

**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRWOMAN  
FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2017 BUDGET  
HELD IN THE  
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Thursday                      October 27, 2016                      7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislator Castellano lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and Legislator LoBue to lead in the Legislative Prayer. Upon roll call, Legislators Scuccimarra, Gouldman, Addonizio, Albano, Gross, Castellano, LoBue and Chairwoman Nacerino were present. Legislator Wright arrived at 7:06 P.M. Also present was Legislative Counsel Van Ross.

**Item #4 - Pre-filed Resolutions**

**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
(All Members)**

**Item #4a – Coroners – Postage. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #212**

**Coroners**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Postage</b>		
<b>10118500 54314</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>150</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (600)**

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

**Item #4b – Sheriff’s Department – Reflect Current Allocation of Deputy Sheriff Positions. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to accept the additional material submitted to the meeting; seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.**

**RESOLUTION #213**

**Sheriff's Department**

**Reflect Current Allocation of Deputy Sheriff Positions**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Sheriff</b>		
<b>10311000 51000</b>	<b>2,196,564</b>	<b>2,194,854</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: (1,710)</b>		
<b>Sheriff – Narcotics</b>		
<b>14311000 51000</b>	<b>872,198</b>	<b>873,908</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: 1,710</b>		
<b>Sheriff – Road Patrol</b>		
<b>17311000 51000</b>	<b>3,389,409</b>	<b>3,345,106</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: (44,303)</b>		
<b>Sheriff – Security Services DSS</b>		
<b>19005060 51000</b>	<b>91,677</b>	<b>90,377</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: (1,300)</b>		
<b>Sheriff – Building Security</b>		
<b>19311000 51000</b>	<b>50,079</b>	<b>91,677</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: 41,598</b>		

**Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.**

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

**Item #4c – Office for Senior Resources – Reflect Impending Retirement in December.  
Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #214**

**Office for Senior Resources**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>OSR – RSVP</b>		
<b>Reflect Retirement</b>		
<b>10677300 51000</b>		
<b>(677310104)</b>	<b>283,455</b>	<b>270,198</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (13,257)**

**Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.**

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

**Item #4d – Legal Aid – County Contribution. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**Legislator LoBue made a motion to amend. She stated that Legal Aid had requested \$150,000 in County Contribution in order to make them whole. She stated that the Committee approved putting \$75,000 in subcontingency. She would like to increase that amount by \$25,000 bringing it to \$100,000 being placed in subcontingency; seconded by Legislator Gross.**

**Legislator Gross stated that due to the changes in the law and the lack of previous grant funds he stated that there will be more people needing Legal Aid services. He stated that if these individuals are not serviced by Legal Aid it would cost \$75.00 per hour as opposed to \$35.00. He believed we might be asking for additional funds next year.**

**Legislator LoBue stated that the people that receive these services could be Veterans and young adults. She explained that it is State law that requires the County to provide these services. She stated that when we provide the services now it is at a cost of \$35.00 per hour. If we don't and the County is required to pay for counsel for the individuals that qualify, it will be billed at \$75.00 per hour. She believed it was in the best interest of this County for us to fund the shortfall which happens to be a grant that has not come through. She stated that this affects the most vulnerable people in our community.**

**Legislator Albano stated that he supports the \$75,000 because he realizes that there will be a need. He stated that unfortunately New York State changed the eligibility requirements for Legal Aid which he believed may not be proper or fair. He believed that by putting the money in subcontingency we are saying to the State, don't worry the County has your back. He believed that if all the counties made a statement that the money is not available; the State will realize that they created a real issue. He stated that in the end if we need to do something, he believed that we would make it work. He stated that he wouldn't support the increase, but he would support the \$75,000.**

**Legislator Addonizio stated that this is an unfunded mandate. She stated that the requirements have changed which means that more individuals will qualify for Legal Aid. She stated that she would vote in favor of this request.**

**Legislator Scuccimarra stated that again this is another mandate and we have lost the grant which is problematic. She stated that she would support the \$75,000 with**

reservations. However, she believed this government needed to look into a grant coordinator or a grant writer.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she too would support the \$75,000 without reservation. She stated that Legal Aid has lost some State funding which has again filtered down to the local level. However, she hoped that they would actively be pursuing grant funding and that these grants would come to fruition in the upcoming year. She stated that in the event that all efforts fail, she stated that we would certainly not leave them high and dry and revisit this in the future.

