

**AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairwoman Sayegh and Legislators Birmingham & Crowley

Thursday **6:00pm** **May 22, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairwoman Sayegh who requested Legislator Birmingham lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Birmingham and Crowley and Chairwoman Sayegh were present.

Legislator Birmingham stated he is leaving the meeting before agenda item #8b - Discussion – Putnam County Early Learning Center, due to the reason that 2 of the contracting entities are clients of the law firm he works for. He stated he will be recusing himself and leaving the room.

Item #3 – Correspondence/County Auditor
a. Sales Tax Report

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the sales tax revenue has increased this month. She stated the total sales tax revenue for this month was \$7,624,148 which is an increase from last year.

b. OTB Report - Duly Noted

c. Board In Revenue Report

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the board in revenue has decreased from the previous year. She stated in total it is a decrease of \$14,100 from last year.

d. Transfer/Revenue Report- Duly Noted

e. 2025 Contingency/Sub-Contingency Report- Duly Noted

Item #4 – Correspondence - Commissioner of Finance

**a. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A031b – District Attorney – DCJS
Providing Funding for Discovery & Pretrial Reforms (tabled from May
6, 2025 Full Mtg.)**

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

Commissioner of Finance, Mike Lewis, stated the original proposed Budgetary Amendment was for the full amount of \$265,000. He stated since then, they separated

the budgetary between the merit bonuses and the partnership initiatives. He stated he received a list from District Attorney Robert Tendy stating how he was going to distribute the merit bonuses.

Chairwoman Sayegh explained that this is a discover grant District Attorney Tendy can use to fund merit bonuses for his staff. She thanked District Attorney Tendy for giving the Legislature the budget lines.

Legislator Birmingham stated the District Attorney's Office was doing a good job.

Legislator Crowley thanked Chairwoman Sayegh.

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

b. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A035 – DPW – Close Out FEMA Projects (Also reviewed in Physical)

Commissioner Lewis stated for this project two (2) resolutions were needed. He stated the 2 resolutions utilized \$1,000,000 and \$500,000 for the FEMA project. He stated they were able to obtain about \$530,000 from this and they had a budgetary savings of about \$400,000. He stated due to this about \$927,000 is going back to the General Fund to replenish the Capital Reserves.

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

c. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A038 – Finance – Vacancy Control Factor 2025 (Also reviewed in Personnel)

Commissioner Lewis stated the vacancy factor is a type of budgetary tool that helps with recognizing savings and balancing a budget. He stated this is well more than \$300,000. He stated they currently have 53 vacancies and between salary and fringes it is about \$100,000 - \$150,000 per vacancy. He stated since there are 53 vacancies this equals about \$8 million that is going back into the Fund Balance. He stated this is not necessarily a positive thing. He stated these vacancies are mostly due to the poor salary and benefits which deters people from these open positions. He stated he will help with any questions when the health insurance committee goes before the Legislature to make a recommendation. He stated the \$300,000 is through April 30 and by annualizing this portion it is \$900,000.

Legislator Birmingham stated when the budget is created, they do not generally plan for vacancies. He stated if these positions had not been in the 2025 budget, then they would have to utilize the fund balance.

Commissioner Lewis stated the intention is to fill the vacant positions and to not allow the vacancy factor to be over \$300,000.

Legislator Montgomery stated County Executive Byrne is planning on assembling a committee for hiring.

Commissioner Lewis stated from his understanding there is a health insurance committee that will go before the Legislature and there was money set aside in the 2025 budget for contingency regarding the nurses.

Legislator Montgomery questioned the progress they made with the vacancies. She stated they are more than halfway through the year, and these vacancies have a direct impact on the people the Legislature represents.

Commissioner Lewis stated when there are vacancies it puts more strain on the workforce.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is concerned about the workforce that has to pick up the slack but also the people who would not be getting the services they needed in timely manner.

Legislator Ellner questioned since they have a number of vacancies if this means they are giving out more overtime.

Commissioner Lewis stated yes, that is why the Health Department is always taking from vacancies and filling up overtime.

Legislator Ellner questioned if filling the vacancies would result in a savings.

Commissioner Lewis stated he would have to do the analysis to answer that question, but he would assume that is correct.

Legislator Ellner stated if they hired people and filled the positions it would be beneficial for the employees, the County, and help save money.

Legislator Crowley stated some people like to work overtime in order to save some money. She stated in some departments overtime may be viewed as a positive but in other departments overtime may not be as sought after.

Legislator Montgomery stated she believes it would be difficult to forgo the overtime considering the salaries.

