

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

Tuesday

September 7, 2021

7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested Legislator Jonke lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and Legislator Albano lead in the Legislative Prayer. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Nacerino, Albano, Jonke, Castellano, Sayegh, Sullivan and Chairwoman Addonizio were present. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo.

PROCLAMATIONS

Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Nacerino who presented the “9/11 Day of Service & Remembrance” proclamation to Karl Rohde, Director of Veterans Affairs and John Bourges, Director of PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Vet2Vet Program.

9/11 DAY OF SERVICE & REMEMBRANCE

WHEREAS, On September 11, 2001, the peace and security of our nation was shattered by terrorist attacks that killed many innocent people at the World Trade Center towers in New York City, at the United States Pentagon, and in the pristine fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Although the terrorists’ goal was to strike a powerful blow to the hearts of all Americans and tear at the fabric of our nation, arising from the very ashes of that tragedy came a remarkable spirit of unity, compassion, and determination that will never be forgotten, just as we will never forget those who were lost and injured on that day, and those who came to service during the rescue and recovery effort and in defense of our Nation both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, people of all ages and walks of life, across America, and around the world, collectively witnessed an event of immense tragedy on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, an unprecedented, historic bonding of Americans ascended from the collective shock, unifying the Country in an outpouring of national spirit, pride, selflessness, generosity, courage, and service; and

WHEREAS, many brave people heroically, tirelessly, and courageously participated in an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous rescue and recovery effort, in some cases voluntarily putting their own well-being at risk; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2009, the President of the United States issued the Patriot Day Proclamation officially and permanently designating September 11th as a National Day of Service & Remembrance, and calling upon all interested Americans to participate in this observance through moments of silence, the flying of the flag of the United States at half-staff, as well as community service and charitable activities in tribute and remembrance; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature recognize the Putnam Communities that Care Coalition, the Mental Health Association in Putnam, the Joseph Dwyer Vet2Vet Program, and the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency for coordinating a community event that will invite and welcome residents to write

“Thank You” letters to First Responders, Veterans both abroad and at home, Police Officers, and Firefighters and express their sincere observance and appreciation for the outpouring of dedicated service. September 11th will never, and should never be just another day in the hearts and minds of all Americans and people around the world.

Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Castellano who presented the “Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Tragedies that occurred in our Country on September 11, 2001” proclamation to Executive Director of the Youth Bureau Janeen Cunningham, Youth Services Specialist Phillips-Zeller and Youth Worker John DeMeuro.

**COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TRAGEDIES THAT OCCURRED IN OUR COUNTRY ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001**

Putnam County pauses annually on September 11th to remember the nearly 3,000 lives lost during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The Putnam County Youth Bureau has been awarded a grant through Global Youth Justice to commemorate the 9/11 Day of Service 20th Anniversary and is participating in the first annual 9/11 Day Flag of Honor Across America Memorials. The 9/11 Flag of Honor was created by the Flag of Heroes Project and contains the names of all those who perished on that tragic day, as well as on February 26, 1993, when an earlier attack on the World Trade Center took place. The Youth Bureau will host a ceremony on September 11, 2021 to honor those we’ve lost, and the names of the fallen will be read out loud by Putnam County youth.

On September 11, 2001, 19 terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes. One of those planes, an American Airlines flight, crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center at 8:45 am. At 9:03 am, United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower. A third plane, American Airlines Flight 77, crashed into the west side of the Pentagon at 9:45 am. Just before 10:00 am, the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed. On the fourth hijacked plane, United Flight 93, passengers had been delayed and were aware of the previous tragedies through cell phone and Airfone calls to loved ones on the ground. Passengers and crew united to fight the hijackers. The plane still tragically crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania at 10:10 am. The North Tower of the World Trade Center fell at 10:30 am. In all, nearly 3,000 lives were lost that day, including first responders on the scene.

On February 26, 1993, a truck bomb detonated below the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Six people were killed, including an expectant mother, and over 1,000 were injured.

It is important to remember those lost and honor their memory. It is with great pleasure that I sign my hand to this proclamation and on behalf of everyone in Putnam County commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the tragedies that occurred on September 11, 2001.

Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Sayegh who presented the “National Recovery Month” proclamation to Commissioner of Social Services Michael Piazza.

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2021

**WHEREAS, Behavioral health is an essential part of one's overall wellness; and
WHEREAS, Prevention of mental and substance use disorders works, treatment is effective, and people recover in our area and around the nation; and**

WHEREAS, Preventing and overcoming mental and substance use disorders is essential to achieving healthy lifestyles, both physically and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, We must encourage relatives and friends of people with mental and substance use disorders to implement preventive measures, recognize the signs of a problem, and guide those in need to appropriate treatment and recovery support services; and

WHEREAS, To help more people achieve and sustain long-term recovery, the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature invite all residents of Putnam County to participate in National Recovery Month; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim September 2021 as *National Recovery Month* and together with the Prevention Council of Putnam and the Putnam County Communities that Care Coalition encourage all Putnam County residents to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies to support this year's *Recovery Month*.

