

**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
HELD IN THE  
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Tuesday**                      **April 1, 2025**                      **7:00 P.M.**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Gouldman who presented the “Alcohol Awareness” proclamation to Commissioner of Social Services Sara Servadio, Executive Director, Prevention Council of Putnam Kristin McConnell and Dual Recovery Coordinator Lauren Johnson.

**APRIL 2025 AS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in the United States. 28.8 million adults ages 18 and older suffer from a diagnosable Alcohol Use Disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, underage alcohol presents an enormous public health issue and alcohol is the most prevalently used substance among children and adolescents. Annually, approximately 3,602 youth under the age of 21 die from motor vehicle crashes, other unintentional injuries, homicides, and suicides that involve underage drinking; 140,000 persons die each year from alcohol-related causes: drinking and driving crashes, other accidents, falls, fires, alcohol-related homicides and suicides; and

**WHEREAS**, negative health, social, and economic problems result from the use of alcohol by youth. Underage alcohol use is a causal factor in a host of serious problems, including traumatic injury, violent and property crime, high-risk sexual activity, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, alcohol poisoning, and need for treatment for Alcohol Use Disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 Prevention Needs Assessment Survey reports that 34% of Putnam 12<sup>th</sup> graders have used alcohol in the past thirty days; and

**WHEREAS**, young people who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop Alcohol Use Disorder than those who begin drinking at age 21; and

**WHEREAS**, over 7.5 million children live in a household where at least one parent is dependent on or has misused alcohol; and

**WHEREAS**, alcohol-related problems cost America \$249 billion in lost productivity, absenteeism, healthcare costs, crime, and family-related problems; and

**WHEREAS**, the typical American will see 100,000 beer commercials before they turn 18; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim April 2025 as Alcohol Awareness Month and along with the Putnam County Department of Mental Health, Carmel Communities That Care Coalition and all

prevention, treatment and recovery providers in Putnam County; all residents are encouraged to increase their awareness of substance use disorders and the risks associated with underage drinking; all residents are encouraged to make referrals for low-threshold supportive services for any concerns of underage alcohol use or alcohol misuse.

Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Jonke who presented the “Autism Acceptance” proclamation to Commissioner of Social Services Sara Servadio, Coordinator for Individuals with Disabilities Dana Touponse, Individuals from the Arc Mid-Hudson Thomas McCarthy and Peter Ballantine, Arc Mid-Hudson Regional Director David Zoller, Individual from Community Based Services Erin Hayes, and Interarts Program Coordinator Taylor Martin.

#### **APRIL AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental difference affecting 1 in 36 children and 1 in 45 adults in the United States today; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with autism are integral members of our communities, contributing their talents, insights, and passions to all aspects of society; and

**WHEREAS**, the focus should shift from mere awareness to genuine acceptance and inclusion, recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals with autism; and

**WHEREAS**, understanding and respecting neurodiversity fosters a more inclusive and equitable society, where differences are celebrated and embraced; and

**WHEREAS**, fostering inclusive environments requires ongoing education, advocacy, and collaboration among individuals, families, educators, healthcare professionals, employers, and policymakers; and

**WHEREAS**, April provides a dedicated time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with Autism, and to address the challenges they may face; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Putnam County Executive and Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim April 2025 as Autism Acceptance Month and that during this month, we reaffirm our commitment along with local service providers, schools and organizations to:

- Promote equality and Inclusion by actively working to remove barriers and creating equitable opportunities for autistic individuals in all aspects of life.
- Foster understanding and acceptance by promoting education and awareness via events like the Putnam County Autism Awareness Walk.
- Advocate for accessibility by supporting and implementing accessible environments and resources that meet the diverse needs of autistic individuals.

Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Addonizio who presented the “Child Abuse Prevention” proclamation to Commissioner of Social Services Sara Servadio, and Program Director Child Advocacy Center Marla Behler.

#### **APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community; and

**WHEREAS**, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

**WHEREAS, the Child Advocacy Center of Putnam County, the Department of Social Services Child Protective Services, Child Welfare Services, Legal Division, and Safe Harbour Putnam County are deeply committed to serving child abuse victims and their families with sensitivity, understanding, and compassion and providing services necessary to help healing begin; and**

**WHEREAS, the Child Advocacy Center of Putnam County, the Department of Social Services Child Protective Services, Child Welfare Services, Legal Division, and Safe Harbour Putnam County especially this month should be commended and recognized for working with schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement, and the business community to implement prevention programs to ensure the physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being of the children of Putnam County; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Putnam County and acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Russo who presented the “Donate Life” proclamation to Putnam County Clerk Michael Bartolotti, and LiveOnNY representative Senior Director, Community & Government Affairs Scott Wohl.**

#### **APRIL 2025 AS DONATE LIFE MONTH**

**WHEREAS, through their membership in the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), New York’s Counties have come together to collectively support several important causes; and**

**WHEREAS, in New York State there are approximately 7,881 people waiting for an organ transplant which represents the third highest need in the nation; and there are an estimated 500 New Yorkers that die every year while waiting for an organ transplant; and**

**WHEREAS, a single individual’s donation of the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, and small intestine can save up to eight lives; donation of tissue can save and heal the lives of up to 75 others; and**

**WHEREAS, organ, eye, and tissue donation are life-giving and healing acts recognized worldwide as expressions of compassion to those in need; and**

**WHEREAS, New York State’s County governments play a key role in raising awareness of the need for organ, eye, and tissue donation through the interactions County officials have with the public with regard to this subject through local DMV offices, local boards of elections, departments of health, naturalization ceremonies, and veterans’ programs; and**

**WHEREAS, such interactions by Putnam County officials with the public provide opportunities for the provision of information on how individuals can help their fellow New Yorkers by signing up as organ and tissue donors; and**

**WHEREAS, the Putnam County Clerk’s Office, through its Department of Motor Vehicles, wishes to promote the month of April 2025 as "Donate Life Month" in Putnam County and calls on residents to join the New York State Donate Life Registry; now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature hereby proclaim the month of April 2025 as "Donate Life Month" in Putnam County and encourage County departments involved in providing information on organ and tissue donations and enrolling residents in the New York State Donate Life Registry to engage in**

activities throughout the month to increase the number of organ and tissue donors and promote awareness of the need for organ and tissue donations in Putnam County.

Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Crowley who presented the “Healthy Teen Brain” proclamation to Commissioner of Social Services Sara Servadio, Executive Director, Prevention Council of Putnam Kristin McConnell, and Dual Recovery Coordinator Lauren Johnson.

#### **APRIL 20, 2025 AS HEALTHY TEEN BRAIN DAY**

WHEREAS, our youth are our greatest joy and our hope for the future so it is necessary for us to support them in making safe and healthy decisions, while creating a supportive environment that safeguards their future; and

WHEREAS, the majority of our youth are making very healthy and safe decisions to remain marijuana-free and providing leadership in their schools and communities to help other youth remain marijuana-free; and

WHEREAS, there is strong objective evidence that marijuana is harmful to the adolescent brain, with the potential to cause distorted perceptions, difficulty with thinking and problem solving, disrupted learning and memory, and impaired reaction time, attention span, judgment, balance and coordination; and

WHEREAS, it is with special pleasure that we join with the youth and adult leaders of the Carmel Communities That Care Coalition in celebrating “Healthy Teen Brain Day” to applaud and support our youth who are making healthy decisions; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the residents of Putnam County, we are pleased and proud to join all associated with the inception of “Healthy Teen Brain Day” and urge all residents to acknowledge this very important day; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim April 20, 2025 to be Healthy Teen Brain Day in Putnam County and proudly join my fellow residents in marking this very special occasion.

Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Birmingham who presented the “National Library Week” proclamation to the Directors and Trustees of Putnam County Libraries. Mahopac Library Trustee Members Joseph Montuori, Nancy Di Maggio, and Marie Stahl. Brewster Library Trustee Kathleen Catalano, Putnam Valley Director Amina Chaudhri, Patterson Library Director Stephanie Harrison, Patterson Library Trustee George Disbrow, Kent Public Library Vice President Ava Rogers and Trustee Member Jessica McMath.