Legislator Wright stated that Legal Aid did not lose a grant. He stated that they had a three (3) year grant and the State has not yet set up the granting mechanism for reconsideration of that. He explained that the collateral damage of the drug crisis will certainly be when Putnam County citizens without adequate competent legal representation find themselves with felony convictions, are then unemployable and will join the ranks of the publicly supported here in the County. He stated that he needn't remind anyone how our public assistant budget has swelled in the past decades. He stated that Legal Aid has reduced their request to a mere \$100,000. He believed that it was not a good situation to place an agency such as that, which has nowhere to go except to this Legislature at this time in the budget process. He requested to put the money in subcontingency otherwise the process would change dramatically next year where it would need to proceed by executive permission first.

Legislator Gouldman stated that he would support the increase. He stated that many people find themselves in situations that are beyond their control. He believed that we needed to keep the safety net that we have on a County level in order to help these individuals.

Legislator Castellano stated that he appreciated what Legal Aid does. He explained that Legal Aid originally requested \$150,000 and he believed putting \$75,000 in subcontingency was a fair compromise.

Chairwoman Nacerino called for a vote on the amendment to increase the subcontingency amount by \$25,000.

By Roll Call Vote: Five Ayes – Legislators Addonizio, Gouldman, Gross, LoBue and Wright. Four Nays – Legislators Albano, Castellano, Scuccimarra and Chairwoman Nacerino. Motion Carries.

Chairwoman Nacerino called for a vote on the amended resolution.

**RESOLUTION #215**

**Legal Aid**

	FROM:	TO:
Increase County Contribution		
Subcontingency 10199000 54982	0	100,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 100,000

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: FIVE AYES. FOUR NAYS – LEGISLATORS ALBANO, CASTELLANO, SCUCCIMARRA & CHAIRWOMAN NACERINO. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #4e – Cornell Cooperative Extension – Increase County Contribution. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:

RESOLUTION #216

Cornell Cooperative Extension

	FROM:	TO:
Increase County Contribution 25875000 54950	311,965	315,185

A DIFFERENCE OF: 3,220

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4f – National Association of Counties (NACo) Membership. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:

RESOLUTION #217

NACo - Dues

	FROM:	TO:
Books & Supplements 10192000 54313	15,000	17,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 2,000

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4g – Parks & Recreation – Maintenance & Repairs – Subcontingency. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #218**

**Parks & Recreation**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Maintenance &amp; Repairs</b> <b>10711000 54710</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Subcontingency</b> <b>10199000 54985</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,000</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 0**

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

**Item #4h – Office for Senior Resources – Confidential Secretary - Salary Adjustment. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #219**

**Office for Senior Resources**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Confidential Secretary</b> <b>10677200 51000</b> <b>(677210103)</b>	<b>42,656</b>	<b>44,320</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 1,664**

**Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.**

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

**Item #4i – County Executive – Confidential Secretary – Salary Adjustment. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #220**

**County Executive**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Confidential Secretary</b> <b>10123000 51000</b> <b>(123010106)</b>	<b>40,055</b>	<b>41,770</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 1,715**

**Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.**

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

**Item #4j – Highways & Facilities – Title Change – Maintenance Carpenter to Maintenance Plumber. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #221**

