

Legislator Ellner questioned if Commissioner of DPW Thomas Feighery has been consulted on these projects.

Commissioner Feighery stated yes, they will take any funding they can get. He stated the cost of paving is \$1 million per mile.

Legislator Montgomery stated she met with NYSDOT (New York State Department of Transportation) and their cost is \$750,000 per mile per lane. She stated she is in favor of allocating these funds to DPW for road improvements.

a. Approval/ Sheriff's Office ARPA Funding Reallocation/ Camp Herrlich

Director Caruso stated it is important to encumber all the ARPA funds by the end of this year to be in compliance. She stated there were \$1 million of ARPA funds the Sheriff had allowed to be reallocated to a project supporting Putnam County school children. She stated it is the Administration's position that the best use of this \$1 million would be to fund a new building at Camp Herrlich, which is on County owned property. She stated this project supports school children through its before and after school program and summer camp. She stated most notably, they provided free childcare to children of first responders during the COVID-19 Pandemic. She stated there is a need for the existing building to be addressed.

Legislator Ellner stated he is in favor of replacing the building at Camp Herrlich; it is an obligation of the County. He stated his concern is the outstanding questions in regard to the design of the building. He stated his preference to utilize the ARPA funds for the AXON body cameras for the Sheriff's Department and address the Camp Herrlich building with other funding without the time constraints.

Legislator Addonizio clarified this does not mean the new building at Camp Herrlich is not being supported; it is just having to do with which money will be used.

Legislator Nacerino stated the Committee is cognizant that the property leased to Camp Herrlich is owned by the County and therefore the County is responsible for the maintenance and safety of the structures. She stated she supports the project, but shares Legislator Ellner's concerns about utilizing the ARPA funds. She stated while this project was vetted through the ARPA committee and consultant, she has reservations about applying this money to the project for the benefit of 120 children attending a for-profit before and after school care program. She stated in her opinion this does not adequately meet the school safety parameter. She stated she has cited many questions and concerns and referenced memorandums between herself and the Administration. She stated there are still many unresolved issues. She stated she is concerned about the additional expenses that might be incurred and she will not be supporting the use of ARPA funds for the Camp Herrlich project this evening. She stated no additional correspondence has been received since the end of September, but at that point it was indicated by Director of the Department of General Services John

Tully that the County would be responsible for allocating \$1 million of ARPA funds and anything above that would be the responsibility of Camp Herrlich. She stated so far, Camp Herrlich has committed \$250,000 to this project. She stated to the best of her knowledge a letter of intent is not binding and the County does not have an executed contract to date. She stated inquiries have been made to the Planning Department and Law Department to determine whether site plan approval is required with the Town of Patterson or whether the building would be exempt. She stated there has been no response received. She stated it was also stated by Director Tully that no issue was anticipated regarding obtaining NYSDEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) approval prior to bidding and no issue with NYSDEC regarding the upgrade of the septic systems. She stated this is still to be determined by the NYSDEC and there are no certainties. She questioned if the use of ARPA funding and taxpayers dollars would be in violation of the gifts and loans clause of the State of New York Constitution. She stated Director Tully stated this question was forwarded to the Law Department for review, but to date no response has been received. She stated she is not comfortable allocating these funds and putting them at potential risk. She stated she would rather see this project be completed utilizing capital funds. She stated she will be supporting the ARPA funds being used toward the Sheriff's AXON Officer Safety Technology Project And Youth Bureau Relocation Project.

Director Caruso stated she would like to respond to some of the statements made. She stated the reason there is no executed contract in place is because Legislative approval is required to do so. She stated she would defer the potential requirement of site plan approval to Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale, who is present this evening. She stated because the improvements would be made on County property, it should not be in violation of the State constitution.

Legislator Nacerino stated this project can be done utilizing capital funding, which would avoid any risk associated with using the ARPA funding. She stated there are unanswered questions that cannot be assumed, especially when other agencies are involved. She recognized this project needs to be done and stated her support for it, but it can be brought to fruition with capital funds.

