

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

Tuesday February 1, 2022 7:00 P.M.

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

PROCLAMATION

Chairman Sullivan presented the “Honoring Fallen Officers” proclamation to Putnam County Sheriff Kevin J. McConville, Undersheriff Thomas Lindert, Captain of Bureau of Criminal Investigation James Schepperly, Captain of Civil Division Michael Grossi, Captain of Corrections James Greenough, Captain of Road Patrol Division Kevin Junjulas and Captain of Operations & Communications Michael Knox.

HONORING FALLEN OFFICERS

WHEREAS, New York State’s large geography makes it one of the most unique States in the Nation as it is home to bustling cities, quiet suburbs, and sprawling farmland. The fourth most populous State, New York is home to over 20 million residents who rely on their local law enforcement agencies and officers to maintain the safety of their community; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of New Yorkers bravely serve their fellow residents as a member of law enforcement, selflessly putting their life on the line to preserve the safety of others. On Friday, January 21, 2022 the entire State was reminded of the sacrifice each law enforcement officer vows to make every day as they put their uniform on when two New York City Police Officers, Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora, were shot and ultimately killed in the line of duty while responding to a domestic incident; and

WHEREAS, tragic events such as this teach us to never take those who have chosen to serve and protect for granted. In the small community of Putnam County, our law enforcement officers on a State, County, and Town level are our neighbors, family, and friends; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature offer sincere condolences and prayers to officers Rivera and Mora and their loved ones. We thank each member of law enforcement who serve in Putnam County for their bravery and willingness to sacrifice their own safety for the protection of ours.

**Item #4 – Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – December 7, 2021
Year End Meeting – December 22, 2021
Organizational Meeting – January 4, 2022**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #5 – Correspondence
a) County Auditor

There was no activity during this reporting period.

Item #6 – Pre-filed resolutions:

AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
(Chairman Castellano, Legislators Albano & Gouldman)

Item #6a – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A109)/ Commissioner of Finance/ Year End Journal Entry #1 was next. Chairman Sullivan recognized Legislator Castellano, Chairman of the Audit & Administration Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Albano and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #32

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (21A109)/ COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE/ YEAR END JOURNAL ENTRY #1

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested a budgetary amendment (21A109) for the first Year End Journal Entry for the year ending December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, further entry(s) will follow as more information becomes available during the year end closing process; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment:

GENERAL FUND:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

SEE ATTACHED SHEET 750,983.00

Increase Estimated Revenues:

SEE ATTACHED SHEET 1,506,396.00

Decrease Estimated Revenues:

SEE ATTACHED SHEET 755,413.00

ROAD FUND:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

SEE ATTACHED SHEET 35,831.00

Increased Estimated Revenues:

SEE ATTACHED SHEET 35,831.00

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

SEE ATTACHED SHEET	50,138.05
Decrease Estimated Appropriations: SEE ATTACHED SHEET	500,000.00
Increase Estimated Revenues: SEE ATTACHED SHEET	2,232,438.05
Decrease Estimated Revenues: SEE ATTACHED SHEET	2,682,300.00
<u>DEBT SERVICE FUND:</u>	
Decrease Estimated Appropriations: SEE ATTACHED SHEET	42,000.00
Decrease Estimated Revenues: SEE ATTACHED SHEET	42,000.00

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

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

Item #6b – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (21A110)/ Health Department/ Additional Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) COVID-19 Grant Funding was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Albano and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery stated that she had a question that has gone unanswered since the Audit Committee meeting. She also stated that in her January 27th memorandum to the County Executive, she was interested in the health equity rates as it relates to the underserved population. She believed a portion of these funds were supposed to be for that population. She was particularly concerned about the population in Lake Peekskill. She stated that from the statistics, they have the highest positivity rate and the lowest vaccination rate in Putnam County. She stated that she was not aware of any clinics that were held there by the County. She explained that the County announced that it was winding down on holding clinics. She stated that this funding is available through June 30, 2024, and we are still at a high positivity rate particularly in the Lake Peekskill area. She stated that she would like an answer to her memorandum.

RESOLUTION #33

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (21A110)/ HEALTH DEPARTMENT/ ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PHEP) COVID-19 GRANT FUNDING

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2021, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) notified Putnam County of additional funding awarded under the new Local Health Department (LOH) COVID-19 Vaccine Response contract in the amount of \$281,350.81; and

WHEREAS, these funds were awarded to increase COVID-19 vaccine administration equity and to implement vaccine confidence strategies for COVID-19 and routine vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, the funds awarded under this contract may be used for COVID-19 vaccine implementation expenses retroactive to January 1, 2021 and is available through June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Health has requested this 2021 budgetary amendment (21A110) to account for \$235,275.00 of these additional grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the balance of \$46,075.00 from the additional grant funding is allocated on budgetary amendment (22A006) - Resolution #34 of 2022; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

26401001 51093 10170	Overtime	11,522
26401001 51094 10170	Temporary	2,124
26401001 58002 10170	FICA	<u>800</u>
		14,446

Increase:

10199000 54980	Contingency	220,829
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Increase Estimated Revenues:

26401001 444892 10170	Fed Aid – PHEP Grant	235,275
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2021 Fiscal Impact (220,829)

2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

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

Item #6c – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A006)/ Health Department/ Additional Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) COVID-19 Grant Funding was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Albano and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery explained that based on her comment from the previous agenda item, this resolution and funding calls for resources for the underserved populations; most particularly like Lake Peekskill where there is a high positivity rate. She hoped this area could be served.

