

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRWOMAN
FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2022 BUDGET
HELD IN THE
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Thursday October 28, 2021 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested Legislator Castellano lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and Legislator Nacerino lead in the Legislative Prayer. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Nacerino, Albano, Jonke, Castellano, Sayegh, Sullivan and Chairwoman Addonizio were present. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo.

Item #4 - Pre-filed Resolutions

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

Item #4a – Probation Department – Stop DWI – Partnership Initiative – Increase from \$13,000 to 17,500 was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #210

Probation Department – Stop DWI

	FROM:	TO:
Partnership Initiative 10331500 54936	13,000	17,500
Revenue: Public Safety Other 10331500 443890	(13,000)	(17,500)

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4b – Sheriff’s Department – Narcotics – Equipment Rental Lease (Body Cameras) \$15,588 Place in Subcontingency was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #211

Sheriff's Department – Narcotics

	FROM:	TO:
Equipment Rental Lease (Body Cameras) 14311000 54560	16,588	1,000
Subcontingency 10199000 54986	0	15,588

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4c – Sheriff's Department – Road Patrol – Equipment Rental Lease (Body Cameras) \$97,800 Place in Subcontingency was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #212

Sheriff's Department – Road Patrol

	FROM:	TO:
Equipment Rental Lease (Body Cameras) 17311000 54560	190,800	93,000
Subcontingency 10199000 54986	0	97,800

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4d – Sheriff's Department – BCI – Equipment Rental Lease (Body Cameras) \$23,376 Place in Subcontingency was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #213

Sheriff's Department - BCI

	FROM:	TO:
Equipment Rental Lease (Body Cameras) 32311000 54560	23,376	0

Subcontingency 10199000 54986	0	23,376
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A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4e – Sheriff’s Department – Communications – Equipment Rental Lease (Body Cameras) \$3,897 Place in Subcontingency was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #214

Sheriff’s Department - Communications

	FROM:	TO:
Equipment Rental Lease (Body Cameras) 13311000 54560	3,897	0
Subcontingency 10199000 54986	0	3,897

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4f – Sheriff’s Department – Civil Division – (Body Cameras) \$3,897 Add to Subcontingency was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #215

Sheriff’s Department – Civil Division

	FROM:	TO:
(Body Cameras) Add to Subcontingency 10199000 54986	0	3,897

A DIFFERENCE OF: 3,897

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4g – Parks & Recreation – Tilly Foster Farm - Building Maintenance & Repairs \$20,000 Move to Subcontingency was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #216

Parks & Recreation – Tilly Foster Farm

	FROM:	TO:
Bldg Maintenance & Repairs		
10084000 54710	20,000	0
Move To Subcontingency		
Subcontingency		
10199000 54985	0	20,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4h – Sheriff’s Department Adjustments – Personnel Services – Administration (Promotion to 1st Sergeant) was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #217

Sheriff’s Department - Adjustment

	FROM:	TO:
Personnel Services - Admin		
10311000 51000	1,176,148	1,180,473
<i>(Promotion to 1st Sgt. 10311000 51000 10108)</i>		

A DIFFERENCE OF: 4,325

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4i - Sheriff’s Department Adjustment – Personnel Services – Communications (EMT Stipend) was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #218

Sheriff’s Department Adjustment

	FROM:	TO:
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Personnel Services - Communications
13311000 51000 442,398 444,398
(EMT Stipend
13311000 51000 13111)

A DIFFERENCE OF: 2,000

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4j – Sheriff’s Department Adjustment – Personnel Services - Civil Division
(Personnel Changes within Civil) was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #219

Sheriff’s Department Adjustment

	FROM:	TO:
Personnel Services – Civil 15311000 51000 <i>(Pers changes within Civil</i> <i>15311000 51000 15105)</i>	291,959	332,214

A DIFFERENCE OF: 40,255

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4k – Sheriff’s Department Adjustment – Personnel Services – Community & Youth
(Personnel Changes within Youth) was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #220