#### **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK 2025**

WHEREAS, libraries spark creativity, fuel imagination, and inspire lifelong learning, offering a space where individuals of all ages can explore new ideas and be drawn to new possibilities; and

WHEREAS, libraries serve as vibrant community hubs, connecting people with knowledge, technology, and resources while fostering civic engagement, critical thinking, and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, libraries provide free and equitable access to books, digital tools, and innovative programming, ensuring that all individuals—regardless of background—have the support they need to learn, connect, and thrive; and

**WHEREAS, libraries partner with schools, businesses, and organizations, connecting the dots to maximize resources, increase efficiency, and expand access to essential services, strengthening the entire community; and**

**WHEREAS, libraries empower job seekers, entrepreneurs, and lifelong learners by providing access to resources, training, and opportunities that support career growth and economic success; and**

**WHEREAS, libraries nurture young minds through storytimes, STEAM programs, and literacy initiatives, fostering curiosity and a love of learning that lasts a lifetime; and**

**WHEREAS, libraries protect the right to read, think, and explore without censorship, standing as champions of intellectual freedom and free expression; and**

**WHEREAS, dedicated librarians and library workers provide welcoming spaces that inspire discovery, collaboration, and creativity for all; and**

**WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, and library workers across the country are joining together to celebrate National Library Week under the theme “Drawn to the Library”; now there be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature and Putnam County Executive proclaim April 6–12, 2025, as National Library Week. During this week, we encourage all residents to visit their library, explore its resources, and celebrate all the ways that the library draws us together as a community.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Montgomery who read the “National Telecommunicators’ Week” proclamation.**

#### **APRIL 13 – 19, 2025 AS NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS’ WEEK**

**WHEREAS, the Putnam County 911 Center answered 83,201 calls for help and dispatched Fire, EMS, and Police agencies more than 24,000 times during 2024; and**

**WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire, or emergency medical services; and**

**WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters, and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and**

**WHEREAS, the safety of our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Putnam 911 communications center; and**

**WHEREAS, Emergency Service Dispatchers are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and**

**WHEREAS, Emergency Service Dispatchers are the single vital link for our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety; and**

**WHEREAS, Emergency Service Dispatchers of the Putnam 911 Communications Center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires, and treatment of patients; and**

**WHEREAS, each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim the week of April 13<sup>th</sup> through April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to be National Telecommunicators’ Week in Putnam County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our County and its citizens safe.**

Chairwoman Sayegh read the “Peers Influence Peers Partnership” proclamation.

#### **APRIL 2025 AS PEERS INFLUENCE PEERS PARTNERSHIP MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the use of alcohol and illegal drugs cause serious health, social, and educational problems for our young people; and one in four high school girls will suffer from an abusive relationship before they graduate; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been empirically proven that substance abuse is significantly involved in the three leading causes of death for young people – car crashes, homicides, and suicides – and is also a major factor in school dropouts, violence, and vandalism as well as HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, rapes, and sexual assaults; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent upturns in drug and alcohol usage, as documented in state and national surveys, show that we must target effective prevention strategies at key population groups, such as middle and high school students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Peers Influence Peers Partnership has demonstrated a great deal of initiative and sophistication in developing proactive media messages against dating and domestic violence as well as alcohol and other drug use; and

**WHEREAS**, that work, which has been aired through numerous schools and cable TV systems throughout our state, has won praise from many authorities; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby recognize April 2025 as Peers Influence Peers Partnership Month in hope that this declaration and a joint effort of all agencies and authorities to encourage young people to help others by encouraging them to live safe and healthy lives, may one day rid our children and their children’s children of the scourge of drug and alcohol abuse.

Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Ellner who presented the “Teen Driver Safety Awareness” proclamation to Undersheriff Thomas Lindert.

#### **APRIL 2025 AS TEEN DRIVER SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, statistics and experience demonstrate that the greatest danger to our youth in Putnam County, and throughout our country, are the dangers posed from traffic crashes; and

**WHEREAS**, highway crash statistics inform us that although teen drivers make up only 7% of the driving population, they comprise 11% of the injury related automobile crashes; and

**WHEREAS**, the leading cause of accidental deaths to our youthful population throughout the United States are automobile accidents; and

**WHEREAS**, analysis shows us that the reasons for teen overrepresentation in injury related automobile crashes include: driver inexperience, excessive speed, unnecessary risk taking, inattentive driving, and use of alcohol and drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, in Putnam County, we have too often experienced a tragedy with the death of a teen driver at the wheel. Many of these deaths have occurred during the spring and summer months with a high incidence rate during the period leading up to prom season; and

**WHEREAS**, all accidents are preventable and crash rates can be lowered through the use of education and awareness programs through the use of our school systems, law enforcement programs and youth services organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts,

Junior RTC programs, the Civil Air Patrol, and the Putnam County Sheriff's Office Cadet Program just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, these programs work best when there is a period set aside for local government at every level, our school districts and churches, synagogues, and youth service organizations coming together to provide these educational programs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim April 2025 as Teen Driver Safety Awareness Month in Putnam County. We encourage all levels of government, our school districts, law enforcement, our churches and synagogues, our youth service organizations and all the citizens of Putnam County to support programs that promote teen driver safety awareness in Putnam County, thereby protecting one of our most precious resources, our children and grandchildren.

**Item #4 – Correspondence**

a) County Auditor was duly noted.

There was no activity during this reporting period.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**  
(Chairman Jonke, Legislators Addonizio & Gouldman)

Item #5a – Approval – Budgetary Transfer (25T052) – Real Property – Temporary was next. Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Jonke, Chairman of the Personnel Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Addonizio and Gouldman, Legislator Jonke moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #90**

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25T052) – REAL PROPERTY – TEMPORARY**

WHEREAS, the Director of Real Property is requesting a budgetary transfer (25T052) to transfer funding from a vacant Senior Office Assistant line to the Temporary line for the extension of a Part-Time Clerk through the end of the year; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary transfer; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

**Increase Appropriations:**

10135500 51094	Temporary	14,463
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**Decrease Appropriations:**

10135500 51000 (105)	Pers. Serv – Sr. Office Assistant	14,463
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2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2026 Fiscal Impact – To Be Determined

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Item #5b – Approval – Budgetary Transfer (25T053) – Social Services – Reclassification – Temporary Youth Aid to Part-Time Youth Program Specialist was next. On behalf of the members of the Personnel Committee, Legislators Addonizio and Gouldman, Legislator Jonke moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #91**

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25T053) – SOCIAL SERVICES –  
RECLASSIFICATION – TEMPORARY YOUTH AID TO PART-TIME YOUTH PROGRAM  
SPECIALIST**

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services has requested a reclassification of a Temporary Youth Aid position to a Part-Time Youth Program Specialist; and

WHEREAS, this position will continue to work 28 hours per week with additional responsibilities including but not limited to coordinating the Youth Forum, Youth Business Market and the Youth Council Program; and

WHEREAS, to support the increase, funds are being transferred from the vacant Youth Program Specialist line, and excess Temporary funds directly related to this reclassification; and

WHEREAS, said reclassification will be effective 4/01/25; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has prepared budgetary transfer (25T053) to account for this reclassification; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary transfer; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

**GENERAL FUND:**

**Increase Appropriations:**

10731000 51000 (105)	Pers. Serv. – Youth Program Specialist	22,874
10731000 51000 10114 (105)	Pers. Serv. – Youth Program Specialist	<u>15,249</u>
		38,123

**Decrease Appropriations:**

10731000 51000 10114 (103)	Personnel Services	
	Vacant – Youth Program Specialist	6,529
10087000 51000 (103)	Personnel Services	
	Vacant – Youth Program Specialist	4,353
10731000 51094	Temporary	9,578
10731000 51094 10114	Temporary	8,437
10087000 51094	Temporary	<u>9,226</u>
		38,123

2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –  
2026 Fiscal Impact \$20,648

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**



Item #5c – Approval – Budgetary Transfer (25T056) – Social Services – Pay Differential – Coordinator of Child Support was next. On behalf of the members of the Personnel Committee, Legislators Addonizio and Gouldman, Legislator Jonke moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #92**

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25T056) – SOCIAL SERVICES – PAY DIFFERENTIAL – COORDINATOR OF CHILD SUPPORT**

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services has requested a Pay Differential related to backfill the Coordinator of Child Support role during its vacancy from 01/01/25 – 02/24/25; and

WHEREAS, this will compensate a current Child Support Specialist I for their efforts in management and execution of tasks and responsibilities to that of the Coordinator of Child Support; and

WHEREAS, in coordination with the Personnel Officer and Payroll, a two-grade adjustment plus 2% was assumed for compensation for this PuMa title (\$4.0654 per hour); and

WHEREAS, to support the increase, funds are being utilized from a vacant Account Clerk II position; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has prepared budgetary transfer (25T056) to account for this request; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary transfer; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

**GENERAL FUND:**

**Increase Appropriations:**

10108000 51091	Pay Differential	975.00
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**Decrease Appropriations:**

10108000 51000 (107)	Pers. Serv. – Account Clerk II	975.00
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2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
(Chairman Jonke, Legislators Addonizio & Birmingham)**

Item #5d – Approval – Grant Application – Social Services – Sheriff’s Office - Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY2025 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program was next. Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Jonke, Chairman of the Protective Services Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Addonizio and Birmingham, Legislator Jonke moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #93**

**APPROVAL – GRANT APPLICATION – SOCIAL SERVICES – SHERIFF’S OFFICE -  
BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) FY2025 CONNECT AND PROTECT: LAW  
ENFORCEMENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSE PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS, Section 5-1(D)(1) of the Putnam County Code requires Legislative approval of all grant applications and renewals that require County matching funds; and**

**WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services, Mental Health in conjunction with the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office requested permission to apply for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY25 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program grant; and**

**WHEREAS, said funding would support the Police & Mental Health Co-Response Team (CRT) daily operations to co-response routine and emergency calls for service involving individuals in emotional, behavioral, and psychiatric crises; and**

