

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
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Amy E. Sayegh *Chairwoman*
Greg E. Ellner *Deputy Chair*
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*



Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Laura E. Russo	Dist. 4
Greg E. Ellner	Dist. 5
Paul E. Jonke	Dist. 6
Daniel G. Birmingham	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

AGENDA
RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairman Birmingham and Legislators Ellner & Gouldman

Thursday May 15, 2025
(Immediately following Economic Development Mtg. beginning at 6:00pm)

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Chairman's Verbal Report**
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes – November 19, 2024, December 17, 2024 & January 27, 2025**
- 5. Approval - Weights & Measures - Fee Schedule - Schedules of Maximum Fees Permitted for Inspection**
- 6. Approval - Consumer Affairs - Memorandum of Understanding with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 363**
- 7. Discussion - Amendment of Legislative Manual - Public Comment during Legislative Sessions and Committee Meetings Prior to Taking a Vote**
- 8. FYI - Litigation Report**
- 9. Other Business**
- 10. Adjournment**

#4

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairwoman Addonizio and Legislators Ellner & Nacerino

Tuesday

6:30pm

November 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested Legislator Ellner lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Ellner and Nacerino and Chairwoman Addonizio were present.

Item #3 – Acceptance of Minutes – August 26, 2024 & September 12, 2024

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #4 – Request to Consider ARPA Items/ Deputy County Executive Burpoe

Chairwoman Addonizio stated there is a clause in the resolutions for item #4e and item #4g that states “Resolved that future ARPA funds reallocations from Putnam County ARPA projects may be done so administratively and put into the General Infrastructure/ Design Services Category, to be used on ARPA-compliant (as confirmed by the County’s ARPA consultant), approved Capital Program projects.” She questioned what “administratively” means here. She requested an explanation of the General Infrastructure/ Design Services Category.

Director of Compliance & Intergovernmental Relations Jennifer Caruso stated the Administration responded with a memorandum attempting to explain that category. She stated members of the Rules Committee made helpful suggestions and valid points regarding Legislative involvement and approval. She stated that advice was taken and they consulted with members of the ARPA Committee and the Department of Public Works (DPW) and they thought it prudent to specify a project for the Committee’s consideration this evening.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned what future requests would look like.

Director Caruso stated future requests would go through the normal channels including Legislative approval.

Legislator Nacerino recognized that time is of the essence.

Director Caruso stated they are requesting the projects that were requested to go into the General Infrastructure/ Design Services category be reallocated to paving projects. She stated they are ARPA compliant, pre-approved Capital Projects, and the funds can be immediately encumbered.

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.

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Members: Chairwoman Addonizio and Legislators Ellner & Nacerino

Tuesday 6:30pm November 19, 2024

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Acceptance of Minutes – August 26, 2024 & September 12, 2024
4. Request to Consider ARPA Items/ Deputy County Executive Burpoe
 - a. Approval/ Sheriff’s Office ARPA Funding Reallocation/ Camp Herrlich
 - 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)
 - 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
 - c. Approval/ Putnam CAP/ WestCOP ARPA Funding
 - d. Approval/ Town of Patterson ARPA Funding Reallocation & Sales Tax Funding Reallocation

- e. **Approval/ ARPA Reallocation/ Golf Course Renovation**
 - f. **Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A110/ Finance/ ARPA Allocation/ Administer Projects per the US Treasury's 2022 Final Rule**
 - g. **Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 24A111/ Commissioner of Finance – County ARPA Projects Reallocation – Amend Resolution #135 of 2022**
- 5. **Approval/ Re-Appointment/ Plumbing & Mechanical Trades Board/ Boyd, Losee, & Lyons**
- 6. **Approval/ Fund Transfer 24T417/ Law Dept./ Cover NYMIR Invoices through Year End**
- 7. **Approval/ Fund Transfer 24T424/ Law Dept./ Cover Outstanding Legal Services Invoices not yet Received for Remainder of Year**
- 8. **Approval/ Contract/ Legislative Counsel**
- 9. **Discussion/ County Mission Statement**
- 10. **FYI/ Litigation Report**
- 11. **Other Business**
- 12. **Adjournment**

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Members: Chairwoman Addonizio and Legislators Ellner & Nacerino

**Tuesday December 17, 2024
Immediately following the Protective Services Committee Mtg beginning at 6:30pm**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Legislator Ellner who requested Legislator Nacerino lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Ellner and Nacerino were present. Chairwoman Addonizio was absent.