Legislator Castellano stated that the \$46,075 is money that has already been spent, and it is basically being reimbursed with Federal Aid funding.

RESOLUTION #34

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (22A006)/ HEALTH DEPARTMENT/ ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PHEP) COVID-19 GRANT FUNDING

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2021, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) notified Putnam County of additional funding awarded under the new Local Health Department (LOH) COVID-19 Vaccine Response contract in the amount of \$281,350.81; and

WHEREAS, these funds were awarded to increase COVID-19 vaccine administration equity and to implement vaccine confidence strategies for COVID-19 and routine vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, the funds awarded under this contract may be used for COVID-19 vaccine implementation expenses retroactive to January 1, 2021 and is available through June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution #33 of 2022, budgetary amendment (21A110) accounted for \$235,275.00 of the grant funding awarded in the amount of \$281,350.81; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Health has requested a budgetary amendment (22A006) to account for the balance of the grant funding in the amount of \$46,075.00; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

26401001 51093 10170	Overtime	2,000
26401001 51094 10170	Temporary	2,000
26401001 54510 10170	Machine Maintenance	1,700
26401001 54330 10170	Medical Supplies	6,500
26401001 54410 10170	Supplies & Materials	625
26401001 54162 10170	Signage	32,900
26401001 58002 10170	FICA	<u>350</u>
		46,075

Increase Estimated Revenues:

26401001 444892 10170	Fed Aid – PHEP Grant	46,075
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2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

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

Item #6d – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A004)/ Tourism / I Love NY Matching Funds was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Albano and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Castellano stated that we received less I Love NY Matching funding from the State than what we budgeted. He explained that the Tourism Department would still like to utilize the \$7,103 extra from the County portion of the match to support tourism.

Legislator Montgomery explained that while she supports the film industry, which is what the Tourism Director wanted to use the funds for, she believed the Film Putnam Project was a new proposal. She believed that there were outstanding issues with tourism and requests have been made repeatedly through the years that have not been addressed; particularly health and safety issues with garbage removal which used to be funded in the Village of Cold Spring. She stated that the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce has

asked for support with mapping and support with the bathrooms in the Village of Cold Spring on weekends. She believed this request from the Tourism Department was redundant because she believed that the Economic Development Corporation was already supporting the film industry. She believed that the funds should be utilized for items which have already been asked for and not something new which we have not even seen a proposal for.

Legislator Jonke did not believe it was Tourism's job to supply porta potties or remove trash in Cold Spring. He believed that it was Tourism's job to attract people into our beautiful County.

Legislator Castellano stated that we received less funding from New York State than what the County budgeted. He explained that we could remove the extra \$7,103 that is in the budget, however, although we are not receiving the matching funds from the State, we would like Tourism to utilize the allocated \$7,103 in their budget as they wish.

Legislator Albano stated that he was not aware of the County taking care of bathrooms or garbage removal anywhere. He did not understand how that applied to this.

Chairman Sullivan stated that he would allow Legislator Montgomery to speak again on this issue, however, everyone will have one (1) chance to speak. He explained that we will not get another chance to comment on what others have already said. He stated that moving forward we would only have one (1) opportunity to comment on a topic before moving onto the next item.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if this was a new rule. She stated that this was never discussed.

Chairman Sullivan stated that it will be the new procedure.

Legislator Montgomery asked if we will no longer be able to follow up on a false claim that another Legislator has made?

Chairman Sullivan said, "no." He stated that we are here to comment on the issue not on someone else's comments.

Legislator Montgomery stated in response to Legislator Jonke's point that we do not fund that, she stated that the County funded garbage removal from the Town of Philipstown. She stated that they generate the most tourism and sales tax revenue. She stated that she wanted to go back to this new rule. She questioned how that was democracy.

Chairman Sullivan stated that the Legislature voted and approved our Legislative Manual at the Organizational Meeting. He stated that in a democracy there are rules and procedures for running a meeting. He explained that by voting for our Legislative Manual we have agreed to follow the rules and procedures in the manual, including Robert's Rules of Order. He stated that everyone will get one (1) chance to speak and there will be no crosstalk or commenting on other Legislator's comments.

Legislator Nacerino stated that the issue of garbage removal is reserved for the budget process. She did not believe this was the time or place to discuss that. She believed

Legislator Montgomery was comingling it with the request at hand. She stated that the request is to keep the \$7,103 in the budget, which still puts them at a loss because they are not receiving the matching portion from the State. She believed it was logical and rational to keep the Tourism’s operating budget as close as possible to what it was last year.

Legislator Jonke clarified that we were discussing a resolution that has to do with the Tourism Department. He stated that Legislator Montgomery made a comment that it should be up to the Tourism Department to put porta potties and have trash removal for the Village of Cold Spring. He stated that the only comment he made was that it was not Tourism’s job to remove trash from the Village of Cold Spring.

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

By Roll Call Vote: Seven Ayes. One Nay – Legislator Montgomery. Legislator Sayegh was absent. Motion Carries.

Chairman Sullivan called for a Roll Call Vote on the resolution.

