

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN
FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2020 BUDGET
HELD IN THE
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Tuesday October 29, 2019 7:00 p.m.

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

Item #4 - Pre-filed Resolutions

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

Item #4a - District Attorney – Special Services – Decrease to \$35,000 placing difference of \$30,000 in Subcontingency was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following:

RESOLUTION #242

District Attorney

	FROM:	TO:
Special Services		
10116500 54682	65,000	35,000
Subcontingency		
10199000 54983	0	30,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4b - Sheriff's Department – Narcotics – Reduce Motor Vehicles Line - Subcontingency was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following:

Legislator Montgomery requested clarification.

Chairman Castellano stated that after discussions with the Putnam County Sheriff, a motor vehicle line was cut and we took \$15,000 of the \$33,000 that was cut and moved it to subcontingency. He stated that it is a savings of \$18,000.

Legislator Gouldman clarified that the Sheriff's Department would need to come back to the Legislature to utilize the \$15,000.

Chairman Castellano said, "yes".

Legislator Sullivan stated that the Legislature wants a clear policy and procedure on the use of the data collected from the license plate readers such as; how long they will keep the information and who will have access to it. He stated that there are privacy issues with the collection of this data. He stated that there are currently bills in the NYS Senate and NYS Assembly regarding this issue such as; how they will use the information, who will see it, who they can share it with and how long they keep the information. He stated that we would like to have the proper policies and procedures in place before we move forward with any license plate readers.

Legislator Gouldman stated that placing the funds in subcontingency gives the Legislature the opportunity to receive this information.

Legislator Nacerino stated that during our discussions in Committee, the Sheriff was very receptive in coming back to the Legislature to insure that those policies and accountability is in place.

RESOLUTION #243

Sheriff's Department - Narcotics

	FROM:	TO:
Motor Vehicles		
14311000 52650	33,000	0

A DIFFERENCE OF: (33,000)

Sheriff's Department – Communications

	FROM:	TO:
Subcontingency		
10199000 54986	0	15,000

(other equip line in Communications was designated for license plate readers and cut from Tentative Budget)

A DIFFERENCE OF: 15,000

A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: (18,000)

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4c - Sheriff's Department – Narcotics – Reduce Other Equipment Line (designated for license plate readers) – **place in Subcontingency was next.** *(originally thought to be for license plate reader. Is actually designated for IP Camera System)*

Legislator Nacerino stated that the Legislature thought this was attached to the license plate reader consideration. However, that is not the case as the funds in the other equipment line is for an IP camera.

Chairman Castellano explained that there is a resolution in front of the Legislature to move these funds to subcontingency. He explained that a “yes” vote would move the funds to subcontingency, and a “no” vote would leave the funds in the other equipment line for the IP camera.

Legislator Addonizio clarified that the funds are for a mobile surveillance camera.

Legislator Jonke stated that the Sheriff's Department led the discussion in how this camera will be utilized. He believed this was a great tool for the Sheriff's Department and he believed the funds should be left in the budget for them to purchase the camera without requiring them to come back to the Legislature.

Legislator Gouldman concurred. He stated that the original thought was that the funds were for license plate readers and that was the reason why the Legislature put it in subcontingency. He stated that in finding out after the fact that it is not for license plate readers, he stated that he would like the funds to stay in the other equipment line.

By Roll Call Vote: Nine Nays. Motion Failed.

Sheriff's Department – Narcotics

	FROM:	TO:
Other Equipment (license plate readers)		
14311000 52680	12,000	0
Subcontingency		
10199000 54986	0	12,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

Item #4d - Planning Department – Reduce Printing & Forms was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following:

RESOLUTION #244

Planning Department

	FROM:	TO:
Printing & Forms		
95630000 54311	3,000	2,000

Transportation Fund Revenue

Fund Balance		
09021310 427161	175,000	174,000

A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4e - Parks & Recreation – Maintenance & Repairs – Subcontingency was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following:

Chairman Castellano explained that this is required per the Putnam County Charter. He stated that it is a zero fiscal impact. He explained that it requires the department to come before the Legislature when the funds are needed and to provide the Legislature with an explanation why they are needed. He stated that the money should have been placed in subcontingency and this will make that correction.

