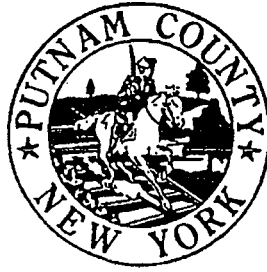


THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

Amy E. Sayegh *Chairwoman*
Greg E. Ellner *Deputy Chair*
Diane Trabulsy *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 MEETING TO BE HELD IN ROOM #318 PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairman Birmingham and Legislators Ellner & Gouldman

Monday November 10, 2025
(Immediately Following the Special Full Mtg. at 5:45PM)

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Chairman's Verbal Report
4. Acceptance of Minutes – May 15th, June 16th, July 17th, and August 25th Meetings
5. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A096 – Finance – Account for ARPA Spending through September 30th
6. Approval -- Local Law – Amend Chapter 25, Article VI, Entitled "Transportation Advisory Council"
7. Approval – Local Law – Legislative Counsel Positions
8. Discussion – Legislators Access to County Files
9. FYI – Litigation Report
10. Other Business of any Matters Proposed by a Member of the Legislature
11. Adjournment

#4

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
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)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm 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.

Item #3 – Chairman’s Verbal Report

Chairman Birmingham stated his intention to attend town board meetings. He stated he is interested in how towns are making their meetings accessible to the public online. He stated a moratorium was put on some new rules added to the Legislative Manual through June 2025, which is coming up. He stated he would like to revert back to the 2024 Legislative Manual, while keeping the section passed last month on livestreaming Legislative meetings.

Item #4 – Acceptance of Minutes – November 19, 2024, December 17, 2024 & January 27, 2025

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #5 – Approval – Weights & Measures – Fee Schedule – Schedules of Maximum Fees Permitted for Inspection

Director of Consumer Affairs Michael Budzinski stated per new State regulation, they have to update their fee schedule to reflect the fee of \$20.00 for scales. He stated it used to be a \$20.00 charge for the first scale, and \$10.00 for each additional scale but they are now all \$20.00 regardless of how many.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale stated there was one other addition made, having to do with electric vehicle charging meters.

Director Budzinski stated yes, that is in there as well. He stated the County does not yet have the equipment to test those meters.

Chairman Birmingham questioned if the inspection of the electric vehicle charging meters would be similar to gas pumps where a sticker would be placed signifying they have been checked by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Director Budzinski stated yes, he believes so.

Legislator Crowley questioned if the County can potentially be penalized for not having the equipment to monitor the electric vehicle charging meters.

Director Budzinski stated this is a new requirement, he will look into that.

Legislator Ellner clarified that the checks would only pertain to charging stations where the customer is being charged, not those that are free.

Director Budzinski stated that is correct.

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

Item #6 – Approval – Consumer Affairs – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 363

Chairman Birmingham stated this would allow for licensing reciprocity between the County and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 363. He questioned if the Electrical Board has weighed in on this yet.

Director Budzinski stated Local 363 approached the Electrical Board and there have been several meetings. He stated the Electrical Board confirmed that the testing and training done by Local 363 is equivalent to what the County does, therefore the reciprocal agreement is appropriate. He stated this will streamline the process.

Chairman Birmingham questioned if the Electrical Board approved this.

Director Budzinski stated yes, they voted to approve it.

Legislator Ellner questioned if other unions could have this reciprocal agreement as well if they are working in the County.

Director Budzinski stated part of the agreement was that anytime a union journeyman left a union, they would have to notify the County and go through the normal procedure to get a journeyman license. He stated this MOU only applies to union jobs within the County. He stated if another union was interested in a reciprocal agreement, they could come to the County and request an MOU.

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

Item #7 – Discussion – Amendment of Legislative Manual – Public Comment during Legislative Sessions and Committee Meetings Prior to Taking a Vote

Chairman Birmingham provided a review of the amendments to this rule throughout this year. He stated he believes honest and honorable people can disagree on this issue. He stated it is important to have our Legislative Committee meetings be a full and open dialogue. He stated the Committee process is where topics are hashed out and it is helpful to hear the insight of fellow Legislators and members of the public. He stated he needs the time between a Committee meeting and Full Legislative Meeting to understand and digest the information and opinions provided during Committee. He stated this is why there are no meetings held between the last Committee meeting, Audit, which is typically the last Monday of the month and the Full Legislative Meeting, which is the first Tuesday of the month. He stated having the videos of the meetings has also been very helpful to review during that time before the Full Legislative Meeting. He read the proposed resolution into the record. He stated paragraph A in the new rule to be added to the Legislative Manual speaks to Committee Meetings and its process. He stated paragraph B speaks to Full Legislative Meetings. He stated there are only two (2) ways to get an item that has not gone through Committee onto a Full Legislative Meeting for consideration; through a pre-filed resolution or brought forward as other business. He stated there is another instance where items are put on a Full Legislative Meeting agenda without going through Committee and that is at the Organizational Meeting. He stated since this is the first Legislative Meeting of the year, there is no chance for something to go through Committee. He stated admittedly, the Legislative Manual has some controversy this year and to remedy that he is suggesting that the Legislative Manual be considered at the Full Legislative Meeting in February. He stated that would allow any proposed changes to the Legislative Manual to go Committee before being considered by the Full Legislature.

Legislator Gouldman stated the Committee process is the best place to ask questions and have discussions. He stated this year, there have been multiple instances where items have gone right to the Full Legislative Meeting without going through Committee, which has limited the ability to fully discuss the item or have public input. He agreed with Chairman Birmingham that time between a committee meeting and the Full Legislative Meeting is important to digest all of the information and encouraged his colleagues to send all requests to Committee first. He agreed with Chairman Birmingham's suggestion to adopt the Legislative Manual in February rather than at the Organizational meeting. He stated it is vital to have public comments on all new items and he thanked Chairwoman Sayegh for accommodating that at the last Special Full Legislative Meeting.

Legislator Ellner stated public comment is necessary. He stated in paragraph B of the proposed rule it mentions a time limit on public comment and he questioned what would happen if there are 50 members of the public wishing to speak. He stated he would like to add wording "with a time limit set by the Chair of each meeting" to clarify. He stated paragraph C states that the Chair of each meeting shall notify the public in advance; he questioned what this means because the Legislative Office notifies the public of each meeting five (5) days prior. He suggested replacing the word "Chair" with "Legislature" so the onus is on the office rather than the individual Chair.

Legislator Crowley suggested including a general time limit, for example three (3) minutes per person, so it does not fall on any one Chair as was included in her original proposal.

Legislator Montgomery stated she believes it would be easier to let the Chair read the room in the beginning of the meeting and set a time limit if necessary.

Chairman Birmingham stated there are currently three (3) members of the public present, they could be given a longer time frame to speak if they wished than if the room was filled. He stated having flexibility would be beneficial.

Legislator Crowley stated she finds it offensive that almost everything in her original proposal has been amended. She stated she would have liked the opportunity to discuss her original proposal in Committee.

Chairman Birmingham stated the redlined copy is included in the backup material.

Legislator Montgomery suggested adding a line on top of proposed resolutions stating which Legislator introduced it. She stated this is common on resolutions by other municipalities.

Chairman Birmingham stated the introducing legislator is listed on the resolutions in their final form. He stated this proposal codifies the public comment process that is already in practice. He stated Legislator Gouldman raised a good point in that the Full Legislative Meetings do not currently allow for back-and-forth comment.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if "Special Full" should be specifically referenced in the resolution.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated it could be added to make it clear.

Legislator Crowley stated some of the wording in the original resolution she submitted pertained to public speaking at all Legislative meetings. She stated she is happy to see any form of this resolution pass at this time because it is so important for the public to have the opportunity to weigh in.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is happy that this is being added to the Legislative Manual. She stated she would like to see public comment at all meetings prior to a vote, but this is a good compromise. She stated the time limit is vague, she would like to add wording about the Chair setting the time limit.

Legislator Sayegh suggested addressing the number of times the same individual can speak to one topic.

Legislator Montgomery stated that can be done by the Chair as well.

Cassandra Roth, resident of Pawling, stated she is happy this is being included in the Legislative Manual as it will ensure the ability for public comment into the future. She suggested implementing a minimum time to be allotted to each person rather than limiting their time. She stated this would be at the discretion of the Chair depending on the crowd.

Brett Yarris, resident of Carmel, stated he is happy to see that this is being codified as it protects the public. He stated he appreciates the work of all the Legislators. He questioned if other business would be listed on an agenda for a Full or Special Full Meeting so the public has the opportunity to attend the meeting prepared.

Chairman Birmingham stated if the other business is pre-filed prior to the agenda being published, it would be included on the agenda. He stated if it is brought forward after the agenda is published, it could be put on our website. He stated it is important to have that flexibility as there are sometimes time-sensitive matters needing to be addressed.

