

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

Tuesday **January 7, 2025** **7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by County Clerk Michael Bartolotti who requested Legislator Gouldman to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. County Clerk Bartolotti then requested Legislator Addonizio to lead in the Legislative Prayer. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Addonizio, Russo, Ellner, Jonke, Birmingham, Sayegh and Crowley were present. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo.

Item #4 – Appointment – Chair - Putnam County Legislature was called first. County Clerk Bartolotti requested nominations from the floor for Chair of the Legislature.

Legislator Jonke made a motion to nominate Legislator Sayegh as Chair of the Legislature; seconded by Legislator Ellner.

Legislator Jonke stated that Legislator Sayegh has done a fantastic job as the Deputy Chairwoman of the Putnam County Legislature for the years 2023 and 2024. She is steadfast and calm in her demeanor, which makes her the best candidate to be the Chair of this Legislature. He stated that she is always well prepared for the work here on the Legislature and she has Chaired the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee for the past six (6) years. He stated that in government it is hard to find someone who uses their heart, head and spine all at the same time. He stated that Legislator Sayegh is a rare individual who utilizes all three (3). He stated that for the past seven (7) years, Legislator Sayegh has been well prepared to do her job, and does so in a respectful, professional, and compassionate way. He was honored to make this nomination.

Legislator Ellner stated that he was honored to second the nomination of Legislator Sayegh as Chair of the Putnam County Legislature. He believed that she would do an outstanding job.

County Clerk Bartolotti asked if there were any other nominations.

County Clerk Bartolotti stated that seeing no further nominations, he opened the floor for comments.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she was disheartened that this Legislature chooses not to follow tradition of appointing a senior member of the Legislature as Chair. She believed if she nominated Legislator Gouldman she would not have the votes to approve it. She explained that in the past she has supported those who were nominated thinking that it would serve the people of Putnam and her constituents. She stated that regardless of who she nominates, even if she extends that olive branch, she continues to be met with great resistance. She explained how she believed this affected the taxpayers. She stated that she would support Legislator Sayegh. She hoped we could approach this year with common sense, efficiency, and civility.

Legislator Gouldman stated that in the past this Legislative body has changed the Chairperson every two (2) years, giving all Legislators the opportunity to be Chair to direct the Legislature in the best way to move forward. He stated, as the senior Legislator, he will not have the opportunity to be the Chair of this body. He stated that the residents of Putnam County expect us to work on the issues that matter. He stated that we all have our perspectives and points of view, and there have been many times we have been frustrated with the decisions that have been made, but we all have to work together to get the job done. He explained that we learned from last year that we dealt with fire and brimstone in many different settings, and it did not have a positive outcome. He stated that a Legislative body that listens and respects what the other Legislators have to say is what he is looking forward to for the coming year. He stated that he would like to turn the page from 2024 to 2025, and he has a commitment that moving forward there will be no bullying on this Legislature. This Legislative body will let everyone on this body speak in a civil way on the issues at hand. He stated that if a Legislator brings something up for discussion, it will not be blocked. It will be discussed and brought up in a Committee meeting. We will work together to solve issues going forward. He stated that because of this and the commitments that he received, he would support and vote for Legislator Sayegh.

County Clerk Bartolotti asked for a roll call vote on the nomination.

RESOLUTION #1

APPOINTMENT – CHAIR - PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RESOLVED, that Amy Sayegh be appointed to the position of Chair of the Putnam County Legislature, with all the rights, privileges and duties of the office as set forth in the Putnam County Charter as permitted by law for a period ending December 31, 2025.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Legislator Sayegh thanked everyone for their vote of confidence.

Item #5 – Appointment - Deputy Chair - Putnam County Legislature was next.

Chairwoman Sayegh asked if there were any nominations for Deputy Chair.

Legislator Addonizio made a motion to nominate Legislator Ellner to serve as Deputy Chair; seconded by Chairwoman Sayegh.

Legislator Addonizio stated that Legislator Ellner has served as Chair of the Physical Services Committee, and as a member of the Audit & Administration Committee and the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee. His extensive knowledge of water quality is an invaluable resource for his constituents in the Town of Carmel. With his professional demeanor, exceptional leadership skills and the ability to communicate ideas effectively, he has become a valuable asset to the Legislature. His contributions consistently demonstrate his commitment to excellence. She stated that she was honored to nominate Legislator Ellner to serve as Deputy Chair.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that Legislator Ellner has proven to be a fair and fiscal Legislator and Committee Chair. She stated that he has been the Chairman of the Physical Services Committee, and member of the Audit & Administration Committee and the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee. He takes with him decades of experience in the private sector which he applies here to make our County a better place. He works collaboratively with his colleagues and is always professional and respectful. He has proven to be an asset to this Legislature and she was honored to second the nomination for him to serve as Deputy Chairman.

Chairwoman Sayegh asked if there were any other nominations.

Chairwoman Sayegh requested a roll call vote on the nomination.

RESOLUTION #2

APPOINTMENT - DEPUTY CHAIR - PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RESOLVED, that Greg Ellner be appointed to the position of Deputy Chair of the Putnam County Legislature, with all the rights privileges and duties of the office as set forth in the Putnam County Charter, as permitted by law for a period ending December 31, 2025.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Legislator Ellner thanked his colleagues and stated that he would do his best to serve the people of Putnam County.

Item #6 – Re-Appointment - County Auditor was called next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislators Addonizio and Jonke.