RESOLUTION #35

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (22A004)/ TOURISM / I LOVE NY MATCHING FUNDS

WHEREAS, Putnam County was awarded \$48,897 in I Love New York Matching Funds for the fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the award amount was \$7,103 less than what the County anticipated and budgeted; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Tourism has requested a budgetary amendment (22A004) to transfer the \$7,103 from the Putnam County portion of the match to the Tourism’s Miscellaneous account, giving the Miscellaneous account a total of \$9,603; and

WHEREAS, \$4,000 of this \$7,103 will be used to support our Film Putnam Project in collaboration with Putnam County Economic Development Corp and the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

10641000 54989	Miscellaneous	7,103
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Decrease Estimated Appropriations:

10641000 54328	I Love NY – Match Program	14,206
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Decrease Estimated Revenues:

10641000 437151	State Aid – I Love NY Match Program	7,103
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2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR MONTGOMERY. LEGISLATOR SAYEGH WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6e – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A007)/ Commissioner of Finance/ COVID-19 Testing Site Costs in Carmel & Philipstown was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Albano and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #36

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (22A007)/ COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE/ COVID-19 TESTING SITE COSTS IN CARMEL & PHILIPSTOWN

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested a budgetary amendment (22A007) to account for the COVID-19 testing site costs in the towns of Carmel and Philipstown estimated through February 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that these costs will be reimbursed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a part of the COVID-19 response; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

10511100 54410 10175	Supplies & Materials	5,000
10511100 54633 10175	Propane	15,000
10511100 54560 10175	Equipment Rental	1,000
10511100 54989 10175	Miscellaneous	5,000
10398900 54560 10175	Equipment Rental	30,000
10398900 54646 10175	Contracts	275,000
10398900 54989 10175	Miscellaneous	<u>5,000</u>
		336,000

Increase Estimated Revenues:

10398900 449600 10175	Fed Aid – FEMA COVID-19	310,000
10511100 449600 10175	Fed Aid – FEMA COVID-19	<u>26,000</u>
		336,000

2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

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

Item #6f – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A008)/ Commissioner of Finance/ Highways & Facilities/ Capital Improvements/ Putnam County Golf Course/ MacGregor Grille was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Albano and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery mentioned minutes included in the agenda where we approved an increase in estimated revenues for the Golf Course of \$315,000. She explained that there is a reference in our backup material about a Capital Projects meeting where this was discussed. She stated that she is a member of the Capital Projects Committee by law as the minority leader. She stated that the Committee meets in August, and this was not discussed. She stated that what was discussed was placing a \$250,000 appropriation for capital improvements in the County. She was told at that meeting that the money would be used for minor renovations. She stated that during that meeting she questioned how much money was in the capital improvement fund. She was told by Finance Commissioner Carlin that he did not know, however he thought that it might be approximately \$1 million. She stated that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were supposed to be used for lost revenue. She stated that it is a rescue fund. She stated that we are now rescuing a Golf Course that is already flush with money and using funds that we need for important things. She stated that she started sending memorandums six (6) months ago to the County Executive asking that she inform us of her plan for the use of this \$19 million, which is where this \$400,000 is coming from. She stated that every other County has an impressive plan of how they will allocate these funds. She believed that we needed to make careful decisions on how we are spending this money to support our residents and County. She stated that the purpose of this money is to build back our economy. She explained how she was disappointed about using \$400,000 of ARPA funding for the Golf Course. She hoped that her colleagues would see that we do not have enough information on this request or a plan for the ARPA funds. She hoped that the Legislators could recognize the individuals who came out and the 35 emails we received in opposition to this allocation of funding. She thanked the individuals who reached out. She stated that there has been no public participation for where this \$19 million will be spent either.

Legislator Albano stated that he is a member of the Capital Projects Committee. He stated that when we meet in August, the Committee discusses what is called a "wish list" to have a general idea of what we will do. He stated that when the Capital Projects meets monthly, if something comes up, nothing gets moved unless it goes before the Legislature. He stated that as far as the \$19 million ARPA funding, he stated that there will be a plan for it. He stated that there were issues and leaks at the Golf Course. He stated that when the walls were opened, they discovered more than what was anticipated, and asbestos was identified. He believed this was the perfect time of the year and a good opportunity to address these issues. It is not something that should be done during the golfing season. He believed that it was a good use of the money and that it was something that needed to be done. He stated that there are so many different things that we can use the ARPA funding for and he welcomed all suggestions.

Legislator Goldman stated that the \$19 million from the American Rescue Plan Act can go a long way with repairing some of the critical infrastructure here in Putnam County. He stated that he represents the Town of Putnam Valley and there are three (3) traffic lights that need to be changed. He explained that a few years ago one (1) of the traffic lights was out for approximately one (1) month because there were no available parts to fix it. He stated that there is another traffic light on the corner of Oscawana Lake Road and Peekskill Hollow Road that seems to go out every other day. He believed this was critical infrastructure. He also stated that the old Sheriff's Department substation in Putnam Valley has been empty for many years. He stated that the town is requesting that it be repaired, and to have the new County ambulance service be stationed at that location. He believed that this was also an ideal location for the County to offer services

for the residents on the western side of the County. He stated that he would be voting no on this resolution, and he encouraged his fellow Legislators to join him in using these funds for critical infrastructure that we need in Putnam County.

Legislator Addonizio stated that there is a process with gathering information, and we will have a completed plan by April of this year. She stated that projects need to be started by 2024 and all funding must be spent by 2026. She stated that we are at the very beginning. She stated that Putnam County received \$19.1 million, and her understanding is that money is to be allocated for capital projects such as, water, sewer, infrastructure, broadband and nonprofit agencies. She stated that every town and village has also received an allocation of funds, therefore they have access to funding as well as County funds. She stated again that this is just the beginning. She believed that there would be great projects moving forward.

