

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIR
HELD IN THE
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Thursday March 10, 2022 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Sullivan who requested the Sheriff's Department Color Guard to present the colors. Chairman Sullivan requested that Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and Father Szymon Kurpios lead in the Legislative Prayer. Upon roll call Legislators, Addonizio, Nacerino, Albano, Jonke, Castellano, Sayegh and Chairman Sullivan were present. Legislator Gouldman arrived at 7:33 P.M. and Legislator Montgomery was absent. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo.

Chairman Sullivan introduced County Executive, MaryEllen Odell to present the 2022 State of the County Address.

County Executive Odell stated that given the circumstances over the last two (2) years with the COVID pandemic, it is a joyous occasion to see everyone here in person. She explained that pursuant to Putnam County Charter, Article 7.09, she presented to Legislative Clerk, Diane Schonfeld, the Annual Report, and the Financial Report as required.

County Executive Odell stated that the theme for the 2022 State of the County Address is, "Laying the Groundwork for Future Generations." County Executive Odell proceeded to read the Financial Report. (attached)

Under the "Sales Tax Revenue Sharing" section of the report, County Executive Odell recognized Town of Philipstown Councilman Jason Angell to make a few brief comments about this initiative.

Councilman Angell thanked County Executive Odell and Finance Commissioner Carlin for working in a collaborative effort with the local team on this issue. He stated that there have been barriers in the past with doing this right, but now by this new approach of just focusing on the annual growth in sales tax, it allows the County to define some of those activities that invest in capital infrastructure and social infrastructure. He explained that the County's sharing of sales tax for community college tuition, aid to municipality (AIM) payments and stepping in for tax arrears are deeply valued at the local level. He stated that by keeping the County budget whole and just focusing on the growth, keeps those local services in place. He thanked the County for those services. He explained that by just focusing on the sales tax growth, it allows the County to define some of those activities that invest in capital and social infrastructure, creating a partnership with the County and local governments to invest in the conditions that will increase sales tax revenue in the future. He believed that by just looking at shared growth years protects the County's fiscal health and their excellent fiscal credit rating. He thanked County Executive Odell for her collaboration and leadership. He looked forward to working with

the County Executive and the Legislature to put this plan into action. He thanked her for laying the groundwork of the future.

County Executive Odell continued her presentation. Under the “Putnam County Sheriff Update” section of the report, County Executive Odell recognized Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville to provide an update on body cameras and other items pertinent to his department.

Putnam County Sheriff McConville thanked County Executive Odell, Chairman Sullivan, members of the Legislature, elected officials, and the public for coming this evening. He recognized and thanked the members of his office, the deputies, investigators, correction officers and civilian staff who do an incredible job, day in and day out, keeping our residents safe and secure. He also thanked the Cadet Color Guard for doing a fantastic job. Sheriff McConville stated that 2021 was full of reform and reinvention mandates for law enforcement across New York State. He explained how these mandates impacted Putnam County such as; Executive Order 203 which required law enforcement to build partnerships with its stakeholders, engaging in an honest dialogue with the public. He stated that the collaboration reviewed services provided accountability for those engaged in the law enforcement profession. He stated that Executive Order 203 also repealed section 50-a of the Civil Rights Law, banned chokeholds, creating bail reform and among other issues, reduced the prison population. He explained that his administration has engaged in its own review and assessment of their activities, practices, and policies. He stated that his administration understands and respects the need for accountability in law enforcement. With their collective experience they have embraced and enhanced answerability to those we serve. He explained that he supported buying more cameras to be utilized by personnel in the Sheriff’s Department. He stated that they have determined that body cameras are to be utilized by our deputies, investigators and select personnel by no later than the end of this year. He stated that the Police Reform Act strongly recommends the use of body worn cameras. He stated that Sheriff Offices throughout New York State in approximately 20 counties mandate that their personnel wear body worn cameras. He stated that body worn cameras will improve enforcement accountability and protect our personnel from false accusations. He stated that they will also provide and increase public trust and transparency and has shown to demonstrate the reduction in the use of force and subsequent civilian complaints. He believed that this technology should result in reduced litigation for the County as well. He stated that the County Executive provided \$50,000 in the 2022 budget for a study of the Correctional Facility relating to the census and the impact it may have on allocating funds and our operations. He stated that they embrace and look forward to this study being performed. He stated that they are in the infancy stage of the E911 Consolidation Program, where all dispatching of Sheriff Deputies will be handled by the Dispatchers located at the Bureau of Emergency Services 911 Center. He stated that to date, this transition has gone well, and this program will serve the residents who need emergency services much more efficiently. He stated that the Sheriff’s Department is moving forward with achieving accreditation, which means meeting or exceeding standards as set forth by the Division of Criminal Justice Services in the State of New York. He stated that the Sheriff’s Department will continue their efforts to increase the level of professionalism and public service.

County Executive Odell continued with her attached presentation.

Chairman Sullivan thanked County Executive Odell for her superb review of the important highlights of the County over the past year. He stated that under her leadership the County has prospered enormously. He stated that both she and her Administration had worked tirelessly over the last 10½ years, putting the County in the best financial position. He stated that she should be proud of what she has accomplished, especially given the difficulties over the past two (2) years. He stated that since he has been a Legislator, this was the best State of the County Address by a wide margin. He stated that it was about financial strength and stewardship. He stated that we appreciated her honesty in keeping us apprised. He stated that he looked forward to working closely with her and her Administration this year to accomplish the goals she mentioned to make Putnam County the best it can be for our residents, businesses and all who live and work here. He believed the County's future was brighter than it has ever been due to her leadership.

Legislator Nacerino stated that once again County Executive Odell has delivered a sound State of the County Address, always remaining cognizant of our social responsibility, ensuring a good quality of life for the citizens of Putnam County. She stated that County Executive Odell has always sought to think outside the box with vigor and zest, which she clearly demonstrated tonight with her "share the growth" plan and her "emergency family guide." She stated that it has been her personal and professional honor to work with her throughout the years during her tenure. She stated that she looks forward to working with her in the upcoming year. She stated that she has been an outstanding County Executive.

There being no further business, at 7:50 P.M., Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.