RESOLUTION #3

RE-APPOINTMENT - COUNTY AUDITOR

RESOLVED, that Michele Alfano-Sharkey be re-appointed to the position of County Auditor, with all the rights, privileges and duties of the Office as set forth in the Putnam County Charter, as permitted by law for a three-year term period ending December 31, 2027.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #7 – Adoption of Legislative Manual was next. Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Item #7.

Legislator Birmingham made a motion to adopt the Legislative Manual with the revisions he provided which are included in the backup; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

Legislator Birmingham highlighted changes in the new Section II (B)(5) – Location of Meeting of the County Legislature and the Budget & Finance Committee; Seating.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to table this.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that Legislator Birmingham has the floor.

Legislator Birmingham continued and stated the second change was in Section II (C)(2) which corrected a typo. He stated that the third change was on the next page which amended Section II (C)(7) with respect to the Chair's Power to Vote. He stated that the next change was Section III (B)(1) which clarified where the Standing Committee meetings would be held. He stated that the next change was in Rule 7 – Appeal of a Decision of the Chair. He explained the next three (3) proposed new rules; Rule 31 – Oath or Affirmation, 32 – Legislative Subpoenas, and 33 – Confirmation of Appointments of the County Executive. He stated that Rules 31 and 32 merely codify powers that we already have. He stated that the County Charter gives the Legislature the power to administer Oaths or Affirmations. He stated that this merely puts it in our Legislative Manual to give us a process of how it can happen. He stated that this Rule is almost verbatim from the Erie County New York Legislative Manual. He stated that Rule 32 is almost verbatim from Rockland County's Legislative Manual. He explained in detail how Rule 33 puts in place the process of confirming appointments of Department Heads. He proceeded to read an email from his constituent Lynne Eckardt into the record regarding her opinion on these proposed changes. He believed that she made some great points. He stated that if this comes to a Committee that he is a member of, he stated that he was willing to incorporate all of Ms. Eckardt's comments into Rule 31.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to adopt the Legislative Manual as it is without the changes.

Legislator Birmingham questioned if that was in the form of an amendment or a separate resolution. He explained that Legislator Montgomery's motion was not subsidiary to his motion. He explained that his motion was on the floor and deserves either an amendment or consideration.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to table this. She expressed her frustration at the perceived lack of transparency with this item. She explained that there was no discussion in Committee; seconded by Legislator Gouldman.

By Roll Call Vote: Four Ayes – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Five Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Ellner, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion fails.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for discussion on the original motion.

Legislator Crowley stated that she would like to ask counsel their opinion of the proposed changes to the Legislative Manual and how it will affect the Legislature. She deferred to counsel to explain or read their email which noted sections in the Legislative Manual to be considered.

Legislator Birmingham reminded his colleagues of Rule 13 – Recognition of Persons Not Members of the Legislature: "Persons who are not members of the Legislature may by consent, be permitted to speak during debate. Such consent shall be given by the Chair, subject to a two-thirds override by members of the Legislature who are present."

Legislator Crowley proceeded to read the email from Senior Deputy County Attorney Conrad J. Pasquale. She believed that we needed time to reflect on the proposals before

us before we make harsh decisions that could leave us exposed, and the constituents we represent financially exposed.

Legislator Jonke thanked Legislator Birmingham for his hard work and thorough research. He stated that these are our rules, and he was in favor of them.

Legislator Gouldman also thanked Legislator Birmingham for the hard work he put into drafting this. He stated that there are many proposed changes. He believed it was not fair to the public and the Legislators if we cannot even ask counsel to participate in the discussion. He believed we should adopt the current Legislative Manual and bring these changes to a Rules Committee meeting for discussion.

Legislator Ellner believed that at the closing of Deputy County Attorney Conrad J. Pasquale's email, he suggested adopting the manual in its current form and adjusting it in Committee. He believed that was an excellent approach.

Legislator Russo stated that what Senior Deputy County Attorney Pasquale said in his email was: "I believe it may be prudent to move forward with the adoption of the manual in its current form to give us an opportunity to discuss the potential legal issues and exposure to the County that could result from the amendments, as well as conduct further research into these items as necessary."

Legislator Montgomery stated that less than three (3) weeks ago, the Physical Services Committee put legislation forward that would cripple the public and farmers. She believed this legislation crippled the public. She believed that we were chipping away at the public's opportunity to contribute and participate in government.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to amend the legislative manual that is on the agenda.

Legislator Birmingham stated that if there is an amendment being made and seconded, that is a subsidiary motion to the one on the table. He stated that if Legislator Montgomery's amendment has a second then we can certainly discuss it, consider it and vote on it.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned what the amendment was.

Legislator Montgomery read proposed Section II (B)(5) – Location of Meeting of the County Legislature and the Budget and Finance Committee.

Legislator Montgomery explained that she lives in a district that is not graphically convenient for her constituents to attend our meetings. She was hoping for the opportunity to have some of these meetings held on her side of the County.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to remove the entire section from the manual; seconded by Legislator Gouldman.

Legislator Birmingham called the question. He explained that it would need a second and then we could vote on calling the question. He stated that we could then vote on the amendment itself.

Legislator Montgomery stated that Legislator Gouldman had raised his hand.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he stands corrected. He apologized that he did not see Legislator Gouldman's hand raised. He stated that our rules clearly require that anyone who has not spoken yet must be able to speak prior to calling the question.

Legislator Gouldman concurred with Legislator Montgomery. He stated that we have a lot of things to showcase here in Putnam County with value of promoting sites we have on the western side of the County and eastern side of the County. He explained that the previous County Executive had her State of the County at the Putnam County Golf Course. He believed that we should have Committee meetings throughout the County, not just in the Historic Courthouse or the County Office Building.