**Highways & Facilities**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Maintenance Carpenter 10511100 51000 (511110113)</b>	<b>56,881</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Maintenance Plumber 10511100 51000 (511110113)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59,602</b>
<b>Temporary 10511100 51094</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>15,279</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 0**

**Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.**

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

**Item #4k – Legislature – Legislator’s 2% Salary Adjustment. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #222**

**Legislature**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>2% Salary Adjustment For Legislators 10101001 51000 (101010101)</b>	<b>35,136</b>	<b>35,839</b>

(101010102)	35,136	35,839
(101010103)	35,136	35,839
(101010104)	35,136	35,839
(101010105)	35,136	35,839
(101010106)	35,136	35,839
(101010107)	35,136	35,839
(101010108)	35,136	35,839
(101010109)	35,136	35,839
Chair Stipend		
(101010190)	8,783	8,959
Stipends for Committee Chairs		
(101010999)	7,000	0

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (\$497)**

**Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. TWO NAYS – LEGISLATORS GOULDMAN & WRIGHT. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Item #4L – Legislature – Administrative Assistant Positions – Salary Adjustment.  
Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #223**

**Legislature**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Administrative Assistant 10101001 51000 (101010113)</b>	<b>37,740</b>	<b>38,000</b>
<b>Administrative Assistant 10101001 51000 (101010114)</b>	<b>44,880</b>	<b>45,000</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: \$380**

**Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.**

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

## **Item #5 – Other Business**

### **LEGISLATOR COMMENTS**

**Legislator Gross stated that he wanted to speak to some of the comments made at the Public Hearing last evening and those mentioned in the newspapers regarding transparency of this Legislature. He explained the Legislative process where issues are discussed during Committee meetings and it is totally transparent. He stated that if a person is unable to make the meeting, they could certainly contact their Legislative representative to get clarification on those issues. He stated that the Legislature is transparent and he disagreed with some of the comments that were made. He encouraged people to go to the website to view our Calendar and agendas.**

**Chairwoman Nacerino echoed some of Legislator Gross' comments. She too took issue with individuals saying that the Legislature is not open and transparent. She stated that there are seven (7) Committee meetings during the month. She explained how Legislators are receptive to public comment and make every effort to meet the needs of their constituents.**

**Legislator Wright believed that we always need to encourage self-improvement. He stated that it was consistent with his critical comments of changing our Legislative procedures which only allow for public comment after the Legislature votes at a regular meeting. He believed it was almost tantamount to the same thing as was suggested last night at the Public Hearing; to hold public comment on a budget 24 hours before the Budget Adoption. He believed that we needed to give the citizens credit for the ability from time to time to enlighten us in a way that is helpful, but may require deliberative thinking and careful analysis. He believed that if public comment is to be meaningful, it should be sufficiently before a Legislative vote to allow the opportunity for Legislative reflection. Otherwise, he believed it would do nothing other than leave the citizens with the impression perhaps that they were just permitted to vent a point of view without any real opportunity to change a Legislators' thinking on important matters.**

**Legislator Albano stated that our seniors and veterans are a priority. He stated that, under the direction of Director of Office for Senior Resources, Patricia Sheehy, he believed that the Butterfield Senior Center would be something that we will be very proud of.**

**Legislator Gross explained that the Full Legislative meeting is a time when we recognize citizens and volunteerism. He stated that the meeting also finalizes those items that have been discussed in Committee meetings. He welcomed comments at the end of the agenda. He believed it was important to understand that there are two (2) different situations; the Committee meetings are where discussion takes place and at the Full meeting decisions have already been made from those discussions and the Legislature is ready to move forward.**

**Chairwoman Nacerino stated that is our policy and procedure. She stated that they always look for ways to evolve and to learn from what people say, however, she believed that there needed to be some respect to our process as well, which has proven to work efficiently for many years. She encourage everyone to review the agendas on our website and to make phone calls to individual Legislators if they are unable to come. She stated that the Legislature has demonstrated over and over again that we are receptive to the needs of people and have on occasion let individuals speak first when there are controversial issues.**