Item #3 – Approval/ Reappointments/ Electrical Board/ Counihan, Pidala, & Rossiter

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

Item #4 – Approval/ Town of Kent ARPA & Sales Tax Funding Reallocation Request/ Lake Carmel Dam Project to Town Hall Renovation Project

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

Item #5 – Approval/ Memorandum of Agreement & Revocable License for Use Agreement/ Putnam County and Westchester Vet Center/ Continuation of Outstation at Westchester Vet Center

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

Legislator Nacerino stated this is a great asset for the veterans.

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

Item #6 – FYI/ Litigation Report – Duly Noted

Item #7 – Other Business – None

Item #8 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:06pm, Legislator Ellner made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Robinson.

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- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
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- 3. Approval/ Reappointments/ Electrical Board/ Counihan, Pidala, & Rossiter**
- 4. Approval/ Town of Kent ARPA & Sales Tax Funding Reallocation Request/
Lake Carmel Dam Project to Town Hall Renovation Project**
- 5. Approval/ Memorandum of Agreement & Revocable License for Use
Agreement/ Putnam County and Westchester Vet Center/ Continuation of
Outstation at Westchester Vet Center**
- 6. FYI/ Litigation Report**
- 7. Other Business**
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Members: Chairman Birmingham and Legislators Ellner & Gouldman

Monday 6:15pm January 27, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Chairman Birmingham who requested Legislator Gouldman lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Ellner and Gouldman and Chairman Birmingham were present.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Birmingham stated a discussion about the Legislative Manual was had at the Organizational Meeting and many good points were raised by both his colleagues on the Legislature as well as members of the public. He stated since then he has met with some department heads to go over some suggested and proposed changes. He stated now that the Legislative Meetings are being livestreamed, he would like to consider adding that to the Legislative Manual as well. He stated he also plans to meet with the various boards, with the Administration's permission, to bring himself up to date.

Item #3 – Approval/ Litigation Settlement/ Burris v. County of Putnam

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

Item #4 – Other Business

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the Legislative Manual will be on next month's agenda.

Chairman Birmingham confirmed a discussion on the Legislative Manual will be included on the February Rules Meeting agenda.

Legislator Gouldman requested that Personnel Officer Paul Eldridge and a representative from the Law Department be invited to that meeting to participate in the discussion.

Chairman Birmingham agreed.

Legislator Montgomery stated it is obvious that there are flaws in what was adopted at the Organizational Meeting and she requested a motion be made to rescind the Legislative Manual as adopted at the Organizational Meeting.

Legislator Gouldman made a motion to rescind the Legislative Manual. There was no second.

Chairman Birmingham stated he is willing to continue refining the Legislative Manual and these discussions in Committee is a great place to start. He stated he is looking forward to hearing the opinions of his colleagues and the general public on this matter.

Item #5 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:22pm, Chairman Birmingham made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Robinson.