Legislator Birmingham withdrew his motion to call the question.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote on the motion to remove Section II(B)(5).

By Roll Call Vote: Four Ayes – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Five Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Ellner, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion fails.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to remove in Section IV proposed Rule 31 – Oath or Affirmation; seconded by Legislator Gouldman.

Legislator Montgomery proceeded to make comments as she read Rule 31. She believed that Rule 31 completely intimidates the public. She believed that if the public needed to take an Oath before speaking to the Legislature, then so did everyone else that came before the Legislature.

Legislator Gouldman believed that this Legislative body was very intimidating to the public. He explained that he did not want to intimidate individuals from speaking. He wanted neighbors and residents to participate. He stated that we wanted an open government. He explained that if Legislator Birmingham thought his constituent Lynne Eckardt had a good idea, then he believed that he should not support his proposed Rule 31.

Legislator Ellner did not believe the public should be required to take any type of affirmation. He believed it would be good if the County staff did. He stated that there needs to be truthfulness and accuracy with information. He stated that he would not support the amendment. He stated that his goal was to pass this manual and make changes in Committee.

Legislator Crowley agreed that there was room for us to improve upon this, and it should be discussed in Committee. She believed that the current manual should be adopted, and it should be tabled to the February Rules Committee meeting where it can be discussed. She appreciated the time put into the proposed changes, but she believed there were rules and kinks, and it does affect our constituents, and the public is intimidated to speak here. She stated that she would not want to be a Department Head and be required to take an oath. She did not believe we should intimidate our staff or constituents.

Legislator Jonke stated that the first sentence states, "The Chair of the County Legislature and the chair of a Standing Committee, shall each have the power to request

anyone speaking in front of the County Legislature or a Standing Committee take an oath affirming the truthfulness of the information being presented on the floor.” He stated that it gives them the discretion. It does not say “shall” demand. He stated that not everyone that comes in front of us is going to be required to take an oath.

Chairwoman Sayegh read Section 2.04(i) of the Putnam County Charter which pointed out powers and duties already in place for the Legislature. She stated that this just puts this power into the Legislative Manual.

Legislator Montgomery explained how items come before the Legislature and the insistence of other items needing to go before Committee. She believed that she could not trust that the Chair of the Legislature, or any Standing Committee Chair, would do the right thing, because we are not doing the right thing here.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote on the motion to remove Rule 31.

By Roll Call Vote: Four Ayes – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Five Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Ellner, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion fails.

Legislator Birmingham made a housekeeping amendment in Rule 9 – When the Chair May Vote. His motion would be to strike the following words from Rule 9, “except the aforementioned appeal proceeding. (See Rule 7).” Seconded by Legislator Jonke.

Legislator Montgomery explained that the public has not seen the change that Legislator Birmingham is bringing forward or had the opportunity to comment on it and neither has our Legislative attorney. She stated that you are passing a rule of law without allowing the public to comment on it.

Legislator Ellner stated that this is our operations manual that affects the day-to-day operations of the Legislature.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote on the amendment to Rule 9.

By Roll Call Vote: Five Ayes – Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Ellner, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh. Four Nays – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Motion carries.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to remove in Section IV the proposed Rule 32 – Legislative Subpoenas. She proceeded to read proposed Rule 32.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he would second the motion to discuss it but would be voting against it. He stated that this was taken, almost verbatim, from the Rockland County Legislative Manual which is on their website. He stated that it echoes and codifies the power we already have that is provided to us in Article 2 of the Charter. He stated that it has been in the Charter for almost 50 years since 1977. He believed it should not be viewed in hostility or alarm. He again stated that he would second the motion but wanted everyone to understand that he would be voting against the motion to amend.

Legislator Crowley stated that if it has been in our Charter for 50 years, Legislator Birmingham was a Legislator years ago, therefore, why did he feel the sudden need to change it now.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he reserves always the right to improve himself.

Legislator Ellner questioned if Legislator Birmingham would remove his second.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he would not remove it because he suspected that it would be seconded again.

Legislator Gouldman stated that as far as he was aware, currently there are no means to compel someone to appear in front of the Legislature. He stated that if we issue a subpoena and that person does not appear before us, what do we do?

Legislator Montgomery questioned why we are putting it in the Legislative Manual if it is already in the County Charter.

Legislator Birmingham explained to Legislator Gouldman that there was a process which he believed was loosely followed. He stated that it was in 1985 when the Legislature took testimony from at least three (3) Department Heads with respect to the Lion Capital scandal that rocked this county to its core in the 1980's. He stated that the County lost \$800,000 because of bad investments. He stated that part of the reason some would speculate happened was because the investment policy that this Legislature sets every year was not perhaps followed. He stated that was the allegation. He stated that there is a process already in place; 40-year-old precedent. He stated that it has happened, and we have taken testimony on what was then the controversial and very seismic fiscal impact to the County.

Legislator Gouldman questioned what we would do if someone did not show up from a subpoena.

Legislator Birmingham explained that there is a whole body of law passed by the State Legislature that will give us guidance on this. This codifies the initial step.

Legislator Jonke believed it was disturbing that some Legislators want to give up the authority that we already have in the Charter. He stated that we are just codifying it in our Legislative Manual.

Legislator Montgomery believed that it is alarming that you are passing this without public input.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote on the motion to remove Rule 32.