Sheriff’s Department Adjustment

	FROM:	TO:
Personnel Services – Community & Youth 16311000 51000 <i>(Pers changes within Youth</i> <i>16311000 51000 16115</i> <i>16311000 51000 16117</i> <i>16311000 51000 16118)</i>	1,260,199	1,251,594

A DIFFERENCE OF: (8,605)

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4L – Sheriff’s Department Adjustment – Personnel Services – Road Patrol (Personnel Changes within Road Patrol) was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #221

Sheriff’s Department Adjustment

	FROM:	TO:
Personnel Services – Road Patrol		
17311000 51000	4,022,743	3,964,910
<i>(Pers changes within Road Patrol</i>		
<i>17311000 51000 17116</i>		
<i>17311000 51000 17151)</i>		

A DIFFERENCE OF: (57,833)

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4m – Sheriff’s Department Adjustment – Personnel Services – Jail – (Retirement) was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #222

Sheriff’s Department Adjustment

	FROM:	TO:
Personnel Services – Jail		
10315000 51000	4,953,038	4,921,584
<i>(Retirement</i>		
<i>10315000 51000 10137)</i>		

A DIFFERENCE OF: (31,454)

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4n – Sheriff’s Department Adjustment – Jail – Food Services – Pay Differential – Comp Time Payout CSEA was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #223

Sheriff’s Department Adjustment

	FROM:	TO:
Jail – Food Services Pay Differential 10010000 51091	4,400	0
Comp Time Payout CSEA 10010000 51092	0	4,400

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4o – Sheriff’s Department Adjustment – Jail – Building Maintenance – Grounds (Decrease of 9,000) was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #224

Sheriff’s Department Adjustment

	FROM:	TO:
Jail – Bldg Maintenance Grounds 10011000 54751	10,000	1,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: (9,000)

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item \$4p – Parks & Recreation - Maintenance & Repairs – Correction to Budget - \$15,000 Add to Subcontingency was next. Chairwoman Addonizio moved the following:

RESOLUTION #225

Parks & Recreation

	FROM:	TO:
Maintenance & Repairs		
Add to Subcontingency		
10199000 54985	0	15,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 15,000

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #5 – Other Business

Item #5a – Proposal by Legislator Nacerino - Sheriff’s Department – Civil Division – Motor Vehicles was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Nacerino.

Legislator Nacerino explained that she would like to propose funding for a motor vehicle in the Sheriff Department’s Civil Division in the amount of \$45,000. She stated that the vehicle should be a marked Sheriff’s vehicle. She stated that this was discussed in the Protective Services Committee budget meeting with the Sheriff and Undersheriff present. She stated that the request was made based on need. She explained that the current vehicle in Civil is decommissioned and a vehicle was being borrowed from the Jail. She stated that it worked out during the pandemic, however due to transports, the Jail now has a need for the vehicle which was borrowed. She listed some of the uses for the vehicle which is needed in the Civil Division.

Legislator Nacerino believed that they demonstrated the need for consideration, and she would like to move this proposal forward.

Chairwoman Addonizio called for a second.

Legislator Jonke questioned if a second was needed to put it on the agenda or the merits of the resolution.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that it was on the merits. He stated that the subject matter of the entire agenda is the budget, therefore it does not need to be moved to add it to the agenda.

Seconded by Legislator Albano.

Legislator Sullivan made a motion to amend the resolution and place the \$45,000 for the vehicle in subcontingency; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

Chairwoman Addonizio called for a Roll Call Vote on the motion to amend.

By Roll Call Vote: Eight Ayes. One Nay – Legislator Nacerino. Motion carries.

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

RESOLUTION #226

Sheriff's Department – Civil Division

	FROM:	TO:
Civil Motor Vehicle Add to Subcontingency 10199000 54986	0	45,000
(Account 15311000 52650 Motor Vehicles Restore request placing it in subcontingency Vehicle should be a Marked Sheriff Vehicle)		

A DIFFERENCE OF: 45,000

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

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

Item #5b – Proposal by Legislator Nacerino - Sheriff's Department – BCI – Motor Vehicles was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Nacerino.