**Item #4 – Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – July 6, 2021
Regular Meeting – August 3, 2021**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #5 – Correspondence
a) County Auditor**

There was no activity during this reporting period.

Chairwoman Addonizio reminded everyone that as Chair she is required to maintain order and decorum so that we can accomplish the meeting agenda. She is also required to enforce the Legislature's rules of procedure. She stated that at prior meetings of the Legislature there were questions related to caucus meetings. She explained that caucus meetings are permitted by law and are not open to the public. Any topic may be discussed in a caucus meeting, including County business. She stated that questions about whether caucus meetings have been held or about what may have been discussed in the caucus are therefore totally improper and irrelevant. She reminded everyone to be recognized by the Chair before speaking.

Item #6 – Pre-filed resolutions:

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
(Chairman Jonke, Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan)**

Item #6a – Approval/ Fund Transfer (21T143)/ Highways & Facilities/ Temporary was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Jonke, Chairman of the Personnel Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Nacerino and Sullivan, Legislator Jonke moved the following:

RESOLUTION #160

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (21T143)/ HIGHWAYS & FACILITIES/ TEMPORARY

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Highways & Facilities has requested a fund transfer (21T143) to allocate funding for temporary employee; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer be made:

Decrease:		
10511100 51000 (10102)	Personnel	20,000

Increase:		
10511100 51094	Temporary	20,000

2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6b – Approval/ Fund Transfer (21T147)/ Sheriff’s Department/ Overtime – Weight Enforcement was next. On behalf of the members of the Personnel Committee, Legislators Nacerino and Sullivan, Legislator Jonke moved the following:

RESOLUTION #161

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (21T147)/ SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT/ OVERTIME – WEIGHT ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Sheriff has requested a fund transfer (21T147) to release funds placed in Sub-contingency to cover the Sheriff Patrol (Weight Enforcement) Overtime line; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer be made:

Decrease:		
10199000 54986	Sub-Contingency	10,000

Increase:		
17002000 51093	Overtime – Sheriff Patrol (Weight Enforcement)	9,290
17002000 58002	FICA	<u>710</u>
		10,000

2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6c – Approval/ Fund Transfer (21T163)/ Social Services/ Reclassification/ Computer Operations Specialist was next. On behalf of the members of the Personnel Committee, Legislators Nacerino and Sullivan, Legislator Jonke moved the following:

RESOLUTION #162

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (21T163)/ SOCIAL SERVICES/ RECLASSIFICATION/ COMPUTER OPERATIONS SPECIALIST

WHEREAS, by Resolution #36 of 2021, the Putnam County Legislature approved and authorized the position of Coordinator of IT & Staff Development in the Department of Social Services to be reduced from a full-time position to a part-time position; and

WHEREAS, the full-time position was funded in the 2021 budget at \$92,038, and was split evenly in two (2) Social Services accounts (DSS Training and DSS WMS); and

WHEREAS, with the incumbent of the Coordinator position moving to part-time status, the incumbent of the other IT professional position in the department assumed many of the technology responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Department, at the request of the Commissioner of Social Services, conducted an evaluation of the shift in duties between these two (2) professional level IT positions; and

WHEREAS, based upon the evaluation, the Personnel Department has reclassified the Computer Operations Specialist position to a Senior level position, Grade 17 of the CSEA agreement; and

WHEREAS, this reclassification will require a change in salary for the incumbent of \$2,825 for 2021; and

WHEREAS, due to these two (2) changes, there is an overall annual savings in excess of \$40,000; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer be made:

Decrease:

10116000 51000 (601016102)	Personnel	2,825
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Increase:

10116000 51000 (601106103)	Personnel	2,825
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2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
(Chairman Sullivan, Legislators Albano & Castellano)

Item #6d – Approval/ Fund Transfer (21T159)/ Board of Elections/ Electronic Poll Books was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Sullivan, Chairman of the Rules,

Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Albano and Castellano, Legislator Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #163

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (21T159)/ BOARD OF ELECTIONS/ ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the Board of Elections has requested a Fund Transfer (21T159) for the purchase of five (5) additional Electronic Poll Books; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer (21T159) be made:

Decrease:

10145000 52680	Other Equipment	10,071
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Increase:

10145000 52130	Computer Equipment	10,071
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2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6e – Approval/ Local Law to Amend Section 2.06 of the Putnam County Charter Entitled “Clerk of the Legislature” was next. On behalf of the members of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Legislators Albano and Castellano, Legislator Sullivan moved the following:

Legislator Sullivan explained that, as discussed in the Rules Committee meeting, some minor changes were made.