RESOLUTION #245

Parks & Recreation

	FROM:	TO:
Maintenance & Repairs		
10711000 54710	15,000	0
Subcontingency		
10199000 54985	0	15,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4f - Sheriff's Department – Jail – Proposed Personnel Positions – Reducing two (2) Additional Correction Officers to one (1), Providing one (1) Correction Sergeant Upgrade and Reduce Overtime was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following:

RESOLUTION #246

Sheriff's Department - Jail

	FROM:	TO:
Correction Officer 10315000 51000 (160)	25,044	50,088
Correction Officer 10315000 51000 (161)	25,044	0
Correction Sergeant 10315000 51000 (999)	0	15,380
A DIFFERENCE OF: 15,380		
Correction Overtime 10315000 51093	414,000	394,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: (20,000)

A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: (4,620)

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4g - Purchasing Department – Central Services – Reduce Vehicle Leasing/Rental Line was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following:

Chairman Castellano stated that this is a new program where we will lease some vehicles instead of purchasing new ones. He stated that hopefully they will be more fuel efficient. It will also provide a safer vehicle for the employees of Putnam County. He believed this was a good plan. He believed that the amount of \$100,000 was too high. He stated that we have placed \$25,000 in subcontingency so we can see how the program works out.

Legislator Nacerino agreed that this is a good move to make being that this is a pilot program. She explained that as we go through the year, we will see how it unfolds, how cost effective it is and how effective it is overall.

Legislator Sullivan stated that we are looking for a way to reduce the cost of our vehicles. He stated that by leasing them, we will be able to maintain a newer fleet, hopefully at a lower cost and lower maintenance cost. He stated that hopefully we can take advantage of more fuel-efficient cars such as; electric or hybrid. He stated that right

now we keep our cars for approximately 10 years which will then require a lot of maintenance costs. He is looking forward to giving it a try to see if it works for the County.

Legislator Goldman believed this was a great program to improve our services, facilities and by saving money.

Legislator Albano believed that we keep our vehicles too long, although he is not quite sold on leasing vehicles, he believes it has a lot of potential. He would like to move forward with this and see how it works. He believed that it might cost a bit more in the end, however it might be more beneficial by having a safer vehicle.

Legislator Montgomery hoped that this gives us an opportunity to utilize electric vehicles.

Chairman Castellano believed that having fuel efficient vehicles would save money in the long run.

RESOLUTION #247

Central Services

	FROM:	TO:
Vehicle Leasing/Rental		
10161000 54210	100,000	75,000
Subcontingency	0	25,000
10199000 54988		

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #5 – Other Business

Item #5a – Sheriff’s Department – Reclass to Deputy Sheriff Sergeant – Subcontingency was next.

Legislator Nacerino made a motion to place the Reclass to Deputy Sergeant position of \$17,962 in subcontingency; seconded by Legislators Albano and Sullivan. All in favor.

Legislator Nacerino stated that pursuant to the October 15, 2019 Personnel Budget meeting, outstanding questions were brought forward by her colleagues concerning the Reclass to the Deputy Sergeant position. She stated that two (2) Legislators were absent during that meeting and perhaps all questions concerning this position were not fully

addressed. She explained that she would be forwarding a letter to the Sheriff with a list of further questions and that it was her hope that we would be addressing this matter at the November Personnel Committee for more clarification.

Legislator Montgomery believed that we know the need for this position and the Sheriff has come before the Legislature several times to discuss the need. She stated that she was in favor of leaving it in the budget.

Legislator Nacerino explained that it was not being taken out of the budget. It was just being placed on hold until the questions could be addressed by the Sheriff. She explained that they wanted to be clear on the full ramifications of the position and the fiscal impact that might go beyond the amount.

Legislator Addonizio stated that by placing the amount in subcontingency does not mean that this will not move forward.

Chairman Castellano stated that the one outstanding question that he believed we did not have a clear answer on was if you move an SRO to a Sergeant position, how does it effect the school's budget and who would be paying for it. He stated that he would be happy to get this resolved in January as soon as possible.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she had a conversation with Sheriff Langley regarding this because there was a question that came from the school board. She stated that they have been looking for more supervision for their SROs in this program. She stated that the schools pay for one (1) SRO at half their salary. She believed it was clear how it would play out. She would like to leave the money in the budget line.

Legislator Sullivan stated that the issue is what school the person would be assigned to. He explained that we have contracts with the schools, and we want to make sure that they are fully on board with the increase in salary. He stated that the County cannot just increase their bill.

Chairman Castellano stated that the school budget runs from July 1st until June 30th. He stated that if an SRO is moved out of one (1) of the schools, that school would see a savings, but would the Sergeants position be covered by all the schools? He hoped to get this resolved before January so that something can be passed in January.

Legislator Nacerino stated that the issue is not the merit of the request. She stated that the issue is understanding the logistics and ramifications of the request. She stated that we don't know if it's a civil service list, where the eligibility lies, who is vying for the position; existing SRO or Road Patrol, and we don't know if the schools have been apprised of the change if they need to incorporate it into their next budget or was it something the County was going to absorb totally without implementing any changes to the schools. She stated that we just want a clear understanding of the whole domino effect of this change.