Legislator Nacerino proposed that \$35,000 of the original \$90,000 requested for a motor vehicle in the Sheriff's BCI unit be placed in subcontingency. She stated that she is requesting that this be in subcontingency based on the comprehensive vehicle inventory report which we requested through dialogue during the budget meetings. She believed that once we have that report, we will be better able to assess the need and if the need is warranted then we could move to approve a transfer. She stated that she would also like to include a stipulation that the money allocated would be used only for the purchase of a vehicle and not used for any other expense.

Seconded by Legislator Albano.

RESOLUTION #227

Sheriff's Department - BCI

	FROM:	TO:
Motor Vehicles Add to Subcontingency 10199000 54986	0	35,000

(Account #32311000 52650 Motor Vehicles –
Restore \$35,000 of the \$90,000 requested
placing it in subcontingency – Only for
purchase of vehicle)

A DIFFERENCE OF: 35,000

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Item #5c – Proposal by Legislator Sayegh – Sheriff’s Department – Marine Patrol Lake
Oscawana – Building Maintenance & Repairs - Subcontingency was next. Chairwoman
Addonizio recognized Legislator Sayegh.**

**Legislator Sayegh stated that these funds are to be used for maintenance and winterizing
the marine patrol vessels. She stated that this \$15,000 amount was funded in previous
years for the maintenance and repairs of three (3) marine vessels. She stated that Lake
Oscawana only has one (1) marine vessel. She explained that she is proposing to reduce
the \$15,000 by \$5,000. She stated that of the remaining balance of \$10,000 she would like
to keep \$5,000 in the Maintenance & Repair line and place the remaining \$5,000 in
subcontingency.**

Seconded by Legislator Sullivan.

RESOLUTION #228

Sheriff’s Department

	FROM:	TO:
Marine Patrol Lake Oscawana Building Maintenance & Repairs 17003000 54710	15,000	5,000
Subcontingency 10199000 54986	0	5,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: (5,000)

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. TWO NAYS – LEGISLATORS GOULDMAN &
MONTGOMERY. MOTION CARRIES.**

Item #5d – Proposal by Legislators Nacerino & Sayegh – District Attorney – Personnel – Increase Certain Personnel from 2.375% to 3% was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Sayegh.

Legislator Sayegh explained that the Putnam County District Attorney has had difficulty hiring Assistant District Attorney’s (ADA) for a few years and the salary needs to be competitive. She believed that the increases proposed by the District Attorney were unreasonable to meet. She stated that we decided to acknowledge the District Attorney’s request and offer a minimum bump to the already proposed 2.375% increase. She stated that the total amount of the increase to Personnel Services is \$2,030.

Seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she supports this. She believed the modest increase is warranted for reasons that Legislator Sayegh just spoke of. She stated that these are attorneys that we are speaking of and in order to attract and retain our ADAs we must stay competitive.

Legislator Jonke stated that the District Attorney has promised the Legislature that he would create a five (5) year plan for the ADA salaries to be competitive and he failed to do that this year. He stated that he is a little torn because he proposed to the District Attorney that he and the County Attorney meet with the Personnel Director to determine a minimum salary for any attorney working for Putnam County on a full-time basis. Legislator Jonke believed that this would allow new hires graduating from Law School the ability to pay their rent, food, and student loans, which must be astronomical. He was hoping that the District Attorney would do what he said he would do in the future.

RESOLUTION #229

District Attorney

	FROM:	TO:
Personnel Services		
10116500 51000 (10108)	71,663	72,100
(Increase raise from 2.375% to 3%)		

A DIFFERENCE OF: 437

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

Personnel Services		
10116500 51000 (10112)	125,574	126,341
(Increase raise from 2.375% to 3%)		

A DIFFERENCE OF: 767

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

Personnel Services		
10116500 51000 (10126)	68,124	68,540
(Increase raise from 2.375% to 3%)		

A DIFFERENCE OF: 416

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

Personnel Services		
10116500 51000 (10129)	67,198	67,608
(Increase raise from 2.375% to 3%)		

A DIFFERENCE OF: 410

Adjust Fringes & Revenue Accordingly.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to recess to go over the figures with the Auditor; seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Legislator Montgomery explained that she wanted to make proposals under Other Business.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that the Chair should have asked if there was any Other Business before moving onto Item #6. He stated that it would be the Chair's decision if she wanted to go back to that item.