**Legislator LoBue stated that, as Legislator Wright mentioned, she hoped that we could do better and improve on the process. She stated that people believe they are not being given the truth when things are not transparent. She stated that the budget was posted on line under the Department of Finance, which she believed was difficult for people to find. She believed that next year we should make sure that the budget is posted in an area that is readily available. She believed that Legislative Conference Room #318 is not always suited to accommodate the public. She believed that copies of the budget should be made available during the budget meetings so they can follow along. She believed that we needed to strive to do better and be more transparent. She also believed that the Personnel section of the budget should be posted on line.**

**Chairwoman Nacerino stated that Legislator LoBue brought forth some very good points that should be looked into for next year.**

**Item #5a(1) – Historian – Removal of Full Time Proposal.**

**Legislator Gross praised the Historian for the excellent job that she was doing, however he was concerned about growing government by increasing this position from a Part time position to a Full time position.**

**Legislator Gross made a motion to keep the Historian as a Part-time position; seconded by Legislator Wright.**

**Legislator Castellano believed that this was an important position. He stated that we would be saving \$10,000 but we will be losing one (1) person in the process. He believed that the Historian position added to the tourism in Putnam County. He stated that the original request was \$46,784.00 and was dropped down to \$25,529.00 by the Administration. He stated that the hourly rate would remain the same and this individual has worked above and beyond. He supported the Full time position.**

**Legislator Addonizio stated that she also believed that it was a very important position. She stated that she contacted Orange County, Rockland County and Dutchess County. She stated that Dutchess County has one (1) Full time position with benefits and one (1) Part time with limited benefits. She stated that Rockland County has one (1) Part time**

employee and Orange County has one (1) Full time employee with benefits and one (1) Part time employee with no benefits. She explained that she has received phone calls from several constituents who believe it is unnecessary to have a Full time Historian position.

Legislator Scuccimarra concurred with Legislator Castellano. She did not believe this was growing government, but rather making an investment in County history which is important to us and our future generations. She stated that the Historian is also helping the Veterans establish their Veterans' museum.

Legislator Wright concurred with Legislator Addonizio. He stated that, historically speaking, it has been a somewhat ceremonial position and the stipend has grown over the years for the Part time County Historian. He believed that Legislator Addonizio's careful comparative analysis suggests that we ought maintain its present level, which would include the same management increases that other management personnel receives.

Chairwoman Nacerino called for a Roll Call on the motion to keep the Historian position as Part time.

**RESOLUTION #224**

**Historian's Office**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>County Historian</b>		
<b>Removal of Full Time Proposal</b>		
<b>10751000 51000</b>		
<b>(751110901)</b>	<b>25,529</b>	<b>0</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (25,529)**

**Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. THREE NAYS – LEGISLATORS ALBANO, CASTELLANO & SCUCCIMARRA. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Item #5a - Budget Resolution Regarding Settlement of Union Contracts. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #225**

**BUDGET RESOLUTION REGARDING SETTLEMENT OF UNION CONTRACTS**

**RESOLVED**, in the event that an employment contract settlement(s) is proposed by the County Executive and ratified by the County Legislature after the formal budget adoption date, but before the start of the ensuing fiscal year, the Commissioner of Finance is authorized to adjust the salaries and fringe benefits accordingly using the funds set aside for this purpose. There is no fiscal impact to the County Budget.

