

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN
HELD IN ROOM 318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Thursday January 19, 2023
(Immediately Following Rules Committee Mtg. starting at 6:30 P.M.)

The meeting was called to order at 6.54 P.M. by Chairman Jonke who requested that Legislator Addonizio lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and Legislator Crowley lead in the Legislative Prayer. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Addonizio, Nacerino, Ellner, Castellano, Crowley and Chairman Jonke were present. Legislators Gouldman and Sayegh were absent. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo.

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
(Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislators Ellner & Gouldman)**

Item #4a – Approval/ Proposed Adoption of Reapportionment Plan was next. On behalf of the members of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Legislators Addonizio, Ellner and Gouldman, Chairman Jonke moved the following:

Legislator Nacerino believed that the general consensus was that the Legislature would like to move forward with Proposal #2.

Chairman Jonke concurred. He thanked the Commission for all their hard work.

RESOLUTION #24

APPROVAL/ PROPOSED ADOPTION OF REAPPORTIONMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, pursuant to Putnam County Charter § 14.01, which requires the County Legislature to order periodic evaluation of the population distribution of the County on the basis of regular federal censuses, by Resolution # 164 of 2022 the Legislature appointed a bipartisan Reapportionment Commission (the “Commission”) to carry out the evaluation of existing County districts; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has presented two proposals to the Legislature, labeled “Proposal Number 1” and “Proposal Number 2,” either of which would reapportion the current Legislative Districts in a manner that complies with the requirements of New York State Law and the Putnam County Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations Committee has considered both of the proposals and recommended to the Legislature the proposed adoption of Proposal(s) Number(s) 2; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Municipal Home Rule Law § 10(1)(a)(13), the Putnam County Legislature proposes to adopt a local law implementing Proposal Number 2; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in compliance with Municipal Home Rule Law § 10(1)(a)(13)(d), the Putnam County Legislature shall hold a public hearing before adoption of such local law.

This Resolution has no fiscal impact upon the County of Putnam.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATORS GOULDMAN & SAYEGH WERE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #4b – Approval/ Request to the Board of Elections/ Transfer Portions of Election Districts was next. On behalf of the members of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Legislators Addonizio, Ellner and Gouldman, Chairman Jonke moved the following:

Legislator Crowley thanked everyone for going above and beyond to provide the detailed maps.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Legislator Crowley for requesting the maps.

RESOLUTION #25

APPROVAL/ REQUEST TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS/ TRANSFER PORTIONS OF ELECTION DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Reapportionment Commission has presented two proposals to the Legislature, labeled “Proposal Number 1” and “Proposal Number 2,” either of which would reapportion the current Legislative Districts in a manner that complies with the requirements of New York State Law and the Putnam County Charter; and

WHEREAS, in order to effectuate the rebalancing of the populations of certain Legislative Districts to comply with New York State Law, the movement of certain 2020 Census Blocks between existing Election Districts will be required under both proposals; and

WHEREAS, for each proposal, the resulting population changes to certain Election Districts, as well as the changes to certain Election District numbers and boundaries, are reflected in the attachments hereto; and

WHEREAS, under both proposals, the proposed adjustments to certain Election Districts reflect a community of interest considering geographical barriers, historical development, and political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations Committee has considered and approves of these adjustments; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature has proposed to adopt a local law implementing Proposal Number 2; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature requests that the Putnam County Board of Elections make the adjustments to the Election Districts as contained in Proposal Number 2.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATORS GOULDMAN & SAYEGH WERE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #5 – Proposed Adoption of Local Law Providing a Property Tax Exemption to Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers was next. On behalf of the members of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Legislators Addonizio, Ellner and Gouldman, Chairman Jonke moved the following:

Legislator Castellano stated that this is something the community desperately needs to show support for our volunteer fire fighters and volunteer ambulance workers. He stated that over the years there are less and less volunteers. He hoped this would keep volunteerism shining in Putnam County. He stated that we are thankful for these individuals who selflessly provide help to the people of Putnam County in their time of need.

Chairman Jonke explained that having been in the property tax business for years, there were always arguments about exemptions. He stated that this particular exemption benefits people who serve our community and it is funded by the community. He explained that without these volunteers, if we ever had to have a paid fire or ambulance department, the cost to the community would be much greater than these exemptions which is a token of our appreciation. He stated that he was happy to move this forward.

Legislator Addonizio concurred. She stated that she was happy to see this move forward. She stated that our volunteers are the backbone of Putnam County. She believed that we not only do everything we can to ensure that they stay, but also to encourage new members.

Legislator Montgomery encouraged any other taxing entity to tax this gift we have been handed by the State by passing the same legislation.

RESOLUTION #26

APPROVAL/ PROPOSED ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW PROVIDING A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2022, the State of New York enacted Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 466-a, which empowers all local governments with the option to provide a property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers; and

WHEREAS, the current Putnam County Code, in Chapter 220, Article 10, implemented RPTL § 466-c to provide a real property tax exemption of 10 percent for qualified members of volunteer fire departments and ambulance corps in Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, RPTL § 466-a will repeal RPTL § 466-c on December 9, 2025; and

WHEREAS, RPTL § 466-a confers additional benefits upon volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers than were available under RPTL § 466-c, including the

removal of a fixed cap on the amount of the exemption and applicability to qualified un-remarried spouses of volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature and the Putnam County Executive desire to enact this expanded exemption to assist the County's volunteer fire and ambulance services in maintaining the ranks of the volunteer corps and encourage volunteers to join; and

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation enacted by the State Legislature requires that localities must adopt a local law in order to afford those volunteers such exemption, and that the Legislature hold a public hearing prior to its adoption; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature proposes to adopt a local law implementing RPTL § 466-a and repealing RPTL § 466-c; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in compliance with RPTL § 466-a, the Putnam County Legislature shall hold a public hearing before adoption of such local law.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATORS GOULDMAN & SAYEGH WERE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6 – Other Business

There was no other business submitted to the meeting.

Item #7 - Recognition of Public on Agenda Items

Board of Elections Commissioner Cathy Croft questioned when the public hearing would be held for the reapportionment.

Chairman Jonke stated that the public hearing will be held at 6:45 P.M., Tuesday, February 7, 2023, before the Full Legislative meeting.

Item #8 - Recognition of Legislators

There were no Legislators wishing to comment.

There being no further business; at 7:00 P.M., Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.