

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Carmel, New York 10512
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Daniel G. Birmingham *Chairman*
William Gouldman *Deputy Chair*
Diane Trabulsy *Clerk*



Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Laura E. Russo	Dist. 4
Jake D'Angelo	Dist. 5
Thomas Regan, Jr.	Dist. 6
Daniel G. Birmingham	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

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

Tuesday **September 1, 2026** **7:00 P.M.**

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Legislative Prayer
3. Roll Call

PROCLAMATIONS

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

4. Acceptance of Minutes – Budget & Finance Meeting, October 27, 2025
Adopt the 2026 Budget Meeting, October 29, 2025
Budget & Finance Meeting, March 30, 2026
5. Correspondence
 - a) County Auditor
6. Pre-filed resolutions:

RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
(Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Birmingham & Gouldman)

- 6a. Approval – Litigation Settlement - Calista Malstrom V. County of Putnam (Item #3)
- 6b. Approval - Amending Resolution No. 94 Of 2026 Regarding The Designation Of The Official Newspaper (Item #4-r)
- 6c. Approval - Local Law Amending Chapter 55, Section 55-12 of the Putnam County Code Entitles “Board of Ethics Establishment; Qualifications of Members; Appointment of Members; Term of Office” (Item #5-r)

HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
(Chairwoman Montgomery, Legislators Addonizio & Russo)

- 6d. Approval - Budgetary Amendment (26A067) – Health - Funding for the Ealy Learning Center “4410” (Item #6)
- 6e. Approval - Fund Transfer (26T201) Health Department – Fund Early Intervention Care at Private institutions to cover an Increase in Enrollment Since the Start of the Year (O.B. #7a)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
(Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislators Russo & Sayegh)

- 6f. Approval – Replacing Service Animal Policy (R#154 OF 2023) (Item #4-r)

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
(Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Regan & Sayegh)

- 6g. Approval - Budgetary Amendment (26A068) Department of Public Works (DPW) - Risk Manager - Guardrail Repair - Progressive Insurance Recovery Payment (Item #9)
- 6h. Approval – No Match - Grant Application - Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, And Technology Program (CREST) - Bureau of Emergency Services Facility Repairs (Item #8)
- 6i. Approval – Reiteration of Previously Authorized Funding For PIN 8761.97 - Stoneleigh Avenue @ Drewville Road Intersection Project (O.B. #10a)

AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
(Chairwoman Russo, Legislators Crowley & D'Angelo)

- 6j. Approval - Fund Transfer (26T206) – Department of General Services (DGS)- Cover Chargeback for Vehicle Leasing in County Departments (Item #7)**
- 6k. Approval – Authorization – Legislators to Attend September New York State Association of Counties Conference (Item #8)**

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
(All Legislators)

- 6l. Approval - Sunlight And Public Disclosure Requirements In Relation To The County's Fund Balance Allocation Procedures (Item #4)**
- 6m. Approval - Resolution Requesting An Audit By The State Comptroller of Putnam County's Fund Balance (Item #5)**
- 6n. Approval - Reaffirmation And Implementation of Resolution #304 of 2025 - Authorization of Immediate Expenditure of Remaining Funds For Food Insecurity (Item #6)**
- 7. Other Business**
- 7a. Approval – Budgetary Transfer (26T230) – Address Food Insecurity Within Putnam County (Related to agenda item #6n)**
- 8. Recognition of Public on Agenda Items**
- 9. Recognition of Legislators**
- 10. Adjournment**

Proclamation

Recognizing September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

WHEREAS, suicide is a significant public health issue that affects individuals, families, friends, coworkers, schools, and communities across the nation, with lasting emotional, social, and economic impacts. Suicide is preventable, and through education, awareness, early intervention, and access to compassionate support, lives can be saved and hope can be restored; and

WHEREAS, every member of our community has a role in promoting mental wellness, reducing stigma, encouraging help-seeking behaviors, and supporting those who may be struggling with thoughts of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Putnam County is committed to strengthening suicide prevention efforts through collaboration among local government, healthcare providers, schools, first responders, community organizations, faith communities, and residents. The Putnam County Suicide Prevention Task Force works year-round to raise awareness, expand education and training, support evidence-based prevention strategies, promote postvention services for suicide loss survivors, and foster a compassionate, resilient community where every individual knows they matter; and

WHEREAS, during Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, we encourage all residents to learn the warning signs of suicide, engage in open and caring conversations about mental health, support those who may be struggling, and become familiar with available local and national resources, including the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Putnam County and calls upon all residents, businesses, schools, healthcare providers, community organizations, and local agencies to participate in Suicide Prevention Awareness Month activities and work together to promote hope, encourage connection, reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness, and support efforts to prevent suicide.

Kevin Byrne, Putnam County Executive

Daniel G. Birmingham Chair, Putnam County Legislature

**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Monday

October 27, 2025

7:00P.M.

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

Chairwoman Sayegh requested that the Clerk read the Public Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Legislature of the County of Putnam will hold a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget for the year 2026, as presented by the County Executive and the Report of the Budget & Finance Committee of the Legislature, on Monday, October 27, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in the Historic Courthouse, Carmel, New York.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any interested persons may review a copy of the Tentative Budget for the year 2026 at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature, Room 321, 40 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, New York, any time during regular business hours after October 2, 2025. A copy of the Tentative Budget may also be found online at putnamcountyny.gov under the Department of Finance.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 359 OF THE COUNTY LAW, the maximum salary that may be fixed and payable during the fiscal year 2026 to the members of the Putnam County Legislature and Chairperson, thereof, respective, is as follows:

Legislator's Compensation _____	\$48,173
Chairperson's Stipend _____	\$12,044

BY ORDER OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Diane Trabulsy
Clerk

Chairwoman Sayegh read the procedure for public comment on the proposed 2026 Tentative Budget.

Martha Elder, Town of Kent resident, stated she was present as a resident of the Town of Kent and the Executive Director of Second Chance Foods. She stated as a resident of Putnam County, she cares very much about meeting the basic needs of our residents. She stated unfortunately there are tragic things happening to the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits scheduled to begin this Saturday, November 1, 2025. She stated that they are receiving phone calls from Putnam County residents worried about what will happen to their SNAP benefits. She stated she has been meeting

and strategizing with her staff and partnering organizations on how to address this matter. She explained they have limited resources to work with. She stated that she did present at the Rules, budget meeting. She did request the Legislature consider approving \$20,000 for the 2026 budget because they need it. She stated they have lost \$70,000 of federal funding. She spoke to the fact that Second Chance Foods does fund raise in multiple ways. She stated however they still need the help of the Legislature in order to do this vital work that they do. She stated the work they do serves the entire county and its organizations, which she listed. She concluded by repeating her request that the Legislature support the request for \$20,000 for Second Chance Foods for the 2026 budget.

Christine Nastasi, Town of Southeast, and 2025 Chair of the Putnam County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board (AFPB), She expressed appreciation for setting \$2,500 aside for use by the AFPB for training and other miscellaneous expenses. She stated that the Legislature had a meeting on October 1st of 2025 at which the County Executive presented the 2026 Tentative Budget, she was not present. She stated that the County Executive presented again in the Town of Southeast on another day, which she was able to attend that meeting. She stated at that meeting she had a discussion with the County Executive. She stated every question she asked County Executive Byrne replied, "it sounds like you need an Agricultural Navigator". She stated that she believes it would be more fiscally responsible for the County to pay for training versus funding an Agricultural Navigator position. She stated for the record, the recording from the Town of Southeast meeting does not show the entire time that she spoke. She requested if anyone knows how to correct that she would appreciate that.

Arielle Honovich, Town of Patterson resident, read from a statement that she had prepared. She spoke to her opinion that the County Executive uses Putnam County farming politically. She spoke about the lawsuit she filed against the County of Putnam and won. She continued with her statement. She recognized and stated her appreciation that some of the Legislators have taken the time to look closer and educate themselves, and recognized Legislator Ellner for his efforts and support regaining the support of the agricultural community. She stated that in this 2026 budget, there is a 3% increase for the County Executive. She expressed her reasons for not supporting that.

Cassandra Roth, Pawling & Patterson, explained to avoid talking too much about Soil and Water she prepared and read from a statement. She began by stating agriculture and conservation are not opposing forces. She stated healthy farms mean healthy soil, water and stronger, resilient communities. She stated the farmers in Putnam County want to be part of the conversation that directly affects their livelihoods. She stated that there are currently volunteers on the AFPB and the Soil & Water Conservation District Board doing this work without added cost to the taxpayers. She stated it is her opinion that there is no need to fund an Agricultural Navigator position with taxpayer dollars. She stated she believes that is work that falls under the Soil and Water Conservation District. She stated as a member of the Soil & Water Conservation District she knows that the structure, the State partnership and the neutrality to be most effective is in place. She stated the Soil and Water Conservation District is being rebuilt to where it should have been. She stated she personally has put a lot of volunteer work into rebuilding the Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Vice Chair Brett Yarris has put an immeasurable amount of work into ensuring that taxpayer dollars are not wasted on things that are already funded. She stated she and Brett Yarris were appointed to the Soil and Water Conservation District in July of 2025 (R#186-2025). She stated the Soil and Water

Conservation District is in place to support the AFPB. She stated the Soil and Water Conservation District is not an enforcing agency. She stated the Soil and Water Conservation District is in place to serve as a support system and to educate, and assist making it easier for landowners to protect their land. She stated for decades the County never treated the Soil and Water Conservation District with the respect it deserves. She stated the Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1966, not 1967 which is what she was originally told, and from that time, in her opinion the County has been getting it wrong. She stated this Legislature and the County Law Department, and the County Department Heads have been very cooperative. She stated it is crucial that the Soil and Water Conservation District is separate and has faith that it will be there by next year. She stated that the funding for an agricultural navigator or anything truly agriculture should come from there in the future. She spoke to her opinion of the lawsuit that occurred between Ridge Ranch and the County of Putnam. She stated she believed a functioning Soil and Water Conservation District could have assisted in that matter.

Brett Yarris, Hamlet of Carmel, began by stating he has come before the Legislature many times before, and he listed some of the topics. He stated that he was disappointed to see that Career Support Solutions (outside County agency) had a tentative funding amount of \$15,000. He stated there have been a host of issues he has addressed this board about. He stated he finds many fiscal matters frustrating, knowing the large amount of money in the unassigned fund balance. He spoke of a recommendation that was made by Legislator Jonke to put \$650,000 in subcontingency to explore the idea of giving money back to the taxpayers. He stated using the fund balance to offer direct relief to the taxpayer is a proposal he supports. He stated residents in Putnam County are facing an affordability challenge. He stated he is always in favor of a tax cut. He stated but with a house like his he ends up saving \$35 - \$40 year. He stated it is his opinion that it is helpful but not meaningful. He stated that he does not know the details of the proposal made by Legislator Jonke, but what he has heard, he hopes the Legislature considers carrying it out. He stated and he would hope the tax cut would be moved forward for the 2026 budget. He stated in his opinion if the tax cut is the only savings that comes from the 2026 budget for the taxpayers, the Legislature will have failed. He concluded by expressing his hope that the Legislature will continue forward with the funds placed in subcontingency to provide direct relief to the taxpayers.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated that the Adopt the 2026 Budget Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 29th at 7:00p.m. has had a location change. She stated the Adopt the 2026 Budget Meeting of the Legislature will be held in the County Office Building in conference room #318 at 7:00p.m. on Wednesday, October 29, 2025.

There being no more members of the public wishing to speak; at 7:31 P.M., Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislators Birmingham and Ellner. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk, Diane Trabulsy

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Amy E. Sayegh *Chairwoman*
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**AGENDA
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE
2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET
AND
REPORT OF THE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Monday

7:00pm

October 27, 2025

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Legislative Prayer**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Reading of the Public Notice by the Clerk of the Legislature**
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. Adjournment**

Filed 9-1-26
#4

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRWOMAN
FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2026 BUDGET
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Wednesday

October 29, 2025

7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairwoman Sayegh who requested Legislator Gouldman to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and Legislator Addonizio lead in the Legislative Prayer. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Addonizio, Russo, Ellner, Jonke, Birmingham, Crowley and Chairwoman Sayegh were present.

