

**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN  
FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2024 BUDGET  
HELD IN THE  
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Monday                      October 30, 2023                      7:00 p.m.**

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

**Item #4 - Pre-filed Resolutions**

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

**Item #4a - Department of Health – Peers Influence Peers – Alcohol & Substance Abuse - Mental Health Services Other – Restore Funding - Increase from \$0 to \$36,000 Place in Subcontingency. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #202**

**Alcohol & Substance Abuse**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Peers Influence Peers (Restore Funding) Subcontingency 10199000 54981</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,000</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 36,000**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #4b - Social Services Department Adm. – Correct Budget Lines - Move Funding from Contract Line to Payments To Recipients Line. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #203**

**Social Services Department Adm**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Contracts</b>		
<b>10120000 54646</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>0</b>
(Correcting budget line)		
<b>Payments To Recipients</b>		
<b>10120000 54493</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60,000</b>
(Correcting budget line)		

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 0**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #4c - Purchase Services Recipients – Correct Budget Lines - Move Funding from Contract Line to Payments To Recipients Line. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #204**

**Purchase Services Recipients**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Contracts</b>		
<b>10607000 54646</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>	<b>0</b>
(Correcting budget line)		
<b>Payments To Recipients</b>		
<b>10607000 54493</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>
(Correcting budget line)		

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 0**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #4d - Office for Senior Resources – Contracts – Restore Technology Classes - Increase from \$0 to \$6,000. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #205**

**Office For Senior Resources**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Putnam Senior Corp. Contracts (Restore Technology Classes) 10677300 54646</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,000</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 6,000**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #4e - Health Department – Increases to Revenue Lines Due State Aid Reimbursement of Fringe Expense Lines and Decreases to Expense Accounts that should be Eliminated from the 2024 Budget. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #206**

**Health Department**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Reopening Schools Social Security 26401001 58002 10167 (Grant ended 7/30/23 – No Budget for 2024)</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>0</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (1,008)**

<b>Reopening Schools Workers Compensation 26401001 58004 10167 (Grant ended 7/30/23 – No Budget for 2024)</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>0</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: (167)**

**Office of Homeland Security**

<b>State Retirement</b>		
<b>26401001 58001 10067</b>	<b>2,337</b>	<b>0</b>
(Not a Health Dept Account)		
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: (2,337)</b>		
<b>NYS Public Health Corps – Revenue</b>		
<b>Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)</b>		
<b>264001001 444892 10173</b>	<b>297,511</b>	<b>314,758</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: 17,247</b>		
<b>Public Health Infrastructure – Revenue</b>		
<b>PHEP</b>		
<b>26401001 444892 10205</b>	<b>175,192</b>	<b>181,120</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,928</b>		
<b>Administration – Revenue</b>		
<b>State Aid Public Health</b>		
<b>10401000 434011</b>	<b>340,408</b>	<b>358,479</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: 18,071</b>		
<b>Health Nursing Immunization – Revenue</b>		
<b>State Aid Public Health</b>		
<b>11017000 434011</b>	<b>84,417</b>	<b>88,774</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: 4,357</b>		
<b>Health Nursing - Revenue</b>		
<b>State Aid Public Health</b>		
<b>11401000 434011</b>	<b>678,665</b>	<b>738,695</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: 60,030</b>		
<b>Health EHS Drinking H2O Supply – Revenue</b>		
<b>State Aid Public Health</b>		
<b>12022000 434011</b>	<b>7,340</b>	<b>9,876</b>
<b>A DIFFERENCE OF: 2,536</b>		
<b>Environmental Health – Revenue</b>		
<b>State Aid Public Health</b>		
<b>12401000 434011</b>	<b>845,297</b>	<b>875,886</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 30,589**

**Health Education – Revenue**

**State Aid Public Health**

<b>21401000 434011</b>	<b>275,568</b>	<b>282,081</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: 6,513**

**Emergency Preparedness – Revenue**

**State Aid Public Health**

<b>26401001 434011 10066</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,496</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: 2,496**

**A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: 151,279**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #4f - Probation Department – Increase in Stop DWI Award - Partnership Initiative – Award Received was Higher than Budgeted - Increase from \$17,500 to \$24,000. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #207**

**Probation Department**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Partnership Initiative</b>		
<b>Stop DWI</b>		
(Award Rec'd - \$24,000)		
<b>10331500 54936</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>24,000</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 6,500**