By Roll Call Vote: Four Ayes – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Five Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Ellner, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion fails.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to remove in Section IV the proposed Rule 33 – Confirmation of Appointments of the County Executive. She proceeded to read proposed Rule 33. She stated that the public has not had the opportunity to weigh in on

this proposal. She stated that our Interim Legislative Counsel has stated that this is not ready for adoption and was not reviewed in Committee. Seconded by Legislator Russo.

Legislator Jonke explained that Legislator Montgomery's motion is to remove a section that would require the resume, a list of references, a disclosure of campaign contributions, a criminal background check, and a financial disclosure from individuals seeking confirmation of an appointment of the Legislature. He did not understand why we would not want to ask this of individuals seeking employment of a position of authority in Putnam County.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that it is the Legislature's duty to vet and vote on appointments of the County Executive. She believed that it was the Legislature's duty to have as much information as possible when vetting the appointment of Department Heads who are receiving taxpayer money.

Legislator Montgomery explained that her reason for removing this was because it was not discussed in Committee, the public did not have an opportunity to vet this, and Interim Legislative Counsel advised us that it would be in our best interest to not pass this tonight. She stated that she was not voting against the idea of requiring resumes or things in this manual proposed by Legislator Birmingham. She believed that it needed to be addressed in Committee in front of the public.

Legislator Crowley questioned if this would pertain to all appointed officials throughout the County. She questioned whether a Lieutenant or Captain would have to abide by the same rules as someone appointed as a Department Head.

Legislator Birmingham stated that if you look closely at Rule 33 it speaks to those positions which the County Executive makes appointments pursuant to Article 3 and to which the Legislature has the obligation to confirm or not pursuant to Article 2 of the Charter. He stated that those positions do not relate to law enforcement. He stated that it is the Department Heads of the County that require the Legislature's confirmation. He stated that his thought behind Rule 33 was merely to codify and make more real our responsibility to take a hard look at every confirmation requested of the Legislature. He explained that this was an effort to discern what our obligations are in writing. He stated that one (1) of the biggest attributes of Rule 33 is something that he is wholeheartedly in agreement with Legislator Montgomery on with respect to requesting written resumes from every appointment we make, whether they are County Executive requests for confirmations or any other Board appointments. He explained that made him think of Rule 33 was a point that Legislator Montgomery made last year during a Committee meeting was that we should have resumes for every appointment.

Legislator Crowley stated that if we are going to do this it should be done throughout Putnam County. She stated that we should hold ourselves to the same standards. She stated how we discern what is an acceptable lawsuit and what is not when you are interviewing someone for a position.

Legislator Birmingham stated that is certainly something to consider.

Legislator Gouldman thanked Legislator Birmingham for putting a lot of work into this. He questioned if we reached out to the Director of Personnel to see if this is legal or not.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he did not. He stated that when this was first drafted, as you can tell by his introductory letter, he was not a sitting member of the Legislature at that time and did not have the ability to have taxpayer funded positions weigh in on this. However, we should remember that these are our regulations and rules in how we conduct our proceedings. He stated that two (2) of the three (3) brand new rules are things we already have the power to do. He stated that in two (2) instances out of three (3) we are codifying powers we already have, and the third power is merely answering some of the questions he heard from some of his colleagues over the years to get more information when we make that important confirmation decision.

Legislator Gouldman stated that this might not be legal. He believed that before we vote on this we should speak with the Director of Personnel and Counsel to see if we can legally do this. He explained why he believed this was unconstitutional and could open up Putnam County to a lawsuit.

Legislator Ellner stated that it bothered him that at every turn he finds his colleagues trying to dilute the authority of the Legislature. He explained that we are a branch of government. He was elected because he demonstrated to people that he was someone who would serve their interests. He expressed his disagreement with deferring to the opinions of appointed people, rather than elected officials. He explained that the opinion of counsel does not always need to be followed. He explained that there are two (2) factions here with one (1) trying to codify, clean-up and make sure the Legislature will function as it should be functioning and is in the Charter. He believed that this was an assault on the Legislature.

Legislator Montgomery explained again that her reason for wanting this removed from the manual was because it was not vetted in Committee giving the public the opportunity to weigh in and it was not vetted through Counsel.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a Roll Call Vote on the motion to remove Rule 33.

By Roll Call Vote: Four Ayes – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Five Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Ellner, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion fails.

Legislator Birmingham made a motion to call the main question, which is the approval of the Legislative Manual presented to us as amended by himself and Rule 9; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

By Roll Call Vote: Five Ayes - Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Ellner, Jonke and Chairwoman Sayegh. Four Nays – Legislators Crowley, Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Motion Carries.

RESOLUTION #4

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE MANUAL

WHEREAS, Section 2, Sub-division B(1)(f) of the Legislative Manual requires that the Legislature adopt annually its Legislative Manual, including any amendments incorporated therein; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature adopts the annexed Legislative Manual for the year 2025.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: FIVE AYES. FOUR NAYS – LEGISLATORS CROWLEY, GOULDMAN, MONTGOMERY & RUSSO. MOTION CARRIES.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that with the adoption of the Legislative Manual she invited Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo and Legislative Clerk Diane Schonfeld to join the Legislature at the dais.

Legislator Montgomery wanted to invite Interim Counsel Pasquale to the dais.

Legislator Ellner welcomed Legislative Clerk Schonfeld and Legislative Counsel Firriolo. He stated that he looked forward to continuing to work together.