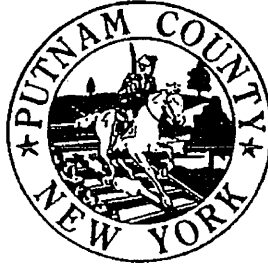
THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue

Carmel, New York 10512

(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

Amy E. Sayegh *Chairwoman*
Greg E. Ellner *Deputy Chair*
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*
Robert Firriolo *Counsel*



Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
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Greg E. Ellner	Dist. 5
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Daniel G. Birmingham	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

AGENDA

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairman Birmingham and Legislators Ellner & Gouldman

Monday

6:15pm

January 27, 2025

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval/ Litigation Settlement/ Burris v. County of Putnam**
- 4. Other Business**
- 5. Adjournment**

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES/FEE SCHEDULE/SCHEDULES OF MAXIMUM FEES PERMITTED FOR INSPECTION

WHEREAS, that section 220.3 (a) of Title 1 NYCRR of the Agriculture and Markets Law has recently been amended; and

WHEREAS, that under Article 16 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, these modifications permit the municipal Director of Weights and Measures in municipalities of less than 2 (two) million inhabitants to increase maximum fees for certain services; and

WHEREAS, that these fees have not been changed since 1990; and

WHEREAS, the Rules and Enactments Committee of the Putnam County Legislature recommends the adoption of the amended fee schedule; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective June 1, 2026, the fees charged by the Department of Weights and Measures shall be raised and set at the maximum amount listed below; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Department of Weights and Measures shall prepare and send a notice to all those providing services impacted by these fees outlining the changes.

*The following fee schedule sets forth the maximum amounts that may be collected for each inspection, or reinspection after repair, and each testing, or retesting after repair, of all weights and measures, weighing and measuring devices and systems and related accessories within the jurisdiction of the municipal director of weights and measures:

(1) Scales.

- (i) Up to and including 15 kg (33 lb) capacity..... \$20
- (ii) Over 15 kg and including 300 kg (661 lb) capacity.....40
- (iii) Over 300 kg and including 1,500 kg (3,307 lb) capacity..... 100
- (iv) Over 1,500 kg and including 7,000 kg (15,432 lb) capacity..... 140
- (v) Over 7,000 kg and including 23,000 kg (50,706 lb) capacity\$160
- (vi) Over 23,000 kg capacity\$200
- (vii) Tank, batch and crane scales.....\$200

(2) Weights--field standard (Class F).

- (i) Up to and including 3 kg (7 lb).....\$8

- (ii) Over 3 kg and including 30 kg (66 lb).....\$16
- (iii) Over 30 kg and including 300 kg (661 lb).....\$32
- (iv) Over 300 kg and including 1,200 kg (2,646 lb).....\$60

(3) Linear field measures.

- (i) Up to 1 m (39 in).....\$4
- (ii) Over 1 m and including 16 m (52 ft)\$8
- (iii) Over 16 m and including 31 m (102 ft)\$12
- (iv) Over 31 m\$20
- (v) Fabric measuring devices.....\$20
- (vi) Wire and cordage measuring devices.....\$40

(4) Liquid measures and devices.

- (i) Liquid measures 20 L (5 gal) or less.....\$8
- (ii) Liquid pump (hand-operated) 20 L (5 gal) or less\$20

(5) Petroleum dispensing and measuring devices.

- (i) Single dispensing pump\$20
- (ii) Dual dispensing pump\$40
- (iii) Blend dispensing pump.....\$40
- (iv) Grease and oil pump\$8

(6) Vehicles.

- (i) Metering systems 300 L/min (79 gpm) or less\$100
- (ii) Metering systems over 300 L/min\$120
- (iii) Compartment calibration:
 - (a) Up to and including 3,000 L (793 gal) capacity.....\$40
 - (b) Over 3,000 L and including 6,000 L (1,585 gal) capacity\$80
 - (c) Over 6,000 L and including 12,000 L (3,170 gal) capacity\$120

(d) Over 12,000 L capacity	\$240
(7) Stationary petroleum metering systems.	
(i) Up to and including 400 L/min (106 gpm)	\$100
(ii) Over 400 L/min including 2,000 L/min (528 gpm)	\$120
(iii) Over 2,000 L/min and including 4,000 L/min (1,057 gpm)	\$140
(iv) Over 4,000 L/min.....	\$160
(8) Bulk milk tanks.	
(i) Up to 3,000 L (793 gal) capacity	\$40
(ii) Over 3,000 L and including 6,000 L (1,585 gal) capacity	\$80
(iii) Over 6,000 L and including 12,000 L (3,170 gal)	\$120
(iv) Over 12,000 L capacity.....	\$240
(9) Timing devices.	
(i) All commercially used devices where time is a basis for charge	\$4
except for:	
(ii) Devices owned or operated by governmental agencies	No charge
(10) Taxi meters.....	\$40
(11) Electrical Vehicle Charging Meters	\$100

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES/FEE SCHEDULE/SCHEDULES OF MAXIMUM FEES PERMITTED FOR INSPECTION

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(1) Scales.

