

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE
BUDGET MEETING
HELD IN ROOM 318 OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Addonizio & Crowley

Monday 6:30pm October 7, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairman Gouldman who led in the pledge of allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Addonizio, Crowley and Chairman Gouldman were present.

Item #3 - 2025 Budget Review

Dues – Account 1920 – Page 51

Chairman Gouldman questioned County Auditor Michele Sharkey what dues the County pays.

Auditor Sharkey stated it is NaCO (National Association of Counties), NYSAC (New York Association of Counties), Pattern for Progress, and American Legislative Council.

Legislator Crowley questioned if anyone from Pattern for Progress was in attendance.

Chairman Gouldman questioned how much the dues for Pattern for Progress are.

Finance Commissioner Michael Lewis stated they are \$10,000.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the Hudson Valley Regional Council receives dues.

Finance Commissioner Lewis stated yes they are included in that as well and it is split in thirds between the EDC (Economic Development Corporation), the IDA (Industrial Development Agency), and the County.

Chairman Gouldman suggested tabling this item to the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Budget Meeting.

Legislator Montgomery stated she has been working with and using Pattern for Progress for 17 years, and they are a great resource for the Hudson Valley. She stated the Executive Director was at the recent EDC breakfast and gave a great presentation. She noted the information available on their website. She stated the Office for Senior Resources used their data.

Chairman Gouldman stated it is a good, valuable organization; he would just like to hear more about them.

Legislator Nacerino stated her concern because the Rules Budget Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night, which may not give ample notice. She stated this is an organization the County has been contributing to for a while. She expressed concern over tabling any item that does not have someone present to explain.

Legislator Addonizio stated the Committee could ask for more information in writing.

Legislator Montgomery stated she encourages the Legislature to invite these organizations throughout the year, instead of only focusing on them at budget time.

Chairman Gouldman stated he will invite Pattern for Progress to come to a Committee Meeting in the near future.

Tourism – Account 6410 – Pages 180-181

Chairman Gouldman questioned the increase in line 54682 on page 180, entitled Special Services.

Finance Commissioner Lewis stated \$4,000 of it is for the Youth Business Market.

Tourism Director Tara Keegan stated a good portion of Tourism's budget is through the I Love New York Program, but there are some aspects where they cannot use that funding, so they had to make sure they had a separate line to cover these costs, as well as for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Legislator Nacerino questioned the increase in line 54664, entitled Advertising, on page 180.

Tourism Director Keegan stated it is for advertising where I Love New York funds cannot be used.

Legislator Nacerino questioned why I Love New York funds cannot be used towards advertising in the surrounding counties.

Former Tourism Director Tracey Walsh stated the State did accept advertising in those areas with the I Love New York funds this year. She stated the State does not agree with the County not charging for parking and admission, but it is a pride point that families can come from all over and not have to pay upfront costs. She noted that Putnam County does not have enough hotels to make their events "multi-day," and this helped convince the State to allow the funds to be used in the surrounding counties. She added it will be a year-to-year justification moving forward.

Tourism Director Keegan noted the 4-H Fair draws from all over, including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and even England. She stated over 1,000 people go per day.

Former Tourism Director Walsh stated in the past there were regional events that took place which the County could not take part in due to the disparity in local advertising funding.

Tourism Director Keegan stated there are many regional opportunities with Hudson Valley Tourism that the County cannot participate in for those reasons.

Chairman Gouldman thanked the Tourism Department for their efforts.

Legislator Sayegh questioned the increase of \$5,000 in line 54682, entitled Special Services, and the decrease of \$5,000 in line 54989, entitled Miscellaneous. She questioned if they are directly related.

Finance Commissioner Lewis stated the funding was moved from Miscellaneous to Special Services.

Legislator Montgomery questioned what the Miscellaneous line is used for.

Tourism Director Keegan stated it is used to promote Film Putnam and end of year funding for vendors.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if Special Services is for the Youth Business Market.

Tourism Director Keegan stated it is also for Revolution 250, which is a New York State Commission to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. She stated Putnam County has a rich history with the American Revolution. She stated they want to make sure Putnam is highlighted.

Legislator Montgomery stated she has been asking for tourism support, not in the way of advertising. She stated Cold Spring is inundated with tourism. She stated the sales tax comes back to the County and none of it is shared. She requested that this budget be looked at differently and find support for the area.

Chairman Gouldman thanked the Tourism Department.

Economic Development Corporation – Account 6420 – Page 182

EDC Treasurer Richard Weiss stated this is his final year with the EDC.

Legislator Montgomery stated the EDC had a great breakfast event recently.

EDC Treasurer Weiss stated it was great and they are interested in doing another in the spring due to the interest it brings to the County. He stated the EDC has a very strong Board and he cannot say enough about EDC President Kathleen Abels, who is tremendous.

Chairman Gouldman thanked EDC Treasurer Weiss.

Putnam County Industrial Development Agency

Chairman Gouldman stated the IDA did not request funding. He stated they have done a great job and have not requested funding since 2022.

Item #4 - Other Business - None

Item #5 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:54pm, Chairman Gouldman motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.