

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
HELD IN THE
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Wednesday November 8, 2023 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Jonke who requested Legislator Sayegh lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and Legislator Addonizio lead in the Legislative Prayer. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Addonizio, Nacerino, Ellner, Castellano, Sayegh and Chairman Jonke were present. Legislator Crowley was absent. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo. 7

PROCLAMATIONS

Chairman Jonke requested that Legislator Ellner join him in presenting a proclamation to Ryan Belmont, Joseph Olivapotenza, Jack Robinson, Alex Rosace and Jose Jiminez Sola. Program Executive Director of Guardian Revival Megan Castellano and Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer of Guardian Revival Alex Othmer presented the High School Juniors with a token of their appreciation for what they did to help a Veteran in need. Putnam County Director of Veterans Services Karl Rohde also thanked the High School Juniors.

**HONORING FIVE CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS
HELPING A VETERAN IN NEED**

WHEREAS, On their morning commute to BOCES, Carmel High School Juniors Ryan Belmont, Joseph Olivapotenza, Jack Robinson, Alex Rosace, and Jose Jiminez Sola were traveling on Route 6 when they noticed an older man in distress by the roadway; and

WHEREAS, the students stopped to help the man, who they later learned was a Vietnam Veteran. Together they helped the man move to a safer location, called the police for assistance, and waited with him until an officer from the Carmel Police Department arrived; and

WHEREAS, the five students humbly returned to their school day, only casually notifying a teacher of the incident, expecting no accolades for their thoughtful actions. Veterans have given so much to protect our freedom, giving us the ability to enjoy our quality of life. It is heartwarming to see these five young men put the needs of this Vietnam Veteran first and do what they could to help; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby recognize Ryan Belmont, Joseph Olivapotenza, Jack Robinson, Alex Rosace, and Jose Jiminez Sola for trusting their instincts to help someone in need. They are truly hometown heroes!

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Ellner who presented the “National Runaway Prevention Month” proclamation to Youth Bureau Executive Director Janeen Cunningham.

NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, November has been designated as National Runaway Prevention Month to raise awareness of the issues facing runaway and homeless youth, and to educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in ending youth homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of runaway and homelessness among youth is staggering, with studies suggesting that every year, 4.2 million people ages 13 to 25 endure some form of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, children and youth who run away are at increased danger for falling into high-risk situations, including human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, effective programs supporting runaway youth and assisting youth and their families in providing safe and stable homes, succeed because of partnerships created among families, youth-based advocacy organizations, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement, schools, faith-based organizations and businesses; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim November 2023 as National Runaway Prevention Month. We urge all citizens to support the effort to increase public awareness about, advocate on behalf of, and provide positive and safe alternatives to runaway and homeless youth and their families.

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Nacerino who presented the “Operation Green Light” proclamation to the Director of the Putnam County Veterans Agency Karl Rohde, and Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer of Guardian Revival Alex Othmer.

SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT

WHEREAS, the residents of Putnam County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served their country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women that served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Putnam County seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price of freedom by placing themselves in harm’s way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve their community through local organizations, church groups, and civil service; and

WHEREAS, Putnam County appreciates the sacrifices our United State Military Personnel made while defending freedom and believes specific recognition be accorded them in appreciation of their service and to demonstrate the honor and support they have earned; now be it

RESOLVED, as we approach Veterans Day in 2023, the Putnam County Legislature and County Executive hereby proclaim that Putnam County recognizes Operation Green Light and encourages its citizens and businesses to honoring those whose immeasurable

sacrifice helped preserve our freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Sayegh who presented the “Small Business Recognition Month” proclamation to Bill Nulk – Putnam County Business Council, Nat Prentice – President Putnam County Business Council and Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce, Tim Nilson - Brewster Chamber of Commerce, Candice Sciarrillo - Brewster Chamber of Commerce and Putnam County Business Council, Allison Palais – Business Council of Westchester, Jennifer Maher – Putnam County Business Council, Henry Boyd – Carmel/Kent Chamber of Commerce, Kate Corsitto – Brewster Chamber of Commerce, Christine Picone – Mahopac Chamber of Commerce.