**WHEREAS, the anticipated award ceiling is up to \$550,000; and**

**WHEREAS, the anticipated period of performance duration is 36 months, and upon approval will go into effect October 1, 2025; and**

**WHEREAS, in years one (1) and two (2) there is a County match of 20% and a 60% County match in year three (3); and**

**WHEREAS, the grant application deadline is April 3, 2025; and**

**WHEREAS, the Protective Services Committee has reviewed and approved this request; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Department of Social Services, Mental Health in conjunction with the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office is authorized to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs for the BJA FY25 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
(Chairman Birmingham, Legislators Ellner & Gouldman)**

**Item #5e – Approval – Budgetary Transfer (25T064) – Putnam Arts Council – County Contribution – Subcontingency was next. Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Birmingham, Chairman of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Birmingham moved the following:**

**Legislator Birmingham explained about the positive discussion during the Rules Committee meeting in March regarding what the Putnam Arts Council provides on behalf of the people of Putnam County. He explained that these funds are used to fund cultural and artistic events throughout the County. He explained that the Putnam Arts Council reviews and chooses from the many applicants who offer programs that will enrich our culture here in Putnam County. He stated during the discussion at the Committee meeting, everyone agreed that the Putnam Arts Council provides a great service for us in helping to distribute these funds. He explained that there were other legitimate concerns which were aired during the meeting. He stated that he was happy to support this transfer for these very worthy arts programs, and he looked forward to supporting this program in the future.**

Legislator Montgomery clarified that there was no misuse of funding. She explained that the funds were granted and vetted extensively. She stated that \$13,993 was distributed between approximately eight (8) to 12 organizations throughout the County. She thanked the Putnam Arts Council for attending all the meetings since October of 2024 to educate individuals on what the funding is used for. She provided statistics on the benefits that the Arts provides to communities throughout New York State. She stated that she was happy to support this funding for the Putnam Arts Council. She stated that they deserved more funding because she believed that what we get back as a community is far more than \$13,993.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that this amount was approved in the budget process last year. She explained that this funding has been provided to the Putnam Arts Council for years, who then provides small grant amounts to Arts organizations throughout the County. She provided the names of some of the organizations who have received this grant funding.

#### **RESOLUTION #94**

#### **APPROVAL – BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25T064) – PUTNAM ARTS COUNCIL – COUNTY CONTRIBUTION – SUBCONTINGENCY**

WHEREAS, by Resolution #274 of 2024, the Putnam County Legislature placed the Community Grant funding portion of the County Contribution for the Putnam Arts Council in the amount of \$13,993 into subcontingency; and

WHEREAS, after discussion at the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relation Committee meetings held on February 19, 2025, the Commissioner of Finance forwarded a budgetary amendment (25T064) to move \$13,993 from subcontingency back into the Putnam Arts Council line; and

WHEREAS, the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary transfer; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

#### **GENERAL FUND:**

##### **Increase Appropriations:**

25091000 54950	County Contribution – Putnam Arts Council	13,993
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##### **Decrease Appropriations:**

10199000 54996	Subcontingency – Outside Agencies	13,993
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2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
(Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislator Ellner & Russo)**

Item #5f – Approval – Budgetary Amendment (25A025) – Social Services – Opioid Settlement Trust Monies – RFP 07-2024 was next. Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Addonizio, Chairwoman of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Ellner and Russo, Legislator Addonizio moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery stated that this is a sad way to receive funding, on the back of the crisis that has devastated our country. Luckily the funding we are using in Putnam County is working and our statistics have dropped. She believed the organizations in our County that have been utilized to address the opioid epidemic were by far the best in the world. She understands that it is a vigorous process of how the funds are distributed, but she believed it needed to be changed to have some Legislative oversight in the future.

#### **RESOLUTION #95**

#### **APPROVAL - BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (25A025) - SOCIAL SERVICES - OPIOID SETTLEMENT TRUST MONIES - RFP 07-2024**

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services has requested a budgetary amendment (25A025) to utilize up to \$613,175 of the Opioid Settlement Trust Monies pursuant to RFP-07-2024 to fund the agency's evidence-based programs and strategies for preventing opioid misuse, opioid overdose, and connecting those to care and harm reduction services to abate the opioid epidemic in Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, this budgetary amendment would allow for an award to each provider and the award would not exceed the respective amount; and

WHEREAS, the award of the RFP is contingent upon Legislative approval of this budgetary amendment and proposers have not yet been notified; and

WHEREAS, once approved, and award notification will be issued and contractual terms and conditions, within the requirements of the RFP, will be negotiated separately with each proposer; and

WHEREAS, Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

#### **Increase Appropriations:**

10431000 54646 10212	MH LGU – Contracts	151,500
10431000 54646 10213	MH LGU – Contracts	129,000
10431000 54646 10215	MH LGU – Contracts	49,900
10431000 54646 10216	MH LGU – Contracts	108,458
10431000 54646 10230	MH LGU – Contracts	<u>174,317</u>
		613,175

#### **Increase Estimated Revenues:**

10431000 54646 10212	MH LGU – Opioid Settlement	151,500
10431000 54646 10213	MH LGU – Opioid Settlement	129,000
10431000 54646 10215	MH LGU – Opioid Settlement	49,900
10431000 54646 10216	MH LGU – Opioid Settlement	108,458
10431000 54646 10230	MH LGU – Opioid Settlement	<u>174,317</u>
		613,175

2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –  
2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL A YES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #5g – Approval – Budgetary Transfer (25T063) – Social Services – Contracts – Resource Center for Accessible Living (RCAL) was next. On behalf of the members of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee, Legislators Ellner and Russo, Legislator Addonizio moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #96**

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25T063) – SOCIAL SERVICES – CONTRACTS – RESOURCE CENTER FOR ACCESSIBLE LIVING (RCAL)**

**WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services has requested a budgetary transfer (25T063) to utilize funding received from the Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) under 24-OCFS-LCM-28 to contract with the Resource Center for Accessible Living (RCAL) for the purpose of management of Representative Payee; and**

**WHEREAS, the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary transfer; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:**

**GENERAL FUND:**

**Increase Appropriations:**

<b>10102000 54646 10169</b>	<b>Contracts</b>	<b>6,587</b>
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**Decrease Appropriations:**

<b>10102000 54989 10169</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>6,587</b>
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**2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –  
2026 Fiscal Impact - \$13,800**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #5h – Approval – Appointment – Putnam County Board of Health was next. On behalf of the members of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee, Legislators Ellner and Russo, Legislator Addonizio moved the following:**

**Legislator Addonizio thanked Ms. Burdick for her commitment and service.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh thanked all of our volunteers.**

**RESOLUTION #97**

**APPROVAL – APPOINTMENT – PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**RESOLVED**, that Theresa A. Burdick be appointed to the Putnam County Board of Health, for a six (6) year term, said term to expire on December 31, 2030; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this appointment comply with any requirements to file an Oath of Office pursuant to the New York State Public Officers Law.

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
(Chairman Ellner, Legislators Crowley & Jonke)**

**Item #5i – Approval - Budgetary Amendment (25A023) – Planning – NYSDOT Urban Master Agreement Contract K007559 – MEP Funding** was next. Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Ellner, Chairman of the Physical Services Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Crowley and Jonke, Legislator Ellner moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #98**

**APPROVAL - BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (25A023) – PLANNING – NYSDOT URBAN MASTER AGREEMENT CONTRACT K007559 – MEP FUNDING**

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution #306 of 2024, the Putnam County Legislature approved the Department of Planning, Development & Public Transportation’s recently executed NYSDOT Urban Master Agreement – Supplements for Transportation Related Projects Contract #K007559, which is attached to said resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, while much of the funding has already been accounted for as the State 10% match to our Section 5307 funding, there is new Modernization & Enhancement Program (MEP) funding for Public Transit that requires a budgetary amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner of Planning has requested a budgetary amendment (25A023) to account for this new MEP funding for various Transit Facility Rehabilitation Projects, account line 52009, totaling \$551,037 which is 100% State funding with no local impact; and

**WHEREAS**, the Physical Services Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

**CAPITAL FUND:**

**Increase Appropriations:**

<b>55997000 53000 52009</b>	<b>Capital Exp – Transit Facility Rehab</b>	<b>551,037</b>
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**Increase Estimated Revenues:**

<b>55997000 435974 52009</b>	<b>State Aid – MEP Funding</b>	<b>551,037</b>
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**2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –**

**2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #5j – Approval – Budgetary Amendment (25A024) – Soil & Water Conservation District – Performance Measures – Part C Funds was next. On behalf of the members of the Physical Services Committee, Legislators Crowley and Jonke, Legislator Ellner moved the following:**

**Legislator Montgomery made a motion to amend the resolution and decrease it by \$8,000 by taking out the Education & Training. She stated that this position is already in the budget and is given education and training. She did not believe there was enough information in the backup regarding the need for the Education & Training amount.**

**There was no second. Motion fails.**

**Legislator Crowley made a motion to table the \$8,000 to bring it back to Committee for further discussion.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh questioned Counsel if the motion should be to divide the question.**

**Senior Deputy Attorney Conrad Pasquale stated that it would make sense to divide that portion.**

**Legislator Crowley made a motion to divide the question; seconded by Legislator Montgomery.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh clarified that the motion to divide would remove the \$8,000.**

**Legislator Crowley said, “yes.”**

**Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote to separate the \$8,000.**

*By Roll Call Vote to Divide the Question: All Ayes. Carried Unanimously. Motion Carries.*

**Chairwoman Sayegh stated that there are two (2) resolutions to consider; one (1) for \$8,000 and the second for \$35,000.**

**Legislator Crowley made a motion to table the \$8,000 back to Committee for further information and discussion; seconded by Legislator Montgomery.**

**By Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Carried Unanimously.**

**Legislator Montgomery stated that there is a perception that the \$20,000 from General Contingencies pertains to a raise for the Soil & Water Manager. She stated that it is not a raise. The Soil & Water Manager received a raise last year and based on Part C Funding rules, we are allowed to use some of the Part C Funding towards salary. She stated that, although she does not like the idea of it, we agreed to do it and this is money that can go a long way towards projects that our farmers would be interested in.**

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote on the remaining \$35,000.