Item #4 – Pre-filed Resolutions:

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

Item #4a – Office Senior Resources (OSR) – Chargeback Copier Lease was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #270

Office of Senior Resources

(Move Copier Chargebacks to Correct Budget Line)

	FROM:	TO:
Senior Services		
Chargeback Copier Lease		
10677200 55561 10116	1,500	0
OSR Putnam Senior Corps		
Chargeback Copier Lease		
10677300 55561	1,000	0
OSR Personal Care Services		
Chargeback Copier Lease		
10677500 55561	1,000	0
Expanded In Home Services		
Chargeback Copier Lease		
10677600 55561	1,000	0
OSR Adult Day Services		
Chargeback Copier Lease		
10677700 55561	1,000	0
WIN Program		
Chargeback Copier Lease		

10677800 55561	1,000	0
OSR General Chargeback Copier Lease 10677900 55561	1,000	0
Senior Services Chargeback Copier Lease 10677200 55561	2,502	10,002

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4b – Putnam Arts Council – Contribution to the Arts – Increase Advertising and County Contribution – From \$70,957 to \$75,000 was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #271

Contribution to the Arts

	FROM:	TO:
Advertising 25091000 54664	4,435	5,000
County Contribution 25091000 54950	14,413	15,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 1,152

Putnam Arts Council

County Contribution 25756000 54950	52,109	55,000
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A DIFFERENCE OF: 2,891

A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: 4,043

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4c – Putnam Recreation Program (PRP) – Increase County Contribution was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #272

Putnam Recreation Programs (PRP)

	FROM:	TO:
County Contribution		
25647000 54950	15,450	25,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 9,550

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4d – Second Chance Foods – Increase County Contribution was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #273

Second Chance Foods

	FROM:	TO:
County Contribution		
25876000 54950	10,300	20,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 9,700

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4e – Career Support Solutions – Increase County Contribution to \$30,000 – Proposed by Legislator Birmingham was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #274

Career Support Solutions

	FROM:	TO:
County Contribution		
25648000 54950	15,340	30,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 14,660

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4f – Hudson Valley Shakespeare – County Contribution – Proposed by Legislator Montgomery was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #275

Hudson Valley Shakespeare

	FROM:	TO:
County Contribution 25879000 54950	0	10,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 10,000

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4g – Garrison Arts Center – County Contribution – Proposed by Legislator Montgomery was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #276

Garrison Arts Center

	FROM:	TO:
County Contribution 25877000 54950	0	10,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 10,000

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4h – Boscobel – County Contribution – Proposed by Legislator Montgomery was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #277

Boscobel

	FROM:	TO:
County Contribution		

25878000 54950	0	10,000
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A DIFFERENCE OF: 10,000

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4i – Office for Disabilities & Mental Health LGU Administration – Coordinator Office for Individuals with Disabilities – Restore Salary to Requested Amount was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she attended a forum on mental health where it was discussed how needed resources for individuals with developmental disabilities is needed in Putnam County. She stated she is very much in favor of this.

RESOLUTION #278

Office For Disabilities

	FROM:	TO:
Coordinator Office for Individuals with Disabilities		
10198900 51000 (102)	38,001	41,897
(Restore to requested amount)		

FICA		
10198900 58002	0	298

A DIFFERENCE OF: 4,194

Mental Health LGU Administration

Coordinator Office for Individuals with Disabilities		
10431000 51000 (102)	56,999	62,844

FICA		
10431000 58002	0	447

A DIFFERENCE OF: 6,292

A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: 10,486

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4j – Mental Health SPOA – SPOA Coordinator (Adults) – Restore Salary to Requested Amount was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #279

Mental Health – SPOA

	FROM:	TO:
SPOA Coordinator (Adults) 10033000 51000 (102) (Restore to requested amount)	99,928	104,928

FICA 10033000 58002	0	383
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A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,383

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4k – Mental Health OASAS Abatement – Dual Recovery Coordinator – Restore Salary to Requested Amount was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #280

Mental Health - OASAS Abatement

	FROM:	TO:
Dual Recovery Coordinator 10431000 51000 10206 (103) (Restore to requested amount)	92,338	97,338

FICA 10431000 58002 10206	0	383
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A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,383

Revenue OASAS Abatement Funds Adjust with Dual Recovery Coordinator 10431000 434983 10206	(0)	(5,383)
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A DIFFERENCE OF: (5,383)

A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: 0

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4l – Mental Health – Co–Response Team Grant – Crisis Intervention Specialist (Law Enforcement) – Restore Salary to Requested Amount was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #281

Mental Health – Co-Response Team Grant

**Crisis Intervention Specialist
(Law Enforcement)
10431000 51000 10211 (102)
(Restore to requested amount)**

FROM:

TO:

92,338

97,338

FICA

10431000 58002 10211

0

383

A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,383

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4m – DSS – Services– Director of Child/Family Services – Restore Salary to Requested Amount was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #282

DSS – Services

**Director of Child/Family Services
10102000 51000 (101)
(Restore to requested amount)**

FROM:

TO:

128,779

133,779

FICA

10102000 58002

0

383

A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,383

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4n – Youth Bureau – Deputy Youth Director – Restore Salary to Requested Amount was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #283

Youth Bureau

	FROM:	TO:
Deputy Youth Director 10731000 51000 (112) (Restore to requested amount)	87,000	97,200
FICA 10731000 58002	0	780

A DIFFERENCE OF: 10,980

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4o – County Auditor – Increase Salary – Subcontingency – Per Catapult Survey was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #284

County Auditor

	FROM:	TO:
County Auditor 10132000 51000 (101) (Increase per Catapult Survey)	137,905	150,000
FICA 10132000 58002	0	925
Subcontingency 10199000 54981	10,089	0

A DIFFERENCE OF: 2,931

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4p – County Auditor – Audit Manager – Increase Salary Per Catapult Survey was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #285

County Auditor

FROM:	TO:
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Audit Manager		
10132000 51000 (102)	76,305	87,000
(Increase per Catapult Survey)		

FICA		
10132000 58002	0	818

A DIFFERENCE OF: 11,513

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4q – County Auditor – Deputy County Auditor – Increase Salary Per Catapult Survey was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #286

County Auditor

	FROM:	TO:
Deputy County Auditor		
10132000 51000 (103)	113,368	127,000
(Increase per Catapult Survey)		

FICA		
10132000 58002	0	1,043

A DIFFERENCE OF: 14,675

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4r – Legislature – Reclass Administrative Assistant to Deputy Clerk – Increase Salary Per Catapult Survey was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #287

Legislature

	FROM:	TO:
Deputy Clerk		
10101001 51000 (114)	76,761	87,000
(Reclass from Administrative Assistant & Increase per Catapult Survey)		

FICA		
10101001 58002	0	783

A DIFFERENCE OF: 11,022

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4s – Office for Senior Resources (OSR) – Caseworker Assistant (OSR) Part Time 25 Hours Per Week – Should be Calculated as a Step 2 was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #288

Office of Senior Resources

	FROM:	TO:
Caseworker Assistant (OSR) (PT – 25 HPW) 10677200 51000 (159)	39,535	43,934
FICA 10677200 58002	0	337

A DIFFERENCE OF: 4,736

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4t – Historian – County Historian – Increase to Full– Time was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #289

Historian

	FROM:	TO:
County Historian 10751000 51000 (101) (Increase to full-time)	56,077	80,000
FICA 10751000 58002	0	1,830

A DIFFERENCE OF: 25,753

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4u – Department of General Services (DGS) – Commissioner – Increase Salary Per Catapult Survey was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #290

Department of General Services (DGS)

	FROM:	TO:
Commissioner		
10134500 51000 (101)	153,458	156,437
(Increase per Catapult Survey)		
FICA		
10134500 58002	0	228

A DIFFERENCE OF: 3,207

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4v – Adjustments – Chargeback Revenue & Expenses was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #291

ADJUSTMENTS – CHARGEBACK REVENUE

Sheriff Security Services - DSS

	FROM:	TO:
Central Services Internal Chgbks		
19005060 412941	(68,789)	(82,076)

Road Machinery Fund

Central Services Internal Chgbks		
10513000 412941	(344,450)	(363,980)

Transit PART Bus System

Central Services Internal Chgbks		
95630000 412941	(100,000)	0

Insurance Expense

Central Services Internal Chgbks		
(Insurance)		
10191500 412941	0	(4,200)

A DIFFERENCE OF: 62,983

ADJUSTMENTS – CHARGEBACK EXPENSES

County Clerk

Chargeback Travel 10141000 55675	400	0
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Personnel

Chargeback Travel 10143000 55675	400	0
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Historian

Chargeback Travel 10751000 55675	200	0
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Planning

Chargeback Printing Forms 10802000 55311	100	0
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Health Administration

Chargeback Auto All County Vehicle 10401000 55870	200	0
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Health Early Intervention

Chargeback Auto All County Vehicle 10405900 55870	200	0
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Health Nursing

Chargeback Auto All County Vehicle 11401000 55870	400	0
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Health EHS Drinking H2O Supply

Chargeback Auto All County Vehicle 12022000 55870	400	0
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Health EHS ATUPA

Chargeback Auto All County Vehicle 12023000 55870	600	0
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Health EHS

Chargeback Auto All County Vehicle 12401000 55870	1,400	0
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Health EHS State – NYC DEP Envir Project

Chargeback Auto All County Vehicle 12401002 55870 10050	200	0
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A DIFFERENCE OF: (4,500)

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4w – Sheriff – Buckle Up Grant – Adjustment was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

RESOLUTION #292

Sheriff's Office

Buckle Up Grant

	FROM:	TO:
Buckle Up CFDA20.604 Revenue 17311002 443899 10024	(4,400)	0
Overtime 17311002 51093 10024	4,400	0
State Retirement 17311002 58001 10024	1,157	0
FICA 17311002 58002 10024	337	0
Workers Compensation 17311002 58004 10024	60	0

A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: (1,554)

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4x – Legislature – Agricultural Board – Remove from County Planning and Place under Legislature – Increase from \$1,000 to \$2,500 – Proposed by Legislator Ellner was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

Legislator Birmingham stated this amendment was proposed in the Budget & Finance Committee. He stated after speaking with members of the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB), he would like to increase the \$2,500 to \$10,000. He stated members of the AFPB are volunteers and they need funds to attend conferences and trainings. He stated in addition, it would be helpful to bring people in to speak with the AFPB and other County officials, including Legislators. He stated he believes having this resource would help this happen.

Legislator Birmingham made a motion to amend the proposal to increase \$2,500 to \$10,000; Seconded by Legislator Ellner.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for discussion on the amendment.

Legislator Jonke stated he would be in favor of the amendment but would like the funds to go into subcontingency so the Legislature would approve the expenditure.

Legislator Birmingham stated per the Putnam County Charter, in order to move money out of subcontingency the request would have to come from the Administration. He stated having the funds under the Legislature's budget keeps it within the Legislature's purview.

Legislator Jonke withdrew his statement.

Legislator Montgomery stated the AFPB is a robust group that are really interested in the work they are doing. She stated she believes training is a vital tool for the members of the AFPB.

Legislative Counsel Heather Abissi questioned what type of training is being discussed; governmental trainings are typically free.

Legislator Birmingham stated although there may not be an entry fee, the funds could cover the cost of travel, meals, and potential hotel stays if the training is far away.

Legislator Crowley stated a discussion was had this morning at the AFPB meeting about education and bringing people into Putnam, the NSYAC Conference, and Soil and Water getting involved at some point. She stated she believes education is a positive resource and wants to support an invested AFPB. She stated bringing the AFPB and Soil & Water Conservation District Board together for training would be beneficial as well.

Legislator Montgomery stated training is provided through New York State Agriculture and Markets and Cornell Cooperative Extension for a minimal fee. She suggested allocating \$5,000 rather than \$10,000.

Legislator Russo agreed to allocate \$5,000 for 2026. She stated if it turns out more funding is in fact needed it can be revisited.

Legislator Birmingham withdrew his amendment to increase the amount from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Legislator Birmingham made a motion to amend the proposal to increase \$2,500 to \$5,000; Seconded by Legislator Ellner.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she is more comfortable with \$5,000 since there are free trainings available. She questioned if travel for the AFPB members would come out of the Legislature's travel line.

County Auditor Michele Sharkey stated it would come from the AFPB's budget.

Legislator Crowley questioned if mileage could be charged for site visits when the AFPB reviews the Agricultural District applications. She stated she would like this to be fiscally conservatively. She stated she is more comfortable with \$2,500 or \$5,000.

By roll call vote on the amendment: All Ayes. Motion carries.

RESOLUTION #293

County Planning:

**Agricultural Board
10802000 54554**

FROM:

1,000

TO:

0

A DIFFERENCE OF: (1,000)

Legislature:

**Agricultural Board
10101001 54554**

0

5,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,000

A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: 4,000

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4y – Tourism – Re–Title Tourism Advertising to Tourism Promotion & Development was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she had an extensive discussion with the Tourism Department and County Auditor Sharkey about the title and "Advertising" encompasses promotion, therefore it is more appropriate.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to amend the title from "Promotion & Development" to "Advertising"; Seconded by Legislator Ellner.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for discussion on the amendment.

Legislator Montgomery stated New York State keeps promoting tourism without providing resources to support it. She stated she agrees with leaving the title of the "Advertising" budget line.

Chairwoman Sayegh called the vote on the amendment. By poll vote: All in favor. Motion carries.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move \$7,500 from the Advertising line to Miscellaneous; Seconded by Legislator Crowley.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated the intention of moving these funds is to have some money available to support tourism. She stated she discussed this with Director of Tourism Keegan and the recommendation of \$7,500 for this purpose was made by the Tourism Department.

Legislator Birmingham questioned if there is an appetite to increase that \$7,500 allocation. He stated the County also receives I Love New York funding which is restricted funding to be used for advertising. He questioned if the Miscellaneous line is the most appropriate budget line to place this funding in.

