

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM 318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Addonizio, Sayegh**

**Wednesday** **6:00p.m.** **September 20, 2023**

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**(The Health Mtg. Immediately Followed)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairwoman Nacerino and who requested Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Addonizio, Sayegh, and Chairwoman Nacerino were present.

**Item #3 – Acceptance/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ July 20<sup>th</sup> & August 17, 2023**

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 – Approval/ Re-Establish the Community Engagement and Police Advisory Board (CEPAB)/ CEPAB Board Members**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is a request to reinstate the Community engagement and Policy Advisory Board. She stated this is done on an annual basis. She read the letter dated September 2, 2023, from the CEPAB Members. She expressed her appreciation for the work done by the CEPAB.

Legislator Addonizio stated her agreement that the work done by CEPAB is an asset to the County.

Legislator Sayegh stated her support for the work and conversations that have occurred thanks to the CEPAB organization. She stated some conversations are not easy to have or comfortable, but are important to have, and CEPAB is an asset in those types of situations.

CEPAB Co-Chair Jenie Fu stated that CEPAB agrees with that and supports open dialogue as much as possible.

Legislator Jonke stated he would like to thank CEPAB Co-Chair Jenie Fu and requested she pass along his sentiments to CEPAB Chairman Scott Rhodes and CEPAB Co-Chair Ronald Reid. He stated volunteerism can at times be a thankless job. He recognized their willingness to continue putting their efforts forward for their community.

CEPAB Co-Chair Jenie Fu explained many of her fellow CEPAB members were not present because they are preparing at Veterans' Park for the Culture Fest, which was scheduled to be held on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 11:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. She stated Westchester Circus Arts will be performing at the Culture Fest.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve Re-Establish the Community Engagement and Police Advisory Board (CEPAB); Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item #5 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 23T272/ Transfer to Cover Bureau of Emergency Services Dispatch Overtime Due to Vacancies/ Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton**

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton stated there are seven (7) vacancies in the Dispatch Center, which is what is generating the need for the overtime. He stated three (3) of the vacancies last week were filled. He stated they are down to four (4) vacancies. He stated they are using the funding from the vacant positions to cover the overtime.

Chairwoman Nacerino explained that is why there is no fiscal impact. She stated to hire people into a Dispatcher position is an arduous task. She questioned where the County is in terms of looking to fill the four (4) vacancies.

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton explained there are eight (8) people on the current list of candidates to be considered. He stated that is a big change from years back, when there would be 50 people on the list of candidates. He stated the County's capacity to train, is only to train three (3) people at a time. He stated the training takes 16 to 20 weeks to train someone. He continued to speak to the process of training and bringing Dispatchers on board.

Legislator Montgomery stated we are recognizing this is a difficult job. She stated she is concerned with the mental health of the Dispatchers having to do this overtime. She stated she would like to suggest some of the funding from these vacant positions be put towards some kind of counseling for the Dispatchers.

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton stated they are very aware and are monitoring the situation. He stated DSS Commissioner Piazza and Deputy Commissioner Servadio are assisting in the monitoring of the situation. He stated the Dispatchers know that there are services available.

Legislator Crowley questioned if having a Sergeant and a Lieutenant in the Dispatch Center is having an impact on the amount of overtime.

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton stated that is not a factor.

Legislator Crowley questioned if having a Sergeant and a Lieutenant is part of the fast tracking training Commissioner Lipton referred to.

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton stated it is and it is very beneficial. He explained this is the first time that they are using the "fast tracking" approach in the training of the Dispatchers. He explained so at this time there is no projection of how long the process will take. He did provide as a point of reference that the current training process takes 16 – 20 weeks.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned how the current morale is.

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton stated these are tough times for the Dispatchers. He stated the shifts must be filled, so it is impacting the Dispatchers in terms of their personal lives and getting time off.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she is glad that Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton is monitoring the Dispatchers and taking action to try to fill the vacancies. She stated there are resources through the County that the Dispatchers can take advantage of.