Legislator Montgomery stated she believes the funding for the Sheriff's AXON Officer Safety Technology Project and Youth Bureau Relocation Project has been approved. She stated Camp Herrlich is a benefit to the County as they are providing a service that is severely lacking throughout the Country. She stated Camp Herrlich provided a great service to our first responders during the COVID-19 Pandemic. She stated government across the country is investing in trying to correct the childcare crisis. She stated although this is an organization in the Town of Patterson it serves her constituents as well. She stated ARPA funding was allocated to a for-profit organization at the Putnam County Golf Course for minor purchases. She stated it is a shame this project is not being considered.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated the project is being considered; the discussion is about the project being completed with capital funding rather than ARPA funding.

Legislator Jonke stated his support for investing in Camp Herrlich. He stated he would like to clarify a statement made by Legislator Montgomery regarding the ARPA funding allocated to the Golf Course; the resolution was passed for that funding to go toward asbestos remediation.

Legislator Nacerino stated 120 is a small number of children when looked at from the perspective of attempting to alleviate this crisis. She stated the fact remains that the project will move forward, it is just a matter of which funding is allocated to it.

Legislator Crowley stated she is happy to hear the Camp Herrlich project will be funded. She stated her concern about the safety of the current building and how much longer it can be used in its current condition. She stated she hopes this project can be done quickly.

Legislator Nacerino stated no matter which funding is used the project is going to move forward. She stated it cannot be determined how long it might take because it is unknown how long NYSDEC may take. She stated her experience with NYSDEC is that it is often a long and arduous process and she would be shocked if the project moved along as quickly as indicated.

Legislator Ellner stated he intends to fund this project at the full requested amount. He stated he believes it is less risky to fund the Camp Herrlich project from another pot of money rather than utilizing ARPA funding.

Legislator Montgomery suggested that the Committee vote to allocate funds to the Camp Herrlich project.

Legislative Counsel Rob Firriolo stated that motion would be appropriately made through the Physical Services Committee. He stated the proposed use of ARPA funding is why it is being considered by the Rules Committee this evening.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to see a resolution pertaining to this project at the December Physical Services Committee Meeting.

Legislator Ellner stated he asked simple questions well over a month ago that remain outstanding:

- What will the square footage of the building be?
- What will the building look like?
- Is it going to be bigger than the current building?
- How many stories will it be?

He stated he is looking for details and right now it is a blank slate. He stated he understands that the current building is beyond repair and should be taken down, which requires approval to do so at the same time as another building being built. He stated this is not as simple as it is being laid out to be. He stated as Chair of Physical he

would be happy to have a resolution on an agenda for this project as soon as more details are provided.

Legislator Sayegh stated she toured Camp Herrlich and went to the Sheriff's Department to get information on the AXON Officer Safety Technology Project. She stated both are fantastic projects. She stated the Camp Herrlich project requires a lot of consideration and there are currently no plans in place and the total cost is unknown. She stated she is not willing to allocate \$1 million toward a project with no information about it. She stated the AXON project supports public and school safety and is a better use of the ARPA funds. She stated she is in support of both projects but would like more information about the Camp Herrlich project before moving forward.

i. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A073/ Sheriff's Dept./ ARPA Reallocation/ School Safety/ Fund New Building at 101 Deacon Smith Hill Rd. (Camp Herrlich) (Tabled at August 26, 2024 Rules Meeting)

No motion was made to approve the use of ARPA funds for the project at Camp Herrlich, therefore this Budgetary Amendment was not considered.

b. (If Camp Herrlich Reallocation does not go through) Approval/ Sheriff's Office ARPA Funding Reallocation/ Sheriff's AXON Officer Safety Technology Project & Youth Bureau Relocation Project

Chairwoman Addonizio stated this proposal is for the \$1 million in ARPA funding to be split among two projects; \$800,000 for the Sheriff's AXON Officer Safety Technology Project and \$200,000 for the Youth Bureau Relocation Project.

Legislator Nacerino questioned if the funding for the Sheriff's AXON Officer Safety Technology Project is already in the budget and these funds are allocated, if the budgeted money would then be used to offset the budget.

Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis stated \$325,000 was allocated in the 2025 budget, which represents about 11%. He stated this \$800,000 will defray the \$325,000 and the balance can be used toward future budgets so taxation would not have to be used in 2026. He stated it is about 30% of the overall contract.

Legislator Nacerino stated this is a cost-effective measure.

Chairwoman Addonizio requested clarification on how this \$800,000 will be used toward this project.

Commissioner Lewis stated it will cover the first two amortization payments. He stated this uses ARPA funding which then frees up the capital money for other uses, such as the Camp Herrlich project.