Chairwoman Addonizio went back to Item #5 – Other Business.

Item #5e – Proposal by Legislator Montgomery – Health Department Recycling – Restore Village of Cold Spring Garbage Removal \$7,500.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to restore the Village of Cold Spring Garbage Removal in the amount of \$7,500 which was taken out of the budget in 2019.

There was no second on the motion.

Item #5f - Proposal by Legislator Montgomery – Sheriff’s Department – Restore Marine Unit on Hudson River \$50,000.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to restore the Marine Unit on the Hudson River in the amount of \$50,000 which was defunded in 2020 and 2021.

There was no second on the motion.

Item #5g - Proposal by Legislator Montgomery – Sheriff’s Department – Restore funding for Civil Sergeant \$113,500.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to restore the funding of \$113,500 for the Civil Sergeant position in the Sheriff’s Department.

There was no second.

Item \$5h - Proposal by Legislator Montgomery – Funding for Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub \$10,000.

Legislator Montgomery stated that considering that we have not increased our funding for mental health for many years throughout the County, in fact we have increased what we charge CoveCare for their resources. She stated that mental health resources on the westside of the County do not exist. She proposed adding \$10,000 to the budget for Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub.

There was no second.

At 7:26 P.M., Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to recess; seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

At 7:28 P.M., Chairwoman Addonizio reconvened the meeting.

Item #6 – Offset Changes to Budget was next.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Sullivan.

RESOLUTION #230

Offset Changes

	FROM:	TO:
Use of Fund Balance		
10131000 427161	2,264,338	2,299,953

Or such adjusted amount as required to offset changes to the Tentative Budget by the County Legislature, including County Executive's Vetoes not overridden by the County Legislature and including final adjustment for Health Insurance rates, to comply with the Tax Cap requirements of the State of New York. It being the intent of the Legislature to comply with Real Property Tax Law and Levy of \$46,787.781.00.

APPROXIMATE DIFFERENCE OF: 35,615

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

Item #7a – Approval of the Budget Resolutions was next. Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to table this. She believed there was more work to do on this budget.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that there was no second. She asked if there was any further discussion.

Legislator Montgomery questioned why we were raising taxes. She stated that we have another budget that extends steady salary increases to already overpaid elected officials and upper management. It leaves a huge gap between management and staff salaries. She stated that staff salaries are shamefully low. She believed the budget takes care of patronage hires and reduces funding for essential services which the County should be providing to residents. She stated that the County Executive's salary rises to over \$170,000; more than a \$20,000 increase since she took office. She stated that it was hard for her to not be in favor of this budget because of the increases she sees for well deserving staff. She stated that one (1) of our full-time Legislative Administrative Assistants makes \$1,000 more than a part-time Legislator and it has taken him five (5) years to make just above a living wage in Putnam County. She believed this seemed to be the case throughout the budget for many key staff members. She explained that the Legislative staff are the ones that write the memos we sign off on, prepare the Legislators for meetings and communicate on our behalf with departments throughout the County. She stated that the Transportation Managers salary rises to \$105,635.00; a 40% increase since he was named to what was supposed to be an interim position eight years ago. She stated that totaling the salaries of all the positions which the Commissioner of Health is appointed to, is approximately \$230,109.00 making him the highest paid County employee, meanwhile there is no County supported mental health facilities in Legislative District #1. She stated that she asked for a mere \$10,000 to support what we lack and fail to provide our residents. She stated that we have defunded the Sheriff's Marine Patrol, demanded more out of CoveCare; our only residential mental health facility and eliminated Dispatcher positions. She stated that the Legislature supported \$10,000 for the private Constitutional Island Association,