(i) Up to and including 15 kg (33 lb) capacity.....	\$20
(a) for each of the first five scales per establishment.....	\$20
(b) for each scale per establishment after the first five	10
(ii) Over 15 kg and including 300 kg (661 lb) capacity.....	40
(iii) Over 300 kg and including 1,500 kg (3,307 lb) capacity.....	100
(iv) Over 1,500 kg and including 7,000 kg (15,432 lb) capacity.....	140
(v) Over 7,000 kg and including 23,000 kg (50,706 lb) capacity	\$160
(vi) Over 23,000 kg capacity	\$200
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except for:	
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(10) Taxi meters	\$40
(11) <u>Electrical Vehicle Charging Meters</u>	\$100

← -- **Formatted:** Indent: Left: 0.28", Tab stops: 6",
Right, Leader: ...

cc All
Rules

Reso

Edward Gordon

From: Putnam Co Legislature
Subject: FW: Resolution for Rules - Weights & Measures
Attachments: Reso Weights and Measures Amendment to Fee Schedule.docx; Redline Reso Weights and Measures Amendment to Fee Schedule.docx

From: Conrad Pasquale <conrad.pasquale@putnamcountyny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 9:17:47 AM
To: Diane Schonfeld <Diane.Schonfeld@putnamcountyny.gov>
Cc: Michael Budzinski <Michael.Budzinski@putnamcountyny.gov>
Subject: Resolution for Rules - Weights & Measures

Good morning Diane,

On behalf of the Department of Consumer Affairs, please include the following item in the upcoming Rules Agenda.

Enclosed for consideration by the Legislature is a proposed resolution that will amend the fee schedule for inspections conducted by Weights & Measures. The amendment is minimal and the schedule has not been changed since 1990 per Consumer Affairs. This change is precipitated by a modification of the fee schedule put forth by the state.

I am copying the Director of Consumer Affairs and ask that he be present to answer any questions had by the Legislature.

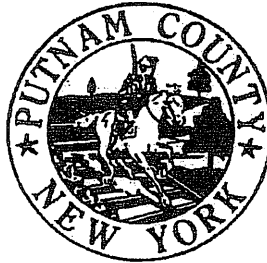
Please let me know if you need anything further.

Conrad J. Pasquale
Senior Deputy County Attorney
Putnam County Department of Law
48 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 808-1150 Ext. 49411
Fax (845) 808-1903

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THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
40 Gleneida Avenue
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Amy E. Sayegh *Chairwoman*
Greg E. Ellner *Deputy Chair*
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*



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Daniel G. Birmingham Dist. 7
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Erin L. Crowley Dist. 9

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 7, 2025

TO: Kevin Byrne
County Executive

CC: Michael Budzinski
Director, Consumer Affairs

FROM: Daniel G. Birmingham *DB/br*
Chairman, Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

RE: May 15, 2025 Rules Committee Meeting

The May 15, 2025 Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting agenda will include two proposed resolutions pertaining to the Department of Consumer Affairs; a Memorandum of Understanding with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 363 and amendments to the Weights and Measures Fee Schedule.

Respectfully, I request Director of Consumer Affairs attend said meeting to discuss these items with the Committee. The meeting will be held in room #318 of the County Office Building and will immediately follow the Economic Development & Energy Committee Meeting beginning at 6:00pm.

Thank you, I look forward to considering these items.