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

**Item #5b – Consumer Affairs – Electrical Inspection Services RFP. Chairwoman Nacerino moved the following:**

**Chairwoman Nacerino explained that this was retracted** *(by request from the Administration via memo from Deputy County Executive Walker, dated October 21, 2016. RFP not being awarded.)*

**RESOLUTION #226**

**Consumer Affairs**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Electrical Inspection Services Revenue</b>		
<b>10661000 425450</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 40,000**

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

**Item #5c – Putnam Golf – Highways & Recreation – Move Improvement line to Subcontingency.**

**Page 186 – Account #10085000 54715 Improvement Line – Putnam Golf - \$100,000.**

**Legislator LoBue made a motion to move the \$100,000 Improvement line for Putnam Golf to subcontingency to allow for Legislative control; seconded by Legislator Wright.**

**By Roll Call Vote: Three Ayes – Legislators Gross, LoBue and Wright. Six Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Albano, Castellano, Gouldman, Scuccimarra and Chairwoman Nacerino. Motion Failed.**

**Item #5d – Putnam Tourism Promotion Agency - Move \$100,000 to Subcontingency.**

**Page 163 – Account #25641000 54950 County Contribution – Putnam Tourism Promotion Agency - \$141,996.**

**Legislator LoBue made a motion to move the County Contribution amount \$141,996 to subcontingency.**

**Legislator LoBue stated that this is based on discussions at the Budget & Finance meeting regarding the status of the Tourism office and the lack of clarity from the beginning of this year. She stated that the Attorney General's office performed a review of this agency. She stated that at that time she had made a request that the County stop releasing funding until it was straightened out. She stated now, nine (9) months later, there still no resolve from the Attorney General's office. She stated that the Tourism agency has changed their mission statement to Tourism/Economic Development. She stated that she has questions about their finances and oversight such as; who has the previous files and bank statements. She believed that the Legislature needed to do their fiduciary responsibility in overseeing the finances of this outside agency.**

**Legislator Wright believed that the agency should be initially funded in some proportion to the County's previous commitments. He stated that if the motion does not get a second, he would propose all but \$35,500 which would be approximately ¼ worth of funding to be placed in the budget to incentivize an expeditious presentation in the New Year of the outstanding requests for important information. He explained that we were led to believe this information should be forth coming, therefore, he believed that by the end of the first quarter in 2017 there should be no open issues before the Legislature.**

**Legislator Gross seconded Legislator LoBue's motion to place the funds in subcontingency.**

**Legislator Gross explained that there has been some trouble with the Tourism Promotion Agency, however, he believed that they are on track with a new Board and he did not want to handcuff them for the late winter and spring activities in which they plan for. He stated that he had mixed emotions about this and preferred what Legislator Wright was proposing, however, he stated that he would second the first motion, let everyone else vent and then vote on it and move on to maybe another motion.**

**Legislator Scuccimarra stated that she attended several of their Board meetings. She believed it was a good Board. She stated that they have six (6) applicants for the Directors position. She stated that they have indicated that they will address any issues coming up. She stated this was something the Board had inherited and she believed it was not fair to put the money in subcontingency.**

**Legislator Addonizio stated that she did not believe that putting the funds in subcontingency would be tying their hands; it would still be available. She stated that she would propose putting \$100,000 in subcontingency.**

Legislator Castellano concurred with Legislator Wright and believed that we would be handcuffing them by putting the entire amount in subcontingency because they wouldn't be able to draw from those funds until the February or March meeting. He stated that he supported the 75% which Legislator Wright was proposing or the \$100,000 proposed by Legislator Addonizio. He stated that the original motion should be voted down because they wouldn't have enough funds to pay their bills come January.

Chairwoman Nacerino called for a roll call on Legislator LoBue's motion to place the entire amount in subcontingency.

By Roll Call Vote: One Aye – Legislator LoBue. Eight Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Albano, Castellano, Gouldman, Gross, Scuccimarra, Wright and Chairwoman Nacerino. Motion Failed.

Legislator Addonizio made a motion to place \$100,000 in subcontingency; seconded by Chairwoman Nacerino.

Chairwoman Nacerino believed that this was not tying their hands. She stated that there have been some issues and problems that need to be resolved. She stated that this gives the Legislature the opportunity to have a little more oversight moving forward.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that her concern was if these invoices are accurate she believed it would leave them with literally nothing to operate with. She suggested that the amount be lowered in order for them to address any open invoices.