Legislator Ellner stated similarly, \$125,000 was allocated in the 2025 budget for the Youth Bureau Relocation Project, therefore that funding will be able to be used elsewhere.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Commissioner Lewis stated now that the use of the money has been decided, he will prepare a budgetary amendment to go before the Audit Committee.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to approve the budgetary amendment in concept; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

c. Approval/ Putnam CAP/ WestCOP ARPA Funding

Director Caruso stated Putnam CAP was grateful to receive the ARPA funding for their mobile food pantry however, due to their circumstances it was not feasible for them and could have caused a potential hardship.

Legislator Montgomery questioned what administrative expenses this funding is being reallocated to.

Commissioner Lewis stated it will be used for the County's ARPA consultant that is on retainer.

Legislator Montgomery recommended that the Committee amend the proposed resolution to specify the administrative expense.

Commissioner Lewis stated Budgetary Amendment 24A110 (item #4f) explains these funds as well.

Legislator Sayegh stated this funding was originally allocated to Putnam CAP for a mobile food pantry. She stated there is a food pantry in Mahopac facing a \$30,000 shortfall. She questioned if it would be possible to allocate some of this funding to assist that food pantry.

Director Caruso stated there would be a time crunch in vetting a new project although it sounds like a worthy cause.

Commissioner Lewis stated there is funding in subcontingency for the outside agencies in 2025.

Legislator Sayegh stated that is a small pot of money to be distributed among many organizations.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

d. Approval/ Town of Patterson ARPA Funding Reallocation & Sales Tax Funding Reallocation

Chairwoman Addonizio stated ARPA and sales tax funding in the amount of \$1,181,656 was allocated to the Town of Patterson in 2022 and was originally approved for the Putnam Lake Dam. She stated the town is requesting \$234,940 be reallocated to the EMS Building project.

Town of Patterson Supervisor Richard Williams stated the Putnam Lake Dam Project did not end up fitting within the ARPA timeline, therefore they identified the EMS Building project where this funding could be used.

Legislator Nacerino stated her support for this reallocation.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if this EMS Building is in Patterson and what is being done to the building.

Supervisor Williams stated a new 3 bay facility with living quarters and a training facility is being constructed behind Patterson Town Hall.

Legislator Montgomery compared this project to the Camp Herrlich project and noted the irony of having little information.

Supervisor Williams stated there are plans in place for this project.

Legislator Nacerino stated this project is already out to bid.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

e. Approval/ ARPA Reallocation/ Golf Course Renovation

Chairwoman Addonizio stated \$400,000 of ARPA funding was allocated to capital improvements to the MacGregor Grille at the Putnam County Golf Course, however the ARPA consultant determined the funds are not eligible for this use. She stated this request is to reallocate those funds to the General Infrastructure/Design Services category to fund other eligible projects.

Legislator Ellner questioned if this resolution will be modified to specify County paving projects.

Director Caruso stated it would be fair to specify the resolution.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated the wording “to fund ARPA eligible paving projects” will be added to the fourth Whereas clause and the first Resolved clause.

Commissioner Lewis stated the final Resolved clause speaks to swapping the funding source for the renovations at the Golf Course.

Legislator Montgomery clarified that \$400,000 is being taken from the General Fund for the work already completed at the Golf Course.

Commissioner Lewis stated that is correct.

Legislator Montgomery stated this was the first allocation of ARPA funds that was approved. She stated the County had infrastructure that is in need of repair, but instead the funding was put toward renovations at the Golf Course. She itemized some of the purchases.

Legislator Nacerino stated the approved use of the ARPA funding for the Golf Course was for asbestos remediation; not the itemized list read by Legislator Montgomery.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution with the suggested amendments; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

f. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A110/ Finance/ ARPA Allocation/ Administer Projects per the US Treasury’s 2022 Final Rule

Commissioner Lewis stated this budgetary amendment is in conjunction with item #4c.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

g. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A111/ Commissioner of Finance – County ARPA Projects Reallocation – Amend Resolution #135 of 2022

Director Caruso stated the paving projects can be specified here as well.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution with the suggested amendments; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #5 – Approval/ Re-Appointment/ Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board/ Boyd, Losee, & Lyons

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval/ Fund Transfer 24T417/ Law Dept./ Cover NYMIR Invoices through Year End

Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale stated this transfer is for judgements and claims that have been approved by the Legislature but not yet paid.