**RESOLUTION #99**

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (25A024) – SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – PERFORMANCE MEASURES – PART C FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the Soil & Water Conservation Board voted to utilize Performance Measures funding in the amount of \$43,000 held in the Soil & Water Conservation District Trust Fund Account “Part C”; and

WHEREAS, \$8,000 will be used for Education and Outreach Initiatives, \$15,000 for a Culvert Inspection Camera, and \$20,000 for annual contribution towards Soil & Water Salary; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Soil & Water District Manager has requested a budgetary amendment (25A024) to account for this distribution; and

WHEREAS, the Physical Services Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

**GENERAL FUND:**

**Increase Appropriations:**

<del>10874500 54640</del>	<del>S&amp;W – Education &amp; Training</del>	<del>8,000</del> TABLED
10874500 52680	S&W – Other Equipment	15,000
10199000 54980	General Contingencies	<u>20,000</u>
		<u>43,000</u>
		35,000

**Increase Estimated Revenues:**

10874500 439105	S&W – Performance Measures – Part C	<del>43,000</del>
		35,000

2025 Fiscal Impact (\$20,000)

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Item #5k – Approval – Budgetary Transfer (25T062) – DPW – Close Out Capital Projects was next. On behalf of the members of the Physical Services Committee, Legislators Crowley and Jonke, Legislator Ellner moved the following:

Legislator Russo thanked DPW for all their hard work.

**RESOLUTION #100**

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25T062) – DPW – CLOSE OUT CAPITAL PROJECTS**



WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works has requested a budgetary transfer (25T062) to close out various CP Projects and transfer funds to the Capital Project Reserve for future projects; and

WHEREAS, the Physical Services Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary transfer; now therefore be it RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

**CAPITAL FUND:**

**Decrease Appropriations:**

55197000 531907 51509	CP1907 – Carmel Friendship Center	146,721.57
55197000 532312 51509	CP2312 – Board of Elections	17,426.51
55197000 532314 51509	CP2314 – Fire Training Center	114.77
55197000 532405 51509	CP2405 – New Court House Boiler	<u>143,474.48</u>
		<b>307,737.33</b>

**Increase Appropriations:**

55197000 53000 51509	County Facility Reserve	307,737.33
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2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
(Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Birmingham & Ellner)

Item #5L – Approval – Budgetary Amendment (25A022) – Tourism – Decrease in I Love NY Funding was next. Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Gouldman, Chairman of the Economic Development & Energy Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Birmingham and Ellner, Legislator Gouldman moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery stated that this is \$9,192 that was allocated by the I Love NY program and the funding can only be used for advertising outside of the County. She stated that there are other funds in the Tourism budget that can be used for other things. She did not agree with taking over \$9,000 out of the money that can be used for other things like the support she has previously requested such as garbage removal or support for tourism because we are becoming increasingly popular.

**RESOLUTION #101**

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (25A022) – TOURISM – DECREASE IN I LOVE NY FUNDING**

WHEREAS, New York State reduced the amount awarded to Putnam County for the I Love NY Program by \$9,192.00; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Tourism has requested a budgetary amendment (25A022) to transfer the County's matching portion (\$9,192.00) of I Love NY funds into the Advertising line; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development & Energy Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

**GENERAL FUND:**

**Increase Appropriations:**

10641000 54664	Tourism – Advertising	9,192
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**Decrease Appropriations:**

10641000 54328	Tourism – I Love New York	18,384
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**Decrease Estimated Revenues:**

10641000 437151	Tourism – State Aid – I Love NY	9,192
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2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: EIGHT AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR MONTGOMERY. MOTION CARRIES.

**AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
(Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Birmingham & Crowley)

Item #5m – Approval – Budgetary Amendment (24A139) – Finance - Year End Journal Entry #3 was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Birmingham and Crowley, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #102**

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (24A139) – FINANCE - YEAR END JOURNAL ENTRY #3**

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested a budgetary amendment (24A139) for the third Year End Journal Entry for the year ending December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, further entry(s) will follow as more information becomes available during the year end closing process; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

**GENERAL FUND:**

**Increase Appropriations:**

SEE ATTACHED SHEET	4,026,461
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**Increase Estimated Revenues:**

SEE ATTACHED SHEET	7,090,495
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Decrease Estimated Revenues:  
SEE ATTACHED SHEET

3,064,034

2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –  
2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #5n – Approval – Budgetary Amendment (25A026) – Social Services – Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Funds for Local Departments of Social Services (LDSSs) Recruitment Activities was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Birmingham and Crowley, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #103**

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (25A026) – SOCIAL SERVICES – ADOPTION AND LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP INCENTIVE FUNDS FOR LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES (LDSSS) RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES**

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services has requested a budgetary amendment (25A026) to amend the 2025 DSS Budget to include Putnam County's Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Funds for Local Departments of Social Services (LDSSs) Recruitment Activities allocation provided by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) for the purpose of foster/adoptive parent and legal guardianship recruitment activities to increase permanency outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

**GENERAL FUND:**

**Increase Appropriations:**

10102000 51093 10229	Overtime	10,750
10102000 54329 10229	Promotional Materials	7,505
10102000 54410 10229	Supplies & Materials	2,800
10102000 54664 10229	Advertising	3,120
10102000 58002 10229	Social Security	825
		<u>25,000</u>

**Increase Revenue:**

10102000 446101 10229	Adm Social Services	25,000
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2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –  
2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #5o – Approval – Rescind Resolution #74 of 2025 and Approve Revised Budgetary Transfer (25A027) – Finance – Civil Service Employee’s Association, Inc. (CSEA) Contract Settlement was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Birmingham and Crowley, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

Legislator Crowley thanked everyone involved in negotiating all the contract settlements.

#### **RESOLUTION #104**

#### **APPROVAL – RESCIND RESOLUTION #74 OF 2025 AND APPROVE REVISED BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25A027) – FINANCE – CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE’S ASSOCIATION, INC. (CSEA) CONTRACT SETTLEMENT**

WHEREAS, by Resolution #74 of 2025, the Putnam County Legislature approved the Commissioner of Finance’s request for a budgetary transfer (25T032) to provide funding for the 2025 salary and benefit costs pursuant to the ratified contract settlement between Putnam County and the Civil Service Employee’s Association, Inc. (CSEA); and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested that Resolution #74 of 2025 be rescinded in order to amend and correct certain account numbers; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has provided budgetary amendment (25A027) to adjust these accounts appropriately; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration has reviewed and approved the rescinding of Resolution #74 of 2025 and the amended budgetary amendment (25A027); now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

#### **Increase Appropriations:**

10116500 51000	Personnel Services	24,084.00
10116500 58002	Social Security	1,843.00
10131000 51000	Personnel Services	31,735.00
10131000 58002	Social Security	2,426.00
10134500 51000	Personnel Services	10,874.00
10134500 58002	Social Security	832.00
10135500 51000	Personnel Services	6,697.00
10135500 58002	Social Security	513.00
10141000 51000	Personnel Services	31,102.00
10141000 58002	Social Security	2,379.00
10141100 51000	Personnel Services	39,866.00
10141100 58002	Social Security	3,051.00
10142000 51000	Personnel Services	4,700.00
10142000 58002	Social Security	360.00
10143000 51000	Personnel Services	11,672.00
10143000 58002	Social Security	892.00
10146000 51000	Personnel Services	8,638.00
10146000 58002	Social Security	660.00
10149000 51000	Personnel Services	18,020.00
10149000 58002	Social Security	1,378.00
10168000 51000	Personnel Services	26,001.00
10168000 58002	Social Security	1,989.00
10296000 51000	Personnel Services	7,733.00