Chairman Castellano called for a Roll Call Vote.

RESOLUTION #248

Sheriff's Department – Community & Youth

	FROM:	TO:
Reclass to Deputy Sergeant 311016999	17,962	0
Subcontingency 10199000 54986	0	17,962

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

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

Item #5b – Sheriff's Department – Road Patrol – Reduce Overtime was next.

Legislator Jonke made a motion to address Road Patrol in the Sheriff's Office; seconded by Legislator Sullivan. All in favor.

Legislator Jonke stated that earlier this year the Legislature, at the request of Sheriff Langley, authorized the hiring of two (2) new Dispatchers at the 911 Center. He stated the Sheriff's presentation provided for a savings of \$242,000 in Overtime to the taxpayers of Putnam County.

Legislator Jonke made a motion to reduce the original proposed \$762,000 Overtime request to \$520,000. A reduction of \$242,000 which was the amount promised to the taxpayers by the Sheriff. Seconded by Legislator Sullivan.

Legislator Sullivan explained that overtime has been increasing at an unsustainable rate; particularly in the last few years. He stated that this year we are already over our budget by a significant amount. He stated that we need to do an analysis on the spending and talk to Sheriff Langley about what can be done. He explained that he looked forward to working with Sheriff Langley to figure out what would best benefit the taxpayers.

Legislator Albano concurred. He stated that he has looked at the overtime for the last nine (9) years. He explained that it is a high number that effects pensions. He believed

that the overtime needed to be reviewed to see if something can be done to change the direction it is going in.

Legislator Nacerino concurred. She stated that it has been a constant struggle and is a double edge sword that is a necessity which is justified at times. However, at the same time, when the Sheriff came to the Legislature about the new Dispatcher positions, he stated that he was going to save \$242,000 as a result of the position. She stated that the Legislature based their decision on the information that was presented.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if what Legislator Jonke was proposing was more than the current budget.

Legislator Jonke stated that it was approximately 2% higher than the 2019 amount which was \$508,310.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she appreciates the logic. She stated that she was hopeful that with the consolidation of the Dispatchers we would reach some kind of savings in the future. She believed this was the wrong department to cut. She stated that these are essential services. She believes this was something that needed to be looked at in the future, however, she does not know enough about the operations of the Sheriff's Department to do this right now.

Legislator Jonke stated that this is a cut only in the budget. It's not a cut from year to year. It is an increase from year to year in Road Patrol.

Chairman Castellano requested a Roll Call Vote.

RESOLUTION #249

Sheriff's Department – Road Patrol

	FROM:	TO:
Overtime		
17311000 51093	624,000	520,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: (104,000)

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

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

At 7:31 P.M., Chairman Castellano made a motion to recess as they go over the figures with the Auditor; seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

At 7:35 P.M., Chairman Castellano reconvened the meeting; seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Item #6 – Offset Changes to Budget was next.

Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

RESOLUTION #250

	FROM:	TO:
Use of Fund Balance		
10131000 427161	2,613,855	2,487,235

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 \$44,614,208.00.

APPROXIMATE DIFFERENCE OF: 126,620

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #7a – Approval of the Budget Resolutions was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Sullivan.

RESOLUTION #251

APPROVAL OF THE 2020 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby approves the 2020 budget resolutions as pre-filed by the Budget & Finance Committee and amended by the Legislature on October 29, 2019; 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.

Item #7b - Approval/Resolution Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 Commencing January 1, 2020 Making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2020

was next. Chairman Castellano made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislators Jonke and Sayegh. All in favor.

Chairman Castellano questioned if there was any discussion on the budget.

Legislator Montgomery stated that it was a great process and it was a difficult few weeks. She stated at the present time she is inclined to vote no on the budget tonight, however, she wanted to take a few minutes to share her thoughts on this year's budget process. She read a statement regarding what she believed to be the responsibilities of the Legislators elected by the residents of Putnam County. She stated that she felt a deep responsibility to her constituents when it comes to spending their tax dollars. She was concerned that there were very few changes made to the Tentative Budget. She stated that she questioned certain matters while doing her due diligence, yet her questions were met with great resistance by this Legislature. She believed there were three (3) reasons to hand out raises; inflation, competition in the marketplace, and merit or increased responsibility. She stated that our Commissioner of Health was presently earning more money than the Health Commissioners in Rockland and Orange counties, both with three (3) times the population of Putnam County and Westchester County with 10 times the population. She believed that since Putnam County has eliminated certain programs and employees, the Commissioner had fewer responsibilities than before. She questioned how we justified the position to receive a raise. She also questioned the increase in salary for the Finance Manager in the Health Department. She believed that the reorganization of the Health Department no longer provided basic services of public health; like the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program. She stated that it is unclear to her who the medically trained second in command will be and she explained the need for this person. She stated that the County Executive's position is also getting a salary increase. That elected position pays more than at least three (3) other surrounding counties. She believed it was our job to budget responsibly with good data and information. She stated very few questions were raised regarding the personnel budget. She believed it was a delicate issue, but it was our job to question these things. She hoped that her comments would be considered as we move forward in the year 2020.