SMALL BUSINESS RECOGNITION MONTH – NOVEMBER 2023

WHEREAS, small business constitutes the single most important segment of our free enterprise system and our small businesspeople are the backbone of our economy; and

WHEREAS, a successful small business is evidence of the independence, initiative, and hard work of the owner/operator and this spirit has been, and will continue to play an important role in maintaining and improving the vitality of our community; and

WHEREAS, small businesspeople take a leading role in civic affairs to improve the quality of life in our communities; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of the Putnam County Business Council and the local Chambers of Commerce, small businesspeople provide a variety of services, both business and social, to the community at large; and

WHEREAS, small businesses have and will continue to provide employment opportunities for our residents and contribute conveniences and services, both in-person and on-line, to our communities; and

WHEREAS, the November-December holiday season is important to the annual success of many of our small businesses; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim November 2023 as Small Business Recognition Month and urge all citizens to join them in recognizing the contributions small businesses make to county-wide development and Shop Small Business to support our local small businesses so that they can remain vital and flourish in Putnam County.

Chairman Jonke presented the “World Kindness Day” proclamation to Megan Castellano - Program Executive Director of Guardian Revival & Co-Chair of Putnam County Suicide Prevention Task Force, Pastor Jennifer Boyd – Trinity Lutheran Church, Marla Behler – Executive Director of the Putnam County Child Advocacy Center & Co-Chair of Putnam County Suicide Prevention Task Force.

WORLD KINDNESS DAY – NOVEMBER 13, 2023

WHEREAS, Since its inception by the World Kindness Movement in 1998, World Kindness Day has been recognized globally each year on November 13th. This observance promotes and encourages acts of kindness on an individual and community level with the intention of fostering a continuous culture of compassion and generosity; and

WHEREAS, World Kindness Day highlights the positive impact intentional acts of kindness can have, especially when they are based upon the foundation of empathy, understanding, and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, there are a multitude of ways everyone can participate in World Kindness Day. These can include spreading positivity and inspiring others to be kind, volunteering at a local organization, donating to a charitable cause, performing a random act of kindness throughout your day, and being a positive role model for young children in your life to teach them the importance of being kind to others; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim November 13, 2023 as World Kindness Day and encourage all citizens to participate in their own way, making Putnam County an ever better place to live.

Item #4 - Acceptance of Minutes – Regular Meeting – September 5, 2023

Regular Meeting – October 3, 2023

B&F Meeting - Budget Presentation – October 5, 2023

1st Public Hearing – 2024 Budget – October 5, 2023

2nd Public Hearing – 2024 Budget – October 25, 2023

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #5 - Correspondence

a) County Auditor

There was no activity during this reporting period.

Item #6 - Pre-filed resolutions:

**AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
(Chairman Castellano, Legislators Ellner & Gouldman)**

Item #6a - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (23A060)/ Emergency Services/ FY2023 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant was next. Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Castellano, Chairman of the Audit & Administration Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #223

**APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (23A060)/ EMERGENCY SERVICES/ FY2023
STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM (SHSP) GRANT**

WHEREAS, at the April 17, 2023 Protective Services Committee meeting, Emergency Services Commissioner, Robert Lipton, informed the Committee of the FY2023 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant opportunity; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2023, Putnam County was awarded \$234,731 under this FY2023 (SHSP) grant; and

WHEREAS, funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Agency (FEMA) and administered by the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) on behalf of FEMA; and

WHEREAS, per Federal guidelines, at least 35% (\$82,156) of the award must be directed towards law enforcement terrorism prevention activities; and

WHEREAS, there are no matching funds required and the performance period for this grant is September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Emergency Services has requested a budgetary amendment (23A060) to account for said grant award; and

WHEREAS, the Protective Services Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

Increase Appropriations:

10398901 54330 10210	Medical Supplies	20,000
10398901 52195 10210	Rescue Equipment	42,231
10398901 52695 10210	Rescue Equipment	90,344
10364501 54646 10210	Contracts	<u>82,156</u>
		234,731

Increase Estimated Revenues:

10398901 440891 10210	Federal Aid – FY23 SHSP	152,575
10364501 440891 10210	Federal Aid – FY23 SHSP	<u>82,156</u>
		234,731

2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6b - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (23A063)/ Commissioner of Finance/ Taxes and Assessments on County Owned Property was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #224

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (23A063)/ COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE/ TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS ON COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis has requested a budgetary amendment (23A063) to cover the shortfall in the 2023 Adopted Budget due to additional parcels acquired through foreclosure on the 2014 and 2015 Lien years that were not included during the projected 2023 budget process; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

Increase Revenues:

10131000	Finance	
424011	Interest & Earnings	53,000

Increase Appropriations: 10136400 54911	Taxes & Assessments on Cnty Owned Property Tax and Assessment	53,000
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2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –
 2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6c - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (23A064)/ Health Department/ Preschool Program Increased Costs was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #225

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (23A064)/ HEALTH DEPARTMENT/ PRESCHOOL PROGRAM INCREASED COSTS

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department has increased the Special Educational Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) rate by \$3.00 per half hour; and