Chairwoman Nacerino explained that they have some funds available until the end of the year. This is for operating costs for the beginning of 2017.

Legislator LoBue stated that they are continuing to receive approximately \$12,000 per month. She stated that it was not accurate to say that they will not have any money to operate with. She explained her concern with the Part-Time position of the Acting Director, the salary he is receiving, the checks he is signing without being familiar of the bank balance.

Legislator Albano stated that there is a whole new Board and they are doing what needs to be done. He stated that he could see the logic of putting some funds into subcontingency, however he believed that \$100,000 was too much. He stated that he would support a lower amount.

Chairwoman Nacerino called for a roll call vote on the motion to place \$100,000 in subcontingency.

**RESOLUTION #227**

**Putnam Tourism Promotion Agency**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>County Contribution</b>		
25641000 54950	141,996	41,996
<b>Subcontingency</b>		
10199000 54984	0	100,000

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 0**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. TWO NAYS – LEGISLATORS ALBANO & SCUCCIMARRA. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Item #5e – Butterfield Senior Center Expenses.**

**Page 48 – Account #10199000 54987 - Subcontingency Butterfield Staffing - \$72,867.**

**Page 178 – Account #10677400 54383 – Building Rental - \$99,527.**

**Legislator LoBue stated that she was concerned about all of the other expenses that were not allocated in this budget for the Butterfield Senior Center for next year.**

**Chairwoman Nacerino deferred to Legislative Counsel Van Ross to provide clarity about the Capital Operating Budget for Butterfield and the monies incorporated into this budget.**

**Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated that this budget refers to the expenses that are speculative in 2017. He stated that whatever capital improvements will be made were bonded in 2016.**

**Legislator LoBue stated that there is a portion of the rent budget, however, there are other expenses that we would be required to pay next year once this facility is open. She stated that she is not clear on why allocations were not made to cover the expenses that are coming forward.**

**Legislator Albano stated that the place where we could have gotten answers to that was at the Committee meeting when Department Heads are available.**

**Legislator LoBue stated that she brought these questions up during Committee and they were not addressed.**

Chairwoman Nacerino explained that these figures are based on estimates and the target startup date of the project could be June, July or August. She stated that the projected numbers may or may not be accurate at this time.

Legislator Wright questioned the departmental request of approximately \$60,000 for building rental and the Administration's bump up to \$99,527.

Commissioner of Finance Carlin believed that it would be easier to place all the Butterfield rent and CAMS payments in one (1) line: account #106677400 54898 Other Maintenance Service \$29,720 was moved up and put in account #10677400 54383 Building Rental.

At 8:08 P.M., Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to recess; seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

At 8:12 P.M., Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to reconvene; seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Item #6 – Offset Changes to Budget

Item #6 – Offset Changes to Budget was next. Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Gross.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross read the body of the resolution.

**RESOLUTION #228**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b><u>Sales and Use Tax Revenue</u></b>		
10131000 411100	57,356,000	57,461,091

Or such adjusted amount as required to offset changes to the Tentative Budget by the County Legislature, including County Executive's Vetoes not overridden by the County Legislature and including final adjustment for Health Insurance rates, to comply with the Tax Cap requirements of the State of New York. It being the intent of the Legislature to comply with Real Property Tax Law and Levy of \$41,435,402.00.

**APPROXIMATE DIFFERENCE OF: (\$105,091)**

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

Item #7 – Approval Budget Adoption

Item #7a – Approval of the Budget Resolutions was next. Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Albano.

## **RESOLUTION #229**

### **APPROVAL OF THE 2017 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby approves the 2017 budget resolutions as pre-filed by the Budget & Finance Committee and amended by the Legislature on October 27, 2016; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the individual votes on each budget resolution be made a part of this resolution.