Chairwoman Addonizio explained that the minor revision changed the appointment from January to December.

Legislator Montgomery explained how she has disagreed with the process of the Charter Review Commission and how she only received one (1) invitation to a meeting. She stated that she received the minutes from the Commission meetings, which is helpful, however they really do not include the substance of what was discussed. She did not believe this was a minor change and she explained that she did some research after the Rules Committee meeting. She believed it was a big change to move the appointment of the Legislative Clerk from January to December. She stated that it allows for the outgoing Legislators, who are either not re-elected or termed out, to reappoint the new Clerk and does not allow a new Legislator, whose term would start in January, to vote on the appointment. She stated that the term begins for the Clerk and the Legislators on January 1st. She stated that the surrounding counties do not appoint their Clerk in December. She questioned the need to do this. She questioned why the appointment date for the Auditor did not change as well.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to table this item for further vetting. There was no second. Motion Failed.

Legislator Jonke explained that this is to make sure the Clerk's appointment is in place in time for the Organizational meeting. He stated that the Clerk serves at the pleasure of the Legislature and a Clerk can be changed at any time. He asked Legislative Counsel Firriolo if that was true.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo said that was correct.

Legislator Montgomery believed that this was disenfranchising entire districts when there is a new Legislator starting in January. She stated that everyone uses the language, "to serve at the pleasure of." She believed that we should be at the forefront of changing the language of these terms. She did not believe that anyone served at her pleasure. She had the utmost respect for the Clerks, and she would be voting no.

Legislator Castellano explained that the Organizational meeting is held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January, therefore, the meeting could be held as late as January 8th. He stated that you are looking at an eight (8) day period where essentially, we do not have a Clerk operating the day-to-day functions of the office when the Clerk's term expires on December 31st. He believed that having the three (3) year appointment at the Year End meeting in December would avoid the lapse of the appointment.

Legislator Montgomery stated that there were mechanisms in place in the County Charter if the Legislature were without a Clerk. She stated that there are three (3) other Clerks in the Legislative Office that could serve that role. She did not believe the Legislature would be removing all the Clerks at once.

Legislator Castellano stated that we would not be getting rid of all the Clerks at once, however, there is a Clerk that would not be reappointed for a number of days. He stated that he did not have a problem with the revision to the Charter.

Legislator Albano believed it was logical and we would be prepared to do whatever needs to be done in the new year.

Legislator Sayegh concurred. She believed appointing the Clerk by December 31st made sense so that the term would start on January 1st. She stated that there are plenty of decisions that we make throughout the years that will affect the next term of a Legislator. She believed this change allowed the Clerk to be efficient and the beginning of the new year to run smoother.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she too supports this change. She does not see any real issues with appointing the Clerk at year end. She believed it is logical and rational.

Legislator Montgomery again questioned why this was being done with the Clerk and not the Auditor position, why does no other counties do this, why is the public not participating in this process as they have in the past when every other county allows them to.

Legislator Sullivan pointed out that the County Auditor does not attend the Organizational meeting, therefore it is not as relevant to have the appointment date change to December 31st for that position.

RESOLUTION #164

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND SECTION 2.06 OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY CHARTER ENTITLED "CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE"

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

Section 1.

Section 2.06 of the Putnam County Charter is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 2.06. Clerk of the Legislature.

Effective December 31, 2022, the County Legislature shall, by the thirty first day in December, and every three years thereafter, appoint a Clerk who shall serve at the pleasure of the County Legislature. From time to time the Clerk shall appoint such additional personnel as are required for the efficient operation of the office of the Clerk within the appropriations provided therefor.

Section 2.

This Local Law shall take effect forty-five (45) days after its passage and is subject to permissive referendum.

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

Item #6f – Approval/ Local Law to Amend Section 2.10 of the Putnam County Charter Entitled "Auditor" was next. On behalf of the members of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Legislators Albano and Castellano, Legislator Sullivan moved the following:

Legislator Sullivan explained that one (1) of the major changes added the following qualification requirements of the County Auditor position: 1) A bachelor's degree in auditing or accounting and four (4) years of experience in auditing; or 2) An associates degree and at least twenty-one credits in auditing or accounting and ten years of experience in municipal auditing. He stated that prior to this change there were no specific requirements in the Charter for the County Auditor position.

Chairwoman Addonizio clarified that the duties were not changed, only the qualifications.

