

**AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM #318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NY 10512**

**Members: Chairwoman Crowley and Legislators Regan & Russo**

**Monday** **March 30, 2026**  
(Immediately following Economic Development & Energy Committee Mtg. beginning at 6:00pm)

The meeting was called to order at 6:16pm by Chairwoman Crowley who requested Legislator Russo lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Regan and Russo were present.

**Item #23 – Approval – Authorizing Audit of the Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District Monies received by the County**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to remove item #23 from the agenda; Seconded by Legislator Russo.

Chairwoman Crowley stated as of today the inter-municipal agreement (IMA) has been signed by all necessary parties.

Legislator Birmingham requested discussion on the item. He questioned if Chairwoman Crowley is striking the item or if she is requesting 60 days to consider it again.

Chairwoman Crowley stated it is being removed from the agenda at this time.

Legislator Birmingham stated he brought this item forward to Committee and he has significant questions as to the specifics of the funding. He stated he will be forwarding this item to the Budget & Finance Committee since it is being removed from this Committee.

Legislator Montgomery stated the audit would be for past finances and the IMA is for operations moving forward.

Chairwoman Crowley stated she does not believe a forensic audit of the Soil and Water funds is appropriate.

Legislator Montgomery stated an audit has been requested by the Soil & Water Board at the suggestion of the State Comptroller.

Chairwoman Crowley stated the IMA is now signed, which gives the Soil & Water Board the ability to obtain necessary information. She stated the County also has County Auditor Michele Sharkey and outside Auditors PKF O’Conor Davies, LLP.

Legislator Montgomery disagreed, stating that an IMA is a relationship between the Soil & Water Board and the County.

Commissioner of Finance William Carlin questioned why a forensic audit is being requested. He stated a forensic audit usually suggests malfeasance or fraud. He stated County Auditor Sharkey or outside auditors can be requested to perform an audit as well.

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to remove item #23 from the agenda; Seconded by Legislator Russo. One abstention: Legislator Regan. Motion carries.

**Item #3 – Correspondence – County Auditor**

**a. Sales Tax Report**

Legislator Montgomery questioned clarification on the sales tax number as it looks to be down from last year.

Commissioner Carlin stated the sales tax revenue is currently over what was budgeted; the report shows this year compared to last year, which is less. He stated more accurate numbers will be available at the end of the quarter.

**b. Board In Revenue Report** – Duly Noted

**c. Transfer/Revenue Report** – Duly Noted

**d. Contingency/Subcontingency Report** – Duly Noted

**Item #4 – Correspondence – Commissioner of Finance**

**a. FYI – Overtime/Temporary Report**

Commissioner Carlin explained that the bad winter necessitated overtime through the Snow and Ice line.

Legislator Regan questioned how overtime for winter road preparation and clean up is tracked versus regular overtime.

Commissioner Carlin stated they are tracked separately with time sheets.

Legislator Birmingham noted that Early Intervention is high as well.

Commissioner Carlin stated a Budgetary Amendment will be forthcoming from the Health Department for Early Intervention.

**b. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A128 – Finance – Year End Entry #4**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

- c. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A010 – Dept. of Social Services, Mental Health, and Youth Bureau – Account for State Aid – Shelter Arrears Assistance (Also reviewed in Health)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

- d. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A011 – Tourism – Account for Funding Reduction from NYS I Love NY Program (Also reviewed in Economic Development)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

- e. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A012 – Dept. of Social Services, Mental Health, and Youth Bureau – Child Advocacy Center – Adjust State Aid Levels (Also reviewed in Personnel)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

- f. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A015 – Historian – Newspaper Digitization Project (Also reviewed in Health)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

- g. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A016 – Finance – Change Funding Source of DSS Security Capital Project from Borrowed Funds to Capital Projects Reserve (Also reviewed in Physical)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

- h. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A017 – Probation – Ignition Interlock Grant Award (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

- i. Approval – Budgetary Amendment 26A018 – Dept. of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau – Adjust State Aid Levels (Also reviewed in Health)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #5 – Approval – Fund Transfer 26T023 – Dept. of Social Services, Mental Health & Youth Bureau – Provide for Pay Differential – Director of Eligibility Position (Also reviewed in Personnel)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

**Item #6 – Approval for Signature – Fund Transfer 26T037 – Move Code Blue Funds to Contracts (Also reviewed in Health)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 26T037; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #7 – Approval – Fund Transfer 26T039 – Dept. of General Services – Fund Vehicle GPS System (Also reviewed in Physical)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

**Item #8 – Approval for Signature – Fund Transfer 26T040 – Bureau of Emergency Services – Replace 2 Screens on 911 Center Dispatch Wall (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 26T040; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #9 – Approval for Signature – Fund Transfer 26T043 – Sheriff – Correct Clerical Error to Appropriate Budget Line (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 26T043; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