Legislator Birmingham echoed those sentiments. He looked forward to working with Legislative Clerk Schonfeld and Legislative Counsel Firriolo in the coming year.

Legislators Jonke and Addonizio echoed those sentiments too.

Legislator Montgomery stated that while she has no objections to Rob being invited to the dais, he had no official role as Mr. Pasquale is our Interim Legislative Counsel and she would like to invite him to the dais.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that it is at the discretion of the Chair.

Item #8 – Adoption of Legislative Calendar was next. Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Birmingham.

RESOLUTION #5

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

WHEREAS, the Legislative Manual for the Legislature of the County of Putnam provides that annually the Legislative Calendar shall be adopted and promulgated by the Clerk of the Legislature, that the Legislature meets on the first Tuesday of each and every month thereof, except where noted; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following schedule be adopted as to Regular Meeting dates of the Putnam County Legislature for the year 2025:

Tuesday	January 7, 2025
Tuesday	February 4, 2025
Tuesday	March 4, 2025
Tuesday	April 1, 2025
Tuesday	May 6, 2025
Tuesday	June 3, 2025
Tuesday	July 1, 2025
Tuesday	August 5, 2025
Tuesday	September 2, 2025
Tuesday	October 7, 2025
Wednesday	November 5, 2025
Tuesday	December 2, 2025

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #9 – Designation of Official Newspaper was next. Chairwoman Sayegh recognized Legislator Gouldman.

Legislator Gouldman made a motion to add the Putnam County News & Recorder, Putnam County Press and Putnam County Courier as an official newspaper; seconded by Legislator Montgomery.

Legislator Addonizio stated that last year there were two (2) official newspapers, the Putnam County Press and Putnam County News & Recorder. She questioned the need for the third newspaper.

Legislator Gouldman stated that a few years ago there were three (3) official newspapers. He stated that last year he believed there were some disagreements between members of the Legislature and the former editor and owner of the Putnam County News & Recorder and Putnam County Courier. He believed that the Putnam County Courier should be an official newspaper. He explained that the newspapers keep the towns and communities informed of meetings, high school sports and contents specific to each town and community.

Legislator Jonke stated that last year the official newspapers were the Putnam County Press and Putnam County News & Recorder. He believed there was no reason to add another newspaper along with the additional expense.

Legislator Montgomery believed that the newspapers were distributed in different parts of the County, therefore it was necessary to adopt all three (3) newspapers. She stated that she does not see the Putnam County Courier on her side of the County.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to divide the question; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

Legislator Birmingham questioned in which order would the mover like the newspapers to be voted on.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Putnam County News & Recorder, Putnam County Press and then the Putnam County Courier.

By Roll Call Vote on the Putnam County News & Recorder: All Ayes. Carried Unanimously.

By Roll Call Vote on the Putnam County Press: All Ayes. Carried Unanimously.

BY Roll Call Vote on the Putnam County Courier: Three Ayes – Legislators Gouldman, Montgomery and Russo. Six Nays – Legislators Addonizio, Birmingham, Crowley, Ellner, Jonke, and Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion Fails.

RESOLUTION #6

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 2.04 (k) of the Putnam County Charter, the following newspapers, to wit:

Putnam County Press and Putnam County News & Recorder

are hereby designated as the official newspapers of the County of Putnam for the publication of all concurrent resolutions, election notices, official canvasses, enactments and other matters required by law to be published for the year 2025.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE PUTNAM COUNTY PRESS: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE PUTNAM COUNTY NEWS & RECORDER: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #10 – Permission for Legislature and Staff to Attend Conferences, Seminars & Official Business for the County was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Addonizio.

RESOLUTION #7

PERMISSION FOR LEGISLATURE AND STAFF TO ATTEND CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE COUNTY

RESOLVED, that Legislators and Legislative Staff be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred while attending conferences, seminars and official business of the County for the year 2025 for any such event costing under \$200.00. Any such event costing over \$200.00 will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the Legislature.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #11 – Authorization for County Auditor to Approve Erroneous Assessments Under \$2,500 was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

RESOLUTION #8

AUTHORIZATION FOR COUNTY AUDITOR TO APPROVE ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS UNDER \$2,500

WHEREAS, Real Property Law Section 556 Sub (8)(a) authorizes a tax levying body, by resolution, to delegate to an official who is empowered to authorize the payment of bills without prior audit by such board, the authority to perform the duties of the tax levying body as specified in Section 556(8) of the Real Property Tax Law; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature hereby delegates to the County Auditor the authority to review and approve applications for refunds of taxes due to erroneous assessments, whether by clerical error or unlawful entry, and where the recommended refund is \$2,500 or less; and be it further

RESOLVED, that pursuant to statute, this authority shall expire on December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #12 – Appointment - Legislative Representative - Cooperative Extension Board was next.

Chairwoman Sayegh nominated Legislator Russo; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

Legislator Russo believed that their meetings were held on the first Monday of the month which she would be unable to attend.

Chairwoman Sayegh removed her motion and opened it up to the floor for nominations.

Legislator Crowley nominated Legislator Birmingham; seconded by Chairwoman Sayegh.

Legislator Birmingham stated that he served on this Board during his previous tenure on the Legislature. He stated that he would be honored to serve.

RESOLUTION #9

APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE - COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BOARD

RESOLVED, that Daniel G. Birmingham be appointed as the Legislative Representative to the Cooperative Extension Board for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #13 – Appointment - Legislative Representative - Jury Board was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Ellner.