Legislator Crowley stated there are salaried employees who are working a lot of hours attempting to make up for the vacant positions. She stated they recently had a mental health forum that discussed morale as well as retaining the employees they have.

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

d. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A039 – DSS & Mental Health – Pay Differential (Also reviewed in Personnel)

Fiscal Manager Kristen Wunner stated the budgetary amendment is to supplement a current employee who is stepping into the role of as a supervisor in charge of the Medicaid unit. She stated they would like to compensate the employee for taking over the new responsibilities and tasks of the new role.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if the employee is only filling the position until the end of the year.

Fiscal Manager Wunner stated the employee who is out of office may come back sooner but since they are unsure of when the employee is coming back so they are asking to fund the entire year.

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

e. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A040 – DSS – Reclassification from Senior Computer Operational Specialist to Coordinator of Information Technology (Also reviewed in Personnel)

Fiscal Manager Wunner stated they worked with Personnel Officer, Paul Eldridge, and this was done through a desk audit for a current employee who is stepping into the role of the Coordinator of IT. She stated currently they have 110 employees in IT and one person manages all of them. She stated this will reclass them from a grade 17 to a grade 19.

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

f. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A041 – DSS & Mental Health – State Aid – Mobile Crisis (Also reviewed in Health)

Fiscal Manager Wunner stated this is funding they received from the Office of Mental Health. She stated in 2023 they were issued \$150,000 and at the time there was no plan implemented for the Mobile Crisis unit. She stated they are putting this funding into the budget so they can give the funds back to the agency who is managing the program.

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

g. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A042 – DPW – Garage Roof Repair (Also reviewed in Physical)

Legislator Birmingham stated this is actually the oldest garage in Putnam County and he stated the administration did a good job cleaning up the facility. He stated if they need to put a roof on the garage to keep it this way he is in favor of doing so.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated they discussed this is the Physical Services Committee meeting and there were a few problems with the roof repair, so this is a necessary investment.

Legislator Addonizio stated the roof requires 19 layers.

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

h. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A043 – DPW – Continuation of Youth Bureau Relocation (Also reviewed in Physical)

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this funding allows the Department of Public Works (DPW) to proceed with the project. She stated they encountered unexpected issues such as the presence of asbestos and lead. She stated in order for them to remediate this they need additional funding.

Legislator Birmingham stated this is not going to be cheap.

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

i. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A044 – DPW – Wastewater Treatment Plant Costs (Also reviewed in Physical)

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this treatment plant costs \$68,000. She stated they need to increase the cost on this, and it is being shared with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). She stated they are splitting the cost: 54% paid by the DEP and 45% paid by the County.

Commissioner Lewis stated they are just recognizing the increase in the cost and as they begin receiving the reimbursements they will adjust the appropriation.

Legislator Montgomery questioned when they will renegotiate the contract with the operator of the golf course. She questioned if they share the profits.

Commissioner of the Department of General Services (DGS), John Tully, stated it is indirectly related to operations. He stated 75% of the cost of operating the plant is reimbursed to the County by the NYC DEP.

Legislator Montgomery stated as the costs increase for the plant they have to invest more in the property and the cost of the lease will rise.

Commissioner Tully stated there are contractors operating food and beverage, golf, and general management. He stated none of those 3 contractors are responsible for the operation of the treatment plant.

Legislator Montgomery stated she understands that but if the County improves the property the rent should increase for all 3 contracts.

Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, Thomas Feighery, stated the property is also used for a roll over 911 center, voting, and to train Putnam County Employees. He stated it is a multi-use facility.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Second by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

j. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A045 – Soil & Water – Temporary Funding for Intern (Also reviewed in Physical)

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

k. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A046 – DSS – Family Centered Case Management Services Grant (Personnel reviewed Grant)

Fiscal Manager Wunner stated this is an allocation they received from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; this is the first time they have done this, and they ensured that this would continue for about 10 years. She stated the allocation is to be utilized to provide case management services and for those having difficulties stabilizing their households. She stated they are asking to elevate two of their current employees. She stated one employee is a case worker and they are looking to elevate her to a senior case worker in order to manage the additional responsibilities. She stated the second employee is an office assistant and they want to make this employee a principal office assistant. She stated they would also purchase a few computers for the program work with the grant. She stated this is 100% funded so there is no County match.

Legislator Birmingham stated there is no guarantee that the grant will last for 10 years. He stated even if the grant does go away at some point, he would like to keep the employees at the same salary.

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

I. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A047 – Sheriff’s Office – Use Seized Asset Funds for Equipment (Discussed in Protective)

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

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the additional is increasing the ask on this from \$502,963 to \$531,563.

