

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

Members: Chairwoman Nacerino, Legislators Addonizio & Sayegh

Tuesday

September 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm 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, July 23 & August 13, 2024

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A082/ Maintenance Fees from Town of Kent and Villages of Cold Spring and Brewster - Access Software from the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)/ Records Management System (RMS)/ Sheriff Kevin McConville

Chairwoman Nacerino invited Sheriff McConville and Captain Schepperly who were present to speak to this item.

Sheriff McConville stated this new Computer Aided Dispatch/ Records Management System which is used by the County and was offered to every law enforcement agency in Putnam County to utilize. He stated the Villages of Brewster and Cold Spring and the Town of Kent all accepted the offer, with the understanding that they would be responsible for a portion of the yearly maintenance fee, which is subject to a yearly increase of 3%-6% depending on the increase that is put forward from Tyler Technologies, Inc. He stated the Villages are on a fixed rate of \$3,000 each per year.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the Town of Carmel indicated why they did not want to accept the offer to utilize this system.

Sheriff McConville stated he is not sure of the reason, but they did decline to participate. He stated the Sheriff's Department has reached out to them several times, notifying them that the offer is still on the table, but there has not been a response.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 24A082/ Maintenance Fees from Town of Kent and Villages of Cold Spring and Brewster - Access Software from the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)/ Records Management System (RMS); Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #5 – FYI/ Fund Transfer 24T273/ Funds for Dispatch Backup Center for Four (4) PowerPhone Licenses/ Commissioner Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned if this request for funding will cover through to year end.

Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) Deputy Commissioner Ralph Falloon stated yes. He stated the backup with the Sheriff’s Department currently is that they log into our building remotely. He stated they decided it would be in their best interest to get the Computer Software on the computers at the backup sites.

Chairwoman Nacerino thanked BES Deputy Commissioner Falloon for addressing this item.

Item #6 - Update/ P. C. Radio Project/ IT/GIS Director Lannon and Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton

Bureau of Emergency Services (BES) Deputy Commissioner Ralph Falloon stated great strides have been made and they are coming down to the final stretch. He stated tomorrow there is a final meeting for the testing of the program and if it all goes well, the following Monday (9/16/2024) they will begin the acceptance tests. He stated that will continue, hopefully no longer than two (2) weeks. He stated then Director IT/GIS Lannon has stated that he believes within a month from that date they will be ready to go live with the Sheriff’s Department, barring no issues with the testing. He stated the Sheriff’s Department is ready to go live as soon as the approval comes through to do so.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that is very good news, this is a program that has been in the works for a long time.

Item #7 – Update/ Putnam County Rescue Task Force

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the creation of the Putnam County Rescue Task Force (RTF) was approved unanimously by the Legislature at the September 3, 2024, Full Meeting. She stated her colleagues on the Legislature requested that an update be provided on what the next steps would be moving forward.

Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney stated currently the Alpha Team has been formed which includes volunteers from Putnam Lake, Patterson, and Brewster. He stated the Bravo Team has been formed which includes Carmel and Kent and the Charlie Team which includes Philipstown. He stated he has not begun to work on the Mahopac and Mahopac Falls areas yet. He stated he is trying to move slowly, and not overwhelm himself. He stated as he approached the different areas, the main question has been, “has the County approved it”. He stated that is another reason why he has not gone too far. He stated he has held back waiting for the completion of securing the County’s approval of the creation of the RTF. He stated the Bravo team is training at the Carmel Firehouse. He stated there is a training event coming up at Putnam Hospital in October for “active shooter” training.

Chairwoman Nacerino questioned how many volunteers does he have.

Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney stated approximately 40. He stated there is a lot of interest in being a member of the RTF because they recognize its importance. He explained the RTF trains to be prepared to go into “warm zone” where normal EMS personnel are not permitted to go.

Legislator Sayegh requested clarification as to why Mahopac and Mahopac Falls have not been approached yet.

Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney stated he has discussed this with them in the past, and there is an interest. He stated at the time he was discussing it with them, the RTF had not been approved by the County, which was the reason for their hesitation, at that time. He stated now that it has been approved, he will get back to them. He stated his goal is to have every Department in Putnam County involved with the RTF. He stated he started working on the formation of the RTF in Putnam County about four (4) years ago.