recognizing them as a new outside agency, without receiving any proposal or plan. She stated that this 501(c)(3) has not filed taxes since 2017 and the Chair of its Board is the County's Transportation Manager. She stated that the Legislature refused to restore the \$7,500 that it once paid towards garbage removal in the Village of Cold Spring, our largest tourism area in Putnam County. She stated that District #1 bears the greatest burden of tourism. Visitors want to hike our trails, shop on Main Street, and eat in our restaurants in numbers far exceeding visitors to the Golf Course or Tilly Foster Farm. She stated that she is not asking for \$40,000 for some horses, but the money could go far in Philipstown, keeping our residents and visitors safe. She stated that Putnam County revenue has exceeded expenses by \$38 million. Sales tax alone is up \$8 million and the County has another \$19 million coming from the American Rescue Plan and we have not shared a plan of how it can be used to make our constituents' lives better. She stated that with numbers like that no one should be hungry in Putnam County, no one should be unable to access mental health and addiction services, no one should be struggling to get their wheelchair bound loved one to the doctor and no one should worry about a Sheriff Deputy getting to them fast enough. She stated that people are losing their homes because they can no longer afford to live here. She believed that the budget fails the taxpayers and therefore she would be voting no.

Legislator Albano believed that the Transportation Manager position was a tested CSEA position and that he was highly qualified. He stated that in addition, he runs the program for the Brewster/Danbury Train proposal which is FTA funded. He explained how he disagreed with the points made by Legislator Montgomery. He explained that as far as garbage removal, no other village or town receives funding from the County for their garbage and did not understand what would make the Village of Cold Spring so unique. He believed that they needed to manage better to avoid these financial problems. He explained that he is proud of the budget and what the County is doing. He believed that the Transportation Manager and the Commissioner of Health were doing a great job and he supported them.

Legislator Castellano stated that with the \$19 million American Rescue Plan, we are still waiting for the Federal Government to tell us exactly how the funds can be spent. He stated that it is not in the budget next year, but hopefully next year will we have good discussion about it and put it to good use to help people with the pandemic. He believed that we were conservative with the sales tax revenue projection of \$62 million. He believed the main reason was because we do not know what will happen in the next couple of years. He stated that inflation is out of control. He stated that gas prices are up 16% from 2021 to 2022, even though the County receives it at a discounted rate. He believed that the reason we have stayed under the tax cap all these years is because the budgets have been so lean and there is nothing to cut. He believed this was a great budget.

Legislator Sullivan thanked the Commissioner of Finance, Administration, County Auditor and all the staff for doing such a fine job working on the budget. He believed that the end result was a very conservative budget and one that we should all be proud

of. He stated that Legislator Montgomery requested money to be added to the budget, but also criticized the increase in the budget. She highlighted the County Executive's salary while not highlighting anyone else's. He explained that some of the comments she made about items were discussed for months and she uses terms that are not accurate or fair about the individuals involved who are running the daily operations of the County. He stated that he was happy with how the budget has worked out. He stated that the Sheriff's Department budget was increased by over \$1 million. He explained that where the Sheriff needs funding and where the Legislature believes it is necessary, we are more than happy to provide funding for the Sheriff's Department, and the men and women who protect us. He explained that many departments made recommendations to keep our budget as fiscally balanced as possible. He believed that the Sheriff did not bring any ideas to the table to save money. He only asked for increases. He applauded the other departments, particularly the Office For Senior Resources budget of approximately \$8 million. He explained that they only had a .1% increase from last year's budget. He believed this was a very good budget for the people of Putnam County and he stated that he was happy to approve it.

Legislator Jonke stated that last year we did the budget in the middle of an unprecedented pandemic. He stated that we have come out of it now and we are honoring our commitment to our employees. He stated that there has never been a discussion of layoffs, everyone is under contract, we have adequately funded our Sheriff's Department keeping our residents safe, we have adequately funded our Health Department keeping our residents healthy and safe from the pandemic. Everyone has access to vaccinations and our senior citizens are well served by our Office For Senior Resources. He believed our residents should be proud of what we are doing here tonight. He stated that he would be voting in favor of the budget.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she would be voting in favor of this budget. She believed it was a modest budget. She stated that for Legislator Montgomery to allude to the fact that this budget was not prepared with integrity and that the Legislature did not act with integrity, was offensive to her. She believed that the Transportation Manager position, as Legislator Albano stated, is a CSEA position with a specific job description. In addition to that job description, he is managing the Southeast/Danbury Rail study which she believed was fully refundable through the United Planning Work Program (UPWP). In addition to these responsibilities, he has managed a \$2 million restoration/renovation of the Transit Facility which is also being reimbursed by Federal Transit Administration (FTA). She believed it was very offensive for Legislator Montgomery to try and degrade him in any way. She believed he was doing a wonderful job and has worked above and beyond his job duties, taking on additional responsibilities for the betterment of the people of this County. She applauded him, the Department Heads and every employee who works in earnest everyday to keep this County in wonderful shape.