Legislator Birmingham stated he was not present during the executive session, but he did speak with the Sheriff on this topic.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is for equipment for the SRT.

Legislator Jonke stated this is important for the Sheriff’s Office and it will keep the law enforcement personnel safe. He stated he told the Sheriff because the money is being derived from seized asset funds and not taxpayer funds, whatever the Sheriff needed he should purchase. He stated he is glad the expenditure was increased, and he appreciates the work the Sheriff has done on this.

Legislator Crowley questioned if the seized asset funds is specialized as far as what they can be spent on or if it could be used for personnel funding.

Undersheriff Thomas Lindert stated no, it could only be used for training equipment and accreditation.

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

Item #5 – Approval – Budgetary Transfer 25T079 – Personnel – 2025 Salary & Benefit Costs Pursuant to Ratified PuMa Contract (Also reviewed in Personnel)

Commissioner Lewis stated the union settled at 2.5% and other department unions are at 2.75%. He stated this is brought before the Legislature so they can adjust them to make them equal to the other unions.

Legislator Birmingham stated they have done this in the past. He stated not only is \$5,000 a nominal amount but they do not want to discourage the unions from settling first. He stated he believes this is a good faith effort so when they are in union negotiations, they will not be reluctant to come to a fair agreement.

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

Item #6 – Approval – Request Refund of Taxes – Farrell – Town of Southeast Tax Map #47.-3-102 (Denied)

Commissioner Lewis stated this is a formality so they can pass a resolution to correct the tax roll.

Legislative Clerk Diane Schonfeld stated this request was denied.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated there was a request and it was denied. She stated they found an old tax form, and it was past the point of grievance, so it was denied.

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

Item #7 – FYI – Guardrail & Property Damage Table- Duly Noted

Item #8 – Other Business

a. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A048 – DPW – Amend 2025 CHIPS Capital Project Budget to Equal Adopted NYS Budget

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve other business item 8a; Seconded by Legislator Birmingham. All in favor.

Commissioner Lewis stated when they started the budget process they put in a \$1.2 million place holder in hopes that the State will give the County more. He stated the State gave \$100,000 more this year than they did in the prior year.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if these are additional funds to take care of the roads in Putnam County.

Commissioner Lewis stated that is correct.

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

Legislator Birmingham stated he is stepping out of the meeting before they move onto agenda item #8b. He stated the two contracting agencies, Carmel School District and Brewster School District, are clients in his firm.

b. Discussion – Putnam County Early Learning Center

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to waive the rules and accept other business item #8b; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Director of Public Health, Rian Rodriguez, thanked the Legislature for allowing them to continue their dialogue regarding the Putnam County Early Learning Center. He stated

he understands there are still questions and concerns about the final site. He stated he is remaining optimistic they can all get there together. He requested the consideration of the resolution for the approval of the Putnam County Early Learning Center in Patterson. Chairwoman Sayegh stated she wants to remove the topic of the lease from the discussion because that is a subject for the Law Department. She stated the lease discussion is a lot to go into for tonight's meeting, and she believes it deserves a deep dive.

Legislator Jonke stated in the letter of necessity from County Executive Byrne it states an application to the State needs to be finalized with its chosen location by June 15th. He questioned where else this was written besides the County Executive's letter.

Early Intervention (EI) Program Supervisor, Valerie Kurtz, stated it is written in her New York State approval.

Legislator Jonke stated he asked that question because the original presentation was brought to the Legislature on April 10th, but this has been in progress for about 6 months. He stated he does not believe it is fair to the Legislature to come to this meeting in May and ask to have something delivered in early June and he does not believe that is enough time. He stated he had requested detailed information along with Legislator Ellner. He explained during an executive session he was not present for, there were allegations made about another agency and there was no evidence to support the allegations. He stated he is in favor of this, but he wants to make sure they are spending the funds properly and delivering the service in the most efficient way. He stated he believed there was an alternative location but then a wall went up. He stated they requested a lot of information and received a lot of information, but not all questions were answered. He stated since they received this information at 2:00pm that day it is not enough time for them to digest it in just a couple of hours. He requested to see the document that states June 15th is the deadline for the application. He stated he believes they should do something with a more reasonable timeline. He stated the assumption has been that this was going to be reviewed by the Legislature and it supposed to be a \$2 million build out and an expensive lease.