WHEREAS, many of our Center-Based programs’ tuition rates were increased as well; and

WHEREAS, the number of children that attend one (1) of our Center-Based programs has increased due to various reasons, such as: post-covid, increase in population of Spanish speaking community, and limited space in our head start and community daycares; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Commissioner of Health has requested a budgetary amendment (23A064) to cover the unforeseen increased costs associated with the Preschool Program; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

GENERAL FUND:

Increase Appropriations: 10296000 54414	Preschool – Care at Private Institution	520,000
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Decrease Appropriations: 10199000 54980	General Contingencies	210,600
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Increase Estimated Revenues: 10296000 432773	Preschool – Ed & Transportation 3-5	309,400
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2023 Fiscal Impact – 210,600
 2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6d - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (23A065)/ Sheriff's Department/ Axon Body Cameras was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery explained that when we submitted the police policy to New York State we promised to put our policies on the County's website. She stated that we are not compliant with the policy we adopted since it is still not posted on the website.

RESOLUTION #226

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (23A065)/ SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/ AXON BODY CAMERAS

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested a budgetary amendment (23A065) to properly account for the agreement to finance the cost of purchasing equipment through February 2026; and

WHEREAS, on the recommendation of the County's independent auditors PKF O'Connor Davies LLP, appropriations associated with this transaction are being moved to the Debt Service Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

GENERAL FUND:

Increase Appropriations:

10990100 59057	Transfer Out – Debt Service	183,171
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Decrease Appropriations:

10311000 52680	Other Equipment	183,171
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DEBT SERVICE FUND:

Increase Appropriations:

V9710000 56161	IPA – Axon Body Cameras – Principal	173,669
V9710000 57161	IPA - Axon Body Cameras – Interest	<u>9,502</u>
		183,171

Increase Estimated Revenues:

V971000 428601	Transfer In – General Fund	183,171
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2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6e - Approval/ Department of Public Works/ Use of Capital Facility Reserve/ (23CP17) (Countywide Furniture & Furnishings) On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #227

APPROVAL/ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/ USE OF CAPITAL FACILITY RESERVE/ (23CP17) (Countywide Furniture & Furnishings)

WHEREAS, Commissioner of Public Works Thomas Feighery has proposed the use of \$100,000 from the Capital Facility Reserve to fund Project #23CP17 – Countywide Furniture & Furnishings; and

WHEREAS, many County Departments have aging furniture and furnishings that are in need of replacement; and

WHEREAS, during budget preparation, several budget lines related to furniture and furnishings were not funded; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive would like to fulfill the furniture and furnishings requests of these Departments in need as soon as possible through the Capital Facility Reserve; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a surplus in the Central Services Leasing/Rental account that can be used to wholly offset this CP funding, resulting in no fiscal impact; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Purchasing and the Commissioner of Finance has proposed the use of \$100,000 to fulfill this initiative set forth by the County Executive; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved this request; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature approves and authorizes the expenditure of 100,000 from the Capital Facility Reserve fund budget line 55197000 53000 51509, which will be funded from the Central Services Vehicle Leasing/ Rental account per Budgetary Amendment (23A067), as follows:

23CP17 – Countywide Furniture & Furnishings

Project cost not to exceed \$100,000

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6f - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (23A067)/ Purchasing Department/ Purchasing of Furniture for County Departments was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #228

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (23A067)/ PURCHASING DEPARTMENT/ PURCHASING OF FURNITURE FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS, during the 2024 budget preparation stages, several budget lines related to Furniture & Furnishings were not funded; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Byrne indicated that he would like to consider accommodating department requests sooner rather than later; and

WHEREAS, Purchasing Director Tully has identified a surplus in the Central Services – Vehicle Leasing/Rental account which could fund a Central Services Furniture account with no fiscal impact; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner of Finance Lewis has requested a budgetary amendment (23A067) to fund said account; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

GENERAL FUND:

Increase Appropriations:

10990100 59020	Transfer Out – Capital	100,000
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Decrease Appropriations:

10161000 54210	Vehicle Leasing/ Rental	100,000
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CAPITAL FUND:

Increase Appropriations:

55197000 532317 51509	23CP17 – Countywide Furniture And Fixtures	100,000
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Increase Estimated Revenues:

55197000 428601 51509	Transfer In – General Fund	100,000
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2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6g - Approval/ Fund Transfer (23T312) / Department of Public Works/ Temporary was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #229

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (23T312) / DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/ TEMPORARY

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Public Works has requested a fund transfer (23T312) for Temporary to cover Auto Mechanic Vacant position; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved said fund transfer; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer be made:

Decrease:		
10513000 51000 (103)	Personnel Services Diesel Mechanic	5,000

Increase:		
10513000 51094	Temporary	5,000

**2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –
2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –**

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6h - Approval/ Fund Transfer (23T343)/ Health Department/ Health Department/ Preschool Itinerant Services was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #230

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (23T343)/ HEALTH DEPARTMENT/ PRESCHOOL ITINERANT SERVICES

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department has increased the Special Educational Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) rate by \$3.00 per half hour; and

WHEREAS, many of our Center-Based programs' tuition rates were increased as well; and

WHEREAS, the number of children that attend one (1) of our Center-Based programs has increased due to various reasons, such as: post-covid, increase in population of Spanish speaking community, and limited space in our head start and community daycares; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Commissioner of Health has requested a fund transfer (23T343) to cover the unforeseen increased costs associated with the Preschool Program; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

Decrease:		
10296000 54678	Preschool – Leased Transportation	170,000

Increase:		
10296000 54441	Preschool – Itinerant Serv.	170,000

**2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –
2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –**

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6i – Approval/ Confirmation/ Appointment/ Commissioner of Planning, Development & Public Transportation was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Castellano explained that an interview process was conducted recently and there is an outstanding candidate to consider for approval. He stated that there were a lot of great candidates. He stated that he was proud to bring forward Barbara Barosa as the Commissioner of Planning, Development & Public Transportation for the County of Putnam.

Legislator Nacerino stated that Ms. Barosa has many years of experience in planning. She congratulated her on this appointment.

Legislator Montgomery thanked the County Executive for recognizing and moving forward this recommendation to appoint Ms. Barosa as the Commissioner of Planning. She believed this was one of the most important positions in our County. She explained that she has witnessed Ms. Barosa’s great work for many years since 2013 when she was involved in local government.

Legislator Sayegh stated that she was happy to have Ms. Barosa as the Commissioner of Planning. She stated that she has a wealth of knowledge for the County. She stated that she was happy to approve this appointment.

Chairman Jonke congratulated Ms. Barosa on this appointment. He stated that she has worked for the County for quite some time, and it was nice to have someone working in the County move into this position. He stated that she has worked very hard over the years securing grants for the County and working on the revitalization in the Village of Brewster.

RESOLUTION #231

APPROVAL/ CONFIRMATION/ APPOINTMENT/ COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, County Executive Kevin M. Byrne has appointed Barbara Barosa as Commissioner of Planning, Development & Public Transportation, pursuant to Article 5-A, Section 5-A.01 of the Putnam County Charter; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Barosa possesses the requisite knowledge, experience, and qualifications to serve as the Commissioner of Planning, Development & Public Transportation for the County of Putnam; and

RESOLVED, that the Legislature hereby confirms the appointment of Barbara Barosa as the Commissioner of Planning, Development & Public Transportation for the County of Putnam, pursuant to Article 5-A, Section 5-A.01 of the Putnam County Charter; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Barbara Barosa shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive in accordance with the provisions of Section 5-A.01 of the Putnam County

Charter; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this appointment shall comply with the requirements to file an Oath of Office pursuant to the New York State Public Officers Law.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6j - Approval/ Semi-Annual Mortgage Tax Report/ April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #232

APPROVAL/SEMI-ANNUAL MORTGAGE TAX REPORT/ APRIL 1, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

WHEREAS, upon receipt of approval of the Semi-Annual Report showing the amounts to be credited to each district of the County of the money collected during the period April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, the Putnam County Audit and Administration Committee reviewed and hereby forwards same to the Putnam County Legislature; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 261 of the Tax Law, the Putnam County Legislature issues tax warrants for the payment to the respective districts of the amounts so credited and authorizes and directs the Commissioner of Finance to make a payment of said amounts to the respective district in accordance with the report as follows:

Town of Carmel	\$ 375,095.30
Town of Kent	191,155.25
Town of Patterson	151,591.54
Town of Philipstown	
Village of Cold Spring	12,439.39
Village of Nelsonville	3,510.63
Town Outside	149,445.94
Town of Putnam Valley	148,974.20
Town of Southeast	
Village of Brewster	7,001.09
Town Outside	<u>226,353.74</u>
Total	<u>\$1,265,567.08</u>

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6k - Approval/ Resolution of the Legislature of the County of Putnam, providing an exemption from sales and compensating use taxes for receipts from retail sales of, and consideration given or contracted to be given for, certain clothing and footwear, pursuant to the authority of Article 29 of the Tax Law of the State of New York was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Castellano explained that anyone purchasing clothing and footwear in Putnam County between March 1, 2024 through March 1, 2026 will receive a sales tax exemption. He stated that the future Legislature can review this and decide whether to extend it past March 1, 2026.