Legislator Sayegh stated that this is a sound conservative budget for the taxpayers of Putnam County. As presented to the Legislature, the County Executive submitted a budget of \$167 million which is an increase of 2.3% of the 2021 budget. She stated that

70% of the budget is mandated by the State of New York. She stated that with the uncertainty of post COVID-19 we face increases in the cost of fuel, the uncertainty of the supply chain and the possibility of unstable sales tax revenue. She stated that the budget addresses these uncertainties and maintains our Moody's AA1 bond rating. She stated that the budget also meets all our contractual obligations to the workers. She stated that the driving factors of this budget are rising Medicaid, Early Intervention & Pre-school programs, increases in Health Insurance and Pension costs, State Budget cutbacks and increases in Community College. She believed this budget addresses these uncertainties conservatively and will serve the taxpayers of Putnam County in the years to come. She believed that the Putnam County budgets did not fluctuate, but instead remain steady. She stated that the duties of the Putnam County Legislature are to review and adopt the County budget. She stated that we have done this in good faith over the course of this month. She stated that we met with Department Heads, discussed their budgets, carrying their justification in the budget process in good faith. She thanked the County Executive, Commissioner of Finance and all the Department Heads for their hard work in keeping a lean and conservative budget. She stated that she would be voting in favor of the budget.

Legislator Gouldman stated that this was a conservative budget for Putnam County and was in line with the previous budgets we had over the last several years. He explained that the County was paying off approximately \$7.4 million in debt each year which is more than it was borrowing each year. He stated that at the end of 2015 the debt was \$85.8 million and at the end of 2020 the outstanding debt was \$68.2 million; a difference of \$17.6 million. He explained that according to the outside auditors the County's financial condition is excellent. He stated that he would be supporting this budget.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that she too would be supporting this budget. She stated that our non-funded mandates equal 70% of our budget which include, the education of Pre-school Handicap Children, Health Insurance and Medicaid, to name a few. She stated that the budget complies with the New York State mandated tax cap. She stated that she was proud of our fiscally conservative budget which has earned us the AA1 bond rating. This bond rating saves the County hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. She stated that our fund balance appropriation has helped to lower long term debt and eliminate short term debt. She thanked the Commissioner of Finance and the Administration for their hard work during this budget process.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she would like to clarify some statements that were made.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that they would not be going back and forth with statements.

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

Chairwoman Addonizio called for a Roll Call Vote on the motion.

By Roll Call Vote: Eight Ayes. One Nay – Legislator Montgomery. Motion Carries.

Chairwoman Addonizio called for a Roll Call Vote on the resolution.

RESOLUTION #231

APPROVAL OF THE 2022 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby approves the 2022 budget resolutions as pre-filed by the Budget & Finance Committee and amended by the Legislature on October 28, 2021; and be it further

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

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

Item #7b - Approval/Resolution Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 Commencing January 1, 2022 Making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2022 was next. Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Sayegh.

Legislator Montgomery read a section of a memorandum from November 14, 2018, to Personnel Director Paul Eldridge from Harold Zucker which states, “also as required in New York State Public Health Law, every County Health Commissioner must devote his entire time to the duties of this office.” She stated that it also states this in the County Charter. She stated that the American Rescue Plan funds are clearly laid out and we know exactly what they can be used for, and they have been spelled out since March.

RESOLUTION #232

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2022 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022

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

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

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

RESOLVED, that this act takes effect on January 1, 2022.

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

There being no further business, at 7:56 P.M., Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.