Legislator Gouldman agreed that there needs to be flexibility to allow for time sensitive requests, however recently there have been items provided moments before the meeting, not leaving enough time for review prior to the meeting.

Legislator Ellner stated a letter of necessity would need to accompany a time sensitive request and should be published along with the item,

Chairman Birmingham agreed and stated the practice of including the letter is already in place.

Legislator Montgomery stated her understanding of other business is that anyone on a committee can introduce other business at any time. She stated if the Legislative Manual is to be adopted at the February meetings moving forward, it should be reflected in the Legislative Manual in Section II(B)(f) where it states it "shall remain in force and effect at the first meeting of each year."

Tommy Regan, resident of Brewster, stated in his experience, setting parameters is beneficial to stop individuals from filibustering. He suggested also including wording about decorum to allow everyone a chance to speak and a chance for the meeting to move along.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated that is covered by Robert's Rules.

Chairman Birmingham stated that is a great point, the Legislative Manual is the exception to Robert's Rules so there is no need to be redundant.

Legislator Crowley stated she would like to be cautious of the Constitution when implementing parameters on members of the public.

Chairman Birmingham stated he would like to have this on for approval in June to be considered by the Full Legislature at its July meeting.

Item #8 – FYI – Litigation Report – Duly Noted

Item #9 – Other Business – None

Item #10 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:58pm, Legislator Ellner made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Chairman Birmingham. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Robinson.

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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

Members: Chairman Birmingham and Legislators Ellner & Gouldman

June 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm 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.

Item #3 – Chairman’s Verbal Report

Chairman Birmingham stated his intention to have the Legislative Manual on the July agenda to perhaps go back to the 2024 version with the amendments made earlier this year included.

Item #4 – Acceptance of Minutes – February 19, 2025

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #5 – Approval – Putnam Arts Council – Funding Recommendations – 2025 Arts Link Community Regrant Program

Chairman Birmingham thanked the Putnam Arts Council for their work and the process they have in place to fund other artists throughout Putnam County.

Executive Director of the Putnam Arts Council Joyce Picone stated the Putnam Arts Council received over \$91,000 in grant requests. She stated they approved 10 grants, which the County's contribution of \$14,000 will go toward. She explained that the grants are partially funded by the County and partially by the State, but the numbers in front of the Committee this evening represent the County portion only. She stated the projects receiving funding are located throughout the County and are various mediums. She stated the sculpture show at Tilly Foster Farm is receiving a grant. She stated this show brings people into Tilly's Table, and serves as an example of how art can be an economic driver. She stated Tompkins Corners Cultural Center is also a grant recipient for their 5th Annual John Cohen Memorial Concerts. She stated Hudson Valley InterArts in Patterson is a new grant recipient this year; they partnered with Friends of the Great Swamp for their project. She stated art is a representation of history, it is everywhere and is for everyone.

Chairman Birmingham stated his appreciation for the distribution of these grant funds in each part of the County. He questioned if the County funding leverages the State funding.

Executive Director Picone stated the County funding is taxpayer money, therefore she believes it is important to spread those funds throughout the County. She stated the State does inquire if the County has contributed to the projects. She stated a requirement of the grant is that the recipient must credit the County, which can leverage even more funding. She stated they make an effort to support different kinds of art and therefore different kinds of artists.

Legislator Gouldman stated he is happy to see funding going to Tompkins Corners Cultural Arts Center and encouraged everyone to attend the many programs they offer.

Executive Director Picone agreed and stated all their programs are run 100% by volunteers.

Tina Franzetti, bookkeeper for Putnam Arts Council, stated she wanted to make sure the Legislators understood where this funding was going and if there are any questions she is happy to provide any necessary information.

Executive Director Picone stated the programs are also audited. She stated they receive two (2) tickets from each recipient, and they send representatives to the shows and programs to perform their audit.

Legislator Ellner thanked Executive Director Picone for her hard work and collaboration with the County.

Executive Director Picone stated they usually receive their funding in two (2) installments, one in January and one in July but since this will be approved at the July Full Legislative Meeting, she will be requesting the full amount so it may be provided to the recipients.

Chairman Birmingham stated the process went longer than usual this year.

Legislator Crowley thanked the Putnam Arts Council. She stated she appreciates that different art forms are being funded. She stated she looks forward to seeing some of these programs.

Legislator Sayegh thanked the Putnam Arts Council. She stated art is the heart and soul of a community. She stated she appreciated hearing the heartfelt statements from the artists and community members about the impact art has on them at the March 17, 2025 Rules Committee Meeting.

Legislator Addonizio stated she is a strong supporter of the arts as they are so beneficial to everyone of all ages and abilities. She stated art therapy is a valuable tool for many individuals, especially Veterans.

Executive Director Picone stated they are offering free classes for Veterans; they are an underserved population in the arts world.

Legislator Russo thanked the Putnam Arts Council for their hard work and their patience with the process.

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

Item #6 – Approval – Proposal from County Executive Byrne – Local Law to Amend Chapter 220, Article X, Entitled “Exemption for Qualified Members of Volunteer Fire Departments and Ambulance Corps”

Chairman Birmingham stated he believes this is a good idea and he thanked the County Executive for bringing this to the Legislature’s attention.

Legislator Gouldman stated the volunteer Fire Departments and Ambulance Corps serve a vital function and are the backbone of each town. He stated membership has been declining and this type of legislation may incentivize more volunteerism.

Legislator Crowley stated it is increasingly difficult to find employees and volunteers in the first responder field, which is why it is so important to recognize the important work they do. She stated these individuals are volunteering for these positions out of the kindness of their hearts, for the love of their community and this is a way to address that hard work.

Legislator Ellner stated his support for this. He stated the reduction is 10% and in speaking with some volunteer firefighters, they have suggested the possibility of instituting a cap on the reduction. He stated some volunteers may see a much bigger savings depending on their taxes. He stated it may be something to consider in the future.

Legislator Addonizio stated her support for this and clarified that the 10% reduction is on County property taxes only and is not related to school taxes. She stated there are so many great people doing this hard work.

Legislator Sayegh stated this is only a reduction of County property taxes and she hopes other municipalities might follow suit. She questioned what the total impact of this might be.

Chairman Birmingham stated an analysis could be done after the first year of the program. He stated the cost of this reduction will be much less than a paid fire department and ambulance corps.

Legislator Sayegh stated the cost shifts to the other taxpayers, but the value of the service they receive is far greater than the cost.

Legislator Ellner stated it is important to note that only individuals with 20 or more years of service will be eligible for this reduction.

Legislator Crowley questioned if this reduction would be given to two (2) eligible homeowners of the same property or who might be receiving a similar exemption.

Chairman Birmingham stated the authority to provide this exemption comes from the State and he does not believe anyone would be penalized.

Legislator Addonizio questioned what the average county portion of a property tax bill is in Putnam County. She stated it is a small portion, therefore this 10% is not a large amount of money.

Legislator Jonke stated this only applies to volunteer firefighters and ambulance corps members who are volunteering outside of the town where they reside. He stated that could make it difficult to get an impact statement, although he believes it would be insignificant because most volunteers serve in the town where they live. He stated there is nothing stating that two (2) homeowners could not both receive it. He stated he is in favor of this, it is a great way to acknowledge our volunteers.

Legislator Russo stated her support for this exemption. She stated she knows multiple volunteers who reside in the town of Patterson but volunteer in neighboring Brewster.

Tom Regan, resident of Brewster, stated a report by the Firefighters Association of New York estimated paid fire departments would cost an additional \$4.7 billion in the State budget. He stated this is a 10% reduction in the assessment of the property. He stated the State amended the original proposal by allowing eligibility for individuals residing in one town and volunteering in another. He stated this must be approved by all taxing agencies; as a representative of the Brewster Fire Department he went before the school board, Fire Commissioners, Town, and County. He questioned the five (5) years of service requirement and stated that other taxing agencies are requiring two (2) years of service. He stated when recruiting volunteers, notifying them of this exemption after two (2) years of service is a real incentive, whereas five (5) years is not as impactful. He stated after 20 years of service, the volunteer or their widow(er) does not have to reapply each year, they automatically receive the 10% reduction.

Chairman Birmingham questioned how this logistically works, if the volunteer files their necessary paperwork with their assessor's office.

Mr. Regan stated yes, each year by March 1st they would need to file their paperwork and prove their membership for the previous year. He stated the County of Putnam is the only taxing agency that still has the five (5) years of service requirement; all other taxing agencies require two (2) years of service, which seems like a reasonable amount of time. He clarified that this is not a 10% reduction in taxes; it is a 10% reduction in assessment.

Chairman Birmingham stated he would like to move this forward this evening and the requirement for years of service can be adjusted in the future if necessary.