EI Program Supervisor Kurtz stated they invited the Legislature February 14th to discuss this subject, and they also had stakeholders present as well. She stated they have a timeline, and they cannot simply come to the Legislature with just an idea and no stakeholders. She stated they had a tour of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) site for the Carmel and Brewster School Districts because they had to show that Carmel and Brewster School Districts are involved in this project. She stated once they had the stakeholders involved, they sent out surveys to the school districts and parents and once she had all the buy in, she was then able to bring it to the Legislature.

Supervising Public Health Educator, Shanna Siegel, stated there were a lot of questions for them to answer which is why the response was sent out at 2:00pm. She stated they worked as quickly as they could and a lot of the documentation they had was

documentation that was shared over the past several months so not much of the information was new. She stated they had done this to ensure that no one could claim that information was left out. She stated when the application had begun there were no questions asked about the site search. She stated if they had received questions in April they could have addressed, they would have done it. She stated they are willing to do anything they can to keep the momentum and to service the school districts and families who want to utilize the service. She stated they are willing to speak about the location if anyone had any concerns. She stated they do not feel as if they need the same evidence the Legislature needs in order for them to not chose an agency for this project. She explained they would prefer another agency because of the prior experiences they have had with the agency itself.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is new for the Legislature as well. She stated for them to have recently received this information is a lot for them to digest. She stated she wants to give them credit for all the work they have done and does not want to diminish their hard work, however, she also wants the Legislature to be able to deliberate and do their job. She stated the February 14th meeting was called the day before and because it was short notice she was not able to attend along with the Chair of Health. She stated she wants to ensure they are getting the value that is necessary for this program. She stated she does not believe there is anyone who is opposed to providing these services.

Supervising Public Health Educator, Shanna Siegel, stated the February meeting was difficult to plan because the school districts also had to report to their Boards of Education, and they had a timeline to announce placements for the UPK to parents.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated they are all on the same team. She stated she spoke to County Executive Byrne before and the hopes were to get this done for September, however, she now believes that is a huge ask. She stated if it were to happen in September they would have 12 special needs kids. She questioned how many special needs kids they are currently transporting.

EI Program Supervisor Kurtz stated they are currently transporting 113.

Supervising Public Health Educator Siegel, stated not all of these kids would qualify for the program.

EI Program Supervisor Kurtz stated 49 of the kids are driven by their parents and 12 are slated for the program and the rest take the bus. She stated some of the kids would not be eligible for this program. She stated about 50 kids are eligible.

Supervising Public Health Educator, Shanna Siegel, stated from the start of the program the goal was to scale up. She stated the idea was to start small and bring the kids that are the farthest away in order to reduce their bus time.

Legislator Crowley stated on the Dutchess and Putnam Childcare Counsel website it shows any program and the violations they have had, CPS calls, and it is public

information. She stated at the last Health, Social, Educational, and Environmental Committee meeting everyone supported the Early Learning Center. She stated it is now the time to take action because parents are having difficulties finding early childhood care. She stated there are local providers who want to help but there are not enough of them. She stated there is no central place for early intervention in Putnam County and they are failing the families because they have not built the infrastructure the families need. She stated they have the funds to implement this program and that the Early Learning and Intervention Center is possible. She stated the Legislature should keep locations in mind that they would be able to expand the program to. She stated the topic was brought by force into the Health, Social, Educational, and Environmental Committee meeting on May 19th and they need to do the right thing for the families.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she believes the early learning center is a good step and she knows that it will happen, it is just a matter of how they are able to execute it.

Legislator Crowley stated the Camp Herrlich project did not go through last year and it has still not been discussed.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Camp Herrlich was a use of ARPA funds and the Legislature decided they wanted to utilize capital projects funds instead. She stated they had not received anything from the administration about repairing the roof.

Legislator Jonke stated the Camp Herrlich situation was another case where they needed funds quickly and then the situation went away. He stated this is another example of the Legislature getting pushed into a corner and there is pressure put on the Legislature to meet the deadlines. He stated this item has not been on an agenda and he does not blame Legislator Ellner for trying to obtain more information. He stated it is the typical procedure to put these topics on agendas so the public can comment on it.

Legislator Ellner questioned if the deadline applied to both the build out and contingency.

EI Program Supervisor Kurtz stated the deadline is just for the application and they need the location in order to complete the application.

Legislator Ellner questioned if they are able to submit the application with the contingency space in order to keep things moving.

EI Program Supervisor Kurtz stated she would need a resolution with the address on it so she could show it to the State.

Legislator Ellner stated that is what he was questioning because he wants to keep progressing with the program.

Director Rodriguez stated they have had some discussions about this being a possibility. He stated in order to do this they should come to a consensus and address any concerns. He stated it is a possible opportunity for them to implement the program

intermittently. He stated they could use the contingency space as proof of concept. He stated as of now they should be focused on finding solutions.

