

Andrew Hall, Village of Cold Spring Trustee, stated he lives on Fair Street and can attest to how busy it is. He stated his strong support for this project.

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

Item #6 – Approval – Local Law to Amend Article V of Chapter 220 of the Code of Putnam County to (1) Clarify Application of Real Property Tax Law Section 467 and (2) Increase the Maximum Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to go out of order to address #6; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

Commissioner Carlin stated the County portion of a property tax bill is the smallest, therefore increasing this threshold to 65% will be a minimal cost per person. He stated when an exemption is given to one group of people the total cost is then spread amongst the other groups. He stated the biggest impact will be on the school taxes, which are the biggest part of the bill.

Legislator Montgomery stated she was made aware of this first from the New York State law taking effect in December 2025, which increased the allowable exemption from 50% to 65% and also from constituents bringing this to her attention. She stated she was in contact with the assessors in the Town of Philipstown and Town of Carmel as well as the County Real Property Director Trish McLoughlin. She explained that this amendment is not primarily about increasing the threshold to 65%, which will not take effect until 2027. She stated this ensures that the exemption program is administered correctly and consistently with state law while not conflicting with town or village laws. She thanked the County Law Department and Legislative Counsel Hearther Abissi for working on this as well.

Legislator Regan questioned if this exemption would be automatically granted or if individuals will need to apply.

Commissioner Carlin stated that would be a question for Real Property Director McLoughlin.

Legislator Gouldman questioned what the financial impact would be.

Commissioner Carlin stated the assessed value is about \$64.4 million, which equates to a very small number in terms of County tax.

Chairwoman Crowley stated based on the information provided by Director McLoughlin it would result in a \$1.90 change on a tax bill for a \$300,000 home and about \$3.20 for a \$500,000 home.

Legislator D'Angelo stated he is happy that this is moving forward. He stated senior citizens are members of our community who have contributed for many years and with the increasing cost of living, anything the County can do to give back is impactful. He stated he would like to see the State enact a cap for senior citizens.

Legislator Birmingham stated he believes every penny counts, this is a great thing the County can do.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to clarify what this law actually does so there are no issues. She stated this law is complex, it allows the County to go up to 65% but any increase in the exemption is going to require another formal Legislative step to update the income brackets.

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

Item #8 – Other Business

a. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A127 – Year End Journal Entry #3

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to go out of order to address #8a; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

Commissioner Carlin stated this is another year end entry that is adjusting everything to actuals. He stated the last two lines show the funds being increased for access control to begin security upgrades in the County Office Building.

Legislator Regan questioned if the adjustments are departmentalized.

Commissioner Carlin stated it will be done across all departments through the Capital Projects fund.

Legislator Birmingham questioned the Danbury Rail Study capital project.

Commissioner Carlin stated that is being closed out.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the study is complete.

Commissioner Carlin stated yes, it is complete.

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

Item #3 – Correspondence – County Auditor

- a. **Sales Tax Report** – Duly Noted
- b. **Board In Revenue Report** – Duly Noted
- c. **Transfer/Revenue Report** – Duly Noted
- d. **Contingency/Subcontingency Report** – Duly Noted

Item #4 – Correspondence – Commissioner of Finance

- a. **Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A004 – Health Dept. – Private Well PFAS Pilot Program (Also reviewed in Health)**

Commissioner Carlin stated the County is receiving \$300,000 in State Aid for this program; there is no cost to the County.

Legislator Montgomery stated there is the potential to get \$1.5 million that has been allocated to Putnam County.

Commissioner Carlin stated the pilot program will demonstrate the need for the County to receive that funding.

Legislator Birmingham stated he would like to see a quarterly report on this program from Public Health Director Rian Rodriguez.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would be happy to include that update on the Health Committee agenda.

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

- b. **Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A007 – Planning Dept. – Fund Pavement Management Program Utilizing Federal UPWP Funds (Also reviewed in Physical)**

Commissioner Barosa stated this is funding from NYMTC (New York Metropolitan Transportation Council). She stated the County has to complete certain tasks and part of it is conducting studies. She stated they are currently doing a pavement management study.

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

- c. **Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A008 – Planning Dept. – Account for Federal HUD Grant Received (Also reviewed in Physical)**

Commissioner Barosa stated this is 100% funding with no County match. She stated as the work is done they will submit for reimbursement.

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

d. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A009 – Dept. of Social Services, Mental Health, and Youth Bureau – Account for NYS OMH and OASAS State Aid Funding (Also reviewed in Health)

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

e. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A013 – Litigation Settlement – Lara-Grimaldi v. County of Putnam (Settlement reviewed in Rules)

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

Item #7 – FYI – County’s Deposits and Investments – 4th Quarter 2025

Commissioner Carlin stated the County had a decent year, the same amount of interest was collected although the rates were lower.

Legislator Birmingham requested that the report include more information such as the breakage fees.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how the County’s relationship with a bank is maintained when banks change names or are bought out.

Commissioner Carlin stated the County will need to amend the deposit and investment policy to update the name of the bank, but the County’s finances remain.

Legislator Regan questioned how often the performance of the County’s consultants is reviewed and if Commissioner Carlin is satisfied with them.

Commissioner Carlin stated yes, he is very satisfied with their performance, and it is reviewed monthly.

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:45pm, Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Deputy Clerk Beth Robinson.