Legislator Ellner suggested changing the requirement from five (5) years to two (2) years before moving it forward.

Legislator Ellner made a motion to amend Second 220-66 E. from "...five (5) years of service" to "...two (2) years of service"; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman.

Chairman Birmingham stated a motion has been made and seconded; he called for discussion on the motion to amend the requirement from five (5) years of service to two (2) years.

Legislator Jonke questioned Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale if Real Property Tax Law 466 allows the County to change this requirement of years of service.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale stated he will look into that before the Full Legislative Meeting on July 1, 2025.

Chairman Birmingham stated the amendment can be passed to the Full Legislative Meeting this evening and if there are any issues it can be changed back prior to the Full Meeting.

Legislator Crowley agreed with putting this forward and then getting the answers.

Mr. Regan stated he is confident the County has the option to choose the requirement for years of service.

Legislator Jonke stated he is in favor of amending it to two (2) years if it is possible.

Legislator Ellner made a motion to amend Second 220-66 E. from "...five (5) years of service" to "...two (2) years of service"; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

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

Item #7 – FYI – Fund Transfer 25T151 – Board of Elections – Clear Ballot BDF Creation

Chairman Birmingham stated item #7 and #8 both pertain to the Board of Elections, however Commissioners Croft and Primavera were unable to attend this evening as they are currently working on early voting. He stated these will both be reviewed by the Audit Committee as well.

Item #8 – FYI – Fund Transfer 25T166 – Board of Elections – Pro-rated Tenex License/Support – Duly Noted

Item #9 – Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A051 – Finance – Funding for Putnam County SPCA to be Recouped via NYS SAM (State and Municipalities) Grant

Legislator Sayegh stated this is pass through funding for the Putnam County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PC SPCA).

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

Item #10 – FYI – Litigation Report – Duly Noted

Item #11 – Other Business – None

Item #12 – Adjournment

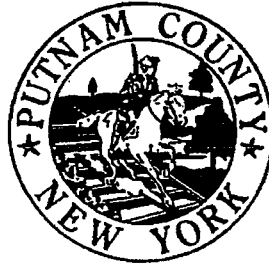
There being no further business at 7:13pm, Chairman Birmingham made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Robinson.

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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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 **6:30pm** **June 16, 2025**

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Chairman's Verbal Report
4. Acceptance of Minutes – February 19, 2025
5. Approval – Putnam Arts Council – Funding Recommendations – 2025 Arts Link Community Regrant Program
6. Approval – Proposal from County Executive Byrne – Local Law to Amend Chapter 220, Article X, Entitled "Exemption for Qualified Members of Volunteer Fire Departments and Ambulance Corps"
7. Approval – Fund Transfer 25T151 – Board of Elections – Clear Ballot BDF Creation
8. Approval – Fund Transfer 25T166 – Board of Elections – Pro-rated Tenex License/Support
9. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A051 – Finance – Funding for Putnam County SPCA to be Recouped via NYS SAM (State and Municipalities) Grant
10. FYI – Litigation Report
11. Other Business
12. Adjournment

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

Members: Chairman Birmingham and Legislators Ellner & Gouldman

**Thursday July 17, 2025
(Immediately following Health Mtg. & Physical Mtg. beginning at 5:30pm)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 pm by Chairman Birmingham who requested Legislator Ellner lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Ellner and Gouldman and Chairman Birmingham were present.

Item #3 – Chairman’s Verbal Report

Chairman Birmingham provided an overview of this evening’s agenda.

Item #4 – Acceptance of Minutes – April 10, 2025

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #5 – Approval – Request Funding to CAREERS Support Solutions – County Contribution – Subcontingency – Requested by Legislator Ellner

Legislator Ellner stated CAREERS Support Solutions (CAREERS) is an organization that assists residents with disabilities find employment and strengthen their job skills so they can be as independent as possible while contributing to society.

Executive Director Tina Cornish-Lauria stated that is correct, they have been operating in Putnam County for over 35 years. She stated on average, they work with about 100 Putnam County residents per year who are intellectually and developmentally disabled or may have psychiatric issues. She stated they have several different programs to accommodate the various needs of their clients. She stated they provide assistance to residents of all ages and help them in each step of the job process. She stated she has been with CAREERS for 37 years and some clients have been there the whole time. She stated their annual budget is about \$340,000, which they fundraise for. She stated they requested \$30,000 from the County, and the past two (2) years the County has provided \$15,000.

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional handed out by Executive Director Cornish-Lauria; seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Chairman Birmingham stated funding for the outside agencies was placed into subcontingency by the Administration in the 2025 budget process to be disbursed this

year. He stated there is currently about \$57,000 left in that budget line. He stated the resolution before the Committee this evening requests that the County Executive initiate a fund transfer for \$15,000 for CAREERS.

Legislator Gouldman stated \$15,000 was provided to CAREERS in the 2025 budget process and he questioned what the additional \$15,000 would be used for.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria stated they would put it toward meeting their overall budget. She stated there are about 350 total clients, but this money would be used specifically for Putnam County clients.

Chairman Birmingham questioned if it would be fair to say that this funding would allow for more programmatic work since it would otherwise have to be fundraised.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria stated yes, fundraising is time consuming.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if CAREERS could wait until the 2026 budget process, which begins in the fall.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria stated if she had to she could.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if a request was submitted for 2026.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria stated a request for \$30,000 has been submitted for the 2026 budget process.

Legislator Addonizio requested that Executive Director Cornish-Lauria provide an overview of the CAREERS thrift shop.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria stated they have a fundraising thrift shop on Route 52 which is run exclusively by volunteers. She stated they also have clients working there to develop job skills and give them experience to help them find a job. She stated all the items are donated and sold at very low prices; it is really a benefit to the community.

Legislator Crowley stated she was recently speaking with the Chair of the Mahopac Chamber of Commerce about compiling a list of businesses that hire individuals with disabilities. She questioned if this would be helpful for CAREERS to have as well.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria stated they do not have a pool of businesses that they fit their clients into. She stated when a client comes to them, they do an intake to figure out what they need and then they will seek it out in the community. She stated it is really on a per-client basis.

Legislator Jonke stated the 2025 budget process was a disaster. He stated the good people from these contract agencies spent time meeting with the Administration going over their funding request. He stated these agencies fill a need that is not filled by the

County and he is grateful for all the work being done by these agencies. He stated last year, many of these agencies were not funded in the 2025 budget, rather \$75,000 was put into subcontingency for the Legislature to distribute; it was like having 10 lions with only enough food for five. He stated asking CAREERS to wait until next year's budget is truly unfair. He apologized for the way this process is happening this year and stated his support of this request.

Legislator Sayegh stated CAREERS is a wonderful not-for-profit. She stated the services provided sound similar to Arc Mid-Hudson and questioned how they differ.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria stated Arc Mid-Hudson does a lot of residential support as well, where CAREERS is solely vocational and prevocational. She stated they also have a day-hab program where lower functioning clients get some community exposure before they are ready for an internship or employment position. She stated everything they do works toward strengthening the client's independence, confidence, and skillset so they are able to hold a job. She stated many clients gain this exposure and experience through volunteering with organizations in the community, which gives them a sense of worth while building their skillset. She stated one of the main differences between CAREERS and other agencies is that their clients remain with them for decades. She stated a person's disability does not go away once they get a job; they continue to need assistance.

Legislator Sayegh questioned how the funding would be made up for it did not come from the County.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria stated they would need to fundraise and apply for more grants. She stated recently, the staff went 8 years without a raise.

Legislator Sayegh questioned what exactly would be funded with this County contribution.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria stated it will go toward staff salaries.

Legislator Sayegh stated she is uncomfortable using tax dollars for salaries.

Chairman Birmingham stated the County has a specific contract with each agency and what the funds can be used for could be put into the contract.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria stated as a taxpayer, she would not want her money to go toward fundraising. She stated programming includes the staff providing the program and working directly with the clients.

Legislator Gouldman stated he did not realize CAREERS helped seniors as well and asked how many of their clients are senior citizens.

Executive Director Cornish-Lauria estimated there are about 20 Putnam County clients who are senior citizens.

Legislator Ellner stated the County is spending a great deal of money on the new Early Learning Center, which will service the same individuals who could benefit from this organization. He stated an additional \$15,000 for over 100 clients is a good investment.

Legislator Montgomery stated the unassigned fund balance is \$90 million. She stated CAREERS provides a service the County is unable to. She stated her full support for this proposal and hopes other agencies can be funded as well.

Legislator Russo thanked Executive Director Cornish-Lauria for her work. She stated she knows both employees and clients of CAREERS and she has seen the transformation with the support of this agency.

Legislator Crowley stated she would like to see the information submitted with their budget request.