Legislator Montgomery stated there is currently \$7,000 in the Miscellaneous budget line. She agreed with Legislator Birmingham's inquiry that Miscellaneous may not be the best line to put the funding into. She stated she would like to see a more specific purpose applied to the funds.

Legislator Crowley stated she spoke with Director Keegan and historically, the Miscellaneous line has been used for transportation to support the municipalities.

County Auditor Sharkey stated it can be put into subcontingency.

Legislator Ellner made a motion to increase the \$7,500 to \$20,000 and move it to Subcontingency rather than Miscellaneous; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for discussion on the amendment.

Legislator Birmingham stated Legislator Ellner's motion made an amendment to the amendment proposed by Chairwoman Sayegh. He stated this needs to be voted on to become the new amendment. He stated if the amendment passes, a vote will be needed for the resolution as amended.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated \$20,000 is a high number and she is not in favor of this. She stated she would not want to leave the advertising line too short, especially with Rev 250 coming up.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to see information about the costs of advertising, so she has an understanding of the amount of money being requested. She stated she trusts the departments to request what they need and she would like to understand the requests better.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a vote on Legislator Ellner's amendment to her earlier amendment. By Roll Call Vote: Three Nays - Legislators Crowley, Russo, and Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion carries.

Legislator Crowley stated she believes this is hamstringing Tourism; the Legislature is not requiring other departments to come before them to discuss what they are spending and why. She stated Tourism does a lot without asking for a lot.

Legislator Addonizio stated the Legislature's role is to have oversight.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a vote on the resolution as amended.

RESOLUTION #294

Tourism

	FROM:	TO:
Advertising 10641000 54664 (Approved original "Advertising" title)*	60,000	40,000
Subcontingency 10199000 54991	0	20,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE TO LEAVE TITLE OF "ADVERTISING" BUDGET LINE AS IS: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO TRANSFER FUNDS: SEVEN AYES. TWO NAYS - LEGISLATORS CROWLEY AND RUSSO. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #4z – Soil & Water – Remove \$60,000 Revenue Line – Per Decentralized Budget Process Section E (19) was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery thanked Legislative Counsel Heather Abissi and the Soil & Water Conservation District Board members for their hard work.

RESOLUTION #295

Soil & Water

	FROM:	TO:
State Aid Soil and Water 10874500 439101	(60,000)	0

A DIFFERENCE OF: 60,000

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4aa – Use of Fund Balance – Homeowner Tax Relief Program – Proposed by Legislator Jonke was next. On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairwoman Sayegh moved the following:

Legislator Crowley stated she will be voting in favor of this. She stated she believes Putnam County should be more affordable and has therefore always supported immediate reforms that put taxpayers first. She stated it has been advised by Legislative Counsel that this program, as

written, is not lawful and further guidance from the State Legislature and the Comptroller is required. She stated it is important to research this fully and clarified her previous “no” vote was because she did not have enough information. She stated in concept, this is wonderful and she would love to see it be implemented. She stated a \$200 rebate could go a long way for many people. She thanked Legislator Jonke for bringing this forward.

Legislator Jonke clarified that this is not a “rebate”; it is a Homeowner Tax Relief Program. He stated this is intended to provide meaningful tax relief to single family homeowners. He stated the tax levy was lowered in 2024 and 2025 and there was virtually no impact on the County property tax bills for residents; it has the greatest impact on New York City, NYSEG and Central Hudson. He stated in the County Executive’s Budget Address he talked about the tax rate going to 2.39%. He stated even with putting this money into subcontingency will not have any impact on the tax rate. He stated the Legislature’s work on this budget will show a 2.15% property tax rate in January 2026, showing significant relief from the Legislature. He stated the Tax Relief Program is not going to benefit the municipalities or large corporations; it is going to benefit homeowners. He agreed that research is needed and stated how great it would be for Putnam County to be the first in the State to implement such a program.

Legislator Addonizio stated her support for this program. She stated the residents who built this community deserve a tax relief program. She clarified that the recipients of the tax relief would be homeowners in owner-occupied single-family residences. She stated this is a tangible way to thank our taxpayers for their trust and ensure they benefit from the County’s sound financial stewardship.

Legislator Birmingham stated his support for this as well. He spoke to the County’s fund balance per the draft audit for the year ending December 31, 2024, which can certainly be used to provide this relief.

Legislator Ellner stated this relief program would provide taxpayers with more meaningful savings than a tax reduction. He stated approving this resolution is a critical first step in order to be able to look into the mechanism to make it come to fruition.

Legislator Montgomery stated she was skeptical of this when it was first discussed earlier this month, however she is in support of returning some money to the taxpayers. She stated her concern that there is not yet a program in place. She stated there are many ways to offer relief to Putnam County residents, and not just homeowners.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to amend the proposal to “Tax Relief Program for Putnam County Residents”; Seconded by Legislator Crowley.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for discussion on Legislator Montgomery’s amendment.

Legislator Jonke stated he is opposed to that because it is intended for homeowners. He stated when Legislature had the opportunity to lower the sales tax, which would provide relief to all residents and it was not approved.

Legislator Russo stated she is in favor of tax relief to all taxpayers, whether they are homeowners or not. She stated she does not believe the proper mechanism is in place yet but will be supporting it at this point.

Legislator Crowley stated this does not provide structural or lasting tax reform.

Legislator Gouldman stated his support for tax relief in Putnam County. He stated there are issues with this the way it is.

Legislator Montgomery stated there are Federal programs shutting down, impacting many residents. She stated this money could go toward helping them in a meaningful way.

Legislator Ellner stated the intent of this is to provide property tax relief. He stated the other areas where relief is needed are valid points to bring forward and he would support providing such relief under a different program.

Legislator Birmingham stated he agreed with Legislator Montgomery that all residents should see tax relief. He stated he is not in favor of the proposed amendment, but perhaps a companion bill offering relief to all residents would be worth considering in the future.

Legislator Montgomery stated her concern was having this money is subcontingency, locked in for this specific purpose when there is no program in place.

Legislator Ellner questioned if Legislator Montgomery had an idea of an additional program. He suggested making a motion to include another program and to set aside money for that now.

Legislator Montgomery stated she does not have a specific figure at this time.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a roll call vote on the motion to amend the name of the program.

By roll call vote: Four Ayes. Five Nays: Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Birmingham, Legislator Ellner, Legislator Jonke, and Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion fails.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated any further discussion should now be on the original proposal.

Legislator Gouldman stated property taxes in Putnam County are very high compared to the national average, which puts a strain on homeowners. He stated it is important to focus on sound tax policy solutions. He reviewed tax relief efforts that have been approved in the past few years. He stated this specific item only puts the money aside in the budget, giving the Legislature more time to establish the program. He stated more research needs to be done on this before it can be implemented. He stated he is in favor of putting this money into subcontingency.

Legislator Birmingham stated without exploring new options things will never change. He stated if this is approved and the program fails to materialize, the funding goes right back into the general fund or could be reallocated to where it is needed. He thanked Legislator Jonke for thinking out of the box.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated her support for this and recognized there is work to be done on it. She stated it is time to put the homeowners first.

RESOLUTION #296

Finance Department

**Subcontingency
Homeowner Tax Relief Program**

FROM:

TO:

10199000 54990	0	6,500,000
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Department of Finance

Use of Fund Balance

10131000 427161	(6,575,011)	(13,075,011)
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A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #5 – Other Business:

Legislator Birmingham made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business;
Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Item #5a – Extension Service (Cornell Cooperative Extension) – Tilly Foster Agriculture Program (Ag Navigator) Transfer \$25,000 from that line into Subcontingency – Proposed by Legislator Ellner was next.

Legislator Ellner stated he would like to reduce the Tilly Foster Agriculture Program (Ag Navigator) line by \$25,000. He stated he believes this can be funded through the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB).

Legislator Ellner made a motion to consider Extension Service – Tilly Foster Agriculture Program (Ag Navigator) – Reduce \$25,000; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio.

Legislator Crowley stated she believes the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) would be a great funding source for this necessary program. She stated the person filling the role of Ag Navigator has been instrumental in securing funding and has utilized it for successful programs.

Legislator Addonizio stated she believes a member of the AFPB can be the Ag Navigator, therefore it does not make sense to have funded this through Cornell Cooperative Extension. She stated a Board Member acting as liaison would maintain continuity and accountability.

Legislator Montgomery stated she has spoken with the AFPB as well as Cornell Cooperative Extension and she believes the common goal is to strengthen agriculture in Putnam County. She stated Cornell Cooperative Extension has been an outstanding partner for Putnam County. She stated the question here is how this position is structured and where it was created. She stated she learned that this person would report to the Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension but was created with a contract the Legislature has not seen. She stated under NYS law the AFPB is created by the Legislature and operates under our authority. She stated funding this through Cornell Cooperative Extension via a contract with the Administration and without the property Legislative framework, it shifts the balance of authority and could weaken the role of the Legislature on the AFPB. She stated she believes the funding can remain in the budget for Cornell Cooperative Extension and suggested changing the title to “Ag Grants Navigator” instead of an Ag Navigator that influences and supports the AFPB, it is a Grants Navigator that can seek out funding.

Chairwoman Sayegh agreed with Legislator Montgomery. She stated in speaking with the AFPB, they were adamant that they did not need an Ag Navigator and they did not want to use taxpayer money to fund the position. She stated AFPB also discussed partnering with SWCD to provide the grant services. She stated she is in favor of Legislator Ellner's proposal.

Legislator Crowley stated the AFPB must remain neutral so they can advise the Legislature. She stated the Ag Navigator could help the public with applications.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to amend Legislator Ellner's proposal by putting \$25,000 into subcontingency until the agreement between the Administration and Cornell Cooperative Extension is provided to the Legislature.

Legislator Ellner questioned if the funds would still be earmarked for the Ag Navigator position if they were put into subcontingency.

County Auditor Michele Sharkey stated it would be earmarked for the purpose of the Ag Navigator.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to amend the Legislator Ellner's proposal to put \$25,000 into subcontingency; Seconded by Legislator Birmingham.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if a contingency can be put on a line item in the budget, for instance, leave the \$25,000 in the line but add a contingency related to a title change.

County Auditor Sharkey stated perhaps it could be done via resolution.

Legislator Birmingham stated Cornell Cooperative Extension is a separate entity from the County therefore the County interacts with them through a contract. He stated it is the County Executive's role to negotiate and sign contracts. He stated he seconded Legislator Montgomery's motion because it is a compromise to keep the funding in the budget under subcontingency.

Legislative Counsel Abissi stated the AFPB is an advisory body to the Legislature and is required to evaluate matters before it in a neutral manner. She stated the proposed Navigator position was intended to be a public-facing role that could assist applicants with agricultural programs and grants without placing the AFPB in the position of both assisting and later evaluating an applicant. She stated the navigator could also assist SWCD with grants.

Legislator Gouldman stated his support for the Ag Navigator, which could help with some of the difficulties faced last year. He stated this separate position will be beneficial.

Legislator Birmingham stated an option is to move this funding out of Cornell Cooperative Extension's budget and into the Legislature's budget, similarly to the motion made under agenda item #4x this evening. He stated this would provide the opportunity for the Legislature to be presented with a plan.

Legislator Addonizio requested clarification about where the \$25,000 would be held in subcontingency. She questioned whether \$25,000 was a significant amount solely for this position.

Legislator Montgomery stated the title and responsibilities could be refined before the Legislature considered releasing the funding. She stated the individual is currently performing related work

and is knowledgeable, but reiterated that her primary concern is ensuring that the structure of the position respects the Legislature's role in the governance of the AFPB. She stated the details of the position can be clarified before the funding is released.

Legislator Ellner stated he would be more comfortable if the funding were placed in a subcontingency budget line controlled by the Legislature. He stated the proposed position arose from a contract initiated by the County Executive with Cornell Cooperative Extension that the Legislature had not reviewed. He expressed concern that leaving the funding within the Cornell Cooperative Extension structure could continue to subject the position to an agreement over which the Legislature had insufficient control.

Legislator Montgomery stated the AFPB could be incorporated into the process, including consultation regarding the position.

Legislator Birmingham stated placing the money in subcontingency would provide the Legislature with a measure of control because releasing the funding during the year would require further legislative action. He stated the Legislature could request to review the proposed contract before releasing the funds and could decline to move the money if a majority of the Legislature was not satisfied with the proposed arrangement.

Legislator Crowley stated the Legislature had already approved additional funding for AFPB education and the overall goal was to provide the AFPB and agricultural community with additional resources and knowledge. She stated she did not see a conflict between providing educational resources to the AFPB and providing an Agricultural Navigator as an additional resource. She stated she was comfortable placing the funding in subcontingency so the Legislature could later determine whether to authorize the position.

Legislator Ellner stated several members of the AFPB had contacted him as Chairman of the Physical Services Committee and clearly stated they did not want the proposed Agricultural Navigator position. He believes their wishes should be respected and that this was the basis for his original motion to remove the \$25,000.

Legislator Montgomery reiterated that her subcontingency proposal was intended as a compromise and was not intended to take resources away from Cornell Cooperative Extension. She stated the County should continue strengthening agriculture, but any position created should support rather than supplant the AFPB and should maintain appropriate Legislative oversight.

