ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING Held Via Audio Webinar Pursuant to Temporary Emergency Orders

Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Montgomery & Sayegh

<u>Tuesday</u> 6:00PM October 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Montgomery, Legislator Sayegh and Chairman Gouldman were present.

Item #3 – 2021 Budget Review

Tourism – Account 6410 – Pages 165-166

Tourism Director Tracey Walsh explained that the 2020 budget was created only after she was in her position for about three (3) weeks. She stated she made a promise to look in depth at the budget. She stated Tourism gave back monies to the County from the 2020 budget. She noted that it is expected that the State will not provide any I Love New York funds for 2021. She stated she does not want to count on money she does not believe the County will receive. She stated she would be very fugal in the beginning of the year. She stated she has added funding to the local advertising line because there was not enough in 2020.

Chairman Gouldman questioned the decrease in the Temporary line.

Tourism Director Walsh stated initially when she started there was talk of having more administrative help, specifically having someone on the western side of the County. She stated she decided that she wanted to be responsible for forming the relationships with the people on the western side of the County and do the work herself. She stated part of the temporary line that is still in place is for her assistant.

Legislator Sayegh questioned what the \$10,000 in the Leased Transportation line is used for.

Tourism Director Walsh stated \$5,253 of the 2020 budget for that line was given back to the County. She stated money for 2021 is for next summer in the hope that the trollies can run. She stated if the money is not used, it will go back to the County.

Legislator Montgomery clarified that the Leased Transportation is only for the trollies.

Tourism Director Walsh stated yes, it is only for the trollies.

Legislator Montgomery stated she was just making sure that is all it is used for.

Tourism Director Walsh stated as the Director she does not put in for mileage reimbursement or use a County car.

Legislator Montgomery questioned line 54950, entitled County Contribution.

Tourism Director Walsh stated the County will not know if the State will provide any matching funds. She reiterated it is widely expected that there will not be any funds provided. She stated if funds are provided, the budget will be amended.

Finance Commissioner William Carlin stated if the State provides aid, line 54328 (I Love New York Program) would be increased, as well as line 437151 (State Aid I Love New York). He stated there would be no fiscal impact. He stated the County's share of the matching funds was budgeted for, but if the State does not provide the funds, the County's share will not be spent.

Legislator Montgomery questioned the lack of a County Contribution.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated the County Contribution is in line 54328, entitled I Love New York Program.

Legislator Montgomery stated her district drives tourism in the County. She stated her area needs more support to deal with the tourists that are already there.

Tourism Director Walsh stated that is partly why the local advertising has been increased. She stated the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce came to her in hopes of advertising other parts of the County on the maps that they print for tourists.

Legislator Montgomery stated she believes more needs to be done to support Cold Spring with the number of tourists they are seeing. She stated the sales tax revenue from the tourism goes back to the County and she would like to see it shared.

Legislator Sayegh noted that there is a lot of tourism in Carmel as well, with the lakes and hiking areas.

Tourism Director Walsh stated luckily the County as a whole is seeing an increase in tourism. She noted that it is important to spend the County's money wisely.

Economic Development Corporation – Account 6420 – Page 167

Chairman Gouldman noted that the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) requested \$16,000 less in the 2021 budget.

Legislator Montgomery questioned why the budget for the EDC was cut after the County showed a commitment to economic development with its hiring of a Deputy County Executive in June.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated the County did not cut the budget, it was the recommendation of the EDC, considering the economic climate. He stated they are continuously working with the IDA (Industrial Development Agency) and the Deputy County Executive.

Putnam County IDA – Account 6460 – Page 169

Legislator Montgomery questioned what the \$50,000 in the Contracts line is used for.

Finance Commissioner Carlin stated it covers a portion of all the expenses for the IDA. He noted the IDA has no staff other than a temporary position to help with clerical work. He stated Chairman of the IDA Board Bill Nulk does a lot of work. He added that the funding is also for professional fees, audit fees, and other services of that nature. He stated the IDA funds their budget with the fees they collect though projects. He stated the IDA never asks for money they are not going to use.

Item #4 - Other Business - None

Item #5 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:27 P.M., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.