Legislator Crowley questioned if any specific model is being followed.

Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney stated yes. He stated it is a National Standard that he is following. He stated they are hoping to bring that training into Putnam County. He stated there is no fee, they would just need to provide the Police Officers and Fire Fighters. He stated he believes it is through FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Legislator Castellano expressed his appreciation to Chief Cairney for his efforts. He questioned how many members will be on each of the three (3) groups that have been created thus far.

Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney stated he is trying to stick to 20 member per team.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she has talked to the Fire Department Chiefs in her area, and they are all in support of the RTF. She questioned why there are no members from the local Police Departments on the RTF.

Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney stated the job of the Police Department is to address the threat. He explained currently they have had to address the threat and try to take care of the victims. He stated the role of the RTF will be to help the victims, and alleviate that responsibility from the Police Department so they can put their efforts into addressing the threat.

Legislator Montgomery questioned who would be the “incident command”.

Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney stated it is a unified command, between the responders from the Police Department, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services. He stated all the agencies are responsible for their individual function and bring that together to all work together to address the mission.

BES Deputy Commissioner Ralph Falloon stated the nature of an incident always comes into play on what agency is the incident command. He stated as an example if it is a crime scene, then the Police Department would take the lead.

Legislator Montgomery she is in favor of the RTF as are the Fire Departments in her district. She stated local police departments have communicated to her that they believe they should be involved with the RTF.

Captain James Schepperly stated the Sheriff's Department has been working with BES Commissioner Lipton and have and will continue to train and invite them to train with the Sheriff's Response Team. He spoke to a practice session they ran down in Westchester. He stated there are two practice drill sessions on the calendar in October. He stated the RTF will be responding to situations with the Sheriff's Response Team.

Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney stated that it is a work in progress, and he has been taking small steps until this point. He stated now that the RTF has been approved, he can move forward. He stated his future goal also includes offering training. He stated as an example he hopes to offer active shooter drills for County employees.

Legislator Crowley stated with the new regulations that are in the schools regarding Active Shooter Training, how is the RTF involved.

Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney stated he has been working with the Sheriff's Department, but it takes time.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she recognizes that this is a fluid process. She stated her appreciation for this update.

BES Deputy Commissioner Ralph Falloon stated now that the RTF has been officially approved by the County, he believes progress will begin moving forward. He stated the past four (4) years of moving slowly has prepared them well to jump right in now. He recognized the value of the valuable training that the Sheriff's Department has provided them.

Chairwoman Nacerino recognized Chief Cairney and Deputy Commissioner Falloon for the update provided and for addressing the questions raised.

Risk Manager Mat Bruno raised some inquires related to the insurance coverage for the different category of members on the RTF.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested that Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney forward a list of the members of the RTF to Risk Manager Bruno and work with him on the insurance coverage for said members.

Legislator Addonizio questioned if the FEMA training is a requirement for the members of the RTF.

Chief of Putnam Lake Fire Department Michael Cairney stated it is not a requirement. He also explained the obstacle they run into, due to the fact the members are volunteers and, in most cases, have other jobs. He stated his standard is that the members train once a month as local teams and quarterly.

BES Deputy Commissioner Ralph Falloon stated in their standard operating guides there are a minimum set of requirements each volunteer must have to be a member of the RTF.

Legislator Ellner questioned Risk Manager Burno as to whether he sees there will be a need for additional insurance to protect the RTF members and the County.

Risk Manager Burno stated he does not foresee that would be the case. He briefly spoke to that. He stated any volunteer that is not covered under their own Police Department or Fire Department would be covered under the Putnam County Workers Compensation Plan as a volunteer.

Legislator Montgomery expressed her support and hope the County Executive and Legislature in the future would approve funding so that the RTF could provide training to the County employees.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that has been discussed and the cost of the training would be part of the BES budget. She facilitated further discussion.

Item #8 – Other Business

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

a.) Approval/ Continuation of The Community Engagement & Police Advisory Board (CEPAB)

Chairwoman Nacerino read the letter from the Members of the CEPAB which requested the renewal of the continuation of said board. She stated that she believes they do a stupendous job and are a great service to our community.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to approve the Resolution in support of the Continuation of The Community Engagement & Police Advisory Board; Seconded by Legislators Addonizio and Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:34pm Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trubusy.