Legislator Addonizio stated it was her understanding that the AFPB had not been consulted regarding the creation of the proposed position. She questioned why an existing member or resource associated with the AFPB could not perform the navigator function.

Legislator Montgomery stated the AFPB, by nature, does what an Ag Navigator would do. She stated similarly to other counties throughout the State, Putnam has found that more support is needed. She reviewed similar functions implemented by other counties. She stated she would like the AFPB, Legislature, County Executive and Cornell Cooperative Extension to work together to determine which structure works best locally. She stated she does not want to see this funding taken out of Cornell Cooperative Extension's budget.

Legislative Counsel Abissi stated the possibility of reimbursement through SWCD had also been discussed through Part C funds. She stated funding the position in the current budget would not necessarily mean it would remain an ongoing taxpayer expense. She stated placing the funding

in subcontingency would allow the parties to continue discussing those options without immediately removing the funding.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Cornell Cooperative Extension did not request the \$25,000. She stated the AFPB had indicated it did not want the position and SWCD had stated it could fund agricultural navigation assistance without County taxpayer funding. She stated those were strong reasons for her to support Legislator Ellner's original proposal to remove the funding rather than place it in subcontingency.

Chairwoman Sayegh called for a roll call vote on Legislator Montgomery's amendment to put \$25,000 into subcontingency.

By roll call vote: Five ayes. Four Nays: Legislator Addonizio, Legislator Ellner, Legislator Jonke, Chairwoman Sayegh. Motion carries.

Legislator Birmingham clarified that the amended motion removed \$25,000 from the County Executive's proposed Cornell Cooperative Extension/Tilly Foster budget line and placed the funding in subcontingency. He stated the funding would remain within the County budget but would require additional action before it could be used.

Legislator Ellner questioned whether the subcontingency funding would remain specifically tied to Cornell Cooperative Extension or whether it could later be moved to a legislatively controlled account.

County Auditor Michele Sharkey explained the distinction between funds designated for a specific subcontingency purpose and general contingency and discussed the budgetary process necessary to subsequently transfer or release the funding.

Legislator Birmingham questioned whether the Legislature could direct the use of the funds when considering their release from subcontingency.

County Auditor Sharkey stated funds placed in a designated subcontingency line are reserved for that purpose and require further budgetary action before they can be used.

Legislator Crowley questioned whether release of funds from subcontingency would also require action by the County Executive.

County Auditor Sharkey explained that the Finance Department would have to prepare the necessary budgetary amendment or transfer, which would go through the Administration.

Legislator Addonizio questioned whether a future action releasing the funds could be vetoed by the County Executive.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated such Legislative action could be subject to veto, after which the Legislature could consider a veto override.

Chairwoman Sayegh called the question on the resolution. She clarified that a "yes" vote on the amended motion would place the \$25,000 in subcontingency, while a "no" vote would leave the County Executive's proposed budget line unchanged.

RESOLUTION #297

Extension Service (Cornell Cooperative Extension)

	FROM:	TO:
Tilly Foster Agriculture Program (Ag Navigator) 25875000 54555	36,811	11,811
Subcontingency 10199000 54992	0	25,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. THREE NAYS – LEGISLATORS CROWLEY, GOULDMAN & RUSSO. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #5b – Use of Fund Balance – \$150,000 – Food Insecurity Program – Proposed by Legislator Birmingham was next.

Legislator Birmingham stated food insecurity remains an issue in Putnam County despite the County's overall wealth. He referenced the work of Second Chance Foods, local food pantries and other community organizations and stated the coming year could be particularly difficult for residents in need.

Legislator Birmingham made a motion to consider Use of Fund Balance – Food Insecurity Program - \$150,000; Seconded by Legislator Montgomery.

Legislator Birmingham clarified that this funding would not be designated for any one organization but could support food pantries and other organizations addressing food insecurity throughout the County.

Legislator Crowley stated she supports the proposal and noted there are numerous organizations throughout the County providing food assistance. She stated creating a funding source that could respond to needs in different communities would be beneficial.

Legislator Addonizio stated she strongly supports the proposal and referenced her work with Second Chance Foods. She stated the number of residents seeking assistance has increased, including families with young children, and the County should do what it can to help residents in need. She stated this ongoing need will only be exacerbated by the Federal budget cuts coming down the pike.

Legislator Russo stated she supports the proposal and referenced her volunteer work with Second Chance Foods and a community kitchen in Patterson. She stated food insecurity can also be accompanied by other hardships; residents regularly seek assistance from local food pantries.

Legislator Ellner stated this is a necessary proposal and complemented other efforts by the Legislature to provide relief to residents.

Legislator Montgomery stated there are several established food pantries in Putnam County in addition to other organizations providing assistance. She stated it is important to remain in contact with County employees, first responders and social service professionals who work directly with residents experiencing hardship.

Legislator Gouldman stated he supports the proposal and has seen increasing demand through his experience volunteering at the Putnam Valley food pantry. He stated some residents rely on multiple food pantries and senior programs to meet their basic food needs.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated she supports the proposal and has heard directly from local food pantries that supplies are low while demand is increasing. She stated a clearly defined County initiative addressing food insecurity is consistent with the type of targeted outside agency support she believes the County should provide.

Legislator Crowley stated she spoke with Director of the Office for Senior Resources Marlene Barrett who is working closely with other County agencies to meet the needs of the residents.

RESOLUTION #298

Finance Department

Subcontingency

Food Insecurity Program

10199000 54995

FROM:

TO:

0

150,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 150,000

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #5c – Other Business – Statement by Legislator Crowley

Legislator Crowley stated she has chosen not to accept the annual cost-of-living increase for Legislators. She stated she believes taxpayer dollars should be used responsibly and that public service should focus on representing residents rather than personal gain. She stated she would notify the Commissioner of Finance in writing of her decision.

Item #6 – Offset Changes to Budget

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; Seconded by Legislator Birmingham.

Legislator Birmingham questioned if the tax levy would be increased.

Legislator Jonke stated he would rather utilize fund balance than increase the tax levy.

Chairwoman Sayegh clarified there is no change to the tax levy; fund balance is being used.

Legislator Jonke stated the budget review has been a long process. He stated based on the changes made by the Legislature the tax rate will be \$2.15. He stated it has been many decades since it has been that low.

RESOLUTION #299

Offset Changes

	FROM:	TO:
Use of:		
Fund Balance		
10131000 427161	(6,575,011)	(7,025,345)

Such adjusted amount as required to offset changes to the Tentative Budget by the County Legislature, including County Executive's Vetoes not overridden by the County Legislature and including final adjustment for Health Insurance rates, in compliance with the Tax Cap requirements of the State of New York. It being the intent of the Legislature to comply with Real Property Tax Law and Levy of \$45,212,312.

APPROXIMATE DIFFERENCE OF: (450,334)

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #7 – Budget Adoption:

Item #7a – Approval of the 2026 Budget Resolutions was next.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; Seconded by Legislator Crowley and Legislator Ellner.

RESOLUTION #300

APPROVAL OF THE 2026 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby approves the 2026 budget resolutions as pre-filed by the Budget & Finance Committee and amended by the Legislature on October 20, 2025; and be it further

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

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #7b – Resolution Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026 Commencing January 1, 2026 making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2026 was next.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; Seconded by Legislator Birmingham.

Legislator Birmingham explained that there are two schedules broken out, A and B. He stated he would vote in favor of Item #7b but would abstain from the subsequent vote on Schedule A because certain municipalities affected by those budget lines are represented by his law firm.

Legislator Crowley stated she would abstain from the subsequent vote involving Schedule B because of a potential conflict related to her husband's employment.

Chairwoman Sayegh clarified that this vote includes everything except schedule A and B.

RESOLUTION #301

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026

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

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

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

RESOLVED, that this act takes effect on January 1, 2026.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #7c – Approval – Additional Resolution Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 Commencing January 1, 2026 Making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2026 – ("Schedule A" lines Incl.)

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; Seconded by Legislator Ellner.

RESOLUTION #302

AN ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby adopts the budget line items in attached "Schedule A" as shown in the Tentative Budget and as amended by the Legislature as an addition to the Budget adopted by Resolution #301 of 2025 provided that

said tentative budget as amended does not exceed the tax cap as provided for in state law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this act takes effect January 1, 2026.

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

Item #7d – Approval – Additional Resolution Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 Commencing January 1, 2026 Making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2026 – (“Schedule B” lines Incl.)

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to move the following; Seconded by Legislator Ellner.

RESOLUTION #303

AN ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby adopts the budget line items in attached “Schedule B” as shown in the Tentative Budget and as amended by the Legislature as an addition to the Budget adopted by Resolution #301 of 2025 provided that said tentative budget as amended does not exceed the tax cap as provided for in state law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this act takes effect January 1, 2026.

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

Item #8 – Adjournment

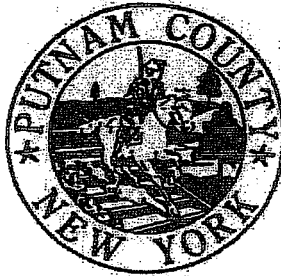
There being no further business, at 9:42 P.M., Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Beth Robinson.

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
Phone (845) 808-1020 • Fax (845) 808-1933
putcoleg@putnamcountyny.gov

Daniel G. Birmingham *Chairman*
William Gouldman *Deputy Chair*
Diane Trabulsy *Clerk*



Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Laura E. Russo	Dist. 4
Jake D'Angelo	Dist. 5
Thomas Regan, Jr.	Dist. 6
Daniel G. Birmingham	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

**REVISED
LOCATION OF MTG & OTHER BUSINESS
AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRWOMAN
FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2026 BUDGET
TO BE HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Wednesday October 29, 2025 7:00 P.M.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Legislative Prayer
3. Roll Call
4. Pre-filed Resolutions

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

- 4a. Office Senior Resources (OSR) – Chargeback Copier Lease
- 4b. Putnam Arts Council – Contribution to the Arts – Increase Advertising and County Contribution – From \$70,957 to \$75,000 (Rev/Exp Page 230)
- 4c. Putnam Recreation Program (PRP) – Increase County Contribution (Rev/Exp Page 187)
- 4d. Second Chance Foods – Increase County Contribution (Rev/Exp Page 243)
- 4e. Career Support Solutions – Increase County Contribution to \$30,000 - Proposed by Legislator Birmingham (Rev/Exp Page 188)

- 4f. Hudson Valley Shakespeare –County Contribution – Proposed by Legislator Montgomery**
- 4g. Garrison Arts Center – County Contribution – Proposed by Legislator Montgomery (Rev/Exp Page 244)**
- 4h. Boscobel – County Contribution – Proposed by Legislator Montgomery (Rev/Exp Page 245)**
- 4i. Office for Disabilities & Mental Health LGU Administration – Coordinator Office for Individuals with Disabilities – Restore Salary to Requested Amount (Pers Pages 53 & 55)**
- 4j. Mental Health SPOA- SPOA Coordinator (Adults) – Restore Salary to Requested Amount (Pers Page 54)**
- 4k. Mental Health OASAS Abatement – Dual Recovery Coordinator - Restore Salary to Requested Amount (Pers Page 56)**
- 4L. Mental Health – Co-Response Team Grant – Crisis Intervention Specialist (Law Enforcement) - Restore Salary to Requested Amount (Pers Page 57)**
- 4m. DSS – Services- Director of Child/Family Services - Restore Salary to Requested Amount (Pers Page 60)**
- 4n. Youth Bureau -Deputy Youth Director - Restore Salary to Requested Amount (Pers Page 83)**
- 4o. County Auditor - Increase Salary – Subcontingency – Per Catapult Survey (Pers Page 6 & Rev/Exp Page 58)**
- 4p. County Auditor – Audit Manager - Increase Salary Per Catapult Survey (Pers Page 6)**
- 4q. County Auditor – Deputy County Auditor - Increase Salary Per Catapult Survey (Pers Pages 6)**
- 4r. Legislature – Reclass Administrative Assistant to Deputy Clerk - Increase Salary Per Catapult Survey (Pers Page 1)**
- 4s. Office for Senior Resources (OSR) – Caseworker Assistant (OSR) Part Time 25 Hours Per Week – Should be Calculated as a Step 2 (Pers Page 75)**
- 4t. Historian – County Historian – Increase to Full- Time (Pers - Page 85)**
- 4u. Department of General Services (DGS) - Commissioner – Increase Salary Per Catapult Survey (Pers Page 7)**
- 4v. Adjustments – Chargeback Revenue & Expenses**
- 4w. Sheriff – Buckle Up Grant – Adjustment (Rev/Exp Page 80)**
- 4x. Legislature – Agricultural Board – Remove from County Planning and Place under Legislature – Increase from \$1,000 to \$2,500 – Proposed by Legislator Ellner (Plng. Rev/Exp Page 236 Leg. Rev/Exp Page 1)**

- 4y. Tourism – Re-Title Tourism Advertising to Tourism Promotion & Development (Page 182)**
- 4z. Soil & Water – Remove \$60,000 Revenue Line – Per Decentralized Budget Process Section E (19) (Page 249)**
- 4aa. Use of Fund Balance – Homeowner Tax Relief Program – Proposed by Legislator Jonke (Rev/Exp Page 15 & 16)**
- 5. Other Business:**
 - a.) Extension Service (aka: Cornell Cooperative Extension) – Tilly Foster Agriculture Program (Ag Navigator) Transfer \$25,000 from that line into Subcontingency – Proposed by Legislator Ellner (Rev/Exp Page 251)**
 - b.) Use of Fund Balance – \$150,000 - Food Insecurity Program – Proposed by Legislator Birmingham**
- 6. Offset Changes to Budget**
- 7. Approval Budget Adoption**
 - a) Approval of the 2026 Budget Resolutions**
 - b) Resolution Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026 Commencing January 1, 2026 making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2026**
 - c) Approval - Additional Resolution Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 Commencing January 1, 2026 Making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2026 – (“Schedule A” lines Incl.)**
 - d) Approval - Additional Resolution Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 Commencing January 1, 2026 Making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2026 – (“Schedule B” lines Incl.)**
- 8. Adjournment**

Full 9-1-26

#4

**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Birmingham and Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Addonizio,
Russo, D'Angelo, Regan, Sayegh & Crowley**

Monday

March 30, 2026

(Immediately following the Economic Development Mtg. & Audit Mtg. beginning at 6:00pm)

The meeting was called to order at 7:50pm by Chairman Birmingham, who requested Legislator Jake D'Angelo lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Russo, D'Angelo, Regan, Sayegh, Crowley and Chairman Birmingham were present. Legislator Addonizio was absent.