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

Legislator Wright stated that he came here three (3) years ago hopeful of good progress. He stated that he has been unable to vote in favor of the past two (2) County budgets and found himself unable to vote in favor of this budget as well. He stated that per an email he sent to the Legislators he continued to have very serious reservations about spending overall; in particular debt spending. He stated that some will tell you that comparatively to other counties we are in better shape. He stated that in doing some work on his own through the Comptroller's figures, it struck him as inappropriate that a county such as Dutchess, from the few years of figures available through 2015, that Putnam County is on a debt per capita basis an average of 197% of Dutchess County. He stated that although there are other counties in the Mid-Hudson Valley that are in worse shape, he believed that we should not compare ourselves to the worst and feel good. He was truly concerned that we didn't have our eye on the long term wellbeing of, not only the elderly and the young who cannot afford to leave, but the ever-growing middle that appears to be moving away from Putnam County with our population shrinking and our budget rising. He believed that if Westchester County could manage a no tax increase budget year after year, he did not understand why Putnam County should have a debt per capita of 197% of our sister County to the North.

Legislator LoBue stated that she has voted against the last four (4) budgets for the same reasons as Legislator Wright. She stated that there is continual spending and a structural deficit exists when we take over \$6 million from the general fund to make this budget whole. She believed that staying under the tax cap was not enough. She believed that there were questionable priorities and with the choices we are making in terms of spending and growing government, she stated that she could not vote in favor of this budget. She believed there was a disconnect between this County government and the people that it serves. She stated that there is a high rate of foreclosures.

Legislator Albano disagreed. He believed that it was a sound budget. He stated that these are very difficult times and we are paying attention to detail. He stated that

foreclosures were actually down. He stated that we do use the general fund but then we add to the general; it was an accounting practice. He stated that we should always strive to do better; however, he believed this was a sound budget.

Legislator Wright stated that Dutchess County has three (3) times the size of Putnam County and we spend 197% of what they do per capita. He explained that he obtained his figures today from the website of the Office of the State Comptroller which was compiled by the Empire Center for public policy.

Legislator Gross believed that Westchester County had a huge budget gap. He stated that one thing he has learned while working on this Legislature was the vast services the County is required to provide. He explained that there were many unfunded mandates and the County must make up the shortfall for these mandates. He stated that according to our accountants we are in good shape financially and with our bonding. He stated that there are some things in the budget that he is not happy about, however, he believed that compared to prior years this was the best budget. He stated that some compromises have been made tonight and he would support the budget. He explained that he was concerned about the Butterfield Senior Center that after the 15 year lease we would not have anything and he believed it would have a major impact on the County.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated that she would support the budget as well. She believed that for the most part it was a bare bones budget and is very conservative. She believed that the Legislature made the necessary adjustments. She explained that the County was in good fiscal shape. She stated that there is always room for improvement; however we are crippled by unfunded mandates which unfortunately take up a huge part of the budget.

Item #7b - Approval/Resolution Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 Commencing January 1, 2017 Making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2017 was next. Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Addonizio.

#### **RESOLUTION #230**

#### **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2017 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017**

**WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature has met and considered the Tentative Budget as submitted by the County Executive and has held a Public Hearing thereon pursuant to both Article 7.04(b)(4) of the Putnam County Charter and Section 359 of the County Law of the State of New York; and**

**WHEREAS, this Legislature has made certain adjustments to the Tentative Budget as submitted by the County Executive which are included as part of this budget adoption; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby adopts the Tentative Budget, as amended by this Legislature which sets forth the appropriations for the objects and purposes as specified, and further establishes the rates of compensation to be paid provided that said tentative budget as amended does not exceed the tax cap as provided for by state law; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that this act takes effect on January 1, 2017.**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. TWO NAYS – LEGISLATORS LOBUE & WRIGHT. MOTION CARRIES.**

**There being no further business; at 8:28 P.M., Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.**

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