Legislator Sullivan explained that the Legislature has spent the last month reviewing the proposed Tentative Budget from the County Executive. The Budget is within the New York State Tax Cap and continues to follow the conservative spending principles that the County Executive and the Legislature adhere to. He explained that few counties in NYS have achieved Putnam County's recent upgraded bond rating. He stated that we continue to keep debt and borrowing at historically low levels. He stated that we diligently reviewed the budget for cost savings wherever possible, while continuing to invest and support our employees, outside agencies and residents, while improving our County facilities. He stated that it is always a challenge to keep Putnam County an affordable place to live and to keep our taxes as low as possible, while providing the critical and mandated services that we are required to furnish. He stated that by working closely with the County Executive, and her administration, we have been able to present a cost effective and fiscally conservative budget with only a few changes. He thanked all those involved in the budget process for their hard work and dedication.

Legislator Albano stated that he is proud of this budget. He stated that Putnam County is one (1) of five (5) counties in New York State that received the Aa1 Bond rating. He stated that we also received a Certificate of Excellence by the Governor's Finance Office.

Legislator Addonizio stated that she was also proud of Putnam County's Aa1 Bond rating. She stated that this enables the County to obtain bonding at a low interest rate which in turn saves our taxpayer's money. The County has maintained a good bond rating while meeting the unfunded mandates such as: \$10.6 million for Early Intervention & Pre-K, \$3.2 million for Community College Chargeback. She stated that the County pays one-third of the tuition for any resident in Putnam County who attends a SUNY community college. She stated that she is proud of this budget and she was proud to move it forward.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she is also proud of all the Legislator's work in reviewing this budget in the month of October, the work of the Auditing staff, Legislative staff and the Department Heads that came before us to present their budget and their rationale. She stated that this is a team effort and it is a bare bones budget which is the reason why there are not a million cuts to it. She believed that the Legislature was handed a good budget to begin with. She stated that, in speaking of the Health Department, she believed they were on board to meet every challenge for the people of Putnam County in both a proactive and reactive way with anything they may be faced with. She stated that the WIC program has been moved to be more effective and efficient to better serve the needs of their clientele. She explained that the employees of the WIC program have worked closely with the Personnel Director to get placed in other positions. She explained that management employees received a 2.5% cost of living increase which she believed was fair. She explained that our unions are moving forward in a positive direction with contract negotiations and we are optimistic that they will reach fruition very soon.

Legislator Jonke recognized individuals and thanked everyone for their participation in the budget process. He believed it was a difficult process, however, he believed it was a responsible budget in the best interest of our taxpayers.

Legislator Sayegh explained that she appreciated everyone's hard work and innovative ideas to operate more efficiently and create a budget to save taxpayer monies. She explained that she is the Legislative Representative on the Board of Health. She explained that there are many professionals, in all specialty areas of health, who run the Health Department in an efficient way for the people of Putnam County. They are willing to accept all the challenges of public health in an innovated and supportive way. She stated that she has the utmost respect for all our Department Heads.

Legislator Gouldman thanked everyone involved in the budget process. He believed that it was a fiscally conservative budget which he is proud to say he is voting in favor of. He believed there were a few issues that would be resolved in the coming years.

Chairman Castellano believed this was an outstanding budget. He stated that he was proud to say that he has been a Legislator for 7 years and the County has been under the tax cap every year. He stated that he is also excited about the recent increase in our bond rating to Aa1. He stated that this will benefit our taxpayers moving forward by saving money when we borrow. He stated that it's a testament to all the hard work done by Putnam County. He stated that he was grateful that there were absolutely no layoffs this year. He stated that he was hopeful that the union contracts would be resolved in the very near future.

Legislator Montgomery stated that in no way did she ever criticize the work that the public health employees were doing. She stated that she is doing her due diligence as a Legislator; going through the budget and commenting on raises and the reorganization of the Health Department. She has nothing but the highest respect for the Health Department employees.

Chairman Castellano called for a Roll Call Vote.

RESOLUTION #252

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2020 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020

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, 2020.

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

There being no further business, at 7:56 P.M., Chairman Castellano made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislators Jonke and Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.