10296000 58002	Social Security	592.00
10314000 51000	Personnel Services	79,401.00
10314000 58002	Social Security	6,073.00
10398900 51000	Personnel Services	90,401.00
10398900 58002	Social Security	6,916.00
12401000 51000	Personnel Services	201,876.00
12401000 58002	Social Security	15,442.00
10405900 51000	Personnel Services	26,810.00
10405900 58002	Social Security	2,051.00
10511100 51000	Personnel Services	64,862.00
10511100 58002	Social Security	4,963.00
10120000 51000	Personnel Services	286,198.00
10120000 58002	Social Security	21,895.00
22071000 51000	Personnel Services	10,397.00
22071000 58002	Social Security	795.00
10629300 51000	Personnel Services	17,682.00
10629300 58002	Social Security	1,353.00
10651000 51000	Personnel Services	5,471.00
10651000 58002	Social Security	419.00
10677200 51000	Personnel Services	94,875.00
10677200 58002	Social Security	7,261.00
10677400 51000	Personnel Services	41,338.00
10677400 58002	Social Services	3,162.00
10677500 51000	Personnel Services	7,938.00
10677500 58002	Social Security	608.00
10677700 51000	Personnel Services	26,286.00
10677700 58002	Social Security	2,010.00
10677800 51000	Personnel Services	1,577.00
10677800 58002	Social Security	121.00
10677900 51000	Personnel Services	6,047.00
10677900 58002	Social Security	463.00
10711000 51000	Personnel Services	52,718.00
10711000 58002	Social Security	4,032.00
10731000 51000	Personnel Services	17,806.00
10731000 58002	Social Security	1,361.00
10751000 51000	Personnel Services	2,948.00
10751000 58002	Social Security	226.00
10802000 51000	Personnel Services	27,429.00
10802000 58002	Social Security	2,098.00
		<u>1,381,346.00</u>

**Decrease Appropriations:**

10199000 54980	Contingency	1,381,346.00
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**COUNTY ROAD:**

**Increase Appropriations:**

10511000 51000	Personnel Services	117,065.00
10511000 58002	Social Security	8,952.00
		<u>126,017.00</u>

<b>Increase Estimated Revenues:</b>		
<b>02021310 427161</b>	<b>Use of Fund Balance</b>	<b>126,017.00</b>

**ROAD MACHINERY:**

<b>Increase Appropriations:</b>		
<b>10513000 51000</b>	<b>Personnel Services</b>	<b>40,353.00</b>
<b>10513000 58002</b>	<b>Social Security</b>	<b><u>3,087.00</u></b>
		<b>43,440.00</b>

<b>Increase Estimated Revenues:</b>		
<b>03021310 427161</b>	<b>Use of Fund Balance</b>	<b>43,440.00</b>

**2025 Fiscal Impact - \$1,550,803**

**2026 Fiscal Impact - TBD**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #5p – Approval – Write Off Delinquent Real Property Taxes – Town of Patterson Tax Map #4.-1-68 was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Birmingham and Crowley, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #105**

**APPROVAL – WRITE OFF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAXES – TOWN OF PATTERSON TAX MAP #4.-1-68**

**WHEREAS, the property identified as Patterson tax map parcel 4.-1-68 has accrued delinquent real property taxes dating from 2002-2008; and**

**WHEREAS, on June 7, 2010 the Putnam County Commissioner of Finance foreclosed and took Deed to Patterson tax map parcel 4.-1-68;**

**WHEREAS, the property identified as Patterson tax map parcel 4.-1-68 is a property that was deleted from the tax roll as it was determined to be part of Patterson tax map # 5.-1-9;**

**WHEREAS, the Legislature has determined that there is no practical method to enforce the collection of delinquent tax liens arising thereafter against the parcel; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature approves that these delinquent real property taxes be written off; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance is authorized to write-off any and all taxes on said parcel.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #5q - Approval – Write Off Delinquent Real Property Taxes – Town of Patterson Tax Map #999.-99-102 was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Birmingham and Crowley, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #106**

**APPROVAL – WRITE OFF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAXES – TOWN OF PATTERSON TAX MAP #999.-99-102**

WHEREAS, the property identified as Patterson tax map parcel 999.-99-102 has accrued delinquent real property taxes dating from 2014-2024; and

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2023 the Putnam County Commissioner of Finance foreclosed and took Deed to Patterson tax map parcel 999.-99-102; and

WHEREAS, the property identified as Patterson tax map parcel 999.-99-102 is an abandoned agricultural property deemed “not to exist” and cannot be identified; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has determined that there is no practical method to enforce the collection of delinquent tax liens arising thereafter against the parcel; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature approves that these delinquent real property taxes be written off; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance is authorized to write-off any and all taxes on said parcel.

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Item #5r - Approval – Write Off Delinquent Real Property Taxes – Town of Putnam Valley Tax Map #73.8-1-52 was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Birmingham and Crowley, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #107**

**APPROVAL – WRITE OFF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAXES – TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY TAX MAP #73.8-1-52**

WHEREAS, the property identified as Putnam Valley tax map parcel 73.8-1-52 has accrued delinquent real property taxes dating from 2008-2014; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2023, the Putnam County Commissioner of Finance foreclosed and took Deed to Putnam Valley tax map parcel 73.8-1-52; and

WHEREAS, the property identified as Putnam Valley tax map parcel 73.8-1-52 was placed in Roll Section 8, “Wholly Exempt” in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has determined that there is no practical method to enforce the collection of delinquent tax liens arising thereafter against the parcel; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature approves that these delinquent real property taxes be written off; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance is authorized to write-off any and all taxes on said parcel.

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #5s – Approval – Putnam County’s Request for the County Sales Tax Rate to be Established at a Rate of 3.75% for the Period from December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2028 was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Birmingham and Crowley, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:**

**Legislator Crowley believed that if there was any discount, it should be for the residents in the form of reducing property taxes or to the towns in which they reside. She was not in favor of reducing the sales tax for the people who visit the County.**

**Legislator Crowley made a motion to amend the  $\frac{3}{4}\%$  increase to 1%; seconded by Legislator Gouldman.**

**Legislator Jonke stated that he would vote against the motion to amend. He stated that he has been involved in taxation in Putnam County since 1988. He explained that property taxes have increased steadily every year whether it is the school, county or town tax rate. He always believed that if we had the chance to put money back in the pockets of our residents, we should do it. He stated that there is a surplus of funds that allow us to do that. He believed that a  $\frac{1}{4}$  percent reduction in sales tax was a step in the right direction. He did not believe that we should take money from our constituents when we do not need it. He believed that the original resolution was fair to our residents. He explained that through his initiative, we cut property taxes by reducing the levy for the last two (2) years by \$500,000 each year. He believed that we still have room to cut more property tax. He believed there was no reason why we could not do both.**

**Legislator Addonizio stated that the Legislature has been committed to responsible financial management keeping the tax levy down for the past three (3) years, even when we had the option to raise it under New York State standards. Since 2023 there has been no Putnam County Sales tax on clothing and shoes under \$110. She believed if we implemented a sales tax reduction on commodities the anticipated revenue from clothing and shoes is not a factor, as they are already exempt from the sales tax.**

**Legislator Crowley stated that this  $\frac{1}{4}\%$  cut in sales tax revenue would equate to approximately \$5 million and it is not going back to all the taxpayers. It also benefits anyone that shops in Putnam County. She stated that if we give back to local municipalities for their infrastructure, they will not have to up their tax levy for their local taxpayers. She explained areas in the County’s budget that would possibly increase. She explained how the Commissioner of Finance was also not comfortable with reducing the sales tax. She believed that the responsible thing to do was to give back to the people who reside and own property in the County.**

**Legislator Montgomery stated that this has been discussed, and we have received input from our Village Mayors and Town Supervisors supporting the temporary 1% increase and the sharing of sales tax revenue. She explained how we have continued to see an increase in sales tax revenue over the years. She stated that in those years she stated that she voted against the sales tax increase because it was not being shared with the towns. She stated that the municipalities are the ones that hold the burden of generating the sales tax revenue. They pick up the garbage, provide and pay for the EMTs that respond to people falling off a mountain or on a sidewalk. She stated that we have received repeated requests from local leaders and constituents for support in managing the increased burden on services such as; waste management, emergency response, and infrastructure maintenance. She stated that our municipalities receive no direct**



relief. They work on budgets that are small compared to the County's \$200 million dollar budget. She stated that she would be voting in favor of the 1% increase.