Legislator Nacerino pointed out that the County Auditor meets these qualifications, although it was not stipulated when she was hired.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she is happy to support the idea of hiring people that meet these qualifications. She believed it was important across the board for other

positions in our County. She explained that the Legislature reviews the Charter once every 10 years and she believed that we missed an opportunity to collaborate to build coalitions with our public and outside municipalities that we serve. She believed that by submitting one (1) letter to each of the towns did not serve that purpose. She explained that other counties do not review their Charter in the same way. She believed that our process was failing the public.

Chairwoman Addonizio believed that we have not failed the public and the public can come to the meetings. She explained that the meetings are posted, and anyone can attend.

Legislator Albano did not believe our process was flawed. He explained that although the Charter is reviewed every 10 years, changes could be made at any time. He explained that he has not heard any negative comments made regarding our process. He stated that he welcomed anyone's ideas or suggestions.

Legislator Sayegh concurred. She stated that the Charter is a living document that can be changed at any time.

Legislator Sullivan stated that the review of the Charter has not been completed. He explained that there will be meetings going forward to look at the remaining chapters. He stated that they have sent correspondence to County Department Heads and have received numerous comments back on recommended changes. He stated that we have also included the public and the public officials. He stated that they have included many people and asked for and continue to ask for comments along the way.

Legislator Montgomery wanted clarification that the meetings that were mentioned were the Committee meetings that were open to the public. She believed that the Legislature's Committee Room #318 was not well ventilated and that the small room was not conducive to holding public meetings.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that the public can attend the meetings.

Legislator Sullivan clarified that the public could attend the Committee meetings where the Charter changes are discussed.

Legislator Albano believed that Legislative Conference Room #318 worked well and he has not seen it crowded. He explained that once the proposed changes come to the Committee meeting where it is open for discussion. He stated that we welcome all ideas and other comments.

RESOLUTION #165

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND SECTION 2.10 OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY CHARTER ENTITLED "AUDITOR"

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

Section 1.

Section 2.10 of the Putnam County Charter is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 2.10. Auditor.

Effective January 1, 2001, the County Legislature shall on the first day in January or as soon thereafter as practicable, and every three years thereafter, appoint an Auditor who shall serve at the pleasure of the County Legislature. The Auditor and all full-time managerial employees in the department shall serve on a full-time basis and shall not engage in any private practice, nor be employed, in their field of expertise with the County by any private or other governmental entity. The Auditor shall be supervised by the County Legislature.

(a) Powers and duties of the Auditor shall include:

- (1) Auditing and certifying for payment all lawful claim and charge against the County, whether for payroll or otherwise, or against funds for which the County is responsible in whole or in part;**
- (2) Certifying the availability of funds for all requisitions, contracts, purchase orders and other documents by which the County incurs financial obligations or for the expenditure of funds for which the County is responsible;**
- (3) Such special audits, in addition to those stated in § 2.04(i), as are deemed necessary, at the request of the Legislature.**

(b) Qualifications.

- (1) A bachelor's degree in auditing or accounting and four years of experience in auditing; or**
- (2) An associate degree and at least twenty-one credits in auditing or accounting and ten years of experience in municipal auditing.**

Section 2.

This Local Law shall take effect forty-five (45) days after its passage and is subject to permissive referendum.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
(Chairwoman Nacerino, Legislators Sayegh & Sullivan)**

Item #6g – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A071)/ Sheriff's Department/ Central Services Chargeback/ Gasoline was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Nacerino, Chairwoman of the Protective Services Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Sayegh and Sullivan, Legislator Nacerino moved the following:

RESOLUTION #166

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (21A071)/ SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/ CENTRAL SERVICES CHARGEBACK/ GASOLINE

WHEREAS, the gasoline pumps at the Sheriff's Department are no longer in use and all Sheriff vehicles are now utilizing the gasoline pumps located at the Donald B. Smith Campus; and

WHEREAS, the Central Services Department is requesting a budgetary amendment (21A071) to chargeback gasoline usage to the Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, fund transfer (21T137) also covers the 2nd Quarter "Chargeback for Gasoline" expenses, as well as the projected expenses for 2021, for the Sheriff and Correctional Facility due to the inoperable fuel tanks at the Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, the Protective 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:

Increase Revenues:

10161000 412941	Central Services – Chargeback	48,750
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Increase Appropriations:

10161000 54371	Central Services – Gasoline	48,750
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2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6h – Approval/ Fund Transfer (21T137)/ Sheriff's Department/ Central Services Chargeback Gasoline was next. On behalf of the members of the Protective Services Committee, Legislators Sayegh and Sullivan, Legislator Nacerino moved the following:

Legislator Nacerino stated that this transfer piggybacks the prior transfer. She stated that the expenses will be incorporated into the 2022 budget, however, for the remainder of the year these transfers are necessary.

