

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

Members: Chairman Gouldman and Legislators Regan & Sayegh

Tuesday

6:00pm

February 10, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Regan and Sayegh and Chairman Gouldman were present.

Item #3 – Discussion – Constituent Inquiry – ADA Accessibility at County Facilities

Kara Steffensen, constituent, stated on November 29, 2025 she had a party at the Barn at Tilly's Table. She stated prior to booking the party, she inquired about the ADA accessibility of the space because she had a guest coming who is wheelchair bound. She stated she was assured that the space is accessible. She stated this guest called Tilly's Table the morning of the event to inquire about the accessibility and he was told there was a lift and he requested the lift be checked and was assured it was in working condition. She stated the guest traveled over an hour, which is not an easy task in his condition. She stated when this guest arrived the staff was very accommodating, they came right down, via the lift, to meet him. She stated when he got onto the lift it did not work, which he assumed was due to the weight limit being overloaded. She stated the staff member called for help and someone came right away but was unable to fix it after an hour and a half. She stated while waiting for the lift to be repaired, the guest was offered use of the handicapped bathroom in the restaurant, but when he went in to use the bathroom, the entire entrance was being used as storage for tables and chairs and he was unable to get his wheelchair through until they cleared a path for him. She stated this is a problem and she believes everyone needs to start thinking differently. She suggested putting in a ramp that can be used by everyone. She questioned what the protocol would be if this guest had gotten up to the party and there was an emergency; how would he get out? She stated a ramp would solve that issue.

Commissioner of the Department of Public Works Thomas Feighery stated if there was an emergency the fire department would be called to assist in getting the individual out of the space. He stated since this incident, a temporary chair lift has been put on the stairs and a new lift has been ordered to be delivered this week and the slab was poured about six weeks ago.

Ms. Steffensen questioned why another lift was purchased rather than a ramp.

Commissioner Feighery stated the height is 4 feet and a ramp needs to be 1 foot on an inch, necessitating a 48-foot ramp. He stated the location is limited due to the surrounding

area. He stated the new lift will have a higher weight capacity of 1,000 pounds and will have a cover.

Legislator Montgomery questioned how many people attended the event.

Ms. Steffensen stated there were 87 people.

Legislator Crowley apologized for Ms. Steffensen's experience. She stated the County has a Think Differently model that we try to adhere to. She questioned if the accessibility of the location as a whole has been looked into, as it can be difficult to get to and from the parking lot.

Commissioner Feighery credited the Legislature and Administration for prioritizing ADA upgrades across all County facilities.

Ms. Steffensen stated the staff was really wonderful and helpful.

Legislator Sayegh apologized that this happened and commended Ms. Steffensen for reaching out about this. She stated as Legislators, we do not always see how things translate to real experience by constituents, so it is helpful to have this direct feedback so action can be taken.

Legislator Regan stated accessibility can be difficult in this type of location since it is a farm. He questioned if a ramp is budgeted.

Commissioner Feighery stated a ramp would be a capital project and the County would have to get approval from the Watershed Agricultural Council for such a project.

Chairman Gouldman thanked Ms. Steffensen and encouraged her to reach out in the future.

Item #4 – Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A007 – Planning Dept. – Pavement Management Program Utilizing Federal UPWP (Unified Planning Work Program) Data Management Funds

Commissioner of Planning, Development & Public Transportation Barbara Barosa stated this was budgeted for last year and this now establishes the line.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #5 – Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A008 – Planning Dept. – Sidewalk Construction Federal HUD Grant Award

Commissioner Barosa stated this is 100% funding in the amount of \$7.5 million from Congressman Lawler. She stated the sidewalk projects will be done at Mahopac schools, Brewster schools, and Secor Road in Mahopac.

Legislator Sayegh stated she is very happy that these projects are being done.

Legislator Regan questioned if this money has to be spent within a timeframe.

Commissioner Barosa stated the County has to spend it within 8 years.

Legislator Regan questioned how the project areas were identified.

Commissioner Feighery stated the grant includes guidelines the area must meet.

Legislator Montgomery stated this is part of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act under former President Biden and it was former Congressman Maloney who voted this into law.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval – Lease Renewal – Nelsonville Substation at 276 Main Street, Nelsonville

Sheriff Brian Hess stated there are about 10 officers assigned to this substation. He stated this is a 5-year extension.

Chairman Gouldman stated this substation will be dedicated to former Sheriff Kevin McConville who passed away last year.