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

Item #6 – Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25T189 – County Contribution to Putnam Recreation Programs and Habilitation – Requested by Legislator Jonke

Legislator Jonke stated he submitted this request. He stated the Executive Director of Putnam Recreation Programs and Habilitation (PRPH) is out of town and was unable to attend this evening. He stated he is familiar with this agency; they provide physical habilitation for children and adults with special needs. He stated the programs they offer provide physical activity and brain stimulation. He stated this is a service that is not provided by the County and they help a significant population. He stated PRPH submitted a request for an additional \$15,000 in the 2025 budget process and this request is for \$10,000. He stated the money in the subcontingency account has been designated for these agencies.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how much was provided in the 2025 budget for PRPH.

Legislator Jonke stated they received \$10,000.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if there is a contract line in the Health Budget for PRPH.

Legislator Jonke stated he believes they are involved with the Youth Bureau.

Legislator Sayegh stated there were some agencies who did not receive any funding in the 2025 budget and she is glad to hear from 2 agencies this evening.

Legislator Montgomery stated these agencies are providing services the County is unable to and it is important to note that there are many vacant positions within the County. She stated her full support of this request as this agency provides a vital services.

Legislator Ellner agreed with Legislator Montgomery. He stated because of those vacancies, an estimated \$8-\$12 million would be added to the fund balance.

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

Item #7 – Legislative Manual

a. Approval – Amendment of Legislative Manual – Public Comment During Legislative Sessions and Committee Meetings Prior to Taking a Vote

Chairman Birmingham stated Legislator Crowley brought this forward a few months ago for consideration. He stated this amendment to the Legislative Manual would provide the opportunity for members of the public to speak to agenda items prior to a vote being taken in a Committee Meeting and on any new business before a vote is taken at a Full Legislative Meeting. He stated this keeps the Committee process public and reserves the Full Legislative Meeting for approving or not approving the items that went through Committee.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if the changes on page 2 should reference Special Full Legislative Meetings as well.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale stated the term “Full Legislative Meeting” would encompass both a Regular and Special Full Legislative Meeting.

Chairman Birmingham stated he is not opposed to making the language clearer.

Legislator Gouldman made a motion to amend the proposed resolution to include “Special Full Legislative Meeting” along with “Full Legislative Meeting” in the Rule Title and paragraph B; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Legislator Sayegh requested clarification on allowing discussion and public comment during a Special Full Legislative Meeting. She questioned if a topic that was addressed previously would be subject to discussion and comment.

Chairman Birmingham stated there may be instances where the item on a Special Meeting has not yet gone through Committee, and in that instance public comment would be permitted. He referenced the proposed paragraph B. He clarified if a Special Full Legislative Meeting was held for an agenda item that had been previously considered, this rule would not apply.

Legislator Crowley requested clarification on paragraph C and questioned if each Chairperson would announce the time limit for public comment at the beginning of each meeting. She stated in her original proposal she specified that each person would have 3 minutes to speak and if time permitted, they would be able to speak again. She questioned how this would be navigated the way it is currently written.

Chairman Birmingham stated he believes it should be at the discretion of the Chair. He stated there are sometimes many members of the public that attend Legislative Meetings and sometimes much less. He stated determining an appropriate amount of time would be best to do the night of the meeting.

Legislator Crowley stated the most important thing is that there is public comment.

Legislator Sayegh agreed that the time limit should be left to the Chair's discretion at each meeting.

Legislator Montgomery stated the Chair can also address the members of the public during the meeting if their statement is going too long or is repetitive. She stated she is very happy this is being codified and the Legislature is committed to transparency.

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

b. Approval – Amendment of Legislative Manual – Confirmation of Appointments of the County Executive

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

Chairman Birmingham reviewed and read the proposed resolution. He stated Personnel Director Paul Eldridge requested the second bullet point under paragraph a) be amended to add "to be maintained under confidential cover, not to be released to the public, pursuant to Public Officers Law §89(2)(b)(i)" to the end.

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to amend the proposed resolution to add this wording to the end of the second bullet under paragraph a); Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Legislator Ellner thanked Legislator Montgomery; having detailed information on appointees has been her concept all along. He stated his support for this.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if this would make volunteering on boards a more stringent task.

Chairman Birmingham stated this rule would not apply to various boards that members are appointed to; it relates strictly to employee nominations made by the County Executive.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Legislator Ellner. She stated it is the County Executive's authority to appoint who they would like and it is important to balance and work together. She spoke to rules followed by other counties. She stated some require 30 day written notice of appointments with 30 days for the Legislature to act, some have specific committees that review the appointments, and some interview the candidate themselves. She stated this is designed to ensure transparency and accountability.

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

c. FYI – Resolution #124 of 2025 – Amendment of Legislative Manual – Live Steaming Legislative Sessions and Public Hearings – Duly Noted

d. Approval – 2024 Legislative Manual (As amended, see redline: with respect to adoption of Legislative Manual)

Chairman Birmingham stated proposed amendments to the Legislative Manual were made in January and since then it has been pointed out that some of those amendments are onerous. He stated Legislator Gouldman made the suggestion to go back to the 2024 Legislative Manual. He stated he would like to move that the 2024 Legislative Manual be adopted, including the amendments in #7a, #7b, and #7c. He stated the only other change he would suggest making to this version of the Legislative Manual is under Section II(B)(1)(f) which currently reads "Adoption of the Legislative Manual." He stated because the Organizational Meeting of the Legislature takes place at its first meeting in January, the adoption of the Legislative Manual does not first go through Committee before being voted on. He stated his proposal would be to replace this section with the following: "The next order of business shall be the presentation of the Legislative Manual as in effect during the preceding year. This Manual is the official guide to the rules, proceedings and practices of the Putnam County Legislature. The rules of the County Legislature for the preceding year as set forth in such Legislative Manual shall remain in force and effect until amended or revised following the submission of any amendments or revisions to one of the Standing Committees of the Legislature." He stated this would keep the Legislative Manual in place until further amended, which would only be done through the Committee process.

Legislator Gouldman stated this is a great idea.

Legislator Ellner clarified that the other changes discussed this year would not be included in the Legislative Manual. He stated he is uncomfortable with this because the Legislature approved changes that would no longer be in effect.

Legislator Crowley stated the changes made were done so at a Full Legislative Meeting where there was no public comment and there were certain issues that Personnel Officer Eldridge and the Law Department weighed in on. She stated the Legislature also voted to place a moratorium on some changes.

Chairman Birmingham stated those changes that had a moratorium placed on them will no longer exist.

Legislator Sayegh stated this document can always be changed throughout the year. She questioned how the adoption of the Legislative Manual would work since the wording is being changed to "presentation".

Chairman Birmingham stated the current Legislative Manual would remain in effect until a change is made, which would be done so through the Committee process. He stated it would be amended as needed.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale stated Rules 24(B) would also need to be amended to keep it consistent.

Chairman Birmingham stated "and until formal adopt of the rules for the current year" in paragraph B should be stricken.

Legislator Montgomery stated her appreciation for the work Chairman Birmingham put into these proposals. She stated she is opposed to these changes because since she is not on a Committee, the only opportunity she has to propose any changes is during a Full Legislative Meeting.

Chairman Birmingham stated he understands this issue and perhaps there is a work around.

Legislator Ellner stated one of the main issues is that the Legislature does not have their own counsel. He stated this would have been much easier with routine access to Legislative Counsel.

Chairman Birmingham suggested leaving Section II(B)(1)(f) the way it is for now.

Legislator Montgomery agreed.

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to approve the 2024 Legislative Manual with the three rules in items #7a, #7b and #7c; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. By poll vote: Two Ayes: Chairman Birmingham and Legislator Gouldman. One Nay: Legislator Ellner. Motion carries.

Item #8 – FYI – Litigation Report – Duly Noted

Item #9 – Other Business – None

Item #10 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:31pm, 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
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(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

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 July 17, 2025
(Immediately following Health Mtg. & Physical Mtg. beginning at 5:30pm)

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Chairman's Verbal Report**
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes – April 10, 2025**
- 5. Approval – Request Funding to CAREERS Support Solutions – County Contribution – Subcontingency – Requested by Legislator Ellner**
- 6. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25T189 – County Contribution to Putnam Recreation Programs and Habilitation – Requested by Legislator Jonke**
- 7. Legislative Manual**
 - a. Approval – Amendment of Legislative Manual – Public Comment During Legislative Sessions and Committee Meetings Prior to Taking a Vote**
 - b. Approval – Amendment of Legislative Manual – Confirmation of Appointments of the County Executive**
 - c. FYI – Resolution #124 of 2025 – Amendment of Legislative Manual – Live Steaming Legislative Sessions and Public Hearings**
 - d. Approval – 2024 Legislative Manual (As amended, see redline: with respect to adoption of Legislative Manual)**
- 8. FYI – Litigation Report**
- 9. Other Business**
- 10. Adjournment**

#4

**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 August 25, 2025
(Immediately following the Economic Development Mtg. beginning at 5:30pm)

The meeting was called to order at 5:36pm by Chairman Birmingham who requested Legislator Ellner lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Ellner and Gouldman and Chairman Birmingham were present.