RESOLUTION #167

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (21T137)/ SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/ CENTRAL SERVICES CHARGEBACK GASOLINE

WHEREAS, the gasoline pumps at the Sheriff's Department are no longer in use and all Sheriff vehicles are now utilizing the gasoline pumps located at the Donald B. Smith Campus; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Sheriff has requested a fund transfer (21T137) to cover 2nd Quarter "Chargeback for Gasoline" expenses, as well as the projected expenses for 2021, for the Sheriff and Correctional Facility due to the inoperable fuel tanks at the Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, budgetary amendment (21A071) set up the appropriate Central Services Chargeback and Gasoline accounts; and

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

Decrease:

17311000 54371	Sheriff Patrol – Gasoline	24,750
14311000 54371	Narcotics – Gasoline	7,000
10315000 54371	Jail General – Gasoline	3,000
10311000 54371	Sheriff Admin – Gasoline	10,000
10311000 55371	Sheriff Admin Chgback Gas	<u>4,000</u>
		48,750

Increase:

17311000 55371	Sheriff Patrol – Chgback Gasoline	34,750
16311000 55371	Sheriff Youth – Chgback Gasoline	10,000
32311000 55371	BCI – Chgback Gasoline	<u>4,000</u>
		48,750

2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6i – Approval/ Bureau of Emergency Services/ Certificate of Need/ Advanced Life Support (ALS) was next. On behalf of the members of the Protective Services Committee, Legislators Sayegh and Sullivan, Legislator Nacerino moved the following:

Legislator Nacerino explained that the present Advanced Life Support (ALS) contract is expiring at the end of the year. She stated that we believe having the County hold a Certificate of Need (CON) will provide a greater ability to accept proposals and expand access to a much broader range of ALS providers. She stated that it will provide an opportunity for those vendors that are holding their own CON and for those without a CON to operate under the County should we choose to move in that direction.

Legislator Montgomery explained that she could not share the presentation with the agencies in her district because it was marked confidential. She stated that we received three (3) letters from agencies; two (2) opposing this and one (1) from a municipality not an agency. She stated that we do not have input from all the agencies. She stated that it was her understanding that Philipstown did submit a letter to the Bureau of Emergency Services, and she was wondering why it was not included. She believed that this is much bigger than what was presented. She stated that in speaking with individuals serving on agencies within her district, they were opposed to this. Legislator Montgomery stated that she would like to table this item for further discussion in order to have a much better understanding of this. She believed that the Bureau of Emergency Services has taken on a lot between the 911 consolidation, radio project and now this.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to table this item. There was no second. Motion Failed.

Legislator Nacerino stated that we are moving forward with this merely to cast a wider net to give agencies the ability to bid on the Request for Proposal (RFP). She stated that we are not creating a County wide ALS / EMS authority. She explained that she is the Legislative Representative on the Fire Advisory Board, and she understands how each department feels. She stated that this is not binding.

Legislator Albano concurred. He stated that this is an application for the Legislature to consider. He stated that we do not have to accept it or go through with it. He stated that it will give us more to look at when the bids go out. He stated then, in the end, we will make a logical decision based on all the information. He stated that this is time sensitive, and we cannot wait to do this in a couple of months.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that this is only giving the authority to apply.

Legislator Sullivan stated that the Certificate of Need is crucial to having emergency medical assistance in the County for our residents. He explained that this was discussed in Committee. He stated that Legislators Nacerino, Sayegh and himself met individually with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and the Emergency Medical Services Director Casey Quake for over one (1) hour each. He stated that he understands and agrees with what their objective is so that we can provide the best service possible at the most cost-effective rate.

Legislator Nacerino clarified that this only provides the ability to file the application. She stated that time is of the essence because our contract is set to expire.

Legislator Montgomery stated that there is no Certificate of Need attached to the backup.

Legislator Nacerino believed that we did not need the attachment. She stated that the authority is given to the Bureau of Emergency Services to be able to file the application, however, she believed it could be provided to the Legislature.

Legislator Sayegh stated that it was her understanding the time was of the essence to get the Certificate of Need out. She stated that this allows emergency service vendors to bid on the contract. She stated that there is no binding agreement on this. It just gives us the opportunity to see what other people can provide.

Legislator Sullivan made a motion to call the question; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

By Roll Call Vote: Eight Ayes – Legislators Albano, Castellano, Gouldman, Jonke, Nacerino, Sayegh, Sullivan and Chairwoman Addonizio. One Nay – Legislator Montgomery. Motion carries.

Chairwoman Addonizio called for a vote on the resolution.