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL/CONSUMER AFFAIRS/MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 363

WHEREAS, the County desires to provide its residents with the level of safety that comes from licensing qualified tradesmen in a competitive environment; and

WHEREAS, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 363 (“IBEW”) is an association that works to support electrical workers and ensure the safety of those they serve through education, legislation, information, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, the members of IBEW Local Union 363 receive extensive training in their apprenticeship and the continued training as journeymen; and

WHEREAS, the members of IBEW Local Union 363 take additional education classes per union requirements to keep the members as an educated and viable workforce; and

WHEREAS, the County believes this extensive training satisfies Putnam's Electrical License requirements for journeymen when accompanied by additional training focused on the Putnam County Electrical Licensing Law; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to enter into a memorandum of understanding to allow qualified members of the IBEW to apply for and receive licensing under the Code of Putnam County for the benefit of all residents of Putnam County; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the County Attorney is authorized to draft the appropriate memorandum of understanding to provide for reciprocity of electrical licensing between the County and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 363, and the County Executive is authorized to execute same; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BEWTEEN COUNTY OF PUTNAM

AND

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION 363**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (hereinafter referred to as “MOU”), made by and between the COUNTY OF PUTNAM, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, having an office at 40 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, New York 10512 (hereinafter referred to as the “County”), through its Board of Electrical Examiners under the Office of Consumer Affairs, and INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 363, a qualifying union under state and federal law, having an office at 67 Commerce Drive South, Harriman, NY 10926 (hereinafter referred to as the “IBEW”).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the IBEW is an association that works to support electrical workers and ensure the safety of those they serve through education, legislation, information, and community involvement;

WHEREAS, the IBEW endeavors to improve the lives of its members and the public by representing the interests of workers, improving working conditions, and promoting excellence in the electrical industry;

WHEREAS, the members of IBEW Local Union 363 receive extensive training in their apprenticeship and the continued training as journeymen;

WHEREAS, the members of IBEW Local Union 363 take additional education classes per union requirements to keep the members as an educated and viable workforce;

WHEREAS, the County believes this extensive training satisfies Putnam's Electrical License requirements for journeymen when accompanied by additional training focused on the Putnam County Electrical Licensing Law;

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to allow qualified members of the IBEW to apply for and receive licensing under the Code of Putnam County for the benefit of all residents of Putnam County;

WHEREAS, the Parties have agreed to the terms of this MOU to satisfy each of the foregoing interests and concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual undertakings herein set forth, it is mutually agreed by and between the parties as follows:

1. County Obligations

- a. The Board of Electrical Examiners shall consider the properly-submitted applications of members of the IBEW;
- b. The Board of Electrical Examiners shall grant a license under the Putnam County Electrical Licensing Law for IBEW members who already hold the rank of journeyman subject to the limitations of this memorandum.

2. IBEW Obligations

- a. Prior to applying for licensing under this agreement, members of the IBEW shall properly attain the rank of journeyman pursuant to the rules of the union;
- b. The IBEW will certify the rank of any of its members who apply for a Putnam County electrical license and will provide necessary proof of training upon request of the Board of Electrical Examiners;
- c. Applicants for a Putnam County electrical license shall complete additional training focused on the Putnam County Electrical Licensing Law before the Board of Electrical Examiners will consider an application submitted pursuant to this memorandum.
- d. The IBEW shall promptly advise the County of any members who have left the union but have been licensed by the County pursuant to this MOU.

3. Miscellaneous

- a. A union electrical journeyman who is licensed by Putnam County pursuant to this MOU may only work as a journeyman in Putnam County on union projects for Local 363.
- b. If a union electrical journeyman who is licensed by Putnam County pursuant to this MOU leaves the union, any license granted by the County shall be revoked as a matter of law. However, such person shall have six months to take and pass the electrical journeyman test for licensure in Putnam County prior to such revocation taking effect.
- c. If a union electrical journeyman obtains their Putnam County electrical journeyman license pursuant to this MOU, they must still take and pass the electrical journeyman exam for Putnam County before they may test for the electrical master electrician exam for Putnam County.