**Public Safety Other – Revenue**

**Stop DWI**

(Award Rec'd - \$24,000)

<b>10331500 443890</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>24,000</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: 6,500**

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4g - Bureau of Emergency Services – Gasoline – Remove Balance of \$270. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #208**

**Bureau of Emergency Services**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Gasoline</b>		
<b>10398900 54371</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>0</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (270)**

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4h - Board of Elections – Printing & Forms – Increase from \$100,000 to \$150,000 – Due to Possibility of Additional Election. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #209**

**Board of Elections**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Printing &amp; Forms</b>		
<b>(Due to Possibility of Additional Election)</b>		
<b>10145000 54311</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 50,000**

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4i - Personnel Department – Senior Personnel Assistant – Remove from Budget Due to Retirement. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:

**RESOLUTION #210**

**Personnel Department**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Senior Personnel Assistant</b> <b>10143000 51000 (117)</b> (Remove from Budget Due to Retirement)	<b>900,180</b>	<b>819,473</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (80,707)**

<b>State Retirement</b> <b>10143000 58001</b>	<b>124,876</b>	<b>110,556</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: (14,320)**

<b>FICA</b> <b>10143000 58002</b>	<b>79,115</b>	<b>72,941</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: (6,174)**

<b>Workers Compensation</b> <b>10143000 58004</b>	<b>5,169</b>	<b>4,147</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: (1,022)**

<b>Dental</b> <b>10143000 58006</b>	<b>17,512</b>	<b>15,508</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: (2,004)**

<b>Health Plans</b> <b>10143000 58008</b>	<b>273,296</b>	<b>243,951</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: (29,345)**

<b>Vision</b> <b>10143000 58009</b>	<b>1,831</b>	<b>1,589</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: (242)**

**A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: (133,814)**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #4j - Sheriff's Department – Confidential Secretary - Restore Proposed Salary Increase \$3,000. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**Legislator Montgomery stated that this was requested by the previous Sheriff in 2019, 2020 and 2021 and it was never restored. She stated that the salary was cut in 2018 and never restored to the full salary held by previous employee in that position.**

**RESOLUTION #211**

**Sheriff's Department - Administration**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Confidential Secretary</b>		
<b>10311000 51000 (910)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>FICA</b>		
<b>10311000 58002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>230</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 3,230**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #4k - Sheriff's Department – Civil Division - Restore Proposed Deputy Sheriff Sergeant \$115,000. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**Chairman Jonke stated that the Sheriff was present at the Personnel Budget meeting where he presented a valid need for this position. Chairman Jonke believed it was warranted in the Civil Division.**

**Legislator Montgomery stated that this position was proposed by the previous Sheriff and it was denied over and over again.**

**Legislator Nacerino explained that the Sheriff presented compelling justification of why he wanted this position. He demonstrated the difference between the original job description and what the responsibilities will be for this new position.**

**RESOLUTION #212**



**Sheriff's Department – Civil Division**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Deputy Sheriff Sergeant 15311000 51000 (102)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>115,000</b>
<b>Retirement 15311000 58001</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,788</b>
<b>FICA 15311000 58002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,798</b>
<b>Health Plans 15311000 58008</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,441</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 180,027**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

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

**Item #4L - Coroners – Increase 2.75% for Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #213**

**Coroners**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Coroner 10118500 51000 (101) (2.75% COLA Increase)</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,688</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 688**

<b>Coroner 10118500 51000 (102) (2.75% COLA Increase)</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,688</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: 688**

<b>Coroner 10118500 51000 (103) (2.75% COLA Increase)</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,688</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: 688**

<b>FICA</b>		
<b>10118500 58002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>159</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 159**

**A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: 2,223**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. TWO NAYS – LEGISLATORS CROWLEY & MONTGOMERY. ONE ABSTENTION – LEGISLATOR ELLNER. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Item #4m - County Clerk – Increase 2.75% for Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #214**

**County Clerk**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>County Clerk</b>		
<b>10141000 51000 (101)</b>	<b>144,343</b>	<b>148,312</b>
<b>(2.75% COLA Increase)</b>		

<b>FICA</b>		
<b>10141000 58002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>304</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 4,273**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. TWO NAYS – LEGISLATORS CROWLEY & MONTGOMERY. ONE ABSTENTION – LEGISLATOR ELLNER. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Item #4n - Sheriff's Department – Increase 2.75% for Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #215**