Sheriff Hess stated once the lease is in place, naming the building can move forward.

Legislator Sayegh questioned who negotiates the rent as the accelerator seems high.

Sheriff Hess stated the County has given a discounted rate originally which has now been brought up to market value.

Legislator Montgomery stated this is a good deal, even taking market value into consideration.

Legislator Crowley stated this location is invaluable given the fact that the Putnam Valley substation is no longer there, which is a cost savings for the County as well.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

Item #7 – Approval – SEQRA – Negative Declaration – Tilly Foster Farm Conservation Easement Amendment – Town of Southeast – Planning Dept.

Commissioner Barosa stated this is regarding the amendment to the conservation agreement with the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC). She stated an environmental review was conducted beginning in December and the documents were circulated to other involved agencies. She stated they received feedback from WAC noting an error in the acreage reported; information from a previous map was used. She stated that it was corrected and re-circulated and no comments were received.

Legislator Sayegh questioned where the error was.

Andrew Negro, Outside Counsel, stated this matter was before the Legislature in November when the Legislature approved the resolution declaring its intent to serve as Lead Agency. He stated the County is working with WAC to amend the easement. He stated the County acquired about 130 acres through donation and the plan is to add that acreage to the WAC easement and in exchange WAC will amend the easement to adjust the use areas around the building footprint and barns, which are currently designated as MADA (Municipal Acceptable Development Area) and ADA (Agricultural Development Area) which are the least restrictive categories and give the county the greatest flexibility to conduct its operations. He stated the usable area will be expanded by about 24 acres. He stated the mistake was a typographical error showing lower acreage.

Legislator Addonizio requested clarification on the acceptable uses for these areas.

Mr. Negro stated certain buildings could be added and there will be more flexibility for existing use. He stated this resolution is just the next step in the process, this will be back before the Legislature to actually approve the easement amendment.

Legislator Montgomery stated although the SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) determined there is no negative or significant environmental impacts she wants to ensure the agricultural part of the Farm remains protected as the property evolves. She stated she has always been critical of utilizing this space for events; the way the County is heading with this property is far from agriculture. She stated she would like to see fishing allowed there.

Mr. Negro stated the 120 acres being added will be farming area.

Commissioner Feighery stated this easement will allow programs to be held without having to go through the process of obtaining WAC approval for each thing. He stated for example, Cornell Cooperative is starting their own seedling program in the back fields. He stated a calf will be born in the next few weeks; the farm is going in the right direction.

Mr. Negro clarified that the WAC agreement is not being removed from the areas, this is just expanding the use of those areas. He stated WAC still has regulatory control over those areas.

Commissioner Feighery stated the access road will be improved as well.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #8 – Approval – SEQRA Determination – Negative Declaration – Donald B. Smith Campus Site Improvements – Planning Dept.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

Item #9 – Approval – Directing Prospective Cancellation of Taxes on Certain Parcels

Mr. Negro stated two parcels are in Putnam Valley and one is in Philipstown and they are tax map lots that are currently lake beds. He stated taxes have not been paid on the parcels in a long time; they were previously included in tax foreclosure proceedings and were withdrawn because if the County were to acquire title to them, it would be more of a financial strain on the County. He stated this resolution is pursuant to Section 1138 of the Real Property Tax law. He stated if the Legislature directs it, the Commissioner of Finance will issue a certificate of respective cancellation, removing those parcels from the tax rolls going forward. He clarified this does not cancel prior taxes, it only stops them moving forward. He stated these properties can be restored back onto the tax rolls in the future if anything changes.

Legislator Sayegh stated there are many properties throughout the County with parcels in the same situation. She questioned if more of these cancellations will be forthcoming.

Mr. Negro stated that determination would be made by the Administration.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #10 – Approval – Local Law to Amend Chapter 25, Article IV Entitled “Veterans Memorial Park Advisory Board”

Legislator Crowley stated she learned the flags used for the Row of Honor were not disposed of properly until two (2) former service members and current Sheriff's Department employees properly laid them to rest. She stated she believes it is time to codify this program to ensure its continuity and consistent administration. She stated this

does not expand the program, it simply puts it into law. She stated this County takes great pride in the Veterans who reside here.

Chairman Gouldman thanked Legislator Crowley for bringing this forward.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

Item #11 – Other Business

Legislator Regan requested that anyone coming up to speak be identified by name and title.

Item #12 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:50pm, Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Beth Robinson.