Legislator Jonke questioned if this funding request is to cover overtime that has already occurred or anticipated overtime.

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton stated this is for anticipated overtime and believes this amount will carry them to the end of the year.

Legislator Jonke requested clarification that the funding is coming from three (3) vacant positions, if these positions do get filled before the end of the year will there be enough money in the lines to cover the salaries.

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton stated yes there would be.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve/ Fund Transfer 23T272/ Transfer to Cover Bureau of Emergency Services Dispatch Overtime Due to Vacancies; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

#### **Item #6 - Update/ Radio Project/ IT/ GIS Director Tom Lannon**

IT/ GIS Director Tom Lannon expressed his appreciation for being permitted to provide this update on this very important project. He stated there are a number of towers that have been completed. He stated there are still a few they are still working on. He stated the Philipstown tower has been challenging, but glad to say it is moving forward. He stated there has been a recent matter that has arisen regarding property donation. He stated the County's Law Department is working on that. He stated there are some challenges with the Piano Mountain location. He spoke to the fact that Putnam Valley wants all the work to go through their process rather than use the Monroe Balancing Act, which has been used with the other Towers. He stated that will result in a delay of approximately four (4) months. He stated the County Golf Course Tower, is moving forward at a slow pace. He stated there is a parkland alienation process involved with that Tower as well as having the Department of Environmental Protection involved. He stated the Towers that are not available right now will not impact them from going "Live". He stated they are moving ahead with the Towers they have ready. He stated that will result in limited coverage in some areas of the County. He stated they plan to get testing started in October/November of 2023. He spoke to some of the obstacles that have come up with this project that have caused delays. He stated they are still working on the radio equipment (aka subscriber equipment). He stated the Putnam County Sheriff's Office is already saving the County money. He stated they took the radios they were given, the Tri Band Radios. He explained, the

Sheriff's Department started to use those radios and have returned the radios that were on a lease. He stated the Deputies have been providing positive feedback on the Tri Band Radios. He stated there have been some Tri Band Radios ordered for the Fire Departments. He stated there is a bit of a back order with Motorola for that model radio. He stated overall the project is going well. He stated the Memorandum of Agreements still need to be finalized. He stated there will be individual meetings scheduled with the Fire Departments as needed.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she cannot understand why Putnam Valley would like to use their own process versus using the Monroe Balancing Act which has been used often. Especially in light of the fact that it will delay the progress and that will have an adverse effect on not only the constituents, but also on the interoperability.

Legislator Montgomery expressed her appreciation for the update. She stated the Monroe Balancing Act is a great resource, but also consideration needs to be given to the elected officials in Putnam Valley as they need to answer to the public. She stated there are members of the public that are very critical of these towers. She stated for the members of the Putnam Valley Board to choose to do their due diligence, that is within their purview, and she would never criticize them for that.

**Item #7 - FYI/ Fund Transfer 23T255/ Bureau of Emergency Services -911 Center Upgrades and Services/ Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton**

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton stated they are adding video board equipment to the 911 Center that will carry even more information. He stated this equipment allows them to tap into the video cameras that they have installed in the different towns.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is in support of this upgrade.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is an FYI.

**Item #8 - FYI/ Fund Transfer 23T260/ Accountability Boards for Fire Department/ Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is an FYI. She requested that Commissioner Lipton provide a brief overview of the purpose of these boards.

Bureau of Emergency Services Commissioner Robert Lipton stated these are used to keep accountability of fire fighters going in and coming out of a fire. He stated they are working to make sure all of the departments have the same systems. He stated Mutual Aid is becoming more of a practice, so when one Department comes into another Department's area to assist, they will all be on the same page.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she likes to see the continuity.

**Item #9 - Other Business - None**

**Item #10 – Adjournment**

There being no further business at 6:32PM Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn;  
Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.