Item #3 – Approval – Motor Fuel Sales Tax Adjustment

Legislator Gouldman made a motion to move the item; Seconded by Legislator Montgomery.

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to accept revised Item #3, which amended Section 2 regarding the sunset date; Seconded by Legislator D'Angelo. All in favor.

Legislator Gouldman stated the proposed motor fuel sales tax adjustment would provide relief from rising gasoline prices by limiting the amount of County sales tax collected on gasoline. He stated the revised sunset date he proposed is changing it from June 1, 2027 to December 31, 2026. He stated the County portion of sales tax would be calculated on no more than \$3.00 per gallon, so the County would not collect additional sales tax on the portion of the price above \$3.00. He stated Putnam County took similar action in 2022 and emphasized that County government should do what they can to help residents and keep the community affordable.

Legislator Regan questioned what assurances the Legislature had that the savings would be realized by consumers at the pump rather than retained by gasoline retailers.

Chairman Birmingham stated market competition among gasoline stations may encourage the savings to be passed along to consumers. He stated the County could not guarantee how each retailer would price gasoline, but the resolution would ensure the County does not receive additional sales tax revenue because of high gasoline prices out of our control.

Legislator Regan stated he supports the intent of the resolution and reiterated his interest in whether there is a method to verify that consumers receive the savings.

Legislator Crowley stated a similar cap was enacted in 2022 and explained that Consumer Affairs/Weights and Measures can conduct price checks, including comparisons of wholesale fuel costs, pump prices and prices in nearby counties. She stated enforcement measures could also include complaints, audits and penalties where appropriate. She stated the relief is meaningful to residents who are struggling with increasing costs.

Legislator D'Angelo thanked Legislator Gouldman for bringing the proposal forward. He stated the \$3.00 cap is consistent with the approximate gasoline price used when estimating sales tax revenue in the budget, which would help avoid creating a budget shortfall while also protecting

consumers from additional County sales tax when prices rise above that amount. He stated the measure could also benefit municipalities and public works operations that purchase fuel.

Legislator Sayegh stated her support for the proposal and recalled that the 2022 motor fuel sales tax cap provided relief when gasoline and diesel prices increased significantly. She stated out of all counties in New York State, Putnam County is within the top 5 with longest commutes and even modest per-gallon savings can be impactful for out residents.

Legislator Russo stated her support for the resolution and thanked Legislator Gouldman for bringing it forward. She stated every little bit helps residents while gasoline prices continue to increase.

Legislator Crowley provided examples of potential savings, stating the cap would save approximately two cents per gallon at \$3.50, four cents per gallon at \$4.00, six cents per gallon at \$4.50 and eight cents per gallon at \$5.00.

Legislator Montgomery questioned how much sales tax revenue was generated from gasoline sales last year.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin stated he did not have the specific breakdown available at the meeting but noted that gasoline prices had been around \$3.00 per gallon for some time and the budget was developed around that general price level.

Sam Oliverio, Putnam Valley resident, thanked the Legislature and stated residents need support.

Chairman Birmingham suggested an amendment to the resolution by extending the sunset date from December 31, 2026 to December 31, 2027. He stated the measure was expected to take effect June 1, 2026, which would otherwise provide only approximately six months of relief in 2026. He stated the County has sufficient fund balance to consider extending the relief through the following year.

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to amend the revised resolution by extending the sunset date from December 31, 2026 to December 31, 2027; Seconded by Legislator Regan.

Legislator Russo requested clarification regarding the different sunset dates that had appeared in versions of the proposal.

Chairman Birmingham stated a revised version was accepted to sunset on December 31, 2026. He stated the amendment he just put forward was to extend that date to December 31, 2027.

Legislator Gouldman stated his amendment to have the resolution sunset on December 31, 2026 was done with the intention of giving next year's Legislature the opportunity to determine whether to continue the measure. He stated the Legislature regularly revisits other temporary tax measures and could extend the motor fuel cap in the future if appropriate.

Commissioner Carlin stated he would also advocate for the sunset of December 31, 2026 because the County does not yet know what fiscal conditions it will face in 2027. He stated the Legislature could later extend the measure after obtaining a clearer understanding of the 2027 budget.

Chairman Birmingham stated he understood the fiscal concern but believed the policy reason for the cap would remain valid if gasoline prices continued to be driven upward through 2027. He stated the County would still collect sales tax on gasoline up to \$3.00 per gallon.

Legislator Sayegh stated she supports extending the sunset date through December 31, 2027 because the County would continue collecting the sales tax on the first \$3.00 per gallon while providing relief on amounts above that price.

Legislator Gouldman reiterated that he preferred allowing the future Legislature to revisit the matter in 2027, consistent with how other temporary tax measures have been handled.

Chairman Birmingham called for a call vote on the amendment to extend the sunset date to December 31, 2027.

By Roll Call Vote: Six Ayes. Two Nays, Legislator Crowley and Legislator Russo. Legislator Addonizio was absent. Motion carries.

Chairman Birmingham stated the Committee would then vote on the Motor Fuel Sales Tax Adjustment resolution as amended and, if approved, pre-file the necessary resolution for the April 7, 2026 Full Legislative Meeting.

By Roll Call Vote: Eight Ayes. Legislator Addonizio was absent. Motion carries.

Item #4 – Additional to the Agenda

a. Authorizing an Audit of the Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District Monies Received by the County

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional item; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Chairman Birmingham stated the item before the Committee is a resolution authorizing a special, non-forensic audit of Putnam County records relating to Soil & Water Conservation District monies received by the County.

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to move the item forward; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh.

Chairman Birmingham stated the purpose of the audit is to understand how State Soil & Water Conservation funds were received into and disbursed through the County budget. He stated he does not anticipate wrongdoing and believes much of the activity will be explained by prior legislation and County administrative practices. He stated the review could provide answers to procedural questions and identify best practices going forward. He also stated the Soil & Water Conservation District Board recently supported an audit after seeking guidance from the Office of the State Comptroller.

Legislator Sayegh stated the Legislature has responsibility for fiscal oversight of County government and has the authority to request a special audit. She stated requesting an audit does not imply wrongdoing and could provide a clear understanding of where funds were received and how they were used.

Legislator Crowley stated she had already requested that a memorandum be prepared seeking similar information and stated she supports obtaining the records and answers.

Legislator D'Angelo stated he supports accountability for taxpayer funds and questioned the fiscal impact of hiring an outside auditor. He referenced a prior State Comptroller risk assessment requested by County Executive Byrne and stated he wanted to ensure the County does not incur an unnecessary expense where no issue has been identified.

Chairman Birmingham stated an outside audit would likely have a cost, but the Legislature would first need to determine the scope of the review. He stated he is interested in the Part A, B, and C money coming into the County's budget and going out for soil and water purposes. He stated the Legislature has funding available in its budget for professional services, but any additional funding requirement would be considered separately after the scope and procurement process are developed. He stated no budgetary amendment was being requested as part of the current action.

Legislator D'Angelo stated his concern about voting on an audit before having written resolution language and before knowing the expected cost. He questioned whether there was a deadline requiring immediate action.

Chairman Birmingham stated the Committee was considering the concept and that, if advanced, Legislative Counsel would prepare a written resolution for the April 7, 2026 Full Legislative Meeting in accordance with the required advance filing deadline. He stated members would have an opportunity to review the written language before the Full Meeting.

Legislator Montgomery stated the request for a forensic audit came from the Soil & Water Conservation District Board (SWCD Board) after the SWCD Board had sought information concerning the funds for approximately a year. She stated the SWCD Board should have input into the scope of the audit. She stated she was less concerned with whether the review was called a forensic audit or a regular audit than with ensuring the SWCD Board receives the information necessary to establish accurate records.

Legislator Crowley referenced language in Resolution #384 of 2025 regarding the transfer of fiduciary duties, financial responsibilities, accounting and audit obligations to the SWCD and questioned whether the cost of an audit should therefore be borne by the SWCD.

Chairman Birmingham stated the proposed review concerns County records and funds that were held within the County's books before transfer to the SWCD. He stated the SWCD cannot independently audit County books without the County's involvement and that the Legislature's action would provide authority to examine those County records.

Legislator Crowley stated she agrees that the SWCD needs answers and requested clarification regarding whether the District could retain its own outside auditor for this purpose.

Chairman Birmingham stated even if they retained an outside auditor, the County records could not be looked into without the County's involvement. He stated this is a way for the County to grant permission to look into that information.

Legislator Sayegh stated the audit could serve as a baseline following implementation of the intermunicipal agreement (IMA). She stated the Legislature should retain fiscal oversight of County funds and could consider future follow-up audits after the transfer of responsibilities to the SWCD. She stated she viewed the requested review as a special audit establishing a starting point.

Legislative Counsel Heather Abissi clarified that the language assigning financial and audit responsibilities to the SWCD applies to funds in the District's possession going forward. She stated the District cannot be responsible for, or comment on, monies that were not in its possession.

SWCD Board Member Cassandra Roth stated the SWCD Board is seeking a baseline accounting and is not concerned with whether the review is called a forensic audit, special audit or another title. She stated the SWCD Board had requested financial information for approximately a year and sought technical guidance from the Office of the State Comptroller because it could not obtain the documentation necessary to complete its reporting responsibilities. She stated the recently executed IMA clarifies responsibilities going forward, but the SWCD Board still needs to reconcile the prior period. She requested a line-by-line review of State funding received for Soil & Water purposes, transfers and expenditures, account balances, and equipment or other assets purchased with District funds. She stated the SWCD Board is not alleging improper intent and is seeking documentation and transparency so it can establish an accurate baseline and conduct appropriate audits in the future. She stated the review should begin in approximately 2018, when funding rules changed to allow SWCD funds to roll over. She stated the Board needs to determine what was received, expended and carried forward so it can administer current programs and meet State requirements.

Legislator Gouldman questioned why execution of the IMA had taken so long and asked where the delay occurred.

Commissioner Carlin stated he received and signed the IMA today.

Legislative Counsel Abissi stated the delays occurred at several levels, including the NYMIR insurance review and reviews by multiple departments and parties. She stated no single office was responsible for the delay, it takes time when multiple departments are reviewing and ensuring there are comfortable with the document.

Chairman Birmingham thanked the volunteer members of the SWCD Board and Legislative Counsel Abissi for their work on this matter.

Legislator D'Angelo requested clarification regarding the action being sent to the Full Legislature.

Chairman Birmingham stated the Committee was advancing authority under Section 2.04 of the County Charter to audit County records beginning approximately in 2018 concerning State funds received for Soil & Water Conservation District purposes and their disbursement through the County budget. He stated the written resolution would define the scope more specifically before the Full Legislative Meeting.

By By Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Legislator Addonizio was absent. Motion carries.

Item #5 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:41pm, Chairman Birmingham made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Montgomery. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Deputy Clerk, Beth Robinson.

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
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Daniel G. Birmingham *Chairman*
William Gouldman *Deputy Chair*
Diane Trabulsy *Clerk*



Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Laura E. Russo	Dist. 4
Jake D'Angelo	Dist. 5
Thomas Regan Jr.	Dist. 6
Daniel G. Birmingham	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

**REVISED
AGENDA
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Birmingham, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Addonizio, Russo,
D'Angelo Regan, Sayegh & Crowley**

Monday

March 30, 2026

(Immediately Following the Economic Development & Energy Comm. and Audit & Administration Comm. Mtgs.)