4. Indemnification – The IBEW agrees, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to protect, defend, indemnify and hold the County of Putnam and its officers, employees and agents free and harmless from and against any and all losses, penalties, damages, settlements, costs, charges, professional fees or other expenses or liabilities of every kind and character arising out of or relating to any and all claims, liens, demands, obligations, actions, proceedings or

causes of action of every kind and character in connection with or arising directly or indirectly out of IBEW's obligations under this Contract and/or the performance hereof, including costs, expenses and attorneys' fees arising out of any act, error and/or omission of the IBEW, including professional negligence and/or malpractice, in the performance of professional services under this Contract, unless that liability was created by the sole and exclusive negligence of the County. The IBEW further agrees to investigate, handle, respond to, provide defense for and defend any such claims, etc., at its sole expense, and agrees to bear all costs and expenses related thereto, even if it (claims, etc.) is groundless, false or fraudulent.

5. Term – The term of this MOU shall continue indefinitely.
6. Assignment – Neither party shall assign or sub-contract any of its obligations and/or responsibilities under this MOU and any purported delegation of duties, assignment of rights or sub-contracting of responsibilities under this MOU is void and shall be deemed a direct breach of this MOU.
7. Amendment – This MOU may be amended at any time during the term of this MOU upon the mutual consent of both parties. No addition to, or alteration of, the terms of this MOU shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties hereto.
8. Termination – This agreement may be terminated by either party at any time. Once terminated, any license issued to an IBEW member by the County will remain valid until the expiration of its term. However, such license may not be renewed and the license holder must submit a new application for licensing under the Putnam County Electrical Licensing Law.
9. Electronic Signature: To the extent permitted by applicable law, electronic signatures may be used for the purpose of executing this Agreement. Any document delivered electronically and accepted is deemed to be "in writing" to the same extent and with the same effect as if the document had been signed manually.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding in Carmel, New York, on the date hereinabove set forth.

READ & APPROVED:

_____ Date: _____

C. Compton Spain
Putnam County Attorney

_____ Date: _____

Mat Bruno
Risk Manager

_____ Date: _____

Michael Lewis
Commissioner of Finance

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION 363**

_____ Date: _____

THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM:

_____ Date: _____

Kevin Byrne
Putnam County Executive

_____ Date: _____

Michael Budzinski
Director of Consumer Affairs

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PUTNAM COUNTY:

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF PUTNAM)

On this ___day of _____, 2025 before me personally came **Kevin Byrne** to me known, who being by me duly sworn, did depose and say that he is the County Executive of Putnam County, the corporation described in and which executed the foregoing instrument; that he knows the seal of said corporation; that the seal affixed to said instrument is such corporate seal; and the same was affixed to said instrument under authority of the Putnam County Charter and that he signed his name thereto under the same authority.

Notary Public

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 363:

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF PUTNAM)

On this ___day of _____, 2025 before me personally came **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**, to me known, who being by me duly sworn, did depose and say that he is the _____ of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 363 and executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

Notary Public

cc All
Rules

Reso

Edward Gordon

From: Putnam Co Legislature
Subject: FW: Item for Rules Agenda
Attachments: MOU with Electrical Union.pdf; Reso - MOU with Union.pdf

From: Conrad Pasquale <conrad.pasquale@putnamcountyny.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 1:57:42 PM
To: Diane Schonfeld <Diane.Schonfeld@putnamcountyny.gov>
Cc: Michael Budzinski <Michael.Budzinski@putnamcountyny.gov>; Joanne Elias <Joanne.Elias@putnamcountyny.gov>
Subject: Item for Rules Agenda

Good afternoon Diane,

On behalf of the Department of Consumer Affairs, please include the following item in the upcoming Rules Agenda.