RESOLUTION #10

APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE - JURY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Toni Addonizio be appointed Legislative Representative to the Putnam County Jury Board for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #14 – Appointment - Legislative Representative - Region 3 Forest Practice Board was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Russo.

Legislator Montgomery believed that this Board did not exist anymore.

RESOLUTION #11

APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE - REGION 3 FOREST PRACTICE BOARD

RESOLVED, that Nancy Montgomery be appointed Legislative Representative to the Region 3 Forest Practice Board for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #15 – Appointment - Legislative Representatives - Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District Board was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Crowley.

RESOLUTION #12

APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES - PUTNAM COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD

RESOLVED, that Greg Ellner and Laura E. Russo be appointed Legislative Representatives to the Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District Board for a one-year term, said term to expire December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #16 – Appointment - Legislative Representative - Records Management Board was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Addonizio.

RESOLUTION #13

APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE - RECORDS MANAGEMENT BOARD

RESOLVED, that William Gouldman be appointed Legislative Representative to the Records Management Board for a period of one year, said term to expire December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #17 – Legislative Representatives - Putnam County Board of Health was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Crowley.

RESOLUTION #14

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE - PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

RESOLVED, that Amy Sayegh shall continue to serve as Legislative Representative to the Putnam County Board of Health for the remainder of her six (6) year term; said term to expire December 31, 2027.

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

Item #18 – Appointment - Legislative Representative - Putnam County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislators Birmingham and Russo.

RESOLUTION #15

APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE - PUTNAM COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

RESOLVED, that Erin Crowley shall continue to serve as Legislative Representative to the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board for the remainder of her Legislative year term, said term to expire on December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #19 – Appointment - Putnam County Representative - Catskill Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation Board was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Ellner.

RESOLUTION #16

APPOINTMENT - PUTNAM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE - CATSKILL REGIONAL OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION BOARD

RESOLVED, that Paul Jonke be appointed as the Putnam County representative to the Catskill Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation Board, for a one-year term, said term to expire on December 31, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this appointment comply with any requirements to file an Oath of Office pursuant to the New York State Public Officers Law.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #20 – Appointment - Legislative Representative - Fish & Wildlife Management Board was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Birmingham.

RESOLUTION #17

APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE - FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

RESOLVED, that Nancy Montgomery be appointed as Legislative Representative on the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, for a one (1) year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #21 – Appointment - Law Library Board was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Ellner.

RESOLUTION #18

APPOINTMENT - LAW LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Paul Jonke be appointed to the Law Library Board for a one (1) year term, said term to expire December 31, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Daniel G. Birmingham shall serve as an Alternate to the Law Library Board for a one (1) year term, said term to expire December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #22 – Appointment - Legislative Liaison - Veterans Affairs was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Birmingham.

RESOLUTION #19

APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE LIAISON - VETERANS AFFAIRS

RESOLVED, that Greg Ellner be appointed Legislative Liaison for Veterans Affairs for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire December 31, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Toni Addonizio shall serve as an Alternate as Legislative Liaison for Veterans Affairs for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #23 – Approval – Appointment - Legislative Representatives - Putnam County Traffic Safety Board was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Crowley.

RESOLUTION #20

APPROVAL – APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES - PUTNAM COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

RESOLVED, that William Gouldman and Laura E. Russo be appointed as the Legislative Representatives to the Putnam County Traffic Safety Board for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #24 – Appointment - Legislative Representatives - Putnam County Fire Advisory Board was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Ellner.

RESOLUTION #21

APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES - PUTNAM COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Erin Crowley be appointed as Legislative Representative to the Putnam County Fire Advisory Board, for a one (1) year term to expire on December 31, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Daniel G. Birmingham will serve as an Alternate to the Putnam County Fire Advisory Board, for a one (1) year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #25 – Approval – Appointment - Budget & Finance Committee Representative - Capital Projects Committee was next.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to table this resolution until the Committee Assignments are made; seconded by Legislators Ellner and Jonke. All in favor.

APPOINTMENT - BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE - CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, County Charter § 7.05 (B)(3) provides that there shall be a Capital Projects Committee consisting of various members including a designee of the Budget and Finance Committee; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that _____ be appointed as Budget & Finance Committee Representative to the County's Capital Projects Committee for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Item #26 – Approval – Appointment - Legislative Representative Member of Capital Projects Committee (representing minority political party) was next. Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following; seconded by Legislator Ellner.

RESOLUTION #22

APPOINTMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER OF CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE (representing minority political party)

WHEREAS, County Charter § 7.05 (B)(3) provides for the appointment to the County's Capital Projects Committee a member of the County Legislature representing the minority political party, if another party is represented, or a member elected without party endorsement; and

WHEREAS, Legislator Nancy Montgomery is the sole member of the County Legislature representing the minority political party; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that pursuant to County Charter § 7.05 (B)(3), the County Legislature designates Nancy Montgomery as the additional member of the County's Capital Projects Committee for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #27 – Confirmation - Designation of Jail Chief Medical Officer was next. Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to moved the following; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

RESOLUTION #23

DESIGNATION OF JAIL CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

WHEREAS, due to a change in the Corrections Law, Section 501 in July of 2017, a physician from the medical services provider to the Putnam County Jail shall be designated by the Putnam County Legislature to act as the Chief Medical Officer of the Jail; and

WHEREAS, PrimeCare was awarded the RFP–06-2024 to provide medical services for the Putnam County Corrections Facility from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, with three (3) one (1) year renewable options; and

WHEREAS, PrimeCare designated Dr. Michael Nesheiwat to act as the Chief Medical Officer for the Jail; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby confirms the designation of Dr. Michael Nesheiwat to act as the Chief Medical Officer for the Putnam County Corrections Facility, for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire December 31, 2025.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #28 – Approval – Department of General Services - Identifying Individuals Responsible for Purchasing was next. Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Crowley.