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval/ Motor Fuel Sales Tax Adjustment**
- 4. Additional to the Agenda**
 - a. Authorizing and Audit of the Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District
Monies received by the County**
- 5. Adjournment**

Michele Alfano- Sharkey
County Auditor

Francine Romeo
Deputy County Auditor



COUNTY AUDITOR

#5a
County Office Building
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
Main (845)808-1040
Fax (845)808-1900

TO: Putnam County Legislature

FROM: Michele Alfano-Sharkey
County Auditor

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "MASH", is written over the name "Michele Alfano-Sharkey" in the "FROM:" line.

DATE: August 25, 2026

RE: Refund of Taxes

This is the report for August 25, 2026 provided by Real
Property Tax Law- Section 554 and 556.

There was no activity during this reporting period.

#60a

Committee: Rules Mtg. Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: September 1, 2026
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

APPROVAL – LITIGATION SETTLEMENT - CALISTA MALSTROM V. COUNTY OF PUTNAM

WHEREAS, On May 24, 2024, Plaintiff Calista Malstrom commenced action against the County of Putnam in Supreme Court, Putnam County seeking compensation and damages for personal injuries sustained when she tripped and fell in a pothole on a Putnam County roadway.

WHEREAS, Plaintiff sought recovery for compensatory damages in an undetermined amount as well as costs, disbursements, attorney’s fees, and interest; and

WHEREAS, the County’s insurer, the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR), assigned the Portale Randazzo law firm, James A. Randazzo, Esq., to defend the County’s interests in this matter, which litigation has been handled by counsel since action was commenced in 2024.

WHEREAS, following litigation with Plaintiff’s counsel in State Supreme Court, the Claims Committee for the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR), the County’s insurance carrier, recently arrived at a negotiated settlement value for this case of _____ dollars; and

WHEREAS, Plaintiff agreed to a settlement with the County, subject to the Legislature’s approval, in which the County agreed to pay Plaintiff the sum of _____ dollars; and

WHEREAS, the County’s outside counsel, James Randazzo, Esq., and NYMIR’s claims representatives, have after due consideration recommended the aforementioned settlement as an alternative to trial; and

WHEREAS, in connection with this settlement the County shall be responsible for payment of _____ dollars per the deductible pursuant to the County’s insurance policy with NYMIR; and

WHEREAS, outside counsel for the County of Putnam, has in fact settled the matter with Plaintiff for the sum of _____ dollars; and Plaintiff shall execute the required General Release which, upon approval by the Legislature, a Stipulation of Discontinuance will be filed with the Supreme Court, Putnam County, thereby discontinuing this matter and allowing Plaintiff to receive her settlement payment in the agreed upon amount; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned settlement is in the public interest and avoids the costs of further litigation, additional attorney’s fees and costs and the risk of a potential high jury verdict; now therefore be it

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D’Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

RESOLVED, that the proposed settlement of this matter for the sum of [REDACTED] dollars with the County only being responsible for payment of that amount pursuant to the County's insurance policy with NYMIR is hereby approved.

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to sign any required settlement documents on behalf of the County including a General Release with respect thereto.

#66

Committee: Rules Mtg. Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: September 1, 2026
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

APPROVAL - AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 94 OF 2026 REGARDING THE DESIGNATION OF THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature desires to amend Resolution No. 94 of 2026 concerning the designation of the County's official newspaper and the publication of County notices;

WHEREAS, there have been repeated instances of challenges with paper publication, which has caused inefficiency, delay, and expense to the Putnam County taxpayers;

WHEREAS, online publication is more efficient, cost effective, and conservative of time, expense, and natural resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the operative RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 94 of 2026 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The official Putnam County website is hereby designated as the official publication platform of the County of Putnam for the publication of public notices not required by law to be published in a newspaper; notices for all matters required by law to be published for the year 2026, will be published as set forth below. Where publication in a newspaper is expressly required by law, the Putnam County Press shall serve as the County's designated official newspaper. If the Putnam County Press declines the requested publication, is unable to publish within the time required by law or fails to timely accept or confirm the publication request in sufficient time to permit the County to comply or that places at risk the County's ability to timely comply with the applicable statutory or court-imposed publication deadline, The Journal News (LoHud) shall serve as the County's designated newspaper for that publication. Whenever The Journal News is used pursuant to this paragraph, the notice shall also be submitted to The Highlands Current and Mahopac News for supplemental publication, provided that The Highlands Current and Mahopac News are able to accept and publish the notice within a reasonable period of time. The Highlands Current and Mahopac News may also be used as supplemental

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

publications for any other County notice, announcement, enactment, or matter when additional publication would provide broader local access and further the public-notice purpose of the publication.

RESOLVED, that except as expressly amended herein, Resolution No. 94 of 2026 shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

#60c

Committee: **Rules Mtg.** _____ Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: **September 1, 2026**
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

APPROVAL - LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 55, SECTION 55-12 OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY CODE ENTITLED "BOARD OF ETHICS ESTABLISHMENT; QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS; APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS; TERM OF OFFICE" AND CHAPTER 55, SECTION 55-14 ENTITLED "REMOVAL OF BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS"

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature finds that balance of powers between branches of government is a core protection grounded in our Nation's foundational documents; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature finds that accountability to an ethical code and ethical standards should hold both branches of government equally accountable; and

WHEREAS, if the candidates for the Ethics Board are unilaterally selected by one branch of government, even with confirmation required, there is an unconscious bias built into the selection process; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that appointments to the Board of Ethics should be made through a fair, open, and transparent process that encourages qualified residents of Putnam County to seek appointment through public participation; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that the public's confidence in the integrity and independence of the Board of Ethics is enhanced by a transparent appointment process that affords all interested residents an equal opportunity to apply for appointment and permits the public to review applications submitted for consideration; and

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Putnam, State of New York, as follows:

Section 1.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

Section 55-12 of Chapter 55 of the Putnam County Code, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

§ 55-12. Board of Ethics establishment; qualifications of members; appointment of members; term of office.

A. A Board of Ethics is hereby created consisting of five (5) members.

Two (2) members shall be nominated by the County Executive, one (1) member shall be nominated by the Chair of the Legislature, one (1) member shall be nominated by the full Legislature, and one (1) member shall be nominated by the Minority Leader of the Legislature. All nominations must be confirmed by a simple majority vote of the Legislature before appointment.

For purposes of this section, "Minority Leader" means the legislator who belongs to the political party that does not control the Legislature and has the greatest number of registered voters.

The Legislative Office shall publicly solicit applications from the public at large whenever a vacancy exists or a vacancy is anticipated on the Board of Ethics. The solicitation shall specify the qualifications for appointment established by this section, the deadline by which applications must be received, and the manner in which applications shall be submitted. All applications, resumes, letters of interest, and supporting materials timely received by the deadline established in the solicitation shall be filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature. All such materials shall be included in the legislative backup materials for the meeting at which nominations are considered and shall be made available for public inspection to the fullest extent permitted by law, regardless of whether the applicant is ultimately nominated.

Any Board of Ethics established prior to this enactment under a different appointment process is hereby dissolved, and a new Board shall be appointed in accordance with this section.

i. The nominations for appointment shall be for designated seats as follows:

1. Seat One shall be nominated by the County Executive.

2. Seat Two shall be nominated by the Chair of the Legislature.

3. Seat Three shall be nominated by the County Executive.

4. Seat Four shall be nominated by the full Legislature.

5. Seat Five shall be nominated by the Minority Leader.

If no Minority Leader exists because all members of the Legislature are enrolled in the same political party, Seat Five shall instead be nominated by the full Legislature.

ii. Should any seat become vacant, it shall be filled in the same manner as specifically designated.

B. The members of the Board of Ethics shall reside in the County of Putnam.

C. No member of the Board of Ethics may be an appointed officer or employee of the County.

D. No Board of Ethics member shall hold office in a political party or be employed or act as a lobbyist or hold elective office in the County.

E. Board members will serve for a two (2) year term, beginning from their date of appointment.

F. A Board of Ethics member shall serve until his or her successor has been appointed.

G. The members of the Board of Ethics shall not receive compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

H. Any hearing to be held, must be heard before and voted on by the entire Board of Ethics by majority vote. In the case of a conflict of interest in any matter, the ethics complaint giving rise to the conflict shall be referred to another County's Board of Ethics. At no time shall a single outside counsel be called upon to render an opinion in place of the Board of Ethics. A conflict of interest may be raised by any member of the board, any complainant, or any subject of a complaint. Any such conflict must be voted on and a written decision rendered as to whether the board believes it can be fair and impartial by an appearance of impropriety standard. If the board determines it cannot be fair and impartial in the handling of any ethics complaint, referral to another County's Board of Ethics shall be

requested by the Board of Ethics, and such referral shall be coordinated by the Confidential Secretary of the Ethics Board.

Section 2.

Section 55-14 of Chapter 55 of the Putnam County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 55-14. Removal of Board of Ethics members.

A member of the Board of Ethics may be removed for cause by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the County Legislature, after written notice of the grounds for removal and a reasonable opportunity to respond. Cause shall include failure to meet the qualifications set forth in § 55-12, chronic absenteeism, substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct in office, inability to discharge the powers or duties of office, or violation of this chapter.

Section 3. This Local Law shall take effect immediately.

#6ed.

Committee: **Health Mtg.** Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: **September 1, 2026**
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

**APPROVAL – BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (26A067)/ HEALTH/ FUNDING FOR THE
EALY LEARNING CENTER “4410”**

WHEREAS, the Public Health Director requested a Budgetary Amendment (26A067) to fund the Early Learning Center “4410” designation that requires a different mix of faculty and staff to student ratio; and

WHEREAS, this new program will be a small, focused group of students and this amendment will ensure that the Health Department provides programs that align with the approved use of funds; and

WHEREAS, the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment; be made:

Increase

Revenues:

10296002 432773	4410 Early Learning Center COP–Education Transportation	173,195
-----------------	--	---------

Increase

Expenses:

10296002 52110	4410 Early Learning Center COP– Furniture and Furnishing	2,000
10296002 54310	4410 Early Learning Center COP– Office Supplies	500
10296002 54311	4410 Early Learning Center COP– Printing and Forms	100
10296002 54313	4410 Early Learning Center COP– Books and Supplements	300
10296002 54330	4410 Early Learning Center COP– Medical Supplies	100
10296002 54414	4410 Early Learning Center COP– Care at Private Institution	125,000
10296002 54640	4410 Early Learning Center COP– Education and Training	300

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D’Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

10296002 54646	4410 Early Learning Center COP– Contracts	16,600
10296002 54678	4410 Early Learning Center COP– Leased Transportation	26,000
10296002 58002	4410 Early Learning Center COP– FICA	2,295
		173195

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2027 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

#6e.

Committee: **Health Mtg.** Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: **September 1, 2026**
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

**APPROVAL – FUND TRANSFER (26T201) HEALTH DEPARTMENT – FUND
EARLY INTERVENTION CARE AT PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS TO COVER AN
INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT SINCE THE START OF THE YEAR**

**WHEREAS, the Public Health Director has requested a fund transfer
(26T201) to fund the Early Intervention Care at Private institutions to cover
an increase in enrollment since the start of the year; and**

**WHEREAS, the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental
Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and
approved said fund transfer; now therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment; be made:

Decrease:

10405900-54417	Early Intervention- Evaluations	60,000
10405900-54417	Early Intervention- Evaluations	3,000

Increase:

10405900 54414	Early Intervention- Care at Private Institutions	60,000
10405900 54483	Early Intervention- Assistive Tech	3,000

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2027 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

#6 f

Committee: **Personnel Mtg.** Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: **September 1, 2026**
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

APPROVAL/ REPLACING SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY (R#154 OF 2023)

WHEREAS, the Putnam County legislature adopted Resolution 145 of 2023 adopting a County-wide Service Animal Policy; and

WHEREAS, this policy adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II and III requirements surrounding service animals; and

WHEREAS, this policy expressly forbids emotional support animals and other animals which are not service animals, law enforcement, or County property; and

WHEREAS the Child Advocacy Center performs vital work of a highly sensitive nature involving children which can benefit from the presence of a therapy animal, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a special exception shall be made for therapy dogs at the Child Advocacy Center within a separate designated room for that purpose; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a new Service Animal Policy shall be adopted which includes this exception and be it further

RESOLVED, that this policy take effect immediately, replacing Resolution 145 of 2023 and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Officer and the various County Department Heads are hereby directed to undertake such administrative acts and tasks as are necessary and proper such as the creation of policies and/or procedures to carry out the intention of this resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

Putnam County Service Animal Policy

PURPOSE:

Putnam County is committed to providing equal access to County services and facilities for people with disabilities who utilize service animals in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This Policy and Procedure is to provide guidance to department heads and security personnel as to rights of access for bonafide service animals in accordance with U.S. and New York State law and regulations, and for the safety of staff and other occupants of Putnam County buildings and property. This policy shall apply to all individuals seeking access to Putnam County properties, including Putnam County employees, contractors, interns, and vendors.