Legislator Addonizio stated it can be approved in concept. She questioned if they have proof of the June deadline with them currently.

EI Program Supervisor Kurtz stated she would have to take a screenshot of her application. She stated she could email it to the Legislature, but she does not have it on her currently.

Chairman Sayegh stated the first time she heard the mention of the June 15th deadline was at the May 19th Health Meeting.

Supervising Public Health Educator, Shanna Siegel, stated they mentioned a June deadline at the Health Meeting in April. She stated they did not mention the exact date, but they mentioned June as a projected timeline.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if they worked on the resolution tonight, would it be a worthy goal for them and help move the process along.

Legislator Montgomery stated if they pass the resolution with the address on it, she does not believe it will cause any harm, and they are not writing a check or signing a lease at this meeting. She stated she trusts the information the Legislature was given. She questioned if the Law Department has looked at this lease.

EI Program Supervisor Kurtz stated yes, they worked with the Law Department.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to approve the resolution this evening. She stated she believes this is an opportunity they cannot afford to postpone. She stated the most frequent call she gets from her constituents is about the long bus ride that kids are face with. She stated not only is this the right thing to do but it is also an urgent matter. She stated she respects the caution other Legislator's have regarding this topic, but this is not a choice between responsibility and progress but rather a test of the Legislature's ability to plan boldly and responsibly at the same time. She stated they are investing in children. She stated she understands there are costs to this program but there are also costs that come along with delaying this project. She stated by delaying this the costs are not burdening the Legislature but instead the children who are stuck on long bus rides, the working families that do not have access to nearby childcare, and the children with special needs who deserve early support. She stated in this situation slower is not smarter and they have spent months reviewing, touring and planning this initiative. She stated she hopes they can keep this moving and not waiting. She stated she urges her colleagues to support this.

Senior Fiscal Manager William Orr stated there will be no cost for this program and there will actually be savings from the program. He stated there should be an annual savings of about \$300,000.

Legislator Crowley stated they should not feel as if they are rushed to implement the program because of how much support they received from the Legislature. She questioned what EI Program Supervisor Kurtz needed from the Legislature at this meeting in order to meet the deadline.

EI Program Supervisor Kurtz stated she needs the resolution.

Legislator Crowley questioned when EI Program Supervisor Kurtz would need the second resolution with the lease.

EI Program Supervisor Kurtz stated she would also need the lease resolution at this meeting because she needs insurance.

At 7:25pm Legislator Jonke made a motion to enter into executive session; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

At 8:53pm Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to come out of executive session; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated no action was taken and stated the Legislator has more to discuss on this agenda item. She stated they are going to have another meeting, and they are looking to put this on a Special Physical Services Meeting on June 10th, and they will have a Special Full Legislative Meeting to approve any items. She stated they are not going to approve anything at this meeting.

Legislator Ellner stated he appreciated the positive input to help this program move in the right direction.

Legislator Addonizio stated she would like the public to know that the Legislators are all in agreement with this project.

Chairwoman Sayegh restated that there will be a Special Physical Committee meeting.

Marie Camacho, President of the Special Education PTO, stated she currently has a child in the Personal, Academic, and Community Experience (PACE) program at Kent Elementary School, and she has a child that is homeschooled. She stated she strongly supports the proposed Putnam County Early Learning Center. She stated the district has faced many challenges with providing consistent services for pre-school aged children. She stated families usually find themselves with no options for services. She stated this is due to local services not being available, programs being full, or the only services that are offered are a far distance outside of the County. She stated the reason she is currently homeschooling her daughter is because they were not able to find a program that fits her needs. She stated her other daughter was subjected to long bus rides to Mount Kisco because there were no appropriate services for her in Putnam County. She stated there are various families in similar situations. She stated the Early Learning

Center is necessary and long overdue. She stated this plan is not rushed but it is the result of months of thoughtful planning and preparation by stakeholders. She stated delaying the vote now would not be an act of neutrality rather it would put the launch of the program at risk. She stated the program is projected to save Putnam County about \$300,000 per year, it offers a convenient location for both Brewster and Carmel families, it provides room to grow with the possibility of expanding as demand for the program increases, and lastly it enhances equity by expanding full day UPK services to students with and without disabilities. She stated they urgently need a vote in order keep the timeline intact. She stated if they do not make the deadline, it could set the program back for months or even longer. She urged the Legislators to move forward with this project to demonstrate the community's children are one of the top priorities. She thanked the Legislature for their time and support.

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 9:00 pm, Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by PILOT Intern Aubrey Dall.