Legislator Nacerino stated that it was disheartening and disappointing to read so many copy and paste emails from people who may or may not understand the consideration before us this evening. She stated that it appears that there was a campaign to influence others into believing that we are misappropriating ARPA funds, and that we are careless and irresponsible in doing so. She stated that was the furthest thing from the truth. She stated discussions with local municipalities will be forth coming. She stated that the Supervisors and Mayors have received a letter from the County Executive apprising them of the ARPA funding. She explained that the County will be working with the towns and villages to partner and plan to utilize the funding in the upcoming months to best save our communities. She stated that Putnam County received \$19 million in funding. She stated that if you peruse the ARPA document, you will see that there are numerous designations of allocations of funding; agriculture, nutrition, housing, education, schools, food services and mental health, public health and testing, Veteran's Affairs and housing, infrastructure, public transportation, and homeland security, to name a few. She stated that there is also a capital projects fund. She explained that there has been no misappropriation of funds. She explained that this budgetary amendment meets the designated use for ARPA funding, and the criteria stipulated as a need for the community to be served. She explained that as a member of the Putnam County Fire Advisory Board, we are confident that we will be able to utilize this funding to furnish each department with the proper radios they need in the upcoming months.

Legislator Jonke stated that Legislator Montgomery mentioned that the public does not understand. He believed that the reason they did not understand was, as Legislator Nacerino mentioned, there is a campaign of misinformation out there. He stated that he read the emails. He read that the golf course was only for wealthy people. He stated that blue collar workers, our community members play golf there. He stated that the wealthy go to private clubs. He stated that this facility is serving our entire Putnam community. He explained that the Putnam Golf Club was more than just a golf course. He stated that senior citizens hold their functions at this facility. He explained about the Friday night concert series held during the summer and how it not only attracts our residents, but also people from outside the County. He stated that these were events that he did not have when he was younger. He also stated that our Veterans use the facility. He stated that spoke with Finance Commissioner Carlin about the funding being approved this evening. Commissioner Carlin stated that the ARPA funding has strict guidelines, and he would prefer to utilize these funds because the improvements fall within those strict guidelines. He believed this was an intelligent way to use our money.

Legislator Castellano stated that he has been on the Legislature for nine (9) years now. He stated that we have been talking about fixing this area for the last nine (9) years and have been kicking the can down the road. He stated that we are now in a state where it needs to be repaired right now. He stated that as he questioned Finance Commissioner Carlin last week to tell him if this is the appropriate use of this funding. He stated that Commissioner Carlin said “absolutely.” He stated that he trusted Commissioner Carlin’s judgment. He stated that we are doing nothing wrong, and we are staying within the guidelines. He stated that if we did not use these funds, we would either have to borrow it or find it somewhere else.

Chairman Sullivan believed this was just a matter of people understanding what we were doing and why we were doing it. He stated that the Administration is following a process similar to the budget process. He stated that they are requesting information and will then compile the information gathered before presenting it to the Legislature. He stated that the Legislature will then review and make any necessary amendments. He stated that our outside County Auditors will also be reviewing the request to make sure it falls within the ARPA guidelines. He stated that nothing will be done without meeting the ARPA guidelines. He explained that many requests from other outside agencies have been received by the Administration such as, the Women’s Resource Center, Substance & Addiction Abuse services, Seniors, Veterans, Law Enforcement and Infrastructure for Roads and Bridges. He stated that the Administration is in the process of reviewing these requests. He stated that the County was notified late in 2021 that they would be receiving ARPA funding. He stated that the Administration has asked Department Heads to submit requests for use of this funding by January 31, 2022. He stated that Town Supervisors and Villages have been asked to submit their requests by February 28, 2022. He stated that the final rule goes into effect on April 1st. He stated that this is only the first project of many. He stated that for the work to be done by springtime when the Golf Course opens, it needs to begin now. He stated that the initial work was just fixing some water damage and once the work was begun and the roof was opened, asbestos was found. He stated that created another problem which was not anticipated when the project began. He stated that the abatement needs to occur. He stated that the Golf Course is the gateway to Putnam County. It is a highly used facility by at least 35,000 people who have played golf there, not to mention the thousands who attend concerts, weddings, the seniors, and many others who rent out the facility. He stated that with the asbestos it is important for health reasons that we need to repair the facility. He believed that Dutchess County was spending \$57 million to repair the Dutchess Stadium. He stated that he would be voting in favor of this resolution, and he believed it was important to move this forward and repair the facility as soon as possible.

Chairman Sullivan reminded Legislator Montgomery, as he mentioned earlier tonight, that he would allow everyone one chance to comment. He stated that he would extend her the invitation to comment again, however if it goes off topic, he would end the discussion and move to forward this resolution.

Legislator Montgomery questioned where Chairman Sullivan came up with the rule that the Legislators could only speak once.

Chairman Sullivan stated that he spoke with Legislative Counsel Firriolo about it. He stated that Robert’s Rules was discussed, and it was a decision that this was the way we would conduct meetings in a professional and courteous manner, not allowing crosstalk and discussions back and forth.

