

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIR
HELD AT
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Thursday March 6, 2025 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairwoman Sayegh introduced County Executive Kevin Byrne to present the 2025 State of the County Address.

County Executive Byrne stated that earlier this week he presented the State of the County Address to the people of Putnam County at Ace Endico in the Town of Southeast where a lengthy Address was shared. He stated that all members of the Legislature, Federal, State and local officials, as well as members of the public were invited to that meeting. He stated that they had well over 200 people in attendance. He stated that the entire Address was livestreamed and remains archived for viewing on the County's website. He stated that this evening, in accordance with Section 7.09 of the Putnam County Charter, he presented the State of the County Address which has been provided to the Legislature in writing. The Executive Summary can be found on the County's website www.putnamcountyny.gov.

County Executive Byrne continued and read the (attached) 2025 State of the County Address.

County Executive Byrne added to the State of the County Address by mentioning Putnam County's commitment to agriculture continues with this Administration's goal in consultation with stakeholders to foster the responsible growth of farms where they are likely to succeed as economic enterprises, while respecting the rights of local homeowners. He explained that the Administration will host an agricultural forum and farmland roundtable in Putnam Valley in the near future. It will explore administrative updates and solicit feedback from family farmers, municipal stakeholders and elected officials, and discuss the future of farming in Putnam County.

County Executive Byrne stated that the Administration continues to explore new and exciting ways to ThinkDIFFERENTLY. He stated that ADA accessible improvements have been part of the County's Capital Plan. He explained that the following ADA improvements have been completed, an ADA accessible bathroom and handicap ramp at the County Office Building. He stated that the Administration has identified a new opportunity they plan to explore. Currently, Putnam County provides special education Pre-K services which requires some children to sit on a bus for long periods of time to reach a facility that meets their needs outside of Putnam County. He explained that the Administration and the Health Department spent months developing a plan to create

which is referred to as a braided model with our school districts to provide pre-K services in a more centrally located, cost effective and compassionate manner. He stated that the goal is to create a ThinkDIFFERENTLY Pre-K educational campus at InterArts in Patterson.

Chairwoman Sayegh thanked County Executive Byrne for the presentation. She asked if any Legislators had questions for the County Executive.

Legislator Montgomery believed that the roundtable for farmers served a great purpose, however, she did not believe it would solve the problem that the Legislature is facing right now because we still have not revised the criteria for inclusion of parcels into the Agricultural District. She hoped that this could be included in the roundtable discussions. She stated that in speaking with individuals who attended the County Executive's presentation on March 3rd, there was a lot of talk about transportation. She was happy to see that the PILOT transportation program was in Patterson, Southeast and Carmel. She stated that she was disappointed that it was not in Putnam Valley and Philipstown. She was happy to see Putnam County addressing these much-needed services; however, she was disappointed that they are all here on the east side of the County and rarely ever on the west side.

Legislator Birmingham stated that Pre-K early intervention program has been a big issue going back almost 30 years. He stated that it is a three-party system, the school districts, County and the providing community. He expressed his support for any efficiencies that the County Executive was suggesting in order to make it run smoother. He stated that we are speaking about some of the most vulnerable population that we could provide help to at an early age.

Legislator Crowley echoed Legislators Montgomery and Birmingham. She was excited about having the roundtable meeting in order to find a resolution that would be suitable not only for the farmers, but the constituents as well. She believed it was a step in the right direction. She stated that she attended the roundtable presentation for the early intervention program. She stated that it will not only save money for the constituents of Putnam County, it will save parents a lot of grief, frustration and make them feel safer.

There being no further business, at 7:21 P.M., Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.