**Item #10 – Approval – Fund Transfer 26T044 – Sheriff – Allocation Position from BCI to Civil Division (Also reviewed in Personnel)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

**Item #11 – Approval – Fund Transfer 26T045 – Dept. of Public Works – Reclassification from Senior Account Clerk to Principal Account Clerk (Also reviewed in Personnel)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #12 – Approval for Signature – Fund Transfer 26T046 – Bureau of Emergency Services – Audio Visual Equipment at 911 Backup Center (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 26T046; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

**Item #13 – Approval for Signature – Fund Transfer 26T053 – Sheriff – Reallocate Seized Assets (Also reviewed in Protective)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 26T053; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #14 – Approval – Fund Transfer 26T055 – Sheriff – Reclassification from Senior Office Assistant to Principal Office Assistant (Also reviewed in Personnel)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #15 – Approval for Signature – Fund Transfer 26T058 – Board of Elections – Purchase 10 AirBallot Printers Prior to June Primary**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 26T058; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #16 – Approval – Local Law – Amend Chapter 41 of the Code of Putnam County Entitled “Deposit & Investment Policy”**

Commissioner Carlin stated Putnam County Savings Bank became Beacon Bank and this change is being reflected in the Code. He stated the quarterly Deposit & Investments report will incorporate suggestions made by Legislator Birmingham.

Legislator Birmingham explained some of the information he suggested and requested.

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #17 – Approval – Directing Prospective Cancellation of Taxes on Certain Parcels (Correcting/Superseding Resolution #45 of 2026)**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #18 – Approval – Correction of Real Property Taxes – Town of Kent Tax Map #33.18-1-5**

Director of Real Property Trish McLoughlin stated corrections are coming in often and she stated her intent to come before the Committee monthly and try to implement an efficient system for the corrections.

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #19 – Approval – Correction of Real Property Taxes – Town of Kent Tax Map #33.14-1-7**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

**Item #20 – Approval – Correction of Real Property Taxes – Town of Carmel Tax Map #87.6-2-41**

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

**Item #21 – Approval – Local Law to Amend Article V of Chapter 220 of the Code of Putnam County to (1) Clarify Application of Real Property Tax Law Section 467 and (2) Increase the Maximum Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption**

Director McLoughlin stated it came to her attention that the sliding scale should have been included in the local law passed by Resolution #38 of 2026, therefore this is back before the Legislature to approval with that scale included.

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

**Item #22 – Approval – Support for Home Rule Legislation Authorizing the County of Putnam to Alienate Certain Lands Used as Parklands**

Legislator Birmingham stated the Legislature approved a resolution regarding an emergency services tower near the Putnam County Golf Course. He stated they had sent a Home Rule message to the State Legislature, the first step of a two step process. He stated they first had to request authorization, after which the State would provide a bill number and once received, it needed to be referenced in the second resolution and subsequent Home Rule forms. He stated the Legislature recently received the bill number

and it is important to act on this now since the State Legislative session will be ending in June.

Director of IT/GIS Thomas Lannon thanked the Committee for accepting the letter of necessity for consideration this evening. He stated this emergency services tower is critical to the County's radio system. He stated unfortunately, the State Legislature was unable to get the resolution that was passed last year through, so it had to be redone this year. He thanked Legislative Clerk Diane Trabulsky for providing necessary information. He stated this is a 160-foot tower located at Airport Park.

Legislator Sayegh pointed out a typo in the bill number within the resolution.

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to amend the resolution to correct the bill number; Seconded by Legislator Regan. All in favor.

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #24 – Discussion – Approval – Opposition to Electric Bus Mandate – Requested by Legislator Gouldman**

Legislator Gouldman thanked the Committee for including this item on the agenda this evening. He stated expenses are high across the board right now. He stated this New York State mandate is unaffordable for school districts. He stated the effort to move toward clean energy does not have to be abandoned, but it needs to be done in a reasonable manner. He stated Putnam County does not have the necessary infrastructure, such as charging stations or garages and the cold weather is not conducive to the batteries in the electric vehicles. He stated New York State passed this mandate without providing necessary funding for school districts to implement it. He stated the Legislature has received correspondence from area school districts stating their opposition to this mandate.

Chairwoman Crowley agreed with Legislator Gouldman. She stated this is a costly mandate for the school districts.

Legislator D'Angelo thanked Legislator Gouldman for bringing this forward and looked forward to supporting this at the Full Legislative Meeting. He stated beyond the infrastructure being non-existent, this is another unfunded mandated from the State. He stated the cost of living is out of control right now and this mandate is ridiculous.