RESOLUTION #168

APPROVAL / BUREAU OF EMERGENCY SERVICES / CERTIFICATE OF NEED / ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS)

WHEREAS, providing for the public health and safety is the highest priority for public officials; and

WHEREAS, the timely provision of effective emergency medical assistance is a matter of vital concern affecting the public health, safety and welfare of our residents, visitors and those who work in Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, the assurance of pre-hospital emergency care, providing prompt and effective treatment and transportation of the sick and injured, is critical to successful patient outcome and is an essential public health service; and

WHEREAS, under its own operating authority, Putnam County would expand its ability to access a much broader range of advanced life support (ALS) commercial providers and therefore assure provision of care, and reduce the cost of providing emergency medical care, to the citizens of the County; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Putnam County Legislature recognizes the need for effective, countywide ALS care and transportation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby grants permission to the Commissioner of Emergency Services to make application seeking a Certificate of Operating Authority and/or a Municipal Certificate of Need for ALS first response and ambulance service on behalf of the County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the primary geographic area of this service shall be the County of Putnam; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

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

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
(Chairman Albano, Legislators Castellano & Gouldman)

Item #6j – Approval/ Fund Transfer (21T168)/ Highways & Facilities/ Electric & Gas was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Albano, Chairman of the Physical Services Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Castellano and Gouldman, Legislator Albano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #169

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (21T168)/ HIGHWAYS & FACILITIES/ ELECTRIC & GAS

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Highways & Facilities has requested a fund transfer (21T168) to cover anticipated Electric & Gas expenses through year end; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer be made:

Decrease:

10199000 54980	General Contingency	170,000
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Increase:

10511100 54631	Facility – Electric	150,000
10511100 54630	Facility – Natural Gas	<u>20,000</u>
		170,000

2021 Fiscal Impact - \$170,000
2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6k – Approval/ Putnam County Veterans’ Residence/ Lease Agreement Renewals was next. On behalf of the members of the Physical Services Committee, Legislators Castellano and Gouldman, Legislator Albano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #170

APPROVAL/PUTNAM COUNTY VETERANS’ RESIDENCE/ LEASE AGREEMENT RENEWALS

WHEREAS, the County of Putnam is the owner of certain real property, including the building situated thereon, located at 9 Drew Lane, Carmel, New York 10512, which is known as the Putnam County Veterans’ Residence; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Veterans’ Residence is operated as a communal residence for veterans who meet the established eligibility criteria; and

WHEREAS, the County of Putnam previously entered into separate lease agreements with the veterans listed in the attached Schedule “A”, for single-residence rooms in the Putnam County Veterans’ Residence; and

WHEREAS, said lease agreements expired on July 31, 2021 and the County of Putnam is desirous of renewing same for a period of one (1) year; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the County of Putnam approves the renewal of the leases between the County and the veterans listed in the attached Schedule “A”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to execute renewal lease agreements with the veterans listed in the attached Schedule “A”, for said single-residence rooms in the Putnam County Veterans’ Residence at the rental amounts listed in the attached Schedule “A”, which renewal leases shall be in substantial conformance with the form attached hereto as Schedule “B”; and be it further

RESOLVED that the County Attorney is authorized to take whatever legal action is necessary to effectuate said renewal lease agreements in the manner approved herein and as written; and be it further

RESOLVED, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6L – Authorizing Lease/ Room #5 Putnam County Veterans’ Residence was next. On behalf of the members of the Physical Services Committee, Legislators Castellano and Gouldman, Legislator Albano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #171

AUTHORIZING LEASE/ ROOM # 5 PUTNAM COUNTY VETERANS’ RESIDENCE

WHEREAS, the County of Putnam is the owner of certain real property, including the building situated thereon, located at 9 Drew Lane, Carmel, New York 10512, which is known as the Putnam County Veterans' Residence; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Veterans' Residence is operated as a communal residence for veterans who meet the established eligibility criteria; and

WHEREAS, the County of Putnam is desirous of entering into a lease agreement with John Quackenbush for a single-residence room in the Putnam County Veterans' Residence; and

WHEREAS, said lease agreement shall be for a term commencing on September 1, 2021 and expiring on July 31, 2022; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the County of Putnam may enter into the aforementioned lease agreement with John Quackenbush for the single-residence room in the Putnam County Veterans' Residence identified as Room # 5, for a term commencing on September 1, 2021 and expiring on July 31, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive, with the advice and assistance of the County Attorney, is authorized to finalize and execute said lease agreement with John Quackenbush at the rental price of \$400.00 per month, which shall be in substantial conformance with the form attached hereto as Schedule "A"; and be it further

RESOLVED, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6m – Approval/ Highways & Facilities/ Use of Capital Facility Reserve (21CP03) (Replacement of Carpet at Department of Social Services) was next. On behalf of the members of the Physical Services Committee, Legislators Castellano and Gouldman, Legislator Albano moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery stated that she was happy to move this forward. She stated that as she walks around the County facilities, she sees a great need for repair and our employees deserve a good working environment, good ventilation and a nice carpet that is not in disrepair and moldy.