Enclosed for consideration by the Legislature is a memorandum of understanding between the County and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 363 for reciprocity of licensing. The Electrical Board wishes to recognize as journeyman appropriately qualified union workers who wish to practice within the County on union jobs. The Board has discussed and approved this proposal, forwarding it now to the Legislature.

While an MOU typically does not require Legislature approval, it seems prudent in this case given the nature of licensing in these cases.

I am copying the Director of Consumer Affairs and ask that he be present to answer any questions had by the Legislature.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Thank you.

Conrad J. Pasquale
Senior Deputy County Attorney
Putnam County Department of Law
48 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 808-1150 Ext. 49411
Fax (845) 808-1903

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Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 7, 2025

TO: Kevin Byrne
County Executive

CC: Michael Budzinski
Director, Consumer Affairs

FROM: Daniel G. Birmingham *DB/br*
Chairman, Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

RE: May 15, 2025 Rules Committee Meeting

The May 15, 2025 Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting agenda will include two proposed resolutions pertaining to the Department of Consumer Affairs; a Memorandum of Understanding with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 363 and amendments to the Weights and Measures Fee Schedule.

Respectfully, I request Director of Consumer Affairs attend said meeting to discuss these items with the Committee. The meeting will be held in room #318 of the County Office Building and will immediately follow the Economic Development & Energy Committee Meeting beginning at 6:00pm.

Thank you, I look forward to considering these items.

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATIVE MANUAL/PUBLIC COMMENT DURING LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS PRIOR TO TAKING A VOTE

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature values transparency and public participation in the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the public has an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns on issues that directly impact them; and

WHEREAS, the allowance of public comment before votes are taken in committee meetings promotes open dialogue and better-informed decision-making by legislators; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature seeks to ensure that all voices are heard, and that the democratic process remains inclusive and responsive to the needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, in order to promote the thorough formulation, review and discussion of policies, resolutions, local laws, charter amendments and budgetary measures, the Putnam County Legislature operates on the committee system in order to provide a forum for the cautious and purposeful analysis of such initiatives; and

WHEREAS, such legislative committee meetings have provided an open forum for members of the respective legislative committees, other legislators and the public at large to provide advice, testimony and input; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that such deliberation through the committee process is necessary and essential for the proper enactment of resolutions, local laws, charter amendments and budgetary measures; and

WHEREAS, it is also recognized that occasionally due to the urgent nature of certain legislative items and in limited circumstances, it is necessary for the County Legislature to consider time-sensitive resolutions that have not been reviewed by the appropriate committee;

WHEREAS, and that, in such limited circumstances, it is important to the deliberative process to receive public comment during a full legislative meeting prior to taking a vote for the approval or disapproval of such specific item of urgency,

now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby directs that the Legislative Manual be amended by adding the following Rule:

RULE XX – PUBLIC COMMENT DURING LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS PRIOR TO TAKING A VOTE

- A. All legislative committee meetings shall include a designated period for public comment prior to any votes being taken on agenda items. This public comment period shall be structured in a manner that is consistent, fair, and efficient, with a time limit for individual comments to ensure that all individuals wishing to speak are given an opportunity to do so.
- B. If a draft resolution has not gone through the committee process but is being requested to be considered at a full legislative meeting as either a pre-filed request pursuant to Rule 5(A)(9) or as new business pursuant to Rule 5(A)(10), and following a procedural vote as to whether such resolution should be placed before the County Legislature for consideration, there shall be a designated period for public comment on the substance of such resolution prior to any votes being taken on such resolution. This public comment period shall be structured in a manner that is consistent, fair, and efficient, with a time limit for individual comments to ensure that all individuals wishing to speak are given an opportunity to do so.
- C. To the extent possible, the Chair of each meeting shall notify the public in advance of the meeting agenda and the designated time for public comment, providing reasonable access for the public to attend and participate in the meeting; and
- D. Any member of the public who wishes to speak during the recognition of the public on agenda items shall be given a fair opportunity to present their views consistent with the Rules of Order and Procedure of the County Legislature; and

be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATIVE MANUAL/PUBLIC COMMENT DURING LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS PRIOR TO TAKING A VOTE