Legislator Montgomery stated that it was unfortunate because she believed there were false statements made. She stated that the letter to the towns and villages was sent out yesterday to submit suggestions for this funding. She stated that we have known about this funding since March of 2021. She stated that we received half of the funding shortly after March. She stated that Dutchess is spending money on their stadium, however, Dutchess County has a plan which has been in front of the public for months. She stated that she never said that we were, or the Commissioner was misappropriating funds. She stated that she read the emails and she believed every single letter was important and that they were not copied and pasted.

Legislator Albano stated that we have Committee meetings to discuss all of this in depth. He stated that at a Committee meeting he would stay until 3:00 in the morning if necessary to address these issues. He stated that the Full Legislative meeting was the time to vote on these issues.

Legislator Nacerino called the question, seconded by Legislator Jonke.

By Roll Call Vote: Six Ayes. Two Nays – Legislators Gouldman and Montgomery. Legislator Sayegh was absent. Motion Carries.

RESOLUTION #37

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (22A008)/ COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE/ HIGHWAYS & FACILITIES/ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/ PUTNAM COUNTY GOLF COURSE/ MACGREGOR GRILLE

WHEREAS, the Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Facilities has informed the Putnam County Legislature of several Capital Improvement Projects needed at the Putnam Golf Course; and

WHEREAS, there was the potential for these projects, and several other Capital betterments throughout the County, to be funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and therefore a funding request approved during the budget process was put on hold; and

WHEREAS, some limited demolition and structural assessment commenced to investigate the extent that water damage, discovered during the Article 9 project, may have migrated; and

WHEREAS, during the demolition, a significant amount of unanticipated asbestos was found; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested a budgetary amendment (22A008) to mitigate water damage, complete structural assessment, perform the asbestos abatement and carry out the Capital Improvements to the MacGregor Grille, which will remain closed until the abatement and renovations are completed; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

57110000 53000 52212	ARPA Project #1 – PCGC	400,000
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Increase Estimated Revenues:

57110000 449898 52212

Fed Aid – ARPA Project #1 – PCGC

400,000

2022 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. TWO NAYS – LEGISLATORS GOULDMAN & MONTGOMERY. LEGISLATOR SAYEGH WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6g – Approval/ Budgetary Transfer (22T005)/ Sheriff’s Department/ Civil Division was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Albano and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Castellano explained that this was inadvertently not included in the 2022 adopted budget.

RESOLUTION #38

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY TRANSFER (22T005)/ SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT/ CIVIL DIVISION

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Sheriff has requested a budgetary transfer (22T005) to provide funding for the Civil function in the Sheriff’s Department as these costs were inadvertently omitted from the 2022 adopted budget; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved said budgetary transfer; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

15311000 54310	Office Supplies	2,000
15311000 54311	Printing & Forms	350
15311000 54313	Books & Supplements	3,000
15311000 54319	Clothing	900
15311000 54385	Uniforms	3,000
15311000 54640	Education & Training	5,000
15311000 54782	Software & Accessories	5,500
15311000 55314	Chargeback – Postage	500
15311000 55370	Chargeback – Automotive	4,000
15311000 55371	Chargeback – Gasoline	2,250
10161000 54371	Gasoline	2,250
10161000 54314	Postage	500
		<u>29,250</u>

Increase Estimated Revenues:

10161000 412941	Chargeback – Revenue	2,750
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Decrease:

10199000 54980	Contingency	26,500
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ROAD MACHINERY FUND:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

10513000 54370	Automotive	4,000
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Increase Estimated Revenues:

10513000 412931	Chargeback – Automotive	4,000
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2022 Fiscal Impact \$26,500

2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

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

Item #7 – Other Business

There was no other business submitted to the meeting.

Item #8 - Recognition of Public on Agenda Items

John Allen from the Town of Putnam Valley stated that early in the pandemic he had the privilege of delivering meals to people who were shut in and disabled. He stated that he got to know a lot of deserving people because of this. He stated that he knows a lot more people who have died from COVID-19 than have played golf. He stated that there are people still dying in this county. He stated that the Federal government gives all this money to Putnam County to use in the wisest possible fashion, and you are going to fix a golf course with these funds? He thought this was outrageous.

Victor Tishop from the Town of Putnam Valley believed that using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act for a limited use leisure time golf course seemed out of place and completely at odds with the intent of the act. He questioned if the engineering report on the asbestos would be made public.

Chairman Sullivan stated that the Legislature has not seen it, but he was sure that we could get it for him.

Victor Tishop stated that the Legislature has not seen the report, but they know that the asbestos abatement needs to be done now before the Spring. He wondered how long the asbestos has been there. He did not believe that the public, once they understand what you are doing this evening, will be happy about it. He questioned how many Legislators have read the American Rescue Plan Act. He believed that if they read it, then they did not understand what it was intended to do. He believed that the Legislature thought the golf course was more important and the people that use it. He stated that he did not believe for a moment that a lot of the people that utilize the facility are blue collar workers. He stated that depending on where the asbestos is, he believed the golf course was still usable, maybe just not the club house. He believed it was important that the report which determined the asbestos should be made public. He questioned if that could be confirmed tonight.

Chairman Sullivan stated that he would check with the Administration and if it follows the legal procedures, of course. He stated that he has no reason for it not to be public.

Victor Tishop believed the funds should be used for the people that have been directly impacted by the pandemic. He believed that since this is a federal program perhaps the U.S. Attorney General's office might review the use of these funds. He believed this

proposal should be tabled and investigated more. He believed the Legislature should do their due diligence and review the Act itself.