Legislator Russo thanked Legislator Gouldman for bringing this forward. She stated she understands the goal of a zero-emission fleet in the future, however the capability to implement this right now is impossible. She stated this would affect the cost of electricity, which is already high, as well as the County's infrastructure and roadways. She stated the weight of these buses will impact the County's roads exacerbating an already existing issue.

Legislator Montgomery stated it is important to look at the full picture. She stated this has been looked into since the 1970's and it has been denied, thus preventing the infrastructure needed now. She stated there is significant State and Federal funding available to help cover both buses and infrastructure. She stated some school districts have accessed that funding and rather than opposing this, the County should be exploring how to access that funding as well. She stated information was provided at the most recent NYSAC Conference about an available rebate program. She stated this is a very expensive mandate. She stated NYSAC's resolution calls on New York State to increase funding to support regional coordination and to help local governments implement cost-effective solutions. She stated for years Putnam County has been hesitant to engage in climate and fleet transition planning and have left money on the table. She stated this resolution outlines many very real concerns but it also omits a lot of facts. She stated being stranded is a real concern and can happen in any type of vehicle. She stated the electric buses are also made to withstand cold temperatures and are utilized in areas much colder than Putnam County. She stated it would be irresponsible to just close the door on this without fully exploring solutions. She suggested combining her proposed resolution with the resolution put forward by Legislator Gouldman.

Legislator D'Angelo stated although grant programs have been made available, there will still be an additional burden on taxpayers.

Chairwoman Crowley stated law enforcement agencies within Putnam County have received grants for electric vehicles and the necessary charging stations.

Sam Oliverio, resident of Putnam Valley, stated there are many towns that have implemented electric vehicles and have installed charging stations, however this mandate is not for regular vehicles. He stated electric buses cost about \$475,000 where a hybrid costs about \$225,000 and a gasoline bus costs about \$85,000. He stated he is a member of the Putnam Valley School Board and they sent a letter to the State requesting that they revisit this mandate. He stated implementing electric buses will not have any impact on the overall climate. He stated pollution from other counties and deforestation is negatively impacting the climate at a rate that cannot be changed by electric buses. He stated a heatwave of over 90 degrees over a few days can burst the batteries in these buses and a few days of temperatures under 20 degrees will pull 40% of the energy from the batteries before they even start. He stated a bus stalling during the winter while transporting children is a real possibility here. He stated the cost of infrastructure would only exacerbate the very high school taxes residents are already paying. He stated available grant funding would be miniscule, and the Putnam Valley School District has applied and would still be paying double what a regular bus would cost. He stated this mandate is a dangerous and costly idea. He stated he is in favor of hybrid vehicles. He thanked Legislator Gouldman for bringing this forward.

Legislator Sayegh stated she attended a Patterns for Progress event where this was discussed and the research shows that even if New York State went to zero-emission vehicles there would be no impact on climate change but it would have a massive impact on the residents and school districts.

Legislator Regan stated he does not believe the State will give this resolution serious consideration.

Chairwoman Crowley stated she believes it is important to voice an opinion as representatives of the residents who will be impacted.

Legislator D'Angelo stated while he understands Legislator Regan's sentiment, it is important to voice the County's concern on behalf of the residents.

Legislator Montgomery stated this issue has been ignored, which is why it is so expensive at this point. She stated she believes offering solutions is more impactful than opposing. She reviewed items the State is considering in relation to this topic. She stated this resolution could be stronger and could offer solutions.

Chris Harrigan, Mahopac School Board Member, stated New York State conducted studies to determine the cost to school districts. He stated the startup cost for Yorktown School District, which is similar in size to Mahopac, would be about \$30 million to \$40 million. He stated he would provide more figures.

Scott Seaman, Brewster School Board Member, stated this would cost the Brewster School District \$36 million with the State incentives and the Carmel Central School District came in at about \$38 million. He stated electric buses are much heavier than other buses. He stated the curbing on the roads are not designed to stop buses of this size. He stated across New York State there are about 10,000 school buses that would need to be replaced, costing about \$3.5 billion. He suggested requesting the State collect more complete data.

Chairwoman Crowley stated she would send a letter to school districts within Putnam County to request data on this.

Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

**Item #25 – FYI – Guardrail & Property Damage Report – Duly Noted**

**Item #26 – Other Business**

Legislator Birmingham explained his reasoning for stepping away during item #24. He stated he is bond counsel for some school districts within New York State and the school district sometimes bond for their buses. He stated therefore, he believes it was best to recuse himself.

Legislator Montgomery thanked the members of the Soil & Water Board.

**Item #27 – Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:48pm, Chairwoman Crowley made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Russo. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Deputy Clerk Beth Robinson.