Item #3 – Chairman’s Verbal Report

Chairman Birmingham explained why #11 on this evening’s agenda is listed as “Other Business of any Matters Proposed by a Member of the Legislature”. He stated at last month’s Rules Committee Meeting there was confusion pertaining to what “other business” entails on a committee level. He stated historically, it is for any matter to be raised by a Legislator. He stated sometimes there are attendees who sit through a Legislative Meeting thinking the “other business” item is a catch-all. He stated the best way for an item to get onto an agenda is for it to be brought to the attention of the Committee Chair. He stated he will be wording the “other business” similarly on future agendas and encouraged his colleagues to do the same.

Item #4 – Acceptance of Minutes – March 17, 2025

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #5 – Approval – Budgetary Transfer 25T220 – County Contribution –
Subcontingency – Garrison Art Center**

Chairman Birmingham stated Legislator Montgomery was unable to attend this evening’s meeting but provided her support for this in writing.

Sean Conway, President of the Board of Directors of the Garrison Art Center, stated the Garrison Art Center is a 61-year-old non-profit art school and gallery on the waterfront in Garrison. He stated since their inception they have been utilizing the same building which was built in the 1840’s, which is charming and inspiring, however it has limitations in terms of accessibility. He stated this funding would go toward a feasibility study, the first step in the process of making the building more accessible. He stated this would allow them to make plans for improvements moving forward.

Chairman Birmingham explained the process of an outside agency, or contract agency, receiving funding from the County. He stated the County enters a contract with an

agency that performs a service that the County is unable to. He clarified this allocation is not a grant. He thanked Mr. Conway for his overview and stated his support for this allocation.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the necessary informational paperwork had been filed with the County during last year's budget process.

Mr. Conway stated he does not believe so, but any necessary information can be provided.

Chairman Birmingham stated the Administration requires specific information be submitted before providing County funding.

Legislator Crowley agreed and stated it is only fair that each agency goes through the same vetting process. She suggested this item be tabled until that information is provided.

Chairman Birmingham stated he believes the information can be submitted and vetted without having to be tabled this evening.

Legislator Crowley stated some agencies had to wait months for their funding. She questioned if this should be tabled for next month, so the Legislators have an opportunity to review the submitted information. She requested that all agencies be treated fairly and go through the same procedure.

Chairman Birmingham stated he is not inclined to table this request this evening. He stated this can be moved forward to the Full Legislative Meeting where Legislators have an opportunity to discuss it again.

Legislator Crowley stated as long as the necessary documents are submitted with enough time to be reviewed prior to the Full Legislative Meeting. She stated it is important that this follows the same review process of the other outside agencies, otherwise she believes the Legislature is doing a disservice to the other agencies.

Chairman Birmingham stated those are fair points. He stated moving it out of Committee this evening allows that process to move forward.

Legislator Ellner stated there has been some turnover in the Finance Department and there is no one present this evening to speak to this, and these documents may already be in the County's possession. He suggested making this contingent upon receipt of the necessary information.

Legislator Crowley requested clarification if the documents have been submitted.

Mr. Conway stated he did not personally submit the documents, the Executive Director may have.

County Auditor Michele Alfano-Sharkey stated nothing was received this year, she would have to check if anything was received last year.

Legislator Crowley stated in order to be consistent, she would like to see this documentation, whether it comes from the Commissioner of Finance or from Garrison Art Center directly. She stated process and transparency are important and requested the documents be submitted with enough time to review prior to the September 2, 2025 Full Legislative Meeting.

Chairman Birmingham stated the Committee will either pre-file the resolution this evening or not. He stated each Legislator can use whatever metrics they wish to make their voting decision. He stated he would like to see the documentation as well and agreed the process should be the same for each agency. He stated he does not see the utility in delaying this tonight.

Legislator Ellner stated the process needs to be fair to the agencies as well as the taxpayers. He stated the required documentation should have been requested once the funding request was put forward. He stated he is in favor of moving this forward.

Legislator Sayegh stated she is looking back at the documents received during last year's budget process and the Garrison Art Center provided the necessary information along with their request for \$9,800. She stated this request was not funded in the 2025 budget.

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

Item #6 – Approval – Fund Transfer 25T245 – Subcontingency – County Contribution – CAREERS Support Solutions

Legislator Sayegh stated the required documentation from CAREERS Support Solutions is on file. She stated this agency requested \$30,000 in the 2025 budget process and received \$15,000. She stated this fund transfer would provide that additional \$15,000. She stated this agency was present at last month's meeting to provide an overview.

Brett Yarris, resident of Carmel, stated CAREERS Support Solutions provides vocational training to adults with special needs. He stated this is the type of investment the County should be making in the community. He stated historically, adult workforce development pays off in terms of return on investment. He stated he would like to see even more funding provided in the future, especially when considering the large fund balance the County has. He stated he is thrilled that the Early Learning Center is moving forward and this is the next investment that needs to be made for that community. He stated parents of special needs children share the concern of what will happen to their child when they are no longer here. He stated investments in agencies

such as CAREERS Support Solutions can help ease those fears. He stated often, these individuals have to relocate upon graduation and aging out of school programs to receive necessary support because their home community does not offer any. He stated this investment helps our residents stay close to home and is a wise financial decision due to the return on investment in adult workforce investment.

Legislator Ellner stated CAREERS Support Solutions works with individuals with special needs by providing training and job placement, while continuing to support them. He stated his support for this funding.

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

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

Item #7 – Approval – Fund Transfer 25T249 – Veterans Service Agency – Row of Honor Flags

Director of the Veterans Service Agency Karl Rohde stated this will allow them to replace the flags and poles used for the Row of Honor. He stated the flagpoles they currently have are inadequate and DPW (Department of Public Works) spends a great deal of time each year repairing and painting them and they are no longer holding up. He stated the flags being purchased are also better quality so they will not fade or fray as easily. He stated they are also looking into updating the program itself as it is no longer self-sustaining.

Chairman Birmingham questioned how long the Row of Honor program has been in place.

Director Rohde stated that former County Executive MaryEllen Odell started it about 12 years ago.

Legislator Crowley stated her understanding of the Row of Honor process was that the flags would be purchased at \$100 each in dedication to a Veteran and are put back up each year. She questioned if the process has changed.

Director Rohde stated the process has not changed yet. He stated they are going to limit the number of flags to 500; there have been over 600. He stated originally, the flags were purchased once and would be put up indefinitely, however a time limit will now be implemented because it became too costly. He stated they have not yet determined the price or time frame. He stated that since beginning the Row of Honor, every flag has had to be replaced.

Legislator Crowley questioned how the number of flags will be lowered if there are already over 500.

Director Rohde stated there were many complimentary flags put up honoring members of local Veterans agencies that had passed, which can be removed from the total count at this point. He stated there were also some families who purchased multiple flags without realizing the flag would remain.

Legislator Crowley questioned if the purchasers will be notified at the time of renewal.

Director Rohde stated yes, they are thinking about having the flags up for three (3) years after purchase.

Legislator Crowley stated she would like to see a similar program implemented for the Hometown Hero banners to make sure faded or torn banners are replaced.

Director Rohde stated he is working with a widow of a veteran who took his own life and with the help of Legislator Crowley through her other job, he was able to provide flags to his children.

Legislator Ellner stated he purchased a flag for his father when the Row of Honor began and he sees the value in replacing the poles and flags to keep this program going.

Legislator Russo thanked Director Rohde for his hard work for the veterans in our community.

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

Item #8 – Approval – Budgetary Transfer 25T250 – County Contribution – Subcontingency – Boscobel House and Gardens

Abigail Addams, Communications and Marketing Manager at Boscobel House and Gardens stated their funding request is to bolster their Patriots and Loyalists program. She stated this program reaches about 80 schools both in Putnam County and beyond. She stated with this additional funding they would be able to expand their reach, specifically into older grade levels. She stated this funding would also help the program in their celebration of Revolutionary 250 next year.

Chairman Birmingham questioned how many visitors Boscobel gets per year.

Ms. Addams stated they get about 70,000 guests per year. She stated they are also the only museum in the area with a dedicated education team.

Amber Stickle, Deputy Director of Operations and Facilities at Boscobel House and Gardens stated Boscobel is working on reopening following the collapse of their ceiling. She stated they are now in a good place to get their education programming going and this funding would greatly benefit them.

Legislator Gouldman stated Boscobel is a wonderful place.

Legislator Sayegh questioned which schools within Putnam County work with Boscobel.