Linda Harris from the Town of Kent explained that she understands how unknown things are exposed during a renovation. She believed that the renovation at the Golf Course was being done before the County received these funds and then a loophole was found in the language that enabled the County to utilize these funds for the asbestos abatement. She did not believe that we should rush into using this money for the Golf Course. She stated that there are bridges and roads that are still damaged from Hurricane Ida that need repair. She stated that the infrastructure in the area has not been addressed in many years. She stated that many times asphalt is just placed in potholes, and we are putting band aids on problems instead of addressing the real issue, such as proper drainage. She believed the County was putting the needs of a few before the many. She believed that the meat and potatoes should be addressed first before doing things pertaining to leisure.

Nicole from Lake Peekskill stated that she used to play golf and she likes a great club house, however, Putnam County has so many more needs. She stated that she previously worked at CoveCare for a few years. She stated there is limited emergency housing in this County. She stated that there were people in this County who sleep in their cars in the middle of winter. She stated that there is a need for emergency housing. She believed that the ARPA funding would be better spent on the citizens who are most impacted by mental health needs. She stated that CoveCare does a tremendous job, however, it is just one (1) facility. She explained that the \$400,000 could be used to renovate some sort of structure for these people that would provide both housing and services. She believed that type of service was more relevant than a golf course. She believed \$400,000 to start, even if it was given to CoveCare, was more important when this County has a drug problem, homelessness, and a massive mental health problem.

Chairman Sullivan stated that the Department of Social Services is working on a multi-billion-dollar proposal. He stated that hopefully it would be addressing some of the issues just mentioned.

Nicholas Kuvach from the Town of Putnam Valley stated that he was in the building trades. He stated that in the State of New York before asbestos can be abated it must be inspected by a New York State licensed asbestos inspector who determines the abatement plan. He believed the County would take several bids for the job, assess the qualifications of the abatement companies, and award a bid for the job. He was hoping that would be public information.

Legislator Albano stated that whatever the procedure is, that is what the County would do.

Nicolas Kuvach stated that he was looking forward to that information when it becomes available. He stated that asbestos is a serious issue and needs to be addressed. He stated that it could also be very expensive. He stated that there are a lot of people in this County who are living marginally, barely making rent or mortgage payments. He stated that these people need help. He believed that the federal funds should be allocated to people in needs-based way.

Judy Allen from Putnam Valley questioned if the Legislature knew what it looked like to the 97,000 people who live in Putnam County, their decision to spend \$400,000 on a golf course when the ARPA funding was supposed to be a rescue plan. She questioned if any of the Legislators have been to a food bank and know how embarrassing it is to show up on Saturday morning because you need food that you cannot afford to buy because you lost your job. She questioned if Chairman Sullivan said he was approached by the Women's Center seeking some of these funds.

Chairman Sullivan stated that he was not approached personally. He clarified that the Administration had been approached.

Legislator Montgomery stated that we do not know that, and we do not have any of that information.

Chairman Sullivan stated that he spoke with the Administration.

Judy Allen believed that the County Executive said at some point that we do not have the resources to enforce a mask mandate. She believed some of the funds could be used to enforce a mask mandate to protect the people living in Putnam County. She explained that there is nothing wrong with golf, however, what was previously mentioned, there was money generated from the golf course to pay for that. She stated that Commissioner Carlin stated that he could use other funds, but the Administration believed that using the ARPA funding would be easier than dipping into other coffers. She stated that this might be true, but she wanted the Legislature to remember the people who lost their jobs over the last couple of years, and the people that need to go to the food bank on Saturday mornings to feed their families.

Stacy Dumont from the Town of Patterson questioned where Legislator Montgomery could go to get help with trash. She stated that she has heard her request for approximately 1½ to 2 years. She stated that if it is not a tourism issue, where can she go for help.

Legislator Albano stated that it is a town issue. He stated that each town takes care of their own trash.

Stacy Dumont stated that, in the case where Legislator Montgomery's side of the County is getting an influx of tourism, how can we make this problem a special problem. She stated that she would not benefit from what happens in Cold Spring since she resides in the Town of Patterson, however, she was curious if the Legislature could think creatively about getting this garbage pickup in a special circumstance.

Legislator Albano stated that in the Town of Carmel it is included in the resident's taxes.

Stacy Dumont questioned if the Town of Carmel was gaining more people specifically from tourism.

Legislator Montgomery explained that the County did allocate funding through the Health Department's budget, because they knew it was a health and safety issue. She stated that it was removed from the budget when she took office.

Stacy Dumont questioned if Roberts Rules of Order would also be applied to the Committee meetings.

Chairman Sullivan said, “yes” it is supposed to be. He stated that there is more leeway because that is where all the discussion is supposed to happen.

Stacy Dumont stated that was her point. She stated that if there is supposed to be a free exchange of ideas and comments, then it would be limiting. She understood the need to keep a meeting moving forward, however, the optics of that would limit someone’s voice and the exchange of ideas. She thanked our police officers for the risks that they take every day. She clarified that the content of her letter to the Legislature was not copied and pasted. She stated that she is in favor of entertainment and venues at the golf course, however, she did not think ARPA funds should be spent on the golf course especially since it is a viable venue generating funds.

Karen Freed from Putnam Valley thanked Legislators Gouldman and Montgomery for their “no” vote. She questioned if the Legislature was accountable to the federal government to show how the funding is being spent.

Chairman Sullivan said, “yes.”

Karen Freed questioned if it would be outlined how \$400,000 was spent on the Golf Course.