RESOLUTION #24

APPROVAL - DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES - IDENTIFYING INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING

WHEREAS, Section 140-1.5 of the Putnam County Code (Procurement Policy) requires the Legislature to annually identify the individuals responsible for purchasing and their respective titles; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature re-affirms the County's Procurement Policy as contained in Chapter 140 of the Putnam County Code and identifies the following individuals and their respective titles as the individuals responsible for purchasing:

- a. John Tully, Commissioner of Department of General Services**
- b. Alexis Hawley, Assistant Supervisor of Planning and Design**

- c. Michele Pinto, Senior Account Clerk
- d. Timothy Keith, Capital Asset / Procurement Coordinator

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #29 – Approval – Budgetary Transfer (25T001) – Finance – Putnam County Sheriff’s Employees Association, Inc. (PCSEA) Contract Settlement was next. (approved at December Personnel & Audit Committee Mtgs) **Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Crowley.**

RESOLUTION #25

APPROVAL – BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25T001) – FINANCE – PUTNAM COUNTY SHERIFF’S EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, INC. (PCSEA) CONTRACT SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested a budgetary transfer (25T001) to provide for the 2025 salary and benefit costs pursuant to the ratified contract settlement between Putnam County and the Putnam County Sheriff’s Employees Association, Inc. (PCSEA); and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

Increase Appropriations:

10010000 51000	Personnel Services	12,494
10010000 58002	Social Security	955
10315000 51000	Personnel Services	270,905
10315000 58002	Social Security	20,725
15311000 51000	Personnel Services	6,869
15311000 58002	Social Security	525
17311000 51000	Personnel Services	3,658
17311000 58002	Social Security	280
32311000 51000	Personnel Services	10,924
32311000 58002	Social Security	835
		<u>328,170</u>

Decrease Appropriations:

10199000 54980	Contingency	328,170
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2025 Fiscal Impact - \$328,170

2026 Fiscal Impact - \$186,419

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #30 – Approval – Budgetary Transfer (25T002) – Department of Social Services – Temporary was next. (approved at December Personnel & Audit Committee Mtgs) **Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Russo.**

RESOLUTION #26

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25T002) – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
– TEMPORARY**

**WHEREAS, the Children’s SPOA Coordinator will be retiring at the end of
December 2024; and**

**WHEREAS, she has agreed to come back on a temporary basis for the purpose of
training the newly hired Children’s SPOA Coordinator; and**

**WHEREAS, after over 25 years in this position, her institutional knowledge is a
vital asset to the Department of Mental Health; and**

**WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services has requested a budgetary
transfer (25T002) for Temporary funding to provide a smooth transition while the new
hire is acclimated with their role and responsibilities; and**

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

GENERAL FUND:

**Increase Appropriations:
10033000**

Mental Health LGU SPOA (Local Government Unit
Single Point Of Access)

51094	Temporary	8,064
58001	State Retirement	710
58002	Social Security	617
		<u>9,391</u>

Decrease Appropriations:

10033000 51000 (101)	Pers. Services – SPOA Coordinator (Children)	3,046
10033000 58001	State Retirement	268
10033000 58002	Social Security	233
10431000 51000 (117)	Pers. Services – Pr. Office Assistant	5,018
10431000 58001	State Retirement	442
10431000 58002	Social Security	384
		<u>9,391</u>

2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Item #31 – Approval – Budgetary Transfer (25T003) – IT/GIS – Reclassification – Account
Clerk to IT Operations Assistant was next. (approved at December Personnel & Audit
Committee Mtgs) Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; seconded by
Legislator Birmingham.**

RESOLUTION #27

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25T003) – IT/GIS – RECLASSIFICATION –
ACCOUNT CLERK TO IT OPERATIONS ASSISTANT**

WHEREAS, there is currently a vacant Account Clerk, Grade 6, Step 3 position with an annual salary of \$49,046 in the IT Department; and

WHEREAS, the Director of IT/GIS has requested a reclassification/title change of this position to more accurately reflect the job responsibilities to attract and retain the correct candidate; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Department has reviewed this request and determined that the position should be reclassified as an IT Operations Assistant, Grade 8, Step 1 position with an annual salary of \$45,517; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested a budgetary transfer (25T003) to account for this reclassification/title change; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

GENERAL FUND:

Decrease Appropriations:

10168000 51000 10119	IT Pers. Services – Account Clerk	49,046
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Increase Appropriations:

10168000 51000 10126	IT Pers. Services – IT Operations Asst	49,046
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2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #32 – Approval – Budgetary Amendment (25A001) – Department of Social Services – Putnam County Suicide Prevention Task Force Funding - Countywide Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team was next. (approved at December Audit & Administration Committee Mtg) Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislators Crowley and Russo.

