

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

Members: Chairwoman Nacerino, Legislators Addonizio & Sayegh

Tuesday

August 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:46pm by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislator Sayegh lead in the pledge of allegiance. Upon roll call, Chairwoman Nacerino, Legislators Addonizio and Sayegh were present.

Item #3 – Acceptance/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ June 18, 2024

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 – Approval/ Fund Transfer 24T223/ Funds for Bureau of Emergency Svcs. (BES) Temporary Line for County Fire Instructors to Train for the Remainder of 2024/ Commissioner of BES Robert Lipton

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is a request to move \$20,000 from the BES Radio Communications budget line to the Temporary budget line.

Commissioner BES Robert Lipton stated that is correct. He stated the funds would be used to cover the salary of the instructors for the remainder of the year.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned how many instructors are there.

Commissioner BES Robert Lipton stated he did not have the count off the top of his head. He explained that they pull from a pool of Fire Instructors, County and State. He stated the topic of the class determines what instructor is needed. He stated they are now required to have more Fire Instructors at every class.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 24T223/ Funds for Bureau of Emergency Svcs. (BES) Temporary Line for County Fire Instructors to Train for the Remainder of 2024; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #5 – Update/ Approval/ Request to Create Rescue Task Force/ Commissioner of BES Robert Lipton (Tabled from May 23, 2024 Audit Mtg.)

Chairwoman Nacerino stated there were some outstanding questions related to this item. She stated she did meet with Commission Lipton and reviewed a number of the questions that were raised. She stated there is no Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) needed between the municipalities and the County, the team members will be insured by the respective Departments.

Commissioner of BES Robert Lipton stated they are creating a Rescue Task Force, it will be a County team. He stated said team will include members of the volunteer fire departments and ambulances. He stated the first step is to create the Team. He stated the details to forming the this team are defined under General Municipal Law 209-bb which he quoted from. He spoke to the process. He stated the County has several teams, and they were formed in accordance with General Municipal Law 209-bb also. He stated if there is a call for the Rescue Task Force, the call will come from the Fire Department, and then they can officially respond. He stated for clarification this would be a County team.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the mission of the Rescue Task Force will be to help the victims, or people in danger at a scene, while law enforcement do their job.

Commissioner of BES Robert Lipton stated that is correct. He stated Law Enforcement will be the first one on a scene. He stated they will stabilize the scene, they will do what they have to do. He stated once the Police Department says the area is safe, then the Rescue Task Force (RTF) can enter and get the victims out. He stated that way the victims can begin to be treated as needed. He stated Mike Cairney, who would be the Captain of the RTF, and who came and spoke to this Committee approximately a year ago and again just in May has a great plan. He spoke to what has begun to be done in regard to communication, and making the volunteer agencies aware of the RTF.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is a very important initiative and she gave accolades to Mike Cairney for bringing this initiative forward to the Legislature, back in 2023, and for his continued work on the details. She stated that she is very happy to see this coming to fruition. She spoke to many different scenarios where there would be a need for the RTF. She stated in the continued research of the process and procedure for the formation of the RTF, it was determined that the Legislature needs to hold the Public Hearing. She stated her intent at the conclusion of the discussion of this matter is to move it to the September Full Legislature Meeting, contingent on the Public Hearing, which will be scheduled and held before the September Full Legislature meeting.

Legislator Sayegh questioned who would have the ultimate authority over the scene.

Commissioner of BES Robert Lipton stated it is the Law Enforcement Agency. He stated the RTF will be at the scene to assist and help the Law Enforcement Agency Officers.

Legislator Sayegh confirmed the members of the RTF would arrive at the scene and then wait for instructions from the member(s) of the Law Enforcement Agency.

Commissioner of BES Robert Lipton stated that is correct.

Legislator Crowley stated she is aware the Sheriff's Response Team (SRT) has different levels where an Emergency Response Team (ERT) is standardized throughout the Country. She questioned is there something similar to this for a Rescue Task Force. She also questioned is there a criteria they are working from to determine the number of members etc.

Commissioner of BES Robert Lipton stated that Mike Cairney based the work he has done on a model. He stated for further information and details Mike Cairney would need to address them. He spoke to the work that Mike Cairney has done in the creation of quadrants.

Legislator Crowley questioned if Commissioner Lipton could provide the Legislature with the model.

Commissioner of BES Robert Lipton confirmed that he would provide that information.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated once the full process and the RTF is approved, she will invite Mike Cairney back to give an update and provide the logistics. She stated the last time he was here, in May, he was still in the recruitment stage.

Legislator Sayegh spoke to the importance of communication in the different situations where the RTF would be along with different agencies. She questioned if there will be plenty of communication between the different agencies.

Commissioner of BES Robert Lipton replied that the Radio Project is moving along, and has picked up a lot of steam. He spoke to what is expected in the very near future in relation to the Radio Project.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated there was a question raised when the mutual aid regarding the radios with Westchester County was passed. She stated it was asked if the radios would be compatible or if the interoperability would be County wide. She requested Sheriff McConville address that.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated any current P25 Radio Project have banks and in the banks you have frequencies, aka, channels. He stated they are set up based on geographic need. He stated there are priority channels, that everyone will have in their radio. He stated that will address the concern of communication that Legislator Sayegh raised. He stated it is a matter of learning, which the training and field testing is projected to begin in early September. He stated the Mutual Aid regarding the radios with Westchester County is related to law enforcement and operations. He stated there will be some channels that will be accessible. He stated at the scenes of which Legislator Sayegh was questioning as to who would be in charge, there is an Incident Commander who would be in charge of the whole scene and a Deputy Incident Commander. He continued to speak to different scenarios and how in some cases there is a Command person from each entity who responds to a scene.

Legislator Crowley stated she recalled Sheriff McConville reporting that there would be plenty of frequencies with the new Radio Project. She stated at the last meeting it was reported that there were additional radios being brought because we had run out of channels and frequencies.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated he was not present at the meeting where that was reported, therefore he does not recall what was said. He did explain the Mutual Aid plan deals with Westchester and Putnam even though everyone is on the trunk line system it does not mean you have access to their radio frequencies. He stated this would give common frequencies for

operational and tactical usage that you could count on. He stated these are primarily portable units, he offered an example.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve the Creation of Rescue Task Force contingent upon the Public Hearing to be held prior to the September Full Legislature Meeting; Seconded Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #6 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 9:11pm Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.