PROCEDURE:

1. The ADA defines a service animal as any dog (or in certain circumstances a miniature horse) that is individually trained to do or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or any other mental disability. For purposes of this Policy and Procedure, only dogs will be discussed. If a miniature horse or other animal is purported to be a “service animal,” a request for guidance shall immediately be made to the Law Department.
2. **“Service animals”** are separate and distinct from **“emotional support animals.”** Service animals are protected by the ADA and relevant NY statutes and are permitted in County buildings. **“Emotional support animals”** are not considered service animals and as such are not applicable to Putnam County at this time.
3. **Service animals** are not pets, but under the ADA, regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government, or other entity, these animals are trained to aid a person with disabilities in specific tasks.
 - a. The following are examples of, but are not exclusive, of, these tasks:
 - i. Assisting with navigation, stability or balance
 - ii. Alerting to sounds
 - iii. Pulling wheelchairs
 - iv. Carrying items
 - v. Seizure assistance
 - vi. Interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors
4. No individual assisted by a service dog satisfying the definition pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be denied access to any Putnam County facility to areas where the public is normally allowed access.

5. Putnam County prohibits individuals, including employees, from bringing onto the premises an animal that does not meet the ADA's definition of service animal.
6. All service animals must be licensed in compliance with state and local laws. Service animals must also be vaccinated against rabies and other diseases typically found in that animal and must wear a tag displaying its vaccinated status. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents them from using these devices, in which case the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal or other effective controls.
7. The service animal's handler must be in complete control of the service animal at all times. The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of its handler. An individual who brings a service animal onto Putnam County's premises is completely and solely liable for any injuries or damage to personal property caused by the animal. Any repair or cleaning costs incurred by a service animal will be charged to the handler.
8. In the event it is not obvious what service the service animal provides, VERY limited inquiry is permitted before granting access.

Staff may ask,

- **Is the service dog required because of a disability? However, you cannot ask what that disability is.**
- **What work task is the dog trained to perform?**

Staff cannot:

- **Ask about the person's disability,**
- **Require medical documentation,**
- **Require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or**
- **Ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.**

9. A person with their service animal seeking access to a Putnam County facility cannot be denied entry or asked or required to remove a service dog from the premises unless: (1) the dog is out of control, (2) the dog is not housebroken, or (3) the dog is in violation of any provision of this policy.
10. Allergies and/or fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people using service animals. For example, if another person claims to be allergic to dog dander and the person who uses a service animal must spend time in the same room or facility, such as a classroom, waiting area, or at a homeless shelter, they both should be accommodated by assigning them, if

possible, to different locations within the room or different rooms in the facility. Every effort at reasonable accommodation must be made.

11. Establishments that sell or prepare food must allow service animals in public areas even if state or local health codes prohibit animals on the premises. Employees cannot isolate people who use service animals from other patrons, treat them less favorably than other patrons, or charge fees that are not charged to other patrons without animals.
12. County employees are not required to provide care or food for a service animal.
13. County employees should not pet, feed, distract or interact with a service animal, that is not their own, in any way.
14. Use of Emotional Support Animals are not authorized in any Putnam County facility at this time.

EXCLUSIONS AND EXCEPTIONS

- A. This policy shall not apply to:
 - a. law enforcement animals
 - b. Animals that are property of Putnam County

B. Children's Advocacy Center

Certified Therapy animals may be allowed to be used, within a separate designated room for the purpose, at the Children's Advocacy Center. The animal must serve an express purpose related to the work of the CAC, such as providing psychological and/or emotional support. The animal shall not be the property of Putnam County and Putnam County shall not be responsible for the feeding, housing, or medical care of the therapy animal. Therapy animals being used at the Children's Advocacy Center shall be treated as a Service Animal for the purposes of this policy. Should there be a violation of any of the above enumerated items, the animal and their handler will be required to vacate the premises.

The Director of the Child Advocacy Center shall create and enforce internal policies and procedures related to the utilization of a Therapy Animal. Said policy shall not override any element of the Putnam County Service Animal Policy.

**PUTNAM COUNTY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS AT THE
CHILDRENS ADVOCACY CENTER**

The following must appear on each Certificate of Insurance

UNDER THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER SECTION OF THE FORM:

County of Putnam
Attn: Mat C Bruno Sr / Law Dept.
48 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, NY 10512

Additionally, in the space on the document noted- Description of Operations/Locations- please note the following:

“ Putnam County is included as the additional insured except for Professional Liability and Workers Compensation.”

It is the requirement of the County of Putnam that for emotional support animals brought to the Childrens Advocacy Cneter (CAC), or related County property for the express purpose of supporting the mission and work of the CAC , that the owner of said animal procure and maintain at their own expense and without expense to the county, the insurances listed below.

BEFORE the presence of any emotional support animal at the CAC, a certificate(s) of insurance (known as an Accord Form) must be furnished to the County and/or the County Departments in forms satisfactory to the County.

All insurance coverages must be from an A.M. Best Rated “ secured” (B+ A++) NYS admitted insurer.

All certificates of insurance must ensure that the policy or policies shall not be changed or canceled until at least **THIRTY (30) DAYS** prior written notice has been given to the County and/or DPW.

**THE OWNER SHALL PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN, AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM
INSURANCE COVERAGES:**

- A. Workers Compensation Insurance:** - This is statutorily required and is required for all contracts. Each policy must cover all operations, and all locations involved in the contract. If applicable, the policy should also include NYS Disability Benefits. Proof of Workers Compensation Insurance is required and should be received by Putnam County on a **C105.2 form, SI 12 form, CE-200 form or a U-26.3 form.**
- B. Commercial General Liability:** - Covering all operations and all locations involved in the contract including the following coverages:

\$2,000,000	General Aggregate
\$10,000	Medical Expense Limit
\$2,000,000	Personal and Advertising Limit
\$2,000,000	Each Occurrence
\$2,000,000	Products/ Completed Operations Aggregate
\$100,000	Fire Damage Legal Liability Limit

- C. If applicable, Professional Liability (error and omissions) in the amount of at least \$1,000,000 per claim.
- D. **Excess Liability and/or Umbrella Policy:** Limits are depending on the following contract size:
- ✓ Contract size of \$100,000 to \$250,000 - must have \$1Million of coverage
 - ✓ Contract size of \$250,001 to \$500,000 - must have \$5Million in coverage
 - ✓ Contract size of \$500,001 or greater - must have \$10Million in coverage

STANDARD INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS AND INDEMNIFICATION REQUIRMENT

All policies and certificates of insurance of the owner shall contain the following clauses:

1. Putnam County is named as an additional insured and as the Certificate Holder. Insurers shall have no right to recovery or subrogation against the County of Putnam (including its agents and agencies), it being the intention of the parties that the insurance policies so effected shall protect both parties and be primary coverage for any and all losses covered by the law above-described insurance.
2. The Clause "other insurance provisions" in a policy in which the County of Putnam is named as an additional insured, shall not apply to the County of Putnam.
3. The insurance companies issuing the policy or policies shall have no recourse against the County of Putnam (including its agents and agencies) for payment of any premiums or for assessments under any form of policy.
4. Any and all deductibles in the above-described insurance policies shall be assumed by and be for the account of, and at the risk of the owner.

RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

The individual known as, _____, having a principal address of _____ (Hereinafter referred to as the "RELEASOR"), in consideration of the permission granted to it by the County of Putnam, a municipal corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York, having offices at 40 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, New York 10512 (hereinafter referred to as the "COUNTY"), to enter upon and use County owned land and/or premises for the express purpose of providing therapeutic services with a therapy dog, hereby formally covenants, agrees and binds itself as follows.

1. The RELEASOR covenants and agrees to fully and forever release and discharge the COUNTY and any and all claims, demands, rights of action or causes of action, present or future, whether same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from any cause whatsoever arising out of the permission granted under this Agreement.
2. The Releasor covenants and agrees to forever refrain from instituting, prosecuting or maintaining any action, suit or proceeding, at law or otherwise, and from pressing, collecting or otherwise against the County or any officer, agent, servant, representative or employee of the COUNTY upon any claims, controversies, actions, causes of action, obligations or liabilities of any nature whatsoever, whether, or not presently known, which the undersigned ever had, now has or hereafter can, shall or may have, or allege, based upon any negligence of whatsoever nature, ordinary or gross, whether or not presently known with respect to or arising out of or in connection with any personal injury, including death, property damage arising out of permission granted under this agreement.
3. The Releasor covenants and agrees to defend, indemnify, and save harmless the COUNTY and any and all its officers, agents, servants, representatives or employees from any and all claims, demands, rights of action or causes of action, present or future, whether same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from any cause whatsoever arising out of the permission granted under this Agreement.

4. The Releasor specifically and additionally covenants and agrees to forever release and discharge the COUNTY from any and all claims related to the service animal and the personal property related to the services rendered by said animal.
5. The Releasor covenants and agrees that this release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of New York, and that if any portion of this agreement is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full force and effect.

Initial: _____

The RELEASOR hereby states that it has carefully read this instrument and fully understands its contents and is fully aware that it is a release of liability and is signing it of its own free will.

READ AND AGREED:

Dated: _____

Signed: _____

Please print name and title

STATE OF NEW YORK: _____)

) as:

COUNTY OF _____

On this _____ day of _____, 20____ before me personally came

_____ to me known and known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and he /she acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same.

Notary Signature

#69

Committee: **Physical Mtg.** Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: **September 1, 2026**
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (26A068) - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - RISK MANAGER- GUARDRAIL REPAIR- PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE RECOVERY PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Risk Manager Mat Bruno has requested a budgetary amendment (26A068) to recognize an insurance recovery payment received for guardrail repair from Progressive Insurance; and

WHEREAS, a check in the amount of \$4,793.60 was received in 2024 from Progressive Insurance in 2024 of which \$350 was applied to DPW's revenue line to offset a collection fee charge and the balance was placed in deferred revenue for future use; and

WHEREAS, DPW Commissioner has requested said funds be made available to them for use this year; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

Increase Revenues:

10511000 426801	DPW/ Road/Bridges – Insurance Recoveries	4,443.60
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Increase Expenses:

10511000 54647	DPW/ Road/Bridges – Sub-Contractors	4,443.60
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2026 - Fiscal Impact - \$0

2027 - Fiscal Impact - \$0

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

#6h

Committee: Physical Mtg. Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: September 1, 2026
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

APPROVAL/ NO MATCH - GRANT APPLICATION/ COMMUNITY RESILIENCY, ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY, AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (CREST) - BUREAU OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITY REPAIRS

WHEREAS, Section 5-2(E) of the Putnam County Code provides that an applicant of any grant application that does not require local Putnam County ("the County") matching funds shall notify the Putnam County Legislature ("the Legislature") prior to the submission of a grant application and, further, if the Legislature objects to such grant application, the applicant shall not apply for said grant; and

WHEREAS, by and through the State of New York and the Office of Senator Peter Harckham, the County has the opportunity to apply for a Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology Program (CREST) grant in the amount of \$100,000 administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY") for structural repairs to the Bureau of Emergency Services building; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Emergency Services' lobby flooring is heaving and requires repair as well as ancillary repairs needed to correct the causing of the heaving; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the grant funds is to subsidize the costs associated with the Project; and

WHEREAS, there is no matching fund requirement by the County to accept the CREST grant for the Project; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature authorizes and approves the County's submission, by the Department of Planning, Development and Public Transportation, of its application for a \$100,000 grant administered through DASNY and awarded by the Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology (CREST) Program for the Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

#6i

Committee: **Physical Mtg.**_____ Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: **September 1, 2026**
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

**APPROVAL / REITERATION OF PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED FUNDING FOR PIN 8761.97 -STONELEIGH AVENUE @ DREWVILLE ROAD INTERSECTION PROJECT
REITERATION OF PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED FUNDING FOR PIN 8761.97 -
STONELEIGH AVENUE @ DREWVILLE ROAD INTERSECTION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, a Project for Putnam County, Stoneleigh Avenue @ Drewville Rd Intersection Improvements, Town of Carmel, Putnam County, PIN 8761.97 (the "Project") is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs such program to be borne at the ratio of 80% Federal funds and 20% non-federal funds; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 292 adopted by the Putnam County Legislature on December 20, 2017 approved and agreed to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the non-federal share of the costs of design and preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, right-of-way incidentals, construction, construction inspection and administration, and construction contingency work; and

WHEREAS, it was subsequently found necessary to increase the federal and non-federal share of costs for the Construction and Construction Inspection work for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Adopted 2023 Capital Budget authorized this additional funding; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature has previously authorized and appropriated in the first instance 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the cost of this Project and wishes to make a summarized declaration of that commitment;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Putnam County Legislature, duly convened does hereby

RESOLVE, that the total sum of \$6,926,000 was previously authorized and appropriated by Resolution 292 of 2017 and the Adopted 2023 Capital Budget and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phases of the Project; and it is further

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

RESOLVED, that in the event the full federal and non-federal share costs of the project exceed the amount appropriated above, the Putnam County legislature shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the County Executive thereof, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive of Putnam County be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary Agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid and/or applicable Marchiselli Aid on behalf of Putnam County with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the municipality's first instance funding of project costs and permanent funding of the local share of federal-aid and state-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible, and it is further

