

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM #318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512  
Members: Chairman Jonke & Legislators Addonizio & Birmingham**

**Tuesday**

**May 13, 2025**

**(Immediately Followed 6:00pm Personnel Meeting)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:24pm by Chairman Jonke who requested Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Addonizio and Chairman Jonke were present. Legislator Birmingham was absent. Chairman Jonke appointed Legislator Ellner to sit as a member of the Committee in Legislator Birmingham's absence.

**Item #3 - Acceptance/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ March 11, 2025**

Chairman Jonke stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 – Approval/Budgetary Amendment 25T104/ Request to Hire Meridian Strategic Services to Develop a Continuity of Operations Plan for Putnam County/ Commissioner BES Robert Lipton**

Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services Robert Lipton stated he is requesting to hire Meridian Strategic Services to develop their continuity of operations plan. He stated this is a company they have previously hired to assist the County. He explained they were a tremendous help in managing the process for the County to receive the FEMA reimbursements. He stated they have completed all of the Putnam County projects and currently this company is helping them seek more reimbursements for the federal highways. He stated for the continuity of operations plan the company is going to create a plan for the county and each individual department. He stated this plan will consist of how a department will continue to operate when the top leadership is not present.

Chairman Jonke questioned if Commissioner Robert Lipton has a proposal from Meridian Strategic Services since they are requesting \$25,000 to fund this.

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated they do have a quote, and he believes the proposal was sent to the Legislature. He stated the proposal may not have been forwarded properly.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to table the proposal to next month until the plan is received.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if towns and villages will be involved in the plan.

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated they hired the company specifically for the County therefore they will only develop a county plan.

Chairman Jonke expressed his unease in the County having to spend \$25,000 to create this type of a plan.

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated the company is not going to develop a plan solely for the County, but they are also going to develop a plan for each individual department within the County.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Table the proposal to next month until the plan is received; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

**Item #5 – Approval/ Intermunicipal Agreement Between the County of Westchester and the County of Putnam for Use of the Putnam Radio System/ Commissioner BES Robert Lipton**

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Waive the Rules and Accept the Revised Additional for agenda Item #5; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Chairman Jonke questioned if this was reviewed by the Law Department.

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated yes, Senior County Attorney Anna Diaz from the Putnam County Law Department has reviewed and approved it.

Chairman Jonke requested Commissioner Robert Lipton to clarify the purpose of the agreement.

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated the agreement allows both Westchester and Putnam County to use each other's radio frequencies. He stated this also allows the Westchester and Putnam County Fire Departments to utilize each other's radio frequencies.

Chairman Jonke requested confirmation there is no cost to this agreement.

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated that is correct.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement Between the County of Westchester and the County of Putnam for Use of the Putnam Radio System; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item #6 – Approval/ Re- Appointments to the Putnam County Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board: Nat Prentice as Community Representative and Catherine Lewis as EMS Council Representative/ County Executive Kevin Byrne**

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated both Nat Prentice and Catherine Lewis already belong to the Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board (ESSAB). He stated the terms for a ESSAB member is 3-years both Nat Prentice and Catherine Lewis are up for re-appointment. He stated the candidates must first be approved by the County Executive Office and then approved by the Legislator.

Chairman Jonke questioned if the Chair of Protective Service serves on this board.

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated that is only for the Fire Advisory Board.

Chairman Jonke stated he recalls attending many ESSAB meetings.

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated that ESSAB is composed of one representative from the Police Department, two representatives from the Fire Department, one member of the general public, and two representatives from EMS.

Legislator Montgomery expressed her agreement with Chairman Jonke's idea of having a Legislative representative on the ESSAB.

Chairman Jonke agreed with Legislator Montgomery. He stated he believed it was a custom for the Chair of the Protective Services Committee to be invited to attend or included in the ESSAB meetings.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Approve the Re-appointments to the Putnam County Emergency Services Safety Advisory Board: Nat Prentice as Community Representative and Catherine Lewis as EMS Council Representative; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in Favor.

**Item #7 – FYI/ SFY2025 Next Generation 911 (NG911) Grant/ Commissioner BES Robert Lipton**

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated this is a new grant from the Governor. He stated this grant will help them obtain 911 Next Generation equipment. He explained how this grant is perfectly timed since they have to upgrade their Vesta phone system and the 911 System. He stated the grant will help pay for this phone system.

Legislator Addonizio stated there are no matching funds required for this grant.

Commissioner Robert Lipton stated that is correct.

Legislator Addonizio stated she is glad the grant is distributed non-competitively. She stated her satisfaction with the grant.

**Item #8 – Discussion/ Sheriff's Office/ Procurement of Equipment/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Sheriff Kevin McConville requested to enter into an executive session due to the sensitive nature of the procurement and the discussion that needed to occur.

Chairman Jonke agreed with Sheriff McConville that due to the nature of the procurement this discussion should occur during Executive Session.

At 6:39pm Chairman Jonke made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the procurement of equipment; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor

At 7:18pm Chairman Jonke made a motion to come out of Executive Session; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio and Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Chairman Jonke stated there was no action taken in the Executive Session.

**Item #9a – Other Business/ Verbal Update/ Community Engagement & Police Advisory Board (CEPAB)/ CEPAB Co-Chair Ron Reid**

Co-Chair of CEPAB Ron Reid introduced Pat Glover, CEPAB treasurer. He thanked the Legislature for their continued support and encouragement over the years. He stated on April 26<sup>th</sup> of 2025 they came together to raise awareness and support diverse individuals. He stated the Legislators present made a powerful statement and the members of CEPAB are grateful for this. He stated the proceeds from this event will go towards the future development of a sensory playground. He explained this playground will be a safe and inclusive space designed for children of all abilities. He thanked Scott Rhodes, Co-founder of CEPAB, for proposing this idea 4 years ago. He stated Co-founder of CEPAB, Scott Rhodes, has been a passionate advocate and a driving force behind this initiative. He also thanked DSS Commissioner Sara Servadio, Coordinator of the Office for Individuals with Disabilities Dana Touponse, Sheriff Kevin McConville and staff, and the CEPAB Board of Directors for all of their support. He thanked Brewster High School's special education program for their incredible turnout. He stated in February they also hosted a Black History Month event with the Putnam County Historian Jenniffer Cassidy as well as an emerging documentary filmmaker John Scott Bennett. He stated the program followed the story of Putnam County resident, Private Frank Myers, and the life and legacy of Paul Robeson. He stated this was centered on the historical context of the Peekskill riots. He stated CEPAB has more events planned for this year. He thanked the Legislature again for their support and partnership.

Chairman Jonke thanked Co-Chair of CEPAB Ron Reid. He stated he was lucky his schedule permitted him to attend the Autism Awareness Walk. He expressed his support for CEPAB and the great job they are doing.

Legislator Addonizio stated she was also in attendance at the Autism Awareness Walk. She stated that despite the unfavorable weather conditions there was still a large turnout. She thanked Co-Chair of CEPAB Ron Reid for his hard work.

**Item #10 – Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:24pm, Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio and Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by PILOT Intern Aubrey Dall.