Legislator Gouldman explained that this has been discussed many times. He agreed that we should cut taxes. He stated that this Legislative body has cut taxes recently, on clothing and footwear up to \$110 which was effective as of March 1, 2024, until March 1, 2026. He stated that at the February Audit Committee meeting the Commissioner of Finance stated that as February, approximately \$1.5 million has been saved by consumers. He stated that this was the first meaningful sales tax cut that we made in Putnam County. He stated that over the past 15 years, Putnam County has traditionally used sales tax revenue to lessen property taxes. He stated that everyone he speaks with throughout the whole County, not just in Putnam Valley, say that their property taxes are too high. No one ever says that sales tax is too high. He stated that in a recent survey, 72% responded stating that they wanted lower property taxes. He stated that school taxes are the largest percentage of the tax bill. He believed that we are paying too much in taxes to live in New York. He believed the County could be at risk if we did not extend the 1% sales tax. He proceeded to mention areas of the budget that could increase in the next few years such as; union contracts, health insurance, along with costs passed down to us from New York State. He stated that the Commissioner of Finance believed that it would be irresponsible for us to reduce the 1% sales tax extension. He explained that  $\frac{1}{4}\%$  reduction in the 1% extension would equate to \$5 million less in sales tax revenue. He stated that he would prefer lowering property tax for the residents and giving some money back to the towns for infrastructure issues.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he would be voting against the amendment for a 1% extension. He stated that as Legislator Montgomery mentioned, some of us over the last 20 years have gone back and forth on this issue. He stated that when this was first put forward in 2005, he was on this Legislature. He stated that it went from 3% to 3.5%. He stated that in 2007 they asked for an additional  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  to bring us to 4%. He explained the 2008 financial crisis when the County started losing sales tax revenue. He stated that he was on this Legislature when the County Executive gave us a 40% tax increase budget. He stated that there were tough choices back then, and yes, he voted to keep the 1% sales tax extension because he knew we could not survive with a real property tax increase of 40%. He stated that now we are sitting on top of the largest fund balance budget ratio this County has ever seen. He stated that we have an unrestricted fund balance of \$134 million. He stated that our budget is huge at approximately \$205 million. He stated that half of that amount is unrestricted fund balance. He believed that we could do everything that Legislator Gouldman would like to do with respect to lowering real property taxes for the County taxpayers. He explained that the County Executive mentioned in the State of the County Address that he would be pushing for the largest property tax decrease that this County has ever seen. He stated that he is in favor of that along with the tax exemption on clothing and footwear under \$110.00. He stated that what we are talking about now is merely going down from 1% additional sales tax to .75%. He stated that amount equals approximately \$5.3 million. He agrees that it is a lot of money, but it goes directly back to the Putnam taxpayers whether they are residents or individuals coming to our County paying sales tax. He stated that if we were a County that had a regional mall or people coming from a distance to spend a lot on retail items, he might take a different position on this. He knows there is tourism which enriches sales tax dollars, but he did not think it was on a scale that would render his proposal to go to the .75% irrelevant. He stated that in 2024 we received \$7 million more than we budgeted. He stated that this  $\frac{1}{4}\%$  reduction would have been paid for by the excess

sales tax revenue received. He believed that reducing the sales tax extension from 1% to .75% was a modest step. It sends a message that we want to relieve Putnam County's tax burden.

Legislator Russo stated she firmly believes in reducing the sales tax burden to our residents, however, the proposal to cut Putnam County's sales tax from 4% to 3.75% is not the right approach. She stated that while a  $\frac{1}{4}$ % might seem like a small reduction the financial consequences to our County could be severe. She stated that last year, sales tax revenue accounted for \$79 million in our County budget. She stated that by reducing the rate by just  $\frac{1}{4}$ % would take millions of dollars out of the County's budget, money that funds essential services, infrastructure maintenance, and social programs. She stated that the reality is that sales tax is not just paid for by Putnam County residents. It is also collected from those visitors coming to the County. She believed the sales tax extension is one of the fairest ways to generate revenue without placing an additional strain on local homeowners. She believed in cutting taxes when it provides meaningful relief, but she has yet to hear from a single resident who couldn't make a purchase because of our current sales tax rate. She stated that in contrast, she has heard from many struggling under the weight of property taxes and school taxes. She stated that if we are serious about tax relief, she believed that we should focus on reducing the property tax which directly impacts homeownership and affordability. She stated that another debate surrounding sales tax revenue is whether the County should begin sharing it with towns and villages, something Putnam County has never done before. She stated that while she understands the desire to provide additional resources for local governments, she was cautious about simply opening the flood gates for increased spending. She stated that if we decide to share sales tax revenue, it should be done responsibly. She stated that towns and villages should be required to specify how the funds will be used, ensuring the money leads to actual tax relief for the residents rather than growing government budgets. She stated that before making a major financial commitment, we must first navigate uncertain fiscal waters, including the threat of recession, potential renegotiation of employee medical benefits, and the year over year cost of our union contracts.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that the discussion tonight is to ask the State to approve the extension of Putnam County's sales tax for an additional three (3) years. She stated that there is an amendment before us to bring it to 4%. She stated that this in no way affects the towns' ability to petition the County for sales tax sharing. She explained that in the future if the County Executive or Legislature wanted to share sales tax, she looked forward to reviewing a proposed plan with input from the public. She stated that tonight we are discussing the tax rate. She stated that she has always been in favor of the full 1% increase to help offset property taxes. She explained that at the State of the County Address, the County Executive stated that County government has consistently cut taxes, driving the property tax rate to its lowest levels in 18 years. She stated that she was proud, as a Legislator, to be part of a team over the last several years that has helped to lower the burden of property tax for our Putnam County homeowners. She stated that County property taxes are less than 10% of the total property tax bill. She stated that the majority of that bill is from the school districts. She stated that the County Executive also stated that reducing the cost of living helps everyone and the middle class is still paying too much for their necessities. She stated that she would agree with both of those statements. She stated that she would be in favor of reducing the sales tax percentage by asking the State to extend the sales tax rate of .75% an amount equal to our surrounding counties of Dutchess County and Orange County. She

stated that it lowers the sales tax burden and puts money back in the pockets of our hardworking taxpayers. She stated that was the reason she voted in the past to reduce taxes on gas prices during the previous administration, and why she voted in favor of eliminating tax on clothing and footwear under \$110.00. She believed that we could do better for our taxpayers by continuing to keep property taxes low, helping lower the sales tax burden, curb spending and make government more efficient. She stated that those who want to collect more tax dollars have their hands in the pockets of the taxpayer, and they are deciding how to spend your hard-earned paycheck. These politicians are not only planning on how to spend it but are fighting tooth and nail for it and telling you that it is for your own benefit. She stated to beware of politicians telling you that the sky is falling and all hell will break loose if we cut taxes.

Legislator Montgomery respectfully clarified Legislator Russo's statement that we never shared sales tax before was not true. She explained that there was a resolution approved in 2022 which Legislators Sayegh, Jonke, Addonizio, Gouldman and her supported wholeheartedly. She stated that the towns and villages used the funding for infrastructure projects. She believed that the County Executive would veto the .75% and we would not have the votes to override it. She believed we were missing a good opportunity to make amends, come together and unite the Legislature, Administration and the towns and villages.

Legislator Birmingham believed this would be one (1) of two (2) votes. He explained that it sends a formal message to our State representatives, whether it is 1% or .75%, to increase our sales tax from 3% to some higher number. Once they do that, they'll come up with bill numbers, and it will come back to us again to approve the bill in its final form. He explained if a resolution gets vetoed it returns to the status quo which is 3% after November 30, 2025. We would not get the 1% or .75% unless the Legislature overrides the veto with six (6) votes.

Legislator Crowley stated that if the resolution gets vetoed, the State has the ability to return to the 1%.

Legislator Birmingham and Chairwoman Sayegh did not believe that was the case.

Legislator Montgomery explained that the ¼% equates to approximately \$5 million which could make a big difference for the towns and villages.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote on the motion to amend to have 4% County Sales Tax.

***By Roll Call Vote: Four Ayes – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Five Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Ellner, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion Fails.***

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote on the motion to have 3.75% County Sales Tax.

***By Roll Call Vote: Six Ayes – Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Ellner, Jonke, Montgomery and Chairwoman Sayegh. Three Nays – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman and Russo. Motion Carries.***

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to reconsider the resolution just passed and rescind it; seconded by Legislator Gouldman.

She stated that Robert's Rules states that if you vote yes on a resolution, you can make a motion to reconsider the resolution.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote to reconsider the resolution and then stated that there should be discussion first.

Legislator Jonke stated that if we rescind this we end up at zero with no resolution.

Legislator Montgomery stated that her next motion would be to introduce another resolution.

Legislator Birmingham stated that since the resolution was passed by a veto proof majority of six (6) to three (3), he would be voting in the negative to rescind it.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote on the motion to rescind the resolution.

*By Roll Call Vote: Four Ayes – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Five Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Ellner, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion Fails.*

*Legislator Montgomery made a motion to reconsider her vote; seconded by Legislator Gouldman. She asked that the Clerk record her vote to the original resolution as "no".*

Legislator Birmingham posed a question to the Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale. He stated that we finished a vote on Item #5s by a veto proof majority, then a subsidiary motion was made to reconsider that vote, which was graciously entertained by the Chair. He stated that it was voted down. He stated that we are now two (2) resolutions outside of Item #5s. He stated that he has never heard of a motion to change a vote that late in the game.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale believed that it would be at the discretion of the Chair.