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature values transparency and public participation in the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the public has an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns on issues that directly impact them; and

WHEREAS, ~~allowing the allowance of~~ public comment before votes are taken in committee meetings promotes open dialogue and better-informed decision-making by legislators; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature seeks to ensure that all voices are heard, and that the democratic process remains inclusive and responsive to the needs of the community; ~~now therefore be it~~ and

~~**RESOLVED**, that **WHEREAS**, in order to promote the thorough formulation, review and discussion of policies, resolutions, local laws, charter amendments and budgetary measures, the Putnam County Legislature hereby mandates that all committee meetings shall include a designated period for public comment prior to any votes being taken operates on agenda items; and be it further~~

~~**RESOLVED**, that this public comment period shall be structured in a manner that is consistent, fair, and efficient, with a time limit for individual comments to ensure that all individuals wishing to speak are given an opportunity to do so; and be it further~~

~~**RESOLVED**, that the Chairman of the committee shall notify system in order to provide a forum for the public in advance of the meeting agenda and the designated time for public comment, providing reasonable access for the public to attend and participate in the meeting; and be it further cautious and purposeful analysis of such initiatives; and~~

~~**RESOLVED**, that any member **WHEREAS**, such legislative committee meetings have provided an open forum for members of the public who wishes to speak during respective legislative committees, other legislators and the public comment period shall be given a fair opportunity to present their views, subject to any rules or procedures adopted by at large to provide advice, testimony and input; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that such deliberation through the committee to ensure process is necessary and essential for the orderly conduct proper enactment of the meeting; and be it further resolutions, local laws, charter amendments and budgetary measures; and~~

~~**RESOLVED**, that the Putnam **WHEREAS**, it is also recognized that occasionally due to the urgent nature of certain legislative items and in limited circumstances, it is necessary for the County Legislature to consider time-sensitive resolutions that have not been reviewed by the appropriate committee;~~

WHEREAS, and that, in such limited circumstances, it is important to the deliberative process to receive public comment during a full legislative meeting prior to taking a vote for the approval or disapproval of such specific item of urgency,

now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby directs the implementation of the above procedure by incorporating the following as a new Rule in the that the Legislative Manual be amended by adding the following Rule:

RULE XX – PUBLIC COMMENT DURING LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS PRIOR TO TAKING A VOTE

- A. All legislative committee meetings shall include a designated period for public comment prior to any votes being taken on agenda items. This public comment period shall be structured in a manner that is consistent, fair, and efficient, with a time limit for individual comments to ensure that all individuals wishing to speak are given an opportunity to do so.
- ~~B.~~ The Chairman of the committee ~~If a draft resolution has not gone through the committee process but is being requested to be considered at a full legislative meeting as either a pre-filed request pursuant to Rule 5(A)(9) or as new business pursuant to Rule 5(A)(10), and following a procedural vote as to whether such resolution should be placed before the County Legislature for consideration, there shall be a designated period for public comment on the substance of such resolution prior to any votes being taken on such resolution. This public comment period shall be structured in a manner that is consistent, fair, and efficient, with a time limit for individual comments to ensure that all individuals wishing to speak are given an opportunity to do so.~~
- ~~B.C.~~ To the extent possible, the Chair of each meeting shall notify the public in advance of the meeting agenda and the designated time for public comment, providing reasonable access for the public to attend and participate in the meeting; and ~~be it further~~
- ~~D.~~ Any member of the public who wishes to speak during the recognition of the public comment period on agenda items shall be given a fair opportunity to present their views, ~~subject to any rules or procedures adopted by the committee to ensure consistent with the orderly conduct~~ Rules of the meeting; Order and Procedure of the County Legislature; and

~~C.~~ be it further

~~and be it further~~

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately ~~upon adoption.~~

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**May 15, 2025
Rules Meeting**

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FYI - Litigation Report