RESOLVED, that in addition to the Putnam County Executive, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works and the Commissioner of Finance are also authorized, with the consent of the County Executive, to execute any necessary Agreements or certifications on behalf of Putnam County with the New York State Department of Public Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the project identified in the State/Local Agreement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project, and it is further

RESOLVED, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

#6j

Committee: **Audit Mtg.** Resolution # _____
 Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: September 1, 2026
 Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

APPROVAL - FUND TRANSFER (26T206) – DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES – TO COVER CHARGEBACK FOR VEHICLE LEASING IN COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Department of General Services (DGS) has requested a fund transfer (26T206) to cover the Chargebacks for Vehicle Leasing in County Departments to date and through to the end of the year; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer be made:

Decrease:

10677400 55210	OSR Nutrition: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	200
10677400 55210	OSR Nutrition: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	1,000
10401000 55210	Health Admin: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	300
12401000 55210 10118	Health EHS Perform: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	300
32311000 55210	Sheriff BCI: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	42,300
10661000 55210	Consumers: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	4,400
10149000 55210	DPW: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	100
	Total	48,600

Increase:

10677200 55210	OSR Sr. Services: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	200
10677500 55210	OSR Pers. Care.: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	1,000
11401000 55210	Health Nursing: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	300
12401000 55210	Health EHS: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	300
14311000 55210	Sheriff NARC: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	7,300
10311000 55210	Sheriff Admin: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	35,000
10146000 55210	Records: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	1,000
10161000 55210	Central Services: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	3,200
10168000 55210	IT: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing	200

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

10123000 55210

County Exec: Chargeback Vehicle Leasing

100

Total 48,600

2026 Fiscal Impact – \$0 –

2027 Fiscal Impact – \$0 –

#6k

Committee: **Audit Mtg.**_____ Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: **September 1, 2026**
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

**APPROVAL – AUTHORIZATION – LEGISLATORS TO ATTEND SEPTEMBER
NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CONFERENCE**

WHEREAS, five (5) Legislators have requested permission to attend the New York State Association of Counties Conference to be held in Syracuse, New York in September 2026 for registration and lodging total expenditure of approximately \$1,113 per person; and

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature authorizes five (5) Legislators to attend the New York State Association of Counties Conference to be held in Syracuse, New York in September 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

#6L

Committee: **Budget & Finance Mtg.** Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: **September 1, 2026**
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

**APPROVAL – SUNLIGHT AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS IN
RELATION TO THE COUNTY’S FUND BALANCE ALLOCATION
PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2012, the County Legislature adopted Resolution #115 entitled “Fund Balance Classification Policy/Pursuant to Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54” (“Resolution 115”) which designated, authorized, and empowered the Commissioner of Finance to allocate fund balance in accordance with the principals and definitions contained in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54; and

WHEREAS, at the time of adoption of Resolution 115, the County had a fund balance of \$33,900,000; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of Resolution 115 and due in large part to such factors as over-appropriation, under-estimation of revenues, increased sales tax receipts and other revenues, as of December 31, 2024, the County’s total fund balance is \$191,000,000 (of which \$163,000,000 is unrestricted); and

WHEREAS, Resolution 115 establishes a regime whereby the allocation of fund balance is the domain and responsibility of one unelected official and is reflective of a time when the County’s fund balance was much smaller than it is today; and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature recognizes that transparency and the public’s faith in its government can best be served by having public policy made in the open with decision making of government officials being subject to better scrutiny; and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature recognizes that the Commissioners of Finance in office from the time of the adoption of Resolution 115 have each carried on their duties with respect to the allocation of fund balance with the utmost responsibility, diligence and integrity and that this resolution is no reflection upon their husbandry of the County’s fund balance, now therefor be it

RESOLVED, that Resolution #115 of 2012 is hereby rescinded.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D’Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

#6m

Committee: **Budget & Finance Mtg.** Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: **September 1, 2026**
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

APPROVAL – RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN AUDIT BY THE STATE COMPTROLLER OF PUTNAM COUNTY’S FUND BALANCE

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Comptroller (“OSC”) has the constitutional and statutory authority and responsibility to conduct audits of local governments in New York State; and

WHEREAS, audits conducted by the State Comptroller provide guidance to, and an opportunity to learn for, local elected officials and other officers; and

WHEREAS the benefits of an OSC audit include the provision of objective analysis to assist management and those charged with governance and oversight in using the information to improve program performance and operations, reduce costs, facilitate decision making by parties with responsibility to oversee or initiate corrective action; and

WHEREAS, an OSC audit provides findings and conclusions based on an evaluation of sufficient, appropriate evidence against criteria; and

WHEREAS, an OSC audit contributes to public accountability; and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature is charged with the governance and oversight of the County’s fund balance and is eager to improve the management of the County’s fund balance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2.04(i) of the County Charter, the County Legislature has the power to “make or cause to be made such studies, audits and investigations as it deems to be in the best interest of the County, and in connection therewith to obtain professional and technical advice...” and this resolution is in furtherance of this power; and

WHEREAS, this power is plenary to the County Legislature and pertains solely to the conduct of its own procedures and therefore, this Resolution shall not be submitted to the County Executive for his approval or veto, now therefor be it RESOLVED as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D’Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

Section 1. The County Legislature of the County of Putnam hereby requests that the Office of the New York State Comptroller conduct an audit to determine whether Putnam County officials effectively manage the County's fund balance.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Legislature is hereby authorized and directed to mail a certified copy of this resolution to Thomas DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller along with a letter from the Chairman of the County Legislature to accompany this Resolution.

#60n

Committee: **Budget & Finance Mtg.** Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: **September 1, 2026**
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

**APPROVAL/ REAFFIRMATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION
#304 OF 2025 - AUTHORIZATION OF IMMEDIATE EXPENDITURE OF
REMAINING FUNDS FOR FOOD INSECURITY**

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2025, the Putnam County Legislature adopted Resolution #304 of 2025 approving Fund Transfer 25T390 to address food insecurity caused by disruption to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the County Executive approved the Resolution on November 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Fund Transfer 25T390 moved \$150,000 from General Contingencies and increased three specific 2025 agency contribution appropriations as follows:

Account	Agency contribution	Maximum
25880000 54950	United Way - County Contribution	\$75,000
25875000 54950	Cornell Cooperative Extension - County Contribution	\$25,000
25645000 54950	Putnam Community Action - County Contribution	\$50,000

WHEREAS, the County Executive's October 31, 2025, Letter of Necessity stated that the funds would be used through existing County agreements during November and possibly beyond, and identified the intended uses for Putnam County food pantries through United Way, Putnam CAP, and support through Cornell Cooperative Extension; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive's November 18, 2025, memorandum stated that any unspent funds would remain encumbered and available in the event of another federal funding interruption; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has since been advised that no funds were distributed to United Way, Putnam CAP, or Cornell Cooperative Extension pursuant to Resolution #304, and the Legislature has not received a final written accounting of the three appropriations; and

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

WHEREAS, the 2025 federal reconciliation act, Public Law 119-21 took effect and New York State has reported that some recipients began losing benefits in June 2026; and

WHEREAS, Feeding New York State reported in June 2026 that nearly 200,000 New Yorkers had lost access to SNAP during the preceding year and that food banks and community organizations were already experiencing longer lines and increased need; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has projected that more than 300,000 households may lose some or all of their SNAP benefits as the federal changes are implemented; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive's October 31, 2025, Letter of Necessity similarly recognized that approximately 3,000 Putnam County residents received SNAP, including approximately 950 seniors; and

WHEREAS, the loss or reduction of SNAP benefits predictably shifts demand to local food pantries, soup kitchens, prepared-meal programs, and other emergency food providers that cannot replace the scale of the federal benefit but require immediate resources to respond; and

WHEREAS, the approach of the holiday and winter months, continuing food-price pressures, and the current implementation of the federal SNAP changes make immediate deployment of previously appropriated food-security funds necessary and prudent; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby reaffirms Resolution #304 of 2025 and finds that its purpose remains necessary, lawful, and increasingly urgent; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature hereby authorizes the immediate release and expenditure of the entire verified unexpended amount and legally available therefore in Fund Balance and hereby requests a budgetary amendment to be initiated, not to exceed \$150,000 in total and not to exceed the following original agency ceilings:

Account	Agency contribution	Maximum
25880000 54950	United Way - County Contribution	\$75,000
25875000 54950	Cornell Cooperative Extension - County Contribution	\$25,000
25645000 54950	Putnam Community Action - County Contribution	\$50,000

#7a

Committee: **Other Business** Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____ Regular Mtg: September 1, 2026
Seconded By _____ Special Mtg _____

**APPROVAL - BUDGETARY TRANSFER (26T230) – ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY
WITHIN PUTNAM COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature requested budgetary transfer (26T230) to reaffirm the financial commitment approved via Resolution #304 of 2025 to address food insecurity within Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature hereby recognizes that food insecurity is a need that continues to exist within Putnam County in 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee did discuss and approve the mechanism to authorize the immediate release and expenditure of the entire verified unexpended amount and requested a budgetary transfer be initiated, not to exceed \$150,000 in total and not to exceed the original agency ceilings; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

GENERAL FUND

Increase Appropriations:

25880000 54950	United Way/ County Contribution	75,000
25875000 54950	Cornell Cooperative Ext./ County Contribution	25,000
25645000 54950	Putnam Community Action/ County Contribution	50,000
		<u>150,000</u>

Decrease Appropriations:

10199000 54980	General Contingency	150,000
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2026 - Fiscal Impact - \$150,000
2027 - Fiscal Impact - \$0

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Legislator Addonizio								
Legislator Crowley								
Legislator D'Angelo								
Legislator Gouldman								
Legislator Montgomery								
Legislator Regan								
Legislator Russo								
Legislator Sayegh								
Chairman Birmingham								

ALEXANDRA GORDON
Acting Commissioner of Finance



cc All
Full 9/1
#7a
JOSEPH VITA
Deputy Commissioner of Finance
Reso

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Diane Trabulsy, Legislative Clerk
From: Alexandra Gordon, Acting Commissioner of Finance
Re: Budgetary Transfer **26T230**
Date: August 27, 2026

At the request of the Legislature to the County Executive, the following budgetary transfer is required.

GENERAL FUND

Increase Appropriations:

25880000 54950	United Way / County Contribution	\$ 75,000
25875000 54950	Cornell Cooperative Ext. /County Contribution	\$ 25,000
25645000 54950	Putnam Community Action / County Contribution	\$ 50,000
		<u>\$ 150,000</u>

Decrease Appropriations:

10199000 54980	General Contingency	<u>\$ 150,000</u>
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Fiscal Impact - 2026 - \$ 150,000
Fiscal Impact - 2027 - \$ 0

This Amendment was requested by the Legislature and the County Executive to address food insecurity within Putnam County.
Please forward to the appropriate committee.

Approved:

Kevin M. Byrne
County Executive

2026 AUG 27 PM 12:39
LEGISLATURE
PUTNAM COUNTY
CARMEL, NY

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #304

Introduced by Legislator: Amy Sayegh at the Regular Full Meeting held on November 5, 2025.

Seconded by Legislator: Paul Jonke.

page 1

**APPROVAL –FUND TRANSFER (25T390) – LEGISLATURE AND THE COUNTY
EXECUTIVE – ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY WITHIN PUTNAM COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and the County Executive requested fund transfer (25T390) to establish appropriations to assist Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligible residents, due to the anticipated freeze in funding on November 1, 2025, directly related to the ongoing federal shutdown; and

WHEREAS, the fund transfer in the amount of \$150,000 will be applied to the 2025 budget lines of the existing contracted services the County has with several local and regional agencies to effectively allocate resources during the month of November and possibly beyond as the County navigates through the consequences of the federal shutdown; and

WHEREAS, the Full Meeting of the Legislature has reviewed and approved said fund transfer; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer be made:

GENERAL FUND

Increase Appropriations:

25880000 54950	United Way – County Contribution	75,000
25875000 54950	Cornell Cooperative Ext.-County Contribution	25,000
25645000 54950	Putnam Community Action – County Contribution	50,000
		<u>150,000</u>

Decrease Appropriations:

10199000 54980	General Contingencies	150,000
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2025 Fiscal Impact – \$150,000

2026 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

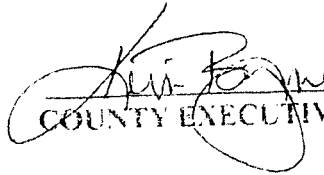
BY POLL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. LEGISLATORS ADDONIZIO & BIRMINGHAM WERE
ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

APPROVED

State of New York

ss:

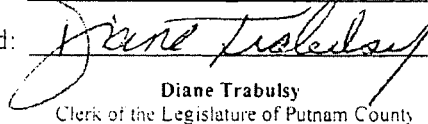
County of Putnam

 11/7/25
COUNTY EXECUTIVE DATE

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the
Putnam County Legislature while in session on November 5, 2025.

Dated: November 7, 2025

Signed:


Diane Trabulsy
Clerk of the Legislature of Putnam County