*Chairwoman Sayegh requested that the Clerk change Legislator Montgomery's vote to "no" on that resolution.*

## **RESOLUTION #108**

**APPROVAL - PUTNAM COUNTY'S REQUEST FOR THE COUNTY SALES TAX RATE TO BE ESTABLISHED AT A RATE OF 3.75% FOR THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 1, 2025 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2028**

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 113 of the Laws of 2011 and pursuant to Resolution #41 of 2011, Resolution #88 of 2013 and Resolution #38 of 2015, the Putnam County Legislature approved the introduction and passage of legislation for the continued authorization of Putnam County's sales tax to be increased from three percent (3%) to four percent (4%) for the period of September 1, 2007, through November 30, 2017; and

**WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution #27 of 2017, the Putnam County Legislature approved the introduction and passage of legislation for the continued authorization of Putnam County's sales tax to be increased from three percent (3%) to four percent (4%) for the period of December 1, 2017, through November 30, 2019, however, the State of New York subsequently extended that increase through November 30, 2020; and**

**WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution #68 of 2020, the Putnam County Legislature approved the introduction and passage of legislation for the continued authorization of Putnam County's sales tax to be increased from three percent (3%) to four percent (4%) for the period of December 1, 2020, through November 30, 2023; and**

**WHEREAS, by Resolution #46 of 2023, the Putnam County Legislature approved the introduction and passage of legislation for the continued authorization of Putnam County's sales tax to be increased from three percent (3%) to four percent (4%) for the period of December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2026, however, the State of New York subsequently only extended that increase through November 30, 2025, which authorization is about to expire; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and Putnam County Legislature hereby support and request the introduction and passage of legislation authorizing Putnam County's sales tax rate to be increased from three percent (3.0%) to three and three-quarters percent (3.75%) for the period from December 1, 2025, through November 30, 2028; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Putnam County Legislature is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to our State representatives in the State Legislature as well as the Governor and leadership of our State Legislature.**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: FIVE AYES. FOUR NAYS – LEGISLATORS CROWLEY, GOULDMAN, MONTGOMERY AND RUSSO. MOTION CARRIES.**

#### **Item #6 – Other Business**

**Item #6a - Approval – Resolution of the Putnam County Legislature Urging the State of New York to Recognize Emergency Medical Services as an Essential Service and to Enact Legislation to Ensure the Sustainability of EMS Providers through Funding, Reimbursement Reform, and other Support Measures – Proposed by Legislator Montgomery was next.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh asked if there was a motion to add Item #6a on the agenda as other business.**

**Legislator Montgomery made a motion to add Item #6a; seconded by Legislator Birmingham.**

**By Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Carried Unanimously.**

**Legislator Montgomery believed that it was important for us to act on this now while the State was still negotiating the budget. She believed there were eight (8) bills in the State package to make EMS essential. She stated that Emergency Medical Services is not essential in New York State. She proceeded to read some of the services the bills provide which are listed in the resolution. She stated that this package has been fully vetted by the New York State Association of Counties. She**

stated that the resolution lets the State know that we support these bills, and that we believe in making EMS essential for the hard working first responders in our County and everywhere throughout the State.

Legislator Birmingham echoed what Legislator Montgomery said. He stated that these bills have appeared before the State Legislature before in some form or another. Each one of them has received bipartisan support. Unfortunately, he believed it was a timing issue in Albany why some of them did not get passed last year. He stated that it was his understanding that they would be reintroducing these important bills that will give recognition to our first responders and emergency service individuals. He stated that he would be supporting this resolution, and he believed that anything we could do to help them help us was well worth it.

Legislator Gouldman stated that EMS service is one of the most essential services we have in Putnam County and throughout the Country. He stated that they are a critical component of Public Health and Safety and yet they are not officially recognized at this time. He stated that he was in support of this resolution.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that there is also additional material for Item #6a.

Legislator Gouldman made a motion to accept the additional material for this item; seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Legislator Birmingham explained that it was a memorandum we received today from Legislator Montgomery.

Chairwoman Sayegh asked if there was a motion to move the resolution.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to approve the following; seconded by Legislator Russo.

#### **RESOLUTION #109**

**APPROVAL - RESOLUTION OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE URGING THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO RECOGNIZE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE AND TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF EMS PROVIDERS THROUGH FUNDING, REIMBURSEMENT REFORM, AND OTHER SUPPORT MEASURES**

**WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers across the state are in crisis due to rising costs, high demand for complex services, and a lack of sustainable funding; and**

**WHEREAS, counties are increasingly being asked to fill growing gaps in EMS services but lack the statutory authority, resources, and flexibility to develop county-wide or publicly funded EMS programs; and**

**WHEREAS, EMS is a critical component of public health and safety, yet it is not officially recognized as an essential service under state law, limiting funding opportunities and structural support; and**

**WHEREAS, EMS services are subject to the same escalating costs as the broader healthcare industry, placing financial strain on municipalities that operate or contract for EMS services; and**

WHEREAS, local governments seeking to collaborate on regional EMS services are hindered by current law, which prohibits counties and municipalities from creating joint taxing districts for EMS; and

WHEREAS, several legislative proposals have been introduced in the New York State Legislature to address these challenges, including:

- S4020C (Mayer) / A3392C (Otis): Relates to emergency medical services; establishes a special district for the financing and operation of general ambulance services; provides for a statewide comprehensive emergency medical system plan.  
[NYSenate.gov](https://www.nysenate.gov)
- A34 (Eachus) / S31 (Comrie): Provides that the Thruway Authority shall issue permits for ambulances and fire vehicles for toll exemptions. <https://www.nysenate.gov/search/legislation?type=bill&printno=S31&status=all&sponsor=all&committee=all>
- S1123 (Oberacker) / A1064 (Angelino): Provides an income tax credit to volunteer firefighters and members of a volunteer ambulance corps in good standing up to \$2,500.  
<https://www.nysenate.gov/search/legislation?type=bill&printno=S31&status=all&sponsor=all&committee=all>
- A516 (Woerner): Provides an income tax credit to volunteer firefighters and members of volunteer ambulance corps in good standing up to \$1,200; requires such members to be in good standing for a minimum of five years and maintain continued eligibility. <https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A00516&term=2025>
- S3768 (Sanders) / A2442 (Hevesi): Allows for reimbursement of transportation costs for emergency care without prior authorization by the social services official, including emergency medical transportation by an ambulance service certified under article 30 of the public health law; authorizes the commissioner of health to establish a reimbursement methodology to ensure providers are reimbursed.  
[NYSenate.gov](https://www.nysenate.gov)
- A1309 (Paulin): Authorizes collaborative programs for community paramedicine services as part of the hospital-home care-physician collaboration program.  
[https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default\\_fld=%0D%0A&leg\\_video=&bn=A1309&term=2025&Summary=Y](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=%0D%0A&leg_video=&bn=A1309&term=2025&Summary=Y)
- S1515 (May): Removes EMS services from the real property tax cap, allowing local municipalities to expand and support their local EMS services.  
<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S1515> [New York State Association of Counties](#)
- A288 (Barrett): Repeals the provision of law that volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who receive a real property tax exemption for service may not receive the income tax credit for such service.  
<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A00288&term=2025>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature strongly urges the New York State Legislature to pass these legislative measures to address the critical needs of EMS providers, ensure financial sustainability, and protect public health and safety; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature calls on Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to formally designate EMS as an essential service

and provide the necessary funding and support to sustain these vital services; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall forward certified copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Speaker of the Assembly Carl Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Putnam County's representatives in the New York State Senate and Assembly, and any other relevant officials as deemed necessary, urging immediate action to support EMS sustainability; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #6b - Approval – Resolution Establishing a Sales Tax Revenue Sharing Mechanism Between Putnam County and the Towns and Villages Within the County – Proposed by Legislator Montgomery was next.**

Chairwoman Sayegh asked if there was a motion to add this item to the agenda as other business.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he has a conflict on this item. He explained that his firm, which he is a partner of, represents the Town of Kent and the Villages of Brewster and Cold Spring. He stated that he would recuse himself on any participation on this item, whether to add it to the agenda or discuss it. He stated that he would excuse himself from the room and ask that the Clerk to get him when this item is done.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to add this item to the agenda; seconded by Legislator Russo.

**By Roll Call Vote: Four Ayes – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Four Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Ellner, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh. One Recusal – Legislator Birmingham. Motion Fails.**

**APPROVAL – RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SALES TAX REVENUE SHARING MECHANISM BETWEEN PUTNAM COUNTY AND THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES WITHIN THE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Putnam County recognizes the importance of supporting its towns and villages to promote economic stability and enhance local services; and

**WHEREAS**, the County collects sales tax revenues pursuant to New York State Tax Law and retains these revenues to fund county operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the County desires to establish a revenue-sharing mechanism to distribute a portion of sales tax revenue exceeding budgeted projections to the towns and villages within Putnam County; and

**WHEREAS**, this initiative will provide additional financial resources to municipalities for local programs, infrastructure improvements, and other essential services; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that Putnam County shall allocate 50% of all annual sales tax revenues collected that exceed the amount budgeted for that fiscal year to be distributed among the towns and villages within the County; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that such funds shall be distributed to the municipalities on a proportional basis, calculated according to population or another equitable formula as



determined by the County Legislature in consultation with the County Executive and municipal leaders; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner of Finance shall review and certify the total sales tax revenues collected at the close of each fiscal year and determine the amount eligible for distribution; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive, in coordination with the Commissioner of Finance, shall ensure timely and transparent disbursement of funds to the participating towns and villages; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect starting January 1, 2026 and be subject to annual review by the County Legislature and the County Executive to ensure its effectiveness and fairness.