Chairman Sullivan stated that our Commissioner of Finance will.

Karen Freed asked Chairman Sullivan if he expected that to be a satisfactory root of spending money.

Chairman Sullivan stated that our Outside Auditors will be reviewing everything that we are spending money on. He stated that this is an independent review by an outside agency to make sure that where we are spending money meets the guidelines of the ARPA grant.

Karen Freed questioned who hires that outside agency.

Chairman Sullivan explained that they are the auditors, hired by the Legislature, who presently audit the County’s financial statements.

Karen Freed stated that she found it reprehensible that the Legislature is allocating \$400,000 of COVID-19 relief money to a golf course when there were people who died, people out of work and people who have young children and had to take off from work to care for them, all because of COVID-19. She stated that these are the people that you are responsible for protecting.

Chairman Sullivan stated, as mentioned earlier, we are early in the process of allocating the ARPA funding. He believed that in April when you see where the money is being allocated, he was hoping that everyone would be much happier.

Karen Freed questioned why the funds for the repairs were not coming out of the profit generated by the Golf Course.

Chairman Sullivan stated that the Commissioner of Finance makes that decision.

Karen Freed questioned if the Golf Course has made that kind of profit, and why it was not being used for the repairs.

Chairman Sullivan stated that we would get that answer for you.

Legislator Montgomery explained that January Audit & Administration Committee meeting agenda with backup contains a presentation from the Golf Course. She stated that the presentation shows the profit. She stated that we do not know how much we have spent on the Golf Course, which she has been asking for. She stated that last year we have made a profit of close to \$315,000.

Jean Hopper from Mahopac did not think anyone in this room would deny that the Golf Course needed attention. She questioned if it really needed to come from the ARPA funding. She stated that according to the Commissioner of Finance it does not. She stated that Legislator Castellano mentioned that you have known about these problems for nine (9) years.

Legislator Castellano stated that we have discussed the problems. He stated that Ms. Hopper was more than welcome to call him anytime, and his phone number was on the website. He explained that the County rebuilt that Golf Course from the time he came on the Legislature in 2013. He stated that nine (9) years ago it was a disaster. He stated that the federal government allocated the funding to be used in this fashion. It has been reviewed by the Commissioner of Finance and County Attorney. He stated that the federal government can allocate funding for other things as well. He stated that it is \$400,000 and as mentioned earlier a stadium in Dutchess County for \$76 million. He stated that it is \$400,000 to repair a building that the community uses and the money that was given to us by the federal government is properly allocated for that. He stated that if it is not, they will take the funding back.

Jean Hopper questioned why the Golf Course repair was permissible under this plan. She stated that it is not an essential service, affect people's unemployment, childcare, housing, infrastructure, medical bills, sewer, or water. She questioned what it affected.

Legislator Jonke stated infrastructure. It is a county facility.

Jean Hopper questioned if the asbestos was found in August.

Chairman Sullivan said, "no," it was recently found.

Legislator Jonke stated that during the Audit Committee meeting, he asked Highways & Facilities Deputy Commissioner Tully about the estimate and how they arrived at that. He stated that they had done a preliminary report. He stated that there will be a contractor to help remediate the asbestos. He stated that the \$400,000 is an estimate.

Legislator Albano stated that he is the Chairman of the Physical Services Committee and these items regarding facilities come before that Committee. He welcomed Ms. Hopper to any of our meetings when issues are being discussed. He stated that she has good

questions, although he explained that we cannot answer them at this meeting because we do not have the personnel available tonight that can address these questions.

Jean Hopper stated that Chairman Sullivan mentioned that hopefully there will be enough money at the end for all these projects. She believed that we were putting the cart before the horse because this is taking away almost ½ million away from people that probably need this relief. She stated that it was not that the Golf Course does not need the repair. She stated that taking the funding from a rescue plan when the County does have the money without using the rescue plan funds according to the Commissioner of Finance, then it seemed like it was a matter of timing regarding completing the repair before the summer. She stated for Legislator Nacerino to cite concerned citizens that write letters to the Legislators that represent them, to say it was copied and pasted, was insulting. She believed they deserved an apology.

Legislator Nacerino explained that to her understanding there was a campaign spread from people to copy and paste. She stated that it was disappointing to her to see that when people like that understand the gravity and the depth of the consideration at hand. She clarified that she said that there were many that were copied and pasted. She did not say all. She stated that it seemed like there was a campaign to flood these copied and pasted emails. She stated that there were no accusations made personally to Legislator Montgomery that she made any disparaging remarks towards the Commissioner of Finance. Legislator Nacerino stated that the Commissioner of Finance prepared the budgetary amendment and would not in any shape or form move this forward and not have these funds allocated in the proper way. She stated that with no disrespect to anyone, this conversation tonight would be moot if this was not a consideration that the American Rescue Plan Act took under and made a legitimate allocation for. She stated that if that is the case, then this will not reach fruition. She stated that as Legislator Addonizio stated, we are just at the beginning. She stated that we value, respect, and want money for mental illness, for our children, for housing and infrastructure. She stated that we have not gotten there yet. She stated that it was unfair to hold our feet to the fire when we have not even begun the process. She stated that this just came before us because time is of the essence. Conversely, we could not use the ARPA funding, but it would put a strain on the taxpayer's backs as well. She stated that this was brought to meet the best path moving forward because it was deemed an appropriate expenditure to do so.

