

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Crowley & Gouldman

Tuesday December 10, 2024
(Immediately Following the Special Full & Personnel Mtgs. at 6:15PM)

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by Chairwoman Sayegh who requested that Legislator Crowley lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Crowley, Legislator Gouldman, and Chairwoman Sayegh were present.

Item #3 - Approval/Fund Transfer 24T456/Social Services/Cover Projected Costs through Year End

Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner Sara Servadio stated Items 3, 4, and 5 are all related. She stated this is to cover Special Education and Daycare. She stated there is a large number of children placed out of their district or out of county. She stated there is no fiscal impact. She stated New York State has relaxed some eligibility requirements, so daycare numbers have almost doubled.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 24T456; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Item #4 - Approval/Fund Transfer 24T457/Social Services/Cover Projected Costs through Year End

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the travel is to take the children back and forth.

DSS Commissioner Servadio stated yes it it.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 24T457; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Item #5 - Approval/Fund Transfer 24T458/Social Services/Cover Projected Costs through Year End

Legislator Gouldman questioned what “payments to recipients” means.

DSS Commissioner Servadio stated she is unsure. She added that the out of district placements increased from 10 to 20. She stated this is something DSS was unable to plan for.

Legislator Nacerino stated year end adjustments are customary.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 24T458; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/Re-Appointment/Board of Health/Doyle

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Dr. Doyle has been a board member since 1988 and thanked him for his service.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve the Re-Appointment; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Item #7 - FYI/Fund Transfer 24T459/Health Department/Fund Temporary Account through Year End – Duly Noted

Item #8 - Other Business

a. Other Business - Discussion - Environmental Impact Statement for Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to waive the rules and accept the Other Business; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the Legislature is in receipt of a request from the not-for-profit Protect the Highlands regarding the public comment period for the Fjord Trail. She stated it is currently a 60-day public comment period and there are concerns over the length. She stated this is a huge project and people have a lot going on this time of year. She stated her support for a resolution requesting the comment period be extended.

Legislator Montgomery noted that the 60-day period is double the amount that is mandatory but it is a big project and she would support the period being extended to 90 days.

Legislator Jonke stated his support but suggested a letter of support instead of a resolution, that way the letter could get out quickly.

Legislator Nacerino stated her support for this initiative.

Legislator Ellner stated his support for this initiative.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated it may be more prudent to do a letter rather than having a resolution go before the Full Legislature next week.

Legislator Crowley stated there was a Zoom call recently with local, state, and federal officials on this same topic. She stated many of these officials are writing letters as it is the most expedient way to get the message to the State.

Legislator Montgomery stated she believes the State is amenable to this idea to extend the public comment period.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she is in favor of drafting a letter as it is the quickest option.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if Legislator Montgomery has a preference between a letter or resolution as this project is in her district.

Legislator Montgomery stated she has no preference and would defer the Protect the Highlands.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she will move forward with drafting a letter and having Legislators sign on if they support it. She thanked Protect the Highlands Board Member Dave Merandy for bringing this to the attention of the Legislature.

Item #9 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:26 PM Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.