**Sheriff's Department – Administration**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b><u>Sheriff</u></b>		
<b>10311000 51000 (101)</b> (2.75% COLA Increase)	<b>165,816</b>	<b>170,376</b>
<b>FICA</b>		
<b>10311000 58002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>349</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 4,909**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. TWO NAYS – LEGISLATORS CROWLEY & MONTGOMERY. ONE ABSTENTION – LEGISLATOR ELLNER. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Item #4o - Health Department – Commissioner of Health – Proposed Reserve for Salary Adjustment of \$12,725 - Place in Subcontingency.**

**Chairman Jonke made a motion to remove this from the agenda to give the Administration some flexibility in making an offer to potential candidates for Commissioner of the Health Department; seconded by Legislator Sayegh.**

**By Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Carried Unanimously.**

**Health Department**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Reserve for Salary Adjustment</b>		
<b>10401000 51000 (905)</b> (Proposal for Commissioner of Health Salary – Move to Subcontingency)	<b>12,725</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Subcontingency</b>		
<b>10199000 54982</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,725</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 0**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**Item #4p - County Auditor – Salary Increase of \$5,000. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

Chairman Jonke stated, as mentioned in two (2) previous meetings, the County Auditor does an incredibly good job and it is about time she is rewarded for her hard work.

**RESOLUTION #216**

**County Auditor**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
County Auditor 10132000 51000 (101)	125,305	130,305
FICA 10132000 58002	0	383

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,383**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #4q - Adjust Chargebacks - Revenues and Expenses. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**Chairman Jonke stated that this is basically a bookkeeping entry.**

**RESOLUTION #217**

**Adjust Chargebacks**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
Warming Shelter Contract Chargeback Expense 10120000 55646	82,076	68,632

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (13,444)**

Central Service Internal Chargeback Revenue 10161000 412941	129,700	132,650
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Part Bus System - Revenue Central Service Internal Chargeback 95630000 412941	127,028	122,600
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Road Machinery – Revenue  
Central Service Internal Chargeback

10513000 412941	342,100	336,100
Stop DWI Fines - Revenue		
10331500 426151	75,806	76,200
Sheriff Security Service DSS – Revenue		
Central Service Internal Chargeback		
19005060 412941	82,076	68,632

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (20,528)**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #4r - Legislature – Temporary – Cover Upcoming Maternity Leave. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**RESOLUTION #218**

**Legislature**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Temporary</b> (Cover Upcoming Maternity Leave)		
10101001 51094	0	10,000
<b>FICA</b>		
10101001 58002	0	765

**A DIFFERENCE OF: 10,765**

**Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.**

**BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Item #4s – Planning Department - \$250,000 Municipal Partnership Initiative & \$250,000 Community Assistance Program – Remove Both To Offset Changes and Reduce Tax Levy. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Jonke moved the following:**

**Legislator Montgomery stated that she was not in favor of this. She believed that it was a good program proposed by the County Executive. She stated that our local**

municipalities are suffering. She believed that they do a lot of work that the County is actually supposed to be doing, so this would go a long way in providing those resources. She stated that tourism was imposed on her district without any support, and sales tax revenue generated from that tourism is not given back.

Chairman Jonke stated that he brought this up in the Budget & Finance Committee because there is \$500,000 here and we have not set up the method on how the funds would be distributed. He believed that we needed to create that process before we budget the money. He did not understand how tourism in the Village of Cold Spring had to do with this.

Legislator Montgomery stated that any funding the municipalities received in the past from the County Executive's budget did not have a plan either.

**RESOLUTION #219**

**Planning Department**

	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>TO:</b>
<b>Municipal Partnership Initiative Contracts</b>		
<b>10802000 54646 10208</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>225,469</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (24,531) Offset Changes**

<b>Municipal Partnership Initiative 10802000 54646 10208</b>	<b>225,469</b>	<b>0</b>
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**A DIFFERENCE OF: (225,469)**

<b>Community Assistance Program Contracts</b>		
<b>10802000 54646 10209</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**A DIFFERENCE OF: (250,000)**

**A TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: (475,469) To Reduce the Tax Levy**

**Offset Changes made by the Legislature at the Adopt the Budget and Reduce Tax Levy**

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

**Item #5 – Other Business**

**There was no other business submitted to the meeting.**

**Item #6 – Offset Changes to Budget**

At 7:15 P.M., Chairman Jonke made a motion to recess for the County Auditor to provide the final calculation; seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

At 7:18 P.M., Chairman Jonke called the meeting back to order.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to offset changes through use of fund balance; seconded by Legislator Crowley.