Legislator Gouldman explained that the sales tax relief pertained to the purchasing of clothing and footwear costing up to \$110.00. He was glad that the County Executive proposed this resolution and hoped that his colleagues would support it. He explained that this will deliver tax relief for Putnam County residents, in addition to the lowest property tax rate for Putnam County in the last 15 years since 2008. He stated that in these trying economic times, sustainable tax relief should be a priority for all of us.

Legislator Sayegh explained that there are currently 10 counties in the State of New York who are participating in this program. She explained that the benefit is received by an individual when purchasing these items, allowing them to keep the savings in their pocket. She mentioned some of the items which were eligible for the sales tax exemption.

Chairman Jonke thanked the County Executive for this initiative. He stated that Putnam County is about giving tax relief back to our residents. He explained about the reduction on gasoline tax, and the Legislature's vote during the budget process to reduce property taxes. He stated that this grants everyone tax relief, whether you own property or not, on the purchase of clothing costing up to \$110.00. He stated that we will see how this plays out for the next two (2) years and hopefully it will continue into the future.

RESOLUTION #233

APPROVAL/ RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM, PROVIDING AN EXEMPTION FROM SALES AND COMPENSATING USE TAXES FOR RECEIPTS FROM RETAIL SALES OF, AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN OR CONTRACTED TO BE GIVEN FOR, CERTAIN CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE 29 OF THE TAX LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the County of Putnam, as follows:

SECTION 1. Subdivision (a) of section six of Resolution No. 85, of 1977, as amended, is amended by adding a new paragraph (19) to read as follows:

(19). Clothing and footwear described in paragraph (30) of subdivision (a) of section 1115 of the New York Tax Law.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall take effect March 1, 2024, and shall expire and be deemed repealed on March 1, 2026, and shall apply in accordance with applicable transitional provisions of the New York Tax Law.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR CROWLEY WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #7 – Other Business

There was no other business submitted for the meeting.

Item #8 – Recognition of Public on Agenda Items

There was no one from the public wishing to speak.

Item #9 - Recognition of Legislators

Legislator Nacerino congratulated her colleagues Legislators Addonizio, Gouldman and Sayegh on their election victories.

Legislator Ellner wished the Carmel High School Rams good luck this week in their sectional playoff game against Arlington High School. He stated that with Veteran’s Day approaching, it was nice to see all the flags honoring our Veterans.

Legislator Sayegh stated that she had the opportunity to present the proclamation to our Small Businesses and Chambers of Commerce in celebration of Small Business Saturday. She explained that Giving Tuesday is celebrated on the Tuesday after Black Friday sales, which is on November 28, 2023. She encouraged everyone to consider donating to a small not-for-profit on Giving Tuesday.

Legislator Montgomery congratulated all the newly elected leaders in Putnam County, and especially our newly re-elected Legislators Gouldman, Addonizio and Sayegh. She stated that she looked forward to working with them in the upcoming years. She explained that she looks at Election Day as a fresh start and she takes the prayers we say before our meetings to heart regarding impartiality and having an open mind. She explained that she will always support small businesses in her town such as her request to help monetarily with the garbage removal. She explained that in honor of Veteran’s Day, she was excited to be working on a project with a national program called, “Songwriting with Soldiers.” She stated that she will be bringing that to Putnam County in the near future.

Legislator Gouldman thanked everyone for their help on his campaign, and to the residents of Putnam Valley who supported him. He stated that he will continue to work hard for them. He believed that Putnam County was a great place to live and raise a family. He stated that he would continue to fight to keep it that way. He congratulated his fellow colleagues who were re-elected. He thanked the Veterans for their service to this great country that we live in. He congratulated the Putnam Valley High School Cheerleaders who won the State Championship last week.

Legislator Addonizio also congratulated her colleagues on their re-election. She stated

that it has been an honor and privilege to represent Putnam County. She stated that she was looking forward to the next three (3) years. She stated that there is a problem with food insecurity in Putnam County and she recognized that there were many residents in need. She stated that when COVID began, approximately three (3) years ago, she worked with a non-profit organization; Second Chance Food. She stated that to this day, she has a weekly food distribution for anyone in need in Putnam County. She explained that she has many individuals who help her, and she wished she could do more. She was proud of the initiatives that have been accomplished, and she looked forward to serving the community that she loves.

Chairman Jonke also congratulated the three (3) Legislators on their re-election.

There being no further business, at 7:51 P.M., Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.