RESOLUTION #28

APPROVAL – BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (25A001) – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES – PUTNAM COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE FUNDING - COUNTYWIDE LOCAL OUTREACH TO SUICIDE SURVIVORS (LOSS) TEAM

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Suicide Prevention Task Force has received funding to help support and develop a Countywide Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team; and

WHEREAS, as one (1) of three (3) coalitions selected for this initiative, funding will be utilized to connect suicide loss survivors to suicide survivor groups and other healing resources as soon after a loss by suicide occurs; and

WHEREAS, together with the Personnel Department, a job specification for the new title of LOSS Team Coordinator was developed to support this initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services has requested a budgetary amendment (25A001) to account for said funding; 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:

GENERAL FUND:

Increase Revenues:

10431000 43089P 10227	LOSS Teams NY	12,480
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Increase Appropriations:

10431000 51094 10227	Temporary	10,717
10431000 58001 10227	State Retirement	943
10431000 58002 10227	Social Security	820
		<u>12,480</u>

2025 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #33 – Approval – Budgetary Transfer (25T004) – Commissioner of Finance – Adjust Personnel lines in the Personnel Department and Sheriff's Office was next. (approved at December Audit & Administration Committee Mtg) **Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Addonizio.**

RESOLUTION #29

APPROVAL – BUDGETARY TRANSFER (25T004) – COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE – ADJUST PERSONNEL LINES IN THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested a budgetary transfer (25T004) to adjust Personnel Services budget in the Personnel Department and Sheriff's Office to reflect proper amounts; 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:

GENERAL FUND:

Decrease Appropriations:

10143000 51000 10105	Personnel Serv. – Personnel Dept.	3,873
10143000 58002 10105	FICA	296
10311000 51000 10102	Personnel Serv. – Sheriff's Office	788
10311000 58002 10102	FICA	60
10311000 51000 10103	Personnel Serv. – Sheriff's Office	749
10311000 58002 10103	FICA	57
10311000 51000 10114	Personnel Serv. – Sheriff's Office	749
10311000 58002 10114	FICA	57
10311000 51000 10127	Personnel Serv. – Sheriff's Office	749
10311000 58002 10127	FICA	57
10311000 51000 10128	Personnel Serv. – Sheriff's Office	749
10311000 58002 10128	FICA	57

10315000 51000 10101	Personnel Serv. - Sheriff's Office	749
10315000 58002 10101	FICA	57
10315000 51000 10106	Personnel Serv. - Sheriff's Office	837
10315000 58002 10106	FICA	64
10315000 51000 10109	Personnel Serv. – Sheriff's Office	837
10315000 58002 10109	FICA	64

Increase Appropriations:

17311000 51000 17149	Personnel Serv. – Sheriff's Office	1,105
17311000 58002 17149	FICA	84
10199000 54980	Contingency	9,660

2025 Fiscal Impact – (\$9,660)

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #34 – Other Business

There was no other business submitted to the meeting.

Item #35 – Recognition of the Public on Agenda Items.

There were no members of the public that wished to speak.

Item #36 - Recognition of Legislators

Legislator Birmingham thanked his colleagues for the warm welcome he received along with Legislator Russo. He stated that he was happy to be joining the Legislature and has known many of his colleagues for decades, and some over this past year. He looked forward to working with his colleagues, Putnam County Sheriff, District Attorney, County Clerk and County Executive and his Administration.

Legislator Gouldman congratulated Legislator Sayegh on her new position as Chair of the Legislature. He was looking forward to a positive 2025. He was also looking forward to working with his new colleagues, Legislators Birmingham and Russo.

Legislator Jonke congratulated Legislator Sayegh and Legislator Ellner on their new positions as Chair and Deputy Chair. He also welcomed Legislator Russo and Birmingham and stated that he looked forward to working with them this year.

Legislator Montgomery explained that on December 31, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. the Legislature received a memo from Chairman Jonke stating that he removed the Chairwoman of the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board, Jocelyn Apicello. She stated that she asked, but did not receive an explanation for that removal. She proceeded to read an email received from Ms. Cassandra Roth on January 6, 2025, who raised concerns about the removal of Ms. Jocelyn Apicello. Legislator Montgomery explained that she was disheartened that this was the last memo we received in 2024 regarding the removal of Ms. Apicello who has served our region well.

Legislator Addonizio congratulated Chairwoman Sayegh and the newly elected Legislators.

Chairwoman Sayegh welcomed returning Legislators Montgomery and Birmingham, along with newly elected Legislator Russo. She congratulated Legislator Ellner as Deputy Chair. She thanked Legislator Jonke who served as Chair of the Legislature for the last two (2) years. She stated that serving as Chair, which she is learning everyday is no easy feat. She stated that he always stood strong in principle and held his office as County Legislature with honor and integrity to the Charter and rules of the Putnam County Legislature. She stated that this is the beginning of her eighth year on the Legislature and each year is a new beginning and fresh start. She stated it is a time to reflect and learn from the past and move forward to a bright future. She stated that she was humbly honored to be the Legislative Chair in 2025, and she looked forward to serving Putnam County in this capacity. She stated that there have been 24 Chairs of this Legislature since the County Charter took effect on January 1, 1979. She stated of the 24 Chairs over the past 46 years there have been four (4) women who have served as Chair of the Legislature. She stated that she is now the 25th Chair and the 5th woman Chair. She explained that when she first ran for office for the Legislature in 2014, she was honored to receive a telephone call from Marie Zarccone, who was the first woman to be elected as a Legislator in Putnam County. She stated as a mother of two (2) daughters it was poignant to her. She stated that she has a son too, and did not want to disrespect the gentlemen in the room, but she was honored and humbled to sit as Chair on the shoulders of those ladies who served before her. She stated that she will do her utmost to lead as Chair, holding on tight to the values and principles and the integrity and high standards to the Putnam County Legislature.

There being no further business, at 8:58 P.M., Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislators Jonke and Ellner. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.