**RESOLUTION #220**

**Offset Changes**

**Use of Fund Balance**

10131000 427161

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 \$46,212,312.00.

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

**Item #7 – Approval Budget Adoption**

Item #7a – Approval of the 2024 Budget Resolutions. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislators Nacerino and Sayegh.

**RESOLUTION #221**

**APPROVAL OF THE 2024 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLVED**, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby approves the 2024 budget resolutions as pre-filed by the Budget & Finance Committee and amended by the Legislature on October 30, 2023; 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 – Resolution Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024 Commencing January 1, 2024 making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2024. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Sayegh.**

**Legislator Montgomery believed it was important to look at each budget and line item with the history that comes with it. She stated that she was hopeful for a responsible 2024 budget, one (1) that would represent the needs of the entire County and not just part of the County. She stated that this budget was not. She provided examples such as: keeping funding in the budget to care for and house horses we neither own or agreed to take on through any formal democratic process, failing to fund County Departments like the Health Department and District Attorney’s Office. She stated that the Nursing Department has remained understaffed for 10 years. She explained how her requested promotion of a nursing position was denied. She stated that her budget requests are denied over and over again for livestream meetings. She explained how the need for mental health treatment and intervention continues to increase, especially for youth. She explained how she has advocated for funding for the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, yet funding has been denied. She questioned if political animosity is more important than constituents. She explained how \$6,001 for garbage in the Village of Cold Spring, which is driven by County and advertised tourism imposed on her district, was once again denied. She believed there were bazaar raises included in the 2024 budget. She stated that the justification for the increase in salary for the Deputy County Executive which started at \$123,375 adopted in the 2023 budget, in less than one (1) year, increased to \$158,235. She explained when the restructuring of the County Executive’s office was before the Legislature in February 2023, she supported it. She explained that she has had almost a full year to assess the County Executive’s claim that this restructuring would elevate the County. She stated that she now regrets her vote on Resolution #30 of 2023 and many of its details. She believed that the County has not been elevated, but a combined effort of the Legislature and County Executive to disregard requests to restore funding for critical advocations for health and safety. She explained that Chairman Jonke claimed during the Personnel Committee meeting that the Sheriff’s command staff positions took a pay cut and that it took a whole year to adjust them to where they should be. She stated that there is no set formula for what these salaries should be. She questioned what was different from 2018. She discussed how, in 2018, the confidential secretary position in the Sheriff’s Department was cut. She stated that salary never rose to what it should be for the duration of that Sheriff’s term. She explained how the position was restored upon the term of a new Sheriff. She stated that she votes with the Legislature 99% of the time. She stated that it is the Legislature that chooses to vote against her 99.9% of the time. She proceeded to quote a Jewish Rabi and philosopher who said, “the aim of any community should not be to conquer and possess, but to relate and pass on meaning to discover and understand.”**

**Legislator Ellner stated that this is his first year on the Legislature and first budget process. He stated that some things that he would have liked to see did not take place and others did. He stated that he cannot dwell in the past, he needed to move forward. He stated that this budget, with compromises, serves most of the people. He stated that you cannot serve everyone. He stated that while Legislator Montgomery may have some history, he hated to say, falls on deaf ears because he was not a Legislator. He stated that with the Village of Cold Spring garbage situation, he has a lot of constituents complain. He stated that in his entire district, every household pays for garbage. He**



stated that the question that is continually raised is why we should bail out another town who cannot handle their own finance. He stated that overall, he was pleased with the budget and would be voting for it.

Chairman Jonke congratulated the County Executive and his Administration for doing a great job on their first budget. He explained that it was Michael Lewis' first budget as Commissioner of Finance too. He also did a great job. Chairman Jonke stated that we worked well together, and he believed that we accomplished good things for all the people of Putnam County. He also thanked the Legislature's Auditor, her staff and Legislative staff for their hard work and support during this budget process.

#### **RESOLUTION #222**

#### **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2024 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024**

**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, 2024.**

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

There being no further business, at 7:31 P.M., Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislators Addonizio and Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.