Legislator Montgomery tried to present an other business item requesting that the application period be rescinded regarding petitions for inclusion into the Agricultural District to allow farmers to submit inclusion applications.

Legislator Birmingham stated that we are on public comment right now and the Legislators will have the opportunity to speak after public comment. He stated that during public comment the person states their name, the town in which they reside, and the agenda item they are referring to.

#### **Item #7 – Recognition of Public on Agenda Items**

Steve Clorifilla, Resident of Mahopac, stated he would like to comment on agenda Item #5e- Budgetary Transfer (25T064) - Putnam Arts Council - County Contribution - Subcontingency. He explained he was concerned with giving taxpayer money away to private groups. He believed that young families and seniors were having difficulties affording to live in Putnam County. He explained that this is leading to people leaving Putnam County and moving to places that offer lower taxes. He explained the Legislature was giving taxpayer funds to a group that re-granted the money and gave it to organizations who are opposed to the values of the vast majority in this County. He explained that the regranted money was given to groups that were demonstrating in front of the Court House that he heard were disrespecting police officers. He stated he does not want his tax money frivolously given to such groups and he proceeded to further elaborate on his concerns.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale recommended that, due to the late hour already, a time limit could be implemented.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that she would not implement a time limit, however, she asked if everyone could keep their comments brief to allow everyone the opportunity to speak.

Linda Harris, Town of Carmel Resident, stated she will also be discussing agenda Item #5e. She stated during the Rules, Enactments, Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting on March 17, 2025, she was falsely accused of spitting on a cop during a cease fire rally on June 22, 2024. She explained during the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting how poor behavior was displayed by both sides at the rally. She explained how this accusation has caused her emotional distress. She further detailed her concerns regarding three of her accusers.

**Brett Yarris, Carmel Hamlet Resident, stated he would like to comment on agenda Item #5s - Putnam County's Request for County Sales Tax Rate to be Established at a Rate of 3.75% for the Period from December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2028. He explained that the \$5.3 million in savings would amount to approximately \$35 - \$40 a year in savings per taxpayer. He stated where he lives there was a proposal for a water treatment plan that would add \$944 to his property taxes. In tandem, he addressed agenda Item #6b - Resolution Establishing Sales Tax Revenue Sharing Mechanism Between Putnam County and the Towns and Villages within the County, stating that the ability to share sales tax with the towns and villages would significantly lower his property taxes and would save him hundreds of dollars. He stated people have come out to share how they feel about these two (2) crucial issues. He believed the people were demanding better, being a community standing together stating they deserve leadership that puts policy and people over politics and party.**

**Jocelyn Apicella, Town of Philipstown Resident, stated she will be addressing agenda Item #5j - Budgetary Amendment (25A024) - Soil & Water Conservation District - Performance Measures - Part C Funds. She recommended the Legislature look at appropriate uses for Part C funding which is used for soil restoration and management.**

**Stacy Dumont, Town of Patterson Resident, thanked the Legislature for supporting Arts in Putnam County.**

**Adriana Wise, Resident of Carmel, stated she would like to discuss agenda Items #5e - Budgetary Transfer (25T064) - Putnam Arts Council - County Contribution - Subcontingency, and #5s - Putnam County's Request for County Sales Tax Rate to be Established at a Rate of 3.75% for the Period from December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2028. She believed that Item 5e, was a political and divisive issue from what she witnessed this evening. She stated now that the funds for the Putnam Arts Council were approved, she requested that the Putnam Arts Council be accountable to the Legislature with their choice of projects and events. She believed there should be a mechanism in place that ensures people from all political parties are represented. She stated on the topic of agenda Item 5s, she understands the Legislature's argument that by increasing local taxes they can lower property taxes. She heard that property taxes have been lowered for the past two (2) years, however that has not been her experience. She stated that she has experienced the highest property tax increases over the past two (2) years.**

**Tina Franzetti, Resident of Mahopac, stated she would like to discuss agenda Item #5e - Budgetary Transfer (25T064) - Putnam Arts Council - County Contribution - Subcontingency. She stated that she is the bookkeeper for the Putnam Arts Council. She explained that there are mechanisms in place, and they work for the Legislature. She briefly explained the review process and when it is finished the information is brought to the Legislature who then votes on whether or not to approve it. She explained that the Legislature spoke to them about certain things that the Putnam Arts Council should change, and they agreed to do it because they work for the Legislature.**

**Joey Mancuso, Resident of Putnam Valley, Owner of Big Red Barn Farm, questioned if she is allowed to address agenda Item #6 - Other Business that was not included on the agenda.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh said, “no.”**

**Ms. Mancuso asked where she is allowed to express her opinions.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh stated if she has any questions on specific topics, she can email them to the Legislature at [putcoleg@putnamcountyny.gov](mailto:putcoleg@putnamcountyny.gov) or call the Legislative Office at 845-808-1020.**

**Kaitlyn McKenna, Resident of Mahopac, requested to ask the Legislature some questions.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is a public comment session and it is not a discussion with the Legislature. She stated the public has the ability to comment on specific agenda items, however, there are rules for the Legislature that they must follow.**

**Ms. McKenna stated the public should have the ability to speak without being shut down.**

**Christian Russo, Town of Putnam Valley Councilman, stated he will be addressing agenda Item #5s - Putnam County’s Request for County Sales Tax Rate to be Established at a Rate of 3.75% for the Period from December 1, 2025. He stated we are at a very uncertain time regarding federal funding. He believed that lowering sales tax by .25% could be devastating. He believed that the \$5.3 million in sales tax revenue could be shared with the towns. He stated that Commissioner of Finance Michael Lewis advised against this sales tax percentage decrease.**

**Andrew Wulken, Town of Putnam Valley Resident, discussed a proclamation that occurred at the beginning of the meeting. He believed that the Legislature’s decisions were harming the farming community.**

**Maddy Sanson, Town of Putnam Valley Resident and affiliate of the Big Red Barn Farm, voiced her disappointment at how this meeting was conducted. She questioned why the Legislature wanted to limit farms.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh asked for comments to be limited to agenda items only. She explained that to be fair to the Legislature, we have not said anything about farms this evening. She stated that nobody is being denied the ability to farm in Putnam County.**

**Town of Putnam Valley Supervisor Jackie Annabi stated she would like to discuss agenda Item #5j – Budgetary Amendment (25A024) – Soil & Water Conservation District – Performance Measures – Part C Funds. She stated the Part C funds are to fund the salary for the person holding the soil and water position that runs the Agricultural District. She questioned when the Legislature was going to review the Agricultural District criteria from Resolution #139 from 2007.**

**Chairwoman Sayegh stated that we were not speaking about inclusion of the Agricultural District.**

**Dan Honovich, Town of Patterson Resident, explained that his farm also provides services for people with disabilities. He explained his disappointment on how the public was not allowed to speak on subjects that do not pertain to agenda items.**

**Crystal Stowell, Town of Putnam Valley Resident, referenced the proclamation about Alcohol Awareness. She stated one of the statements made during the presentation of this proclamation was that alcohol is one of the top substances that affects children. She stated that a substance that should be studied more is sugar. She stated local farms help to combat processed foods. She stated the local foods are extremely important and if local farms are shut down then they will not have food security. She stated that New York State Agriculture & Markets made a statement that the inclusion period can be changed by the Legislature even if the inclusion period has already started.**

**Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad Pasquale clarified that correspondence from the State was received that stated once the application inclusion period starts, it cannot be changed.**

**Joyce Picone, Director of the Putnam Arts Council and Town of Carmel Resident, stated she would like to comment on agenda Item #5e - Budgetary Transfer (25T064) - Putnam Arts Council - County Contribution – Subcontingency. She explained that the \$13,000 in funds that have been provided to the Putnam Arts Council amounts to about \$0.15 per resident in their taxes. She explained that they monitor how the funds are utilized, and there is a very strict process that occurs when administering grants.**

**Village of Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley stated it was questioned earlier in the meeting how the County will oversee the towns and villages spending of the sales tax sharing. She explained that the Village of Cold Spring has a budget of approximately \$3.8 million that is used for police, fire, recreation, water, roadways, and facilities. She stated the County is hoarding funds and the funds the County has were raised in the towns and villages. She stated the County's constituents are also the towns and villages constituents. She stated the towns and villages need the Legislature's help with funding for infrastructure.**

**At this time the fire alarm went off, members of the public were evacuated, and the Chairwoman ended the meeting.**

#### **Item #8 - Recognition of Legislators**

**There being no further business, at 9:45 P.M., Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.**

**Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.**