Ms. Stickle stated prior to the ceiling collapse, they saw every district in Putnam County. She stated their education program is built off the New York State 4th grade curriculum, which focuses on New York State history. She stated their goal is to expand the program to encompass Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the repairs on the building have been finished.

Ms. Addams stated the building is safe and is open to the public. She stated their tours are "Restoration in Progress" tours as the period furniture and wall furnishings are not yet back in place.

Ms. Stickle stated it is an exciting time because each time people visit it will be a little different.

Legislator Sayegh stated the required documentation has been provided by Boscobel.

Legislator Crowley stated that even the restoration progress is an educational tool, it allows visitors to see how things were once built and how much work goes into preserving and repairing historic structures.

Ms. Stickle stated the ceiling collapse has provided the opportunity to redefine how they share history and architecture. She stated this also allows them to revamp what they have been doing and catch up with technology.

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

Item #9 – Approval – Budgetary Transfer 25T251 – County Contribution – Subcontingency – Second Chance Foods

Martha Elder, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Second Chance Foods, thanked the Committee for their consideration. She stated they have huge presence in Putnam County with 17 distribution points. She stated through May they had distributed 100,000 pounds of groceries and 80,000 meals at no cost to the recipient. She stated they provide meals to residents of local motels, and adult protective services picks up food each week for clients. She stated they have seven freezers throughout the County, and they service six food pantries and soup kitchens. She stated there has recently been inflation on food products, directly impacting the need for these types of services. She stated at the same time, the Federal Government took away \$70,000 of pre-promised funding, which has increased the pressure to meet the needs of the community and make up that lost funding.

Chairman Birmingham thanked Executive Director Elder for her hard work for the people of Putnam County. He stated last September he attended a fundraiser hosted by Second Chance Foods, and the food served there was the food served to their clients, which was delicious and a great way to raise awareness.

Legislator Gouldman stated the work done in the community is great, especially during the COVID pandemic.

Legislator Crowley stated her appreciation for Second Chance Foods. She stated she hopes the funding is restored so support for these clients, especially seniors, can continue. She stated the food truck is also very popular among the clients as well.

Legislator Sayegh thanked Executive Director Elder for her work. She stated she has been surprised by how many people are in need of food; they are from all walks of life. She stated Putnam County has a high ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) population, which means these individuals do not qualify for other services but do not necessarily earn enough to provide for themselves and their families. She stated programs like Second Chance Foods help this population immensely. She questioned what the process is for individuals residing in a motel.

Ms. Elder stated the hotel or motel manager will contact Second Chance Foods to notify them of individuals or families staying there and are in need. She stated homeless individuals automatically get added to their list. She stated for these clients specifically, they make sure the meals provided can be heated up using what is available in a hotel or motel room, usually a microwave.

Chairman Birmingham stated the administrative side of the organization is just as important as the food preparation and distribution.

Ms. Elder stated yes, it is very complex. She stated she invites everyone to come and see the operation in action.

Legislator Gouldman requested that Executive Director Elder provide information on how to stay updated with Second Chance Foods.

Ms. Elder stated their website is <https://secondchancefoods.org/> and they are on social media.

Legislator Russo stated over the years she has donated and volunteered with Second Chance Foods. She stated a lot of work is put into each step of this process. She stated having seen it firsthand, she can really appreciate the hard work.

Ms. Elder stated there are over 400 volunteers each year.

Director Rohde stated Second Chance Foods also supports Veterans Home by providing food and meals. He stated he would also like to highlight that Executive Director Elder will also sometimes get flowers from the supermarkets that would otherwise be disposed of and give them to clients along with their food. He stated the clients are always so touched by this extra gesture.

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

Item #10 – FYI – Litigation Report – Duly Noted

Item #11 – Other Business of any Matters Proposed by a Member of the Legislature

Chairman Birmingham stated Putnam County lost a hero this past Friday, August 22, 2025 when Sheriff Kevin McConville passed away. He requested a moment of silence in his honor.

Item #12 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:28pm, Legislator Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Chairman Birmingham. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Robinson.

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Amy E. Sayegh *Chairwoman*
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Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
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Greg E. Ellner	Dist. 5
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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 August 25, 2025
(Immediately following the Economic Development Mtg. beginning at 5:30pm)

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Chairman's Verbal Report**
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes – March 17, 2025**
- 5. Approval – Budgetary Transfer 25T220 – County Contribution – Subcontingency – Garrison Art Center**
- 6. Approval – Fund Transfer 25T245 – Subcontingency – County Contribution – CAREERS Support Solutions**
- 7. Approval – Fund Transfer 25T249 – Veterans Service Agency – Row of Honor Flags**
- 8. Approval – Budgetary Transfer 25T250 – County Contribution – Subcontingency – Boscobel House and Gardens**
- 9. Approval – Budgetary Transfer 25T251 – County Contribution – Subcontingency – Second Chance Foods**
- 10. FYI – Litigation Report**
- 11. Other Business of any Matters Proposed by a Member of the Legislature**
- 12. Adjournment**

WILLIAM J. CARLIN, Jr. CPA
Commissioner Of Finance



KEVIN M. BYRNE
PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Call
Rules
Audit

Reso
#5

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Diane Trabulsy, Legislative Clerk
From: William J. Carlin, Jr., Interim Commissioner of Finance
Re: Budgetary Amendment - 25A096
Date: October 8, 2025

WJC

LEGISLATURE
PUTNAM COUNTY
CARROLL, NY

2025 OCT 22 PM 2:45

At the request of the Commissioner of Finance, the following budgetary amendment is required.

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

10990100 59020 50245	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	149,594
10990100 59020 51622	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	11,412
10990100 59020 52420	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	500,078
10990100 59020 51914	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	1,450,384
10990100 59020 52202	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	40,378
10990100 59020 52225	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	120,176
10990100 59020 52227	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	15,623
10990100 59020 52405	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	254,617
10990100 59020 52228	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	77,907
10990100 59020 52224	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	91,476
10990100 59020 51601	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	85,284
10990100 59020 52214	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	63,916
10990100 59020 52215	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	80,092
10990100 59020 52217	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	542,570
10990100 59020 52219	Transfer to Capital Fund - ARPA	542,500
		4,026,007

Increase Estimated Revenues:

10131000 449898 50245	Fed Aid - ARPA	149,594
10131000 449898 51622	Fed Aid - ARPA	11,412
10131000 449898 52420	Fed Aid - ARPA	500,078
10131000 449898 51914	Fed Aid - ARPA	1,450,384
10131000 449898 52202	Fed Aid - ARPA	40,378
10131000 449898 52225	Fed Aid - ARPA	120,176
10131000 449898 52227	Fed Aid - ARPA	15,623
10131000 449898 52405	Fed Aid - ARPA	254,617
10131000 449898 52228	Fed Aid - ARPA	77,907
10131000 449898 52224	Fed Aid - ARPA	91,476
10131000 449898 51601	Fed Aid - ARPA	85,284



MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislator Daniel G. Birmingham, Chair, Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee
FROM: Barbara Barosa, Commissioner, Department of Planning, Development & Public Transportation
CC: Kevin Byrne, County Executive
DATE: November 3, 2025
RE: Proposed Code Amendments to Transportation Advisory Council

Attached please find a proposed Resolution amending the Putnam County Transportation Advisory Council, located within §25-39 through §25-44 of the Putnam County Code.

The proposed amendments seek to update the council membership, clarify and update its powers and duties, and ensure it will successfully fulfill its responsibilities as outlined in the code. Furthermore, amendments to the membership of the council will assist with recruitment efforts and form a council with a diverse background capable of considering the various needs of residents utilizing the County transit system.

I respectfully request this proposal to be placed on the next Rules Committee agenda for the Legislature's discussion/consideration. This proposal has been reviewed by the Law Department and County Executive's office, who support the suggested changes to the code and welcome the Legislature's discussion and review.

2025 NOV -4 AM 10:35
LEGISLATURE
PUTNAM COUNTY
CARMEL, NY

**A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 25, ARTICLE VI, ENTITLED
"TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL"**

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

<<PUTNAM COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 25>>

<<ARTICLE VI>>

Section 1.

Section 25 of the Putnam County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 25-39. Establishment.

There is hereby created and established in the County of Putnam, New York, a Transportation Advisory Council to be known as the "Putnam County Transportation Advisory Council," and said Board shall be and exist for the benefit of the County of Putnam and the inhabitants thereof, and same is hereby established for the accomplishment of any and all purposes provided by law.

§ 25-40. Membership and term.

A) Membership of the Transportation Advisory Council shall consist of the following:

(1) There shall be seven members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Legislature, who reside or are employed in the County of Putnam. One member shall be a representative of the Putnam County business community, one member shall have experience or knowledge in the field of human services or intellectual & developmental disabilities, one member shall be a citizen at large, one member shall be a citizen eligible for Putnam County Paratransit services, one member shall have experience utilizing the PART system as a rider, one member shall have experience or knowledge in the medical services field, and one member shall have experience or knowledge as a transit operator.