Legislator Ellner requested clarification on the total amount as it does not seem to add up.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated the line was utilized to fund another matter and will be reconciled in the end.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Item #7 – Approval/ Fund Transfer 24T424/ Law Dept./ Cover Outstanding Legal Services Invoices not yet Received for Remainder of Year

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated this is for the Arben litigation.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned how much is left in the line.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated there is \$14,000 currently in the line and this fund transfer will cover the next invoice. He stated this is a highly complex construction litigation and unfortunately is a recurring cost until it is resolved.

Legislator Nacerino questioned how much over budget the legal services line is.

Commissioner Lewis stated \$50,000.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if it is wise to have the judgments and claims in the backup material on the agenda.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated the cases have been resolved and is therefore public record.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #8 – Approval/ Contract/ Legislative Counsel

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Chairwoman Addonizio. All in favor.

Legislator Nacerino stated she is happy to support this contract.

Legislator Gouldman questioned the length of the term.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated it is three (3) 1-year terms.

Legislator Montgomery stated this approval was placed on the agenda, but the letter dated October 21, 2025 was just sent to the Legislature this morning.

Legislative Clerk Diane Schonfeld stated the letter was inadvertently not distributed when it was received as it was being reviewed by Auditing and Purchasing.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if an RFP (request for proposals) would be put out if this contract was not renewed.

Legislator Nacerino stated the one (1) year extension is contained in the original contract.

Legislator Montgomery stated she understands that but there is an opportunity to request proposals. She questioned the Committee if they believed it was their fiduciary responsibility to initiate an RFP process.

Chairwoman Addonizio and Legislator Nacerino stated no, they do not.

Legislator Montgomery stated her personal opinion is that it would be incumbent on the Committee to see what else is out there. She stated there has been a lot of chaos this year. She referenced past correspondence from the current County Attorney from before he was in the position.

Legislator Nacerino states she is happy to support this and we have the best Legislative Counsel we could ask for.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #9 – Discussion/ County Mission Statement

Mayor of Nelsonville Chris Winward stated she is a member of the committee who worked on updating the County's mission statement. She stated they worked earnestly over a few months to develop a mission statement that reflects County government. She stated through a collaborative process the Committee reviewed other county mission statements throughout the State, staff surveys, and department head feedback. She stated this was done efficiently and professionally at no cost to the taxpayers.

Chairwoman Addonizio thanked Mayor Winward for her work and for being here this evening.

Legislator Nacerino thanked the committee for their hard work. She requested Chairwoman Addonizio read the mission statement into the record.

Chairwoman Addonizio read the proposed Putnam County Mission Statement:

Mission Statement:

Putnam County Government provides for the health, safety and well-being of the public while upholding the laws of the United States, New York State, and the County. Our dedicated workforce is critical to meeting community needs and we strive to deliver a fiscally responsible, accountable, and accessible government that serves everyone with transparency. By working in partnership with all levels of government and others, we are committed to providing services that will achieve the best possible outcomes for our residents.

Our Vision:

The County seeks to encourage community engagement, responsible economic growth, and a high-quality of life for all residents through innovative and collaborative efforts. We aspire to be a vibrant and healthy community that values and nurtures Putnam County's natural beauty, rich history, cultural heritage, and most importantly, our people. Together, we seek to build a future that honors our past, embraces our present, and inspires generations to come.

Legislator Gouldman thanked the committee for their work.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated this can be approved in concept and the Committee can request a resolution be drafted for approval by the Full Legislature.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #10 – FYI/ Litigation Report – Duly Noted

Item #11 – Other Business

Legislator Jonke stated over the past few weeks the Legislature has been livestreaming its Committee meetings as a test. He stated the link to the livestream was made available this evening on the Legislature's webpage, but an announcement was not made to the public because the staff is waiting to hear back from the IT/GIS Department. He stated moving forward, all Legislative Meetings will continue to be livestreamed.

Legislator Montgomery thanked the Legislature and Chairman Jonke for implementing livestreaming as it is something she has been advocating for throughout her time as a Legislator.

a. Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A116/ Finance/ ARPA Reallocation

Commissioner Lewis stated this is related to agenda items #4e and #4g.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Item #12 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:52pm, Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Robinson.