RESOLUTION #172

APPROVAL/ HIGHWAYS & FACILITIES/ USE OF CAPITAL FACILITY RESERVE (21CP03) (Replacement of Carpet at Department of Social Services)

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Highways & Facilities has proposed the use of \$29,000 from the Capital Facility Reserve to fund Project #21CP03 – Replacement of Carpet – Department of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, two (2) division offices in the Department of Social Services currently have wall to wall carpet which is ripped, wrinkled, buckling and stained throughout; and

WHEREAS, temporary carpet mats have been placed over the worst areas and many attempts to clean and repair have proved futile; and

WHEREAS, replacement of said carpet with new carpet tile will allow for targeted replacement in the future, allowing for an expedient and economical addressing of condition issues as they arise; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature approves and authorizes the expenditure of \$29,000 from the County Facility Reserve fund budget line 55197000 53000 51509 as follows:

21CP03 – Replacement of Carpet – Department of Social Services

Project cost not to exceed \$29,000

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
(Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Addonizio & Nacerino)**

Item #6n – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A072)/ Youth Bureau/ 9/11 Flag of Honor Across America Memorial and Day of Service Grant was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Sayegh, Chairwoman of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Addonizio and Nacerino, Legislator Sayegh moved the following:

Legislator Sayegh stated that the funds will be used to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks at a ceremony held at the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services. She stated that the ceremony will include the reading of the names by the Youth Court members.

RESOLUTION #173

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (21A072)/ YOUTH BUREAU/ 9/11 FLAG OF HONOR ACROSS AMERICA MEMORIAL AND DAY OF SERVICE GRANT

WHEREAS, at the June 23, 2021, Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee meeting, Executive Director of the Youth Bureau, Janeen Cunningham, informed the Committee of a grant funded by AmeriCorps and Global Youth Justice; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the grant is to observe the 20th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks through a day of remembrance; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Youth Bureau was selected as 1 of 25 organizations in the United States of America to receive a 9/11 Day Grant award from Global Youth Justice, Inc. in the amount of \$2,000; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment (21A072) be made:

Increase Revenues:

10087000 427701	Youth Court – Unclassified	2,000
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Increase Expenses:

10087000 51093	Youth Court – Overtime	250
10087000 54989	Youth Court – Miscellaneous	1,231
10087000 54329	Youth Court – Promotional Material	500
10087000 58002	Youth Court – Social Security	<u>19</u>

2,000

2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –
2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6o – Approval/ Fund Transfer (21T180)/ Health Department/ Medical Supplies/ COVID-19 Testing for Reopening Schools was next. On behalf of the members of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee, Legislators Addonizio and Nacerino, Legislator Sayegh moved the following:

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that these funds will be used at the school’s discretion. She stated that there are no mandates or requirements to initiate the testing.

RESOLUTION #174

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (21T180)/ HEALTH DEPARTMENT/ MEDICAL SUPPLIES/ COVID-19 TESTING FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Department of Health facilitated school testing in the 2020-2021 school year by ordering free test kits from NYSDOH; and

WHEREAS, this year the School Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Testing Grant is designed to support schools with COVID-19 testing during the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Department of Health intends to make an initial purchase that estimated to cover testing needs for one (1) month of bi-weekly testing for 20% of each school’s population; and

WHEREAS, schools are not mandated to conduct testing, nor will they be required to test according to this bi-weekly schedule or percentage of population; and

WHEREAS, schools will submit testing plans to facilitate ordering future equipment and supplies; and

WHEREAS, this initial order of rapid antigen test will be supplied to schools to ensure any preliminary testing is available to students/staff prior to the start of the school year; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer (21T180) be made:

Decrease:

26401001 54646 10167	Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Reopening Schools – Contracts	50,000
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Increase:

26401001 54330 10167	ELC – Reopening Schools – Medical Supplies	50,000
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2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –
2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #7 – Other Business

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to accept the Other Business item; seconded by Legislators Jonke and Nacerino.

By Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Carried Unanimously.

Item #7a - Authorization/ Legislators to Attend September New York State Association of Counties Fall 2021 Conference was next.

Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

RESOLUTION #175

APPROVAL/AUTHORIZATION/LEGISLATORS TO ATTEND SEPTEMBER NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FALL CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, three (3) Legislators have requested permission to attend the New York State Association of Counties Fall Conference to be held in Syracuse, New York in September 2021 for registration and lodging total expenditure of approximately \$704 per person; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature has reviewed and approves their requests; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that three (3) Legislators are authorized to attend the New York State Association of Counties Fall Conference to be held in Syracuse, New York in September 2021.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #8 – Recognition of Public on Agenda Items

Director of Veterans' Services Karl Rohde clarified that Item #6L – Authorizing Lease/ Room#5 Putnam County Veterans' Residence was a new lease and that is why the date is different. He explained that two (2) more leases will be coming shortly, and at that point the Veterans' Residence will be at 100% occupancy, having all 12 rooms leased.

