayor Foley questioned if the radios being purchased will be in the trucks or on the first responders. She questioned if there is a specific number of radios per agency. She stated that the Fire House in Cold Spring is in desperate need of new radios.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated the radios will be mobile units in the vehicle, and radios for the individuals. He stated each law enforcement agency put in a request for their needs and this was evaluated. He stated he had a discussion with Village of Cold Spring Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke, who is satisfied with what he is receiving. He stated he was not involved with the firehouses.

Mayor Foley questioned how a practical working relationship established with the Inter Municipal Agreements will be effective with the new information on modified price tags and modified definitions. She questioned if the elements of the project are discussed or just the amount of money.

Commissioner Carlin stated if the Legislature approves the funding, they will meet with the Village Representative to create an agreement for fund transfer. He stated only the amount is discussed.

Mayor Foley questioned what the function of the drill down review of each project is if it is a per capita allotment.

Commissioner Carlin stated that a certain amount of funding is allocated over decided projects. He stated the towns are providing the necessary requirements to comply with ARPA.

Mayor Foley questioned if the reporting process is the same for the sales tax fund.

Commissioner Carlin confirmed it will be reported in the same manner in a report to the Legislature twice a year.

Putnam Valley Supervisor Jacqueline Annabi stated she is thankful for the funding. She stated there was an announcement to the public regarding the ARPA funds and multiple public meetings were held prior to submitting the proposal. She stated she is grateful for all the help that she has received in creating the proposal.

Carmel Councilwoman Suzanne McDonough thanked the Legislature for the funding. She stated the residents are very thankful as well.

Carmel Supervisor Michael Cazzari stated they are only receiving 1/6 of the funding needed for projects. He stated they are looking to the Federal and State Governments for more funding but have not received anything.

Carmel Councilman Robert Schanil thanked the Legislature for the money going towards Carmel.

Sheriff McConville stated the CAD RMS System is not modern and discussed replacing this system. He stated meetings with vendors were held and they have been working with EMS and Fire Department, who will also benefit from the system update. He stated this system is cost effective and will benefit the communities.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the same ARPA rules as the Federal Government are being followed. She questioned if spending after March 2020 can be reimbursed.

Commissioner Carlin stated that the rules are the same. He stated if the reimbursement qualifies then it will be received.

Legislator Montgomery requested to review the requests received at the Law Enforcement Agencies. She stated that the schools should be part of the conversation on school safety. She stated there needs to be more understanding on these proposals.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to approve Item #4a - Authorization for Expenditure of Putnam County ARPA Funds on Qualifying Town and Village Projects; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated the version of #4a part of the backup is an earlier version that contains an extraneous resolve clause that does not change anything. He requested it be struck from the resolution.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to approve Item #4b - Authorization for Expenditure of Putnam County Sales Tax Funds on Qualifying Town and Village Projects; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Legislator Sayegh stated it is important to pass resolutions #4a and #4b for the municipalities.

Legislator Sayegh made a motion to table Item #4c; No second. Motion Fails.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to approve Item #4c - Budgetary Amendment 22A044/Commissioner of Finance/County ARPA Projects; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #5 - FYI/ Litigation Report – Duly Noted

Item #6 - Other Business

a. Approval/Appointment/Election Commissioner/Republican Party

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to accept Other Business submitted to the meeting; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated Deputy Election Commissioner Kelly K. Primavera is hereby appointed to the position of Election Commissioner for the remainder of a four-year term commencing January 1, 2019, and expiring December 31, 2022.

Legislator Sayegh thanked the current Commissioner for his service. She stated Deputy Election Commissioner Kelly K. Primavera is a suitable candidate for the position.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to approve Appointment/Election Commissioner/ Republican Party; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #7 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:33pm Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Legislative Intern, Eden Barone.