(2) Ex-officio members shall be the Chairman of the Physical Services Committee, the Commissioner of Planning, Development and Public Transportation or their appointee, the Commissioner of Social Services or their appointee, the Commissioner of Health/ Public Health Director or their appointee, the Director of Tourism or their appointee, the Director of the Office for Senior Resources or their appointee, and the Director of the Office of Veterans Affairs or their appointee. Ex-officio members are non-voting members that serve in an advisory capacity.

B) All appointed members shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive during their three-year term of appointment.

C) Appointed member vacancies on the Transportation Advisory Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, except that a vacancy occurring through circumstances other than by expiration of a term shall be filled only for the remainder of said term.

D) An appointed member of the Transportation Advisory Council shall serve until his or her successor has been appointed.

§ 25-41. Chairperson.

The Chairperson of the Transportation Advisory Council shall be the Commissioner of Planning, Development and Public Transportation or their appointee.

§ 25-42. Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the Transportation Advisory Council shall be to:

A) Review and make recommendations to the County Executive and Legislature regarding all facets of public transportation, including guidelines, policies and procedures, in order to improve efficiencies, better manage assets, leverage resources and create partnerships to identify savings and improve transportation services.

B) Perform duties assigned to the Council in the Putnam County Department of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation's PART System Policy & Procedures Manual.

C) Provide annual updates to the Legislature.

D) Make recommendations for infrastructure improvements and other transportation additions to be included in the capital plan to the Commissioner of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation.

§ 25-43. Meetings.

A) The Transportation Advisory Council shall hold regular meetings in accordance with federal and state requirements, and at such other times as its Chairperson deems necessary for the efficient discharge of the business of the Transportation Advisory Council. Transportation Advisory Council meetings shall comply with the New York State Open Meetings Law.^[1]

[1]

Editor's Note: See Public Officers Law, Art. 7, § 100 et seq.

B) The Transportation Advisory Council shall adopt rules and procedures for its meetings.

C) The Transportation Advisory Council shall maintain minutes of the proceedings of all meetings, memorializing votes taken, questions asked, and comments made with regard to the business before the Transportation Advisory Council.

D) Four members of the Transportation Advisory Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

§ 25-44. Compensation.

The members of the Transportation Advisory Council shall receive no compensation for their services.

Section 2.

This local law shall take effect immediately.

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #165

Introduced by Legislator: Ginny Nacerino on behalf of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee at a Regular Meeting held on August 7, 2013.

page 1

APPROVAL/LOCAL LAW/AMEND CHAPTER 25/CODE OF PUTNAM COUNTY ENTITLED "COUNCILS AND COMMISSIONS"

A Local Law to Amend Chapter 25 of the Code of Putnam County entitled "Councils and Commissions"

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUTY OF PUTNAM, as follows:

Section 1.

A new Article VI entitled "Transportation Advisory Council" is hereby added to Chapter 25 of the Code of Putnam County to read as follows:

Section 25-39. Establishment.

There is hereby created and established in the County of Putnam, New York a Transportation Advisory Council to be known as the "Putnam County Transportation Advisory Council", and said Board shall be and exist for the benefit of the County of Putnam and the inhabitants thereof, and same is hereby established for the accomplishment of any and all purposes provided by law.

Section 25-40. Membership and term.

A) Membership in the Transportation Advisory Council shall consist of the following:

(1) There shall be seven (7) members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Legislature, who reside in the County of Putnam. One member shall be a representative of the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce; one member shall be a real estate and/or commerce professional; one member shall be a representative for people with disabilities; one member shall be a representative of the taxi & limousine business; one member shall be a citizen-at-large; one member shall be a citizen with a mental impairment; and one member shall be a citizen with a physical disability.

Vote:

State Of New York

ss:

County of Putnam

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on August 7, 2013.

Dated: August 9, 2013

Signed:

Diane Schonfeld

Clerk Of The Legislature Of Putnam County

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #165

Introduced by Legislator: Ginny Nacerino on behalf of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee at a Regular Meeting held on August 7, 2013.

page 2

(2) Ex-officio members shall be the Putnam County Transportation Manager or an appointee of the Commissioner of Planning, Development and Public Transportation, the Chairman of the Physical Services Committee, the Chair of the Economic Development & Energy Committee, the Commissioner of Planning, Development and Public Transportation, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Commissioner of Health, the Director of Tourism, the Director of Office for the Aging, the Director of Consumer Affairs, the Director of the Economic Development Corporation, the Director of the Office of Veterans Affairs.

B) All appointed members shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive during their three (3) year term of appointment.

C) Appointed member vacancies on the Transportation Advisory Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, except that a vacancy occurring through circumstances other than by expiration of a term shall be filled only for the remainder of said term.

D) An appointed member of the Transportation Advisory Council shall serve until his or her successor has been appointed.

Section 25-41. Chairperson.

The Chairperson of the Transportation Advisory Council shall be the Putnam County Transportation Manager or the appointee of the Commissioner of Planning, Development and Public Transportation.

Section 25-42. Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the Transportation Advisory Council shall be to:

A) Explore opportunities and make recommendations to the County Executive and Legislature exploring all facets of Public Transportation in order to improve efficiencies, better manage assets, leverage resources and create partnerships to save dollars and improve transportation services.

Vote:

State Of New York

ss:

County of Putnam

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on August 7, 2013.

Dated: August 9, 2013

Signed: _____

Diane Schonfeld
Clerk Of The Legislature Of Putnam County

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #165

Introduced by Legislator: Ginny Nacerino on behalf of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee at a Regular Meeting held on August 7, 2013.

page 3

- B) Provide quarterly updates and make annual presentations to the Legislature.**
- C) Make recommendations for a marketing plan, advertising opportunities and promotions to the County Executive and the Legislature, as needed.**
- D) Conduct annual comprehensive assessments by reviewing and analyzing routes. The review should include the right sizing of vehicles for needed services and the coordination with all other modes of transportation for optimizing scheduling and connecting services.**
- E) Study the Triennial Review conducted by the Federal Transit Authority and make appropriate improvements and recommendations.**
- F) Make recommendations for infrastructure improvements and other transportation additions to be included in the capital plan to the Commissioner of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation. These improvements may include rolling inventory, bus shelters, and bus stops.**
- G) Make recommendations regarding the creation and contents of a countywide Taxi & Limousine Law.**
- H) Coordinate and provide a venue for transportation safety-net hearings related to Paratransit and Putnam Paratransit +, and act on a case-by-case basis to make recommendations for those who need transportation. The Transportation Advisory Council shall also give guidance with regard to guidelines, policies and procedures with regard to Paratransit, Putnam Paratransit + and other special needs transportation services.**

Section 25-43. Meetings.

- A) The Transportation Advisory Council shall hold meetings at least monthly, and at such other times as its Chairperson deems necessary for the efficient discharge of**

Vote:

State Of New York

ss:

County of Putnam

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on August 7, 2013.

Dated: August 9, 2013

Signed: _____

Diane Schonfeld
Clerk Of The Legislature Of Putnam County

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #165

Introduced by Legislator: Ginny Nacerino on behalf of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee at a Regular Meeting held on August 7, 2013.

page 4

the business of the Transportation Advisory Council. Transportation Advisory Council meetings shall comply with the New York State Open Meetings Law.

B) The Transportation Advisory Council shall adopt rules and procedures for its meetings.

C) The Transportation Advisory Council shall maintain minutes of the proceedings of all meetings, memorializing votes taken, questions asked, and comments made with regard to the business before the Transportation Advisory Council.

D) Four (4) members of the Transportation Advisory Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

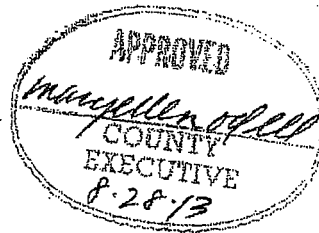
Section 25-44. Compensation.

The members of the Transportation Advisory Council shall receive no compensation for their services.

Section 2.

This local law shall take effect immediately.

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



Vote:
State Of New York

ss:

County of Putnam

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on August 7, 2013.

Dated: August 9, 2013

Signed: Diane Schonfeld

Diane Schonfeld
Clerk Of The Legislature Of Putnam County

A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR A COUNSEL TO THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND A COUNSEL TO THE MINORITY OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE.