Ms. Stacy DuMont, Town of Patterson spoke about the Charter Review Commission. She stated that we are obviously seeing two (2) sides of this, one (1) saying that we could use more perspective during its review, and another perspective that the way it is being done is fine. She believed everyone is coming from a place where they believe they are doing the right thing for the Legislature and the constituents. She believed that it has now come to a juncture where this could be a good opportunity to look at the Charter Review Commission wording and how the Commission members are chosen and appointed. She formally requested that modifications to the verbiage of the Charter Review Commission be made. She believed that perhaps some modification or some qualifier to bring in multiple perspectives.

Item #9 – Recognition of Legislators

Legislator Nacerino stated that the new school year has started. She wished everyone safe and successful year.

Legislator Sullivan stated that the September 11th Ceremony at Cornerstone Park is the 20th Anniversary. He asked everyone to please remember those who lost their life on that day, and those who continue to pass away from the World Trade Center related illnesses. He invited everyone to come and participate in the memorial.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she was prevented from speaking by a vote where other members had several opportunities to speak. She believed that three (3) Charter changes were coming up at our next Rules Committee meeting. She did not believe that the Charter Review Commission has advertised a meeting regarding those changes. She stated that of course a caucus is legal, but so is smoking marijuana, however is it a good idea? She believed it was inappropriate. She thanked Metro North for their unbelievable response to the storm and getting the trains back up and running. She stated that the response from Central Hudson and their communication was fantastic. She stated that she was hosting an event on September 23rd that she welcomed anyone who wanted to attend. She stated that it is with the Benefits Plus Learning Center and the Community Service Society. New York based action groups that help New Yorkers access all types of health benefits and housing. She stated that she would like to post that invitation on our website. She stated that Assemblywoman Sandra Galef and Philipstown Councilwoman Farrell is hosting it with her. She stated that, on a sad note, she wanted to say goodbye to her good friend Larry Downey who was killed in a car accident over the weekend. She stated that he was a great advisor to her, and he was a third-generation business owner. She stated that he will be greatly missed.

Legislator Castellano stated that a valuable member to the community was lost approximately 18 months ago, not to Covid-19, and his name was Jack Gress. He thanked him for everything he did for the community. He was a Patriot that has been tremendously missed. He stated that this year, Brewster VFW Post 672 will be carrying on his September 11th tradition, this Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 8:30 am at Electrazone Field in Brewster. He stated that the Brewster Fall Festival will be back this year in the Village of Brewster, September 19, 2021, which is on a Sunday.

Legislator Jonke stated that John Bourges was here earlier this evening. He stated that he has known John for approximately 23 years. He stated that John is leaving service with the Vet 2 Vet program. He wished him well in his retirement which was well earned. He has done service for the City of New York, Putnam County, and our Federal Government. He is someone special in our community. He stated that Legislator Castellano mentioned the 9/11 remembrance that took place very year in Jack Gress' mobile home park which this year will be carried on by the Brewster VFW. He stated that we always say, "never forget" but as time goes on, we do forget. He encouraged everyone to watch the 9/11 documentaries, which he has been doing, so we can remember the feelings we had back then. He believed our Country was a better place on September 12, 2001, than it is today. He hoped everyone really remembers this Saturday, September 11th what happened to this Country 20 years ago.

Legislator Albano stated that the Mahopac/Carmel Chamber was sponsoring the Street Fair on Sunday, October 3, 2021. He stated that it runs from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm in the Town of Mahopac.

Legislator Gouldman stated that the 9/11 Ceremony in Putnam Valley will take place on Saturday at 6:00 pm. He encouraged everyone to attend. He stated that our children are back in school. He reminded everyone to drive safely.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that last week a Hope & Healing Vigil was held at Mahopac Chamber Park to pay tribute to those who have lost their life to addiction. She explained that on September 1st a Federal Judge conditionally approved the Purdue Pharma opioid settlement. Purdue will pay out a historic settlement of \$4.5 billion to plaintiffs. She stated that the settlement is a result of litigation against opioid manufacturers, distributors, consultants, or any entity found responsible for the crisis. She stated that there have been many groups, as well as State and local governments advocating for the settlement. She stated that the Putnam County Executive and Legislature has approved several resolutions regarding the opioid crisis and has forwarded them to New York State. She stated that New York Attorney General Letitia James just signed a new law to ensure that all settlement funds received by New York State will be used for prevention, education, treatment, and support services. She stated at this time there is no information on how the funds will be distributed.

There being no further business, at 8:07 P.M., Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.