

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

Tuesday June 10, 2025
(Immediately Followed 6:00p.m. Special Physical, Special Full, & Personnel Meetings)

The meeting was called to order at 8:14p.m. by Chairman Jonke who requested Legislator Ellner lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislator Addonizio and Chairman Jonke were present. Legislator Birmingham was absent.

Item #3 - Acceptance/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ April 8, 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 *(Tabled at 5/13/2025 Pending Information to Support Funding Request)*

Chairman Jonke stated this agenda item was tabled from last month because there was more information requested regarding the plan.

Commissioner BES Robert Lipton stated he sent a table that specified all the costs and the only thing they are going to utilize Meridian Strategic Services for is the Core Plan. He stated the Core Plan is the overarching plan for Putnam County.

Chairman Jonke questioned the difference between the COOP Plan and Core Plan. He requested Commissioner Lipton to explain what the plan entails and why it is needed.

Commissioner Lipton stated on page 13 they can view the Core COOP Plan. He stated this plan is the Continuity of Operations Plan and the plan includes the procedure to follow incase an emergency occurs, and the County Executive is not present. He explained this plan details who is the next person in charge in this instance. He stated in general, this plan is to establish who is going to keep the Putnam County Government running in certain situations.

Chairman Jonke questioned if they do not have a plan in place currently.

Commissioner Lipton stated they have remnants of a plan but not a full plan.

Chairman Jonke questioned if they really need to spend \$20,000 to decide who is going to run the County Government if the County Executive is not present.

Commissioner Lipton stated this plan is not solely for the County Executive. He stated it will also cover the Legislature and all other functions of the County Government.

Chairman Jonke requested Commissioner Lipton to explain the need for this plan.

Commissioner Lipton stated during the 2018 tornadoes the Putnam County Office Building got hit by the tornadoes they were unable to utilize the building. He stated this plan would outline the next place they could go to, how they would keep the government functioning, and who would be in charge during this situation.

Chairman Jonke stated he does not understand why they have to hire someone for \$20,000 in order to make this plan.

Commissioner Lipton stated they currently do not have a plan that is written out and specifies what to do in emergency situations.

Chairman Jonke questioned why Commissioner Lipton is not capable of making this decision.

Commissioner Lipton stated he is capable of creating this plan, but they would still need to have the plan written out as well as the steps they would take to execute the plan.

Legislator Addonizio questioned why Commissioner Lipton cannot write out this plan if he is capable of making it. She questioned why he cannot sit down with the County Executive and write the plan instead of hiring a company and paying \$20,000.

Commissioner Lipton stated this was proposed to him by the Deputy County Executive. He stated this is the same company the County used to work with them with FEMA. He stated they did a great job handling all of the paperwork they had to go through and helped them with processing and getting through the FEMA disaster process. He stated it was suggested to him to get a quote from the company to work on a continuity of operations plan.

Legislator Crowley stated she looked up the results from when Dutchess County implemented the program and it saved them \$1.4 million. She stated the program includes over 50 projects.

Chairman Jonke stated if that were the case it should have been information Commissioner Lipton provided to the Legislature.

Legislator Sayegh stated during the 2018 power outage she went to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). She questioned whether engaging the EOC was a part of their plan and if the EOC currently has plans in place.

Commissioner Lipton stated they currently have plans in place for severe weather such as winter storms and tornadoes. He stated they do not have a plan for what to do in the situation that the government goes down.

Legislator Montgomery stated Dutchess County's plan cost \$50,000 and was done by a different company. She stated she also questioned why the Bureau of Emergency Services could not create this plan themselves, however, this requires coordinating with every department in the County. She questioned whether there is grant funding that could cover this cost.

Commissioner Lipton stated there is probably grant funding for this, but the Deputy County Executive wanted to move quickly on creating the plans. He stated this year's grant application has already gone in but grant funding would cover a consultant to do this work. He stated in the past they hired a consultant to create all the plans they currently have in place such as the severe weather plans.

Legislator Montgomery stated she has been in local government for a while and has worked through an entire zoning code for her town. She stated with the consultant there is a lot of copy and paste in order to create the plan. She stated it feels as if they have been doing the same thing over and over again. She stated they should definitely act on this especially since the disasters are getting more frequent and worse, but she believes they can think outside of the box. She stated a plan is needed and she hopes they are able to get the grant funding for it. She questioned if creating the plan was an emergency and if they need to spend the \$26,000 (\$20,000) now.

Legislator Crowley stated when she was researching this, she discovered that Livingston County Municipalities received \$412,304 in state matching funds through the county wide shared services initiative. She stated once this program is in place they can apply to get the match for any funds they spent through this program.

Chairman Jonke stated he understands, however, Commissioner Lipton should be the one explaining this to them and not a member of the Legislature.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if it is correct that in the Charter, they have a chain of command that is different than this. She questioned whether this plan would have to be incorporated into the Charter.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Heather Abissi stated the Charter does not provide a comprehensive plan for all departments. She stated this plan would not replace what is currently in the Charter it would just fill in the gaps.

Chairman Jonke stated he is not prepared to move this forward.

Legislator Addonizio stated she would like to look into all the other counties and see what they implemented before the Legislature approves anything.

Cassandra Roth, Resident of Pawling, questioned if this plan will utilize grant funds or if the money is allocated out of the County's funds.

Chairman Jonke stated as of now it is out of the County's funds.

Cassandra Roth, Resident of Pawling, stated since there are grants for this, they should utilize them unless there is an urgent need to implement this program.

Chairman Jonke stated he has not seen any urgency that would require this to be completed this month.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to Table this agenda item; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #5 – Approval/Budgetary Amendment 25A049/ Sheriff's Office/ Grant Funding for the Putnam County Sheriff's Bureau of Criminal Investigation/ Sheriff Kevin McConville

Undersheriff Thomas Lindert stated they are being reimbursed for \$12,000 from Homeland Security for assistance the Putnam County Sheriff's Department provided them.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 25A049/ Sheriff's Office/ Grant Funding for the Putnam County Sheriff's Bureau of Criminal Investigation; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Item #6 – FYI/ 2024 & 2025 Statewide Interoperable Communications (Targeted Grant Program)/ Commissioner BES Robert Lipton

Commissioner Lipton stated this is just an FYI and there are no matching funds.

Legislator Ellner questioned how much the grant would be for.

Commissioner Lipton stated they requested \$3 million.

Item #7 – Other Business - None

Item #8 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:35pm, Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Aubrey Dall, PILOT Intern.