Section 1. The Legislature of the County of Putnam, New York hereby makes the following findings and determinations:

(a) That the system of checks and balances inherent in the separation of powers of each branch of the government is vitally important to prevent the concentration of power in any one branch of government, thereby protecting individual liberties and preventing one branch of government from having supremacy over another; and

(b) that in order for the County Legislature to have the capacity to prepare legislation independent of, as well as in cooperation with, the Executive Branch, the County Legislature hereby finds that given the separate branches of County Government, the County Legislature requires Counsel to the Legislature which is separate from and not dependent upon the approval and resources of the County Executive and Executive Branch; and

(c) that the Putnam County Legislature hereby finds and determines that the interests and requirements of legislative responsibility and authority will be better served by the creation of a Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature ("Majority Counsel") and a Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature ("Minority Counsel"); and

(d) that the Putnam County Legislature hereby determines that the interests and requirements of legislative responsibility and authority will be better served by such Majority Counsel and Minority Counsel providing advice and recommendations to the majority members of the County Legislature and to the minority members of the County Legislature, respectively, in the drafting of legislation and otherwise and, as desired, in cooperation and consultation with the County Attorney and the Department of Law,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM AS FOLLOWS:

Section 2. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the County Charter, there is hereby established the positions of Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature to be appointed in the manner and have the powers as provided herein.

Section 3. Article 2, of the Putnam County Charter is hereby amended by adding a new Section as follows:

§ 2.11 Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and Counsel to Minority of the County Legislature.

(a) The members of the County Legislature enrolled in the political party representing the largest number of County Legislators shall on the first day in January 2026 or as soon thereafter as practicable, and annually thereafter, appoint a Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature. Such Counsel to the Majority shall be chosen by the affirmative vote of the majority of such majority members of the County Legislature. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Counsel to

the Majority of the County Legislature, a replacement may be chosen thereafter by the affirmative vote of the majority of such majority members of the County Legislature.

(b) The members of the County Legislature enrolled in the political party representing the next largest number of County Legislators shall on the first day in January 2026 or as soon thereafter as practicable, and annually thereafter, appoint a Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature. Such Minority Counsel shall be chosen by the affirmative vote of the majority of such minority members of the County Legislature. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature, a replacement may be chosen thereafter by the affirmative vote of the majority of such minority members of the County Legislature.

(c) Powers and duties of each of the Counsel to the Majority and Counsel to the Minority shall include:

(1) Oversee the preparation of local laws, ordinances, acts and resolutions upon receipt of a request.

(2) Research problems related to the function, powers and duties of the County Legislature and its employees.

(3) Prepare written reports on the breadth and depth of the function, powers and duties of the County Legislature and its employees.

(4) As requested, attend full Legislative meetings, special meetings and committee meetings.

(5) Provide advice to the members of the County Legislature on Rules of Order and other procedural questions as they arise or as requested during Legislative meetings.

(6) Recommend procedures in connection with the implementation of policy for the County Legislature.

(7) Recommend and coordinate appropriate ways to communicate initiatives and policy of the County Legislature through media and other mechanisms.

(8) Perform a variety of related activities as required, not inconsistent with Section 501 of the County Law.

(d) At the time of their appointments, and throughout their time in office, the Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and the Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature shall be duly admitted to practice law in the State of New York.

Section 4. If any provision of this Local Law is held to be illegal or invalid for any reason, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof, but such provision shall be fully severable and this Local Law shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision had never been included.

Section 5. Pursuant to Section 34(5) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, this Local Law shall take effect sixty (60) days after its final enactment and is subject to permissive referendum.

A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR A COUNSEL TO THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND A COUNSEL TO THE MINORITY OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE.

Section 1. The Legislature of the County of Putnam, New York hereby makes the following findings and determinations:

(a) That the system of checks and balances inherent in the separation of powers of each branch of the government is vitally important to prevent the concentration of power in any one branch of government, thereby protecting individual liberties and preventing one branch of government from having supremacy over another; and

(b) that in order for the County Legislature to have the capacity to prepare legislation independent of, as well as in cooperation with, the Executive Branch, the County Legislature hereby finds that given the separate branches of County Government, the County Legislature requires Counsel to the Legislature which is separate from and not dependent upon the approval and resources of the County Executive and Executive Branch; and

(c) that the Putnam County Legislature hereby finds and determines that the interests and requirements of legislative responsibility and authority will be better served by the creation of a Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature ("Majority Counsel") and a Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature ("Minority Counsel"); and

(d) that the Putnam County Legislature hereby determines that the interests and requirements of legislative responsibility and authority will be better served by such Majority Counsel and Minority Counsel ~~shall provide~~ing advice and recommendations to the majority members of the County Legislature and to the minority members of the County Legislature, respectively, in the drafting of legislation and otherwise and, as desired, in cooperation and consultation with the County Attorney and the Department of Law,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM AS FOLLOWS:

Section 2. Notwithstanding any other provisions of ~~law~~, the County Charter, there is hereby established at the positions of Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature to be appointed in the manner and have the powers as provided herein.

Section 3. Article 2, of the Putnam County Charter is hereby amended by adding a new Section as follows:

§ 2.11 Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and Counsel to Minority of the County Legislature.

(a) ~~There is established a Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and a Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature.~~

~~(b)~~ The members of the County Legislature enrolled in the political party representing the largest number of County Legislators shall on the first day in January 2026 or as soon thereafter as practicable, and ~~every three years~~ annually thereafter, appoint a Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature. Such Counsel to the Majority shall be chosen by the affirmative vote of the majority of such majority members of the County Legislature. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature, a replacement may be chosen thereafter by the affirmative vote of the majority of such majority members of the County Legislature.

~~(c)~~ The members of the County Legislature enrolled in the political party representing the next largest number of County Legislators shall on the first day in January 2026 or as soon thereafter as practicable, and ~~every three years~~ annually thereafter, appoint a Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature. Such Minority Counsel shall be chosen by the affirmative vote of the majority of such minority members of the County Legislature. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature, a replacement may be chosen thereafter by the affirmative vote of the majority of such minority members of the County Legislature.

~~(d)~~ Powers and duties of each of the Counsel to the Majority and Counsel to the Minority shall include:

(1) Oversee the preparation of local laws, ordinances, acts and resolutions upon receipt of a request.

(2) Research problems related to the function, powers and duties of the County Legislature and its employees.

(3) Prepare written reports on the breadth and depth of the function, powers and duties of the County Legislature and its employees.

(4) As requested, Attend ~~all~~ full Legislative ~~M~~meetings ~~and all~~, special meetings and, ~~as requested,~~ committee meetings.

(5) Provide advice to the members of the County Legislature on Rules of Order and other procedural questions as they arise or as requested during Legislative meetings.

(6) Recommend procedures in connection with the implementation of policy for the County Legislature.

(7) Recommend and coordinate appropriate ways to communicate initiatives and policy of the County Legislature through media and other mechanisms.

(8) Perform a variety of related activities as required, not inconsistent with Section 501 of the County Law.

~~(e)~~ At the time of their appointments, and throughout their time in office, the Counsel to the Majority of the County Legislature and the Counsel to the Minority of the County Legislature shall be duly admitted to practice law in the State of New York.

Section 34. If any provision of this Local Law is held to be illegal or invalid for any reason, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof, but such provision shall be fully severable and this Local Law shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision had never been included.

Section 45. Pursuant to Section 34(5) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, this Local Law shall take effect sixty (60) days after its final enactment and is subject to permissive referendum.

#8

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 Trubulsky *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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Compton Spain
County Attorney

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

DATE: November 5, 2025

RE: Legislators' Access to County Files

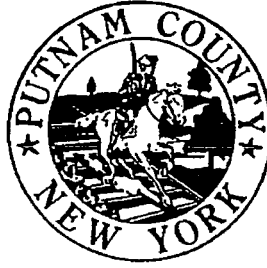
The Monday, November 10, 2025 Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting will include a discussion pertaining to Legislators' access to County files.

Respectfully, I request you or a representative attend said meeting to participate in the discussion. Please confirm your availability with the Legislative Office. Thank you.

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 Trabulsy *Clerk*

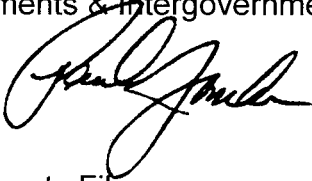


Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Laura E. Russo	Dist. 4
Greg E. Ellner	Dist. 5
Paul E. Jonke	Dist. 6
Daniel G. Birmingham	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 5, 2025

TO: Daniel Birmingham
Chairman, Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Paul Jonke
Legislator, District #6 

RE: Legislators' Access to County Files

I have recently requested access to real estate files held by the County Attorney's Office and have been obstructed by the County Attorney.

Respectfully, I request a discussion pertaining to Legislators' access to County records be placed on the November 10, 2025 Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting. Please also invite County Attorney Compton Spain to said meeting to participate in the discussion.

November 10, 2025
Rules Meeting

#9
FYI – Litigation Report