Item #9 - Recognition of Legislators

Legislator Albano explained that we are not taking away other services or cutting back on the COVID-19 effort. He explained that the County would look at the things identified as needing to be done. It is a matter of addressing what needs to be done. He stated that he was at the Incident Response Center and found it amazing to see the coordination between our emergency response people such as; NYSEG, Central Hudson, Fire Departments, Sheriff Department and Police Departments. He thanked all these men and women for doing a fantastic job in keeping people safe.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she wanted to read a sentence into the record from the County Executive's letter to the Town Supervisors and Mayors. "As part of our process I'm reaching out to you to provide feedback regarding the possibility of partnering with ARPA related projects." She stated that she looks forward to partnering with the municipalities and prioritizing our spending as we move forward.

Chairman Sullivan stated that we are sharing and looking to share County money with the towns and villages who have also received their own ARPA funding for projects.

Legislator Nacerino encouraged the public to come to our Committee meetings, because that is where the dialogue ensues, where the questions are asked and where the meat and potatoes and the lion's share of the work gets done. She stated that this meeting tonight was not appropriately run. She stated that we are going to follow Robert's Rules of Order and our process and Recognition of the Public is for comments. She stated that any questions the public may have should be submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature accordingly. She stated that we are not here to debate the issues or provide feedback at the Full Legislative Meeting. She stated that we encourage you, welcome you, respect you and hope that you do come to our Committee meetings so that we can engage in a meaningful and constructive dialogue.

Legislator Addonizio stated on January 30th we lost a longtime Town of Kent resident, Don Hall, the pillar of our community. He was a longtime publisher of the Putnam County Press and Putnam County Times. She stated at 90 years old he was still delivering stacks of newspapers three (3) times a week to the local grocery stores. She stated that he will be missed in our community. She stated that in the first month of 2022, five (5) police officers were shot in New York City. She stated that this past Friday, two (2) dedicated heroes were laid to rest with a wake at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Detectives Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora were killed while responding to a domestic disturbance in New York City. She stated that every day our police officers put their lives on the line to protect us, stepping into dangerous situations. She stated that her father is a retired New York City Police Officer from the 41st Precinct, and she knows firsthand how hard it is on all family members. She stated that her thoughts and prayers are with the NYPD, the families and all the men and women in blue.

Legislator Gouldman stated that the Town of Putnam Valley lost a good person on January 23rd, Bill Whetsel. He was the husband of longtime Putnam Valley Councilwoman Wendy Whetsel. He stated that Bill had a soft demeanor, sharp wit and was a true gentleman. He stated that he loved Putnam Valley and the historic house they lived in. He stated that he will be missed.

Legislator Montgomery stated that the letter which Legislator Nacerino referenced just came to the towns and villages yesterday. She stated that there was no guidance on what the towns and villages should ask for. She stated that the letter came out after she requested at the Audit Committee meeting for the County to partner with towns and villages. She stated that we have known about this funding for over six (6) months. She stated that most counties have a plan and have partnered with their towns and villages. She stated that regarding the budgetary amendment that was just approved for the Golf Course, she questioned why funding was not budgeted for this project when we have been waiting nine (9) years to do some work on this project. She stated that she was not in favor of going into any other coffer for this. She believed that the Golf Course was showing a profit and should pay for itself. She questioned how we could allocate these funds without the inspection or the engineering. She believed that even though the Federal government said we can use the funding for this, she did not believe that we should. She stated that the State says we have to wear masks, but that does not mean that we do. She stated that it does not mean that we should do things just because we are aloud to. She mentioned the notice received today about properties in foreclosure.

She stated there were 124 properties in 2020 and 70 properties in 2021. She stated that she was once again disappointed with the Committee assignments. She explained how her request to be appointed to the Health and Protective committees were denied. She stated that she has 15 years of experience in policymaking and allocating funds, in addition to her extensive practical experience in the areas of health and protective services and public safety. She welcomed newly elected officials; Putnam Valley Supervisor Jacqueline Annabi, Village of Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley and Town of Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel. She stated that it is Black History Month and as Coretta Scott King said, "Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated." She said, let's stop the hate.

Legislator Albano mentioned that regarding Capital Projects meetings, he stated that no money is spent unless it is reviewed by the Physical Services Committee.

Legislator Castellano stated that he made the comment that he has been a Legislator for nine (9) years. He clarified that the Golf Course is a valuable property. He stated that for nine (9) years we have improved the property and there have also been times when we said we cannot afford it at that time and waited. He explained at this point we have a situation that while repairs were being performed an asbestos issue developed. He stated that this needs to be paid for one (1) way or another and he still believed that we were doing this the right way and following all the rules. He stated that it has also been vetted out by everyone, including our Outside Auditors, County Attorney and Commissioner of Finance.

Chairman Sullivan thanked all County employees for the services they provide to our residents. He stated that they all work very hard making sure our residents are protected and properly taken care of. He stated that we value our employees and thanked them for their service. He explained that during the budget process we try to provide our departments with as much money as feasible to provide the best services for our residents. He stated that we are not trying to shortchange anyone. He stated that we try to provide the best services that we can do within a limited budget. He stated that, as mentioned earlier, this process is just beginning. He stated that the Department of Social Services will be providing the Administration with a multi-million-dollar request. He stated that other County departments, towns and villages will also be making requests to utilize the ARPA funding. He explained that the funds are not unlimited, however the County will do the best job we can to address the issues mentioned tonight.

There being no further business, at 8:42 P.M., Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.