SPECIAL MEETING OF THE

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE CALLED BY THE CLERK AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2023 BUDGET

HELD IN THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Friday October 28, 2022 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 P.M. by Chairman Sullivan who requested Legislator Albano lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Sullivan led in the Legislative Prayer. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Addonizio, Nacerino, Albano, Jonke, Castellano, Sayegh and Chairman Sullivan were present. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo.

Item #4 - Pre-filed Resolutions

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (All Members)

Item #4a – Tourism – I Love NY Program County Matching Funds– Increase from \$60,000 to \$120,000. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #194

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FROM: TO:

I Love NY Program

County Matching Funds

10641000 54328 60,000 120,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 60,000

Adjust fringes & revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4b – Transportation Part Bus System - Central Services Chargebacks – Properly Reflect Chargeback Revenue. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #195

<u>Transportation – Part Bus System</u>

FROM: TO:

Central Services Chargebacks

95630000 412941 126,920 114,228

A DIFFERENCE OF: (12,692)

Central Services Admin

Central Services Chargebacks

10161000 412941 668,834 681,526

A DIFFERENCE OF: 12,692

TOTAL DIFFERENCE OF: 0

Adjust fringes & revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4c – Legislature – Clerk – Increase. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #196

Legislature

FROM: TO:

Clerk

10101001 51000 (10110) 108,462 113,637

A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,175

Adjust fringes & revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4d – Legislature – Administrative Assistant – Increase. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #197

<u>Legislature</u>

FROM: TO:

Administrative Assistant

10101001 51000 (10113) 49,486 50,486

A DIFFERENCE OF: 1,000

Adjust fringes & revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4e – County Executive – Increase 3.5% for Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery stated that she does not see, "Comments from Legislators" as is customary on the Full Meeting agendas. She questioned if comments from Legislators would be taken at the end of the meeting.

Legislative Clerk Schonfeld explained that comments are usually made before any resolution is voted on or before the Adopt the Budget resolutions.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that a Special Meeting is called for a limited purpose, and in this case the limited purpose is the Adoption of the Budget. He stated that it does not necessarily follow the same agenda as a Full Legislative Meeting.

Chairman Sullivan stated that we can take comments on each item before they are voted on.

Legislator Montgomery explained that she did not agree on the raises in the County Executive's office when the experts are predicting a recession, unemployment will jump 6% and people will lose their jobs in 2023. She stated that we are handing out taxpayer's hard-earned money for individuals who have not been hired yet. She stated that inflation is up 6.6% and this was a chance to save a little money.

Legislator Jonke stated that these were proposed as Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) to existing salaries, just as every other single employee in the County received. He stated that Legislator Montgomery has not objected to one (1) other Cost of Living Adjustment and now she is picking on one (1) department. He believed that was politics.

RESOLUTION #198

County Executive	FROM:	TO:
County Executive 10123000 51000 (10101) (3.5% COLA Increase)	170,070	176,022
A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,952		
Adjust fringes & revenue accordingly.		
BY POLL VOTE: EIGHT AYES. ONE NA CARRIES.	AY – LEGISLATOR MONTGO	MERY. MOTION
Item #4f – County Executive – Deputy C Adjustment (COLA). On behalf of the m Chairman Sullivan moved the following	nembers of the Budget & Fin	
RESOLUTION #199		
County Executive	FROM:	TO:
Deputy County Executive 10123000 51000 (10102) (3.5% COLA Increase)	125,000	129,375
A DIFFERENCE OF: 4,375		
Adjust fringes & revenue accordingly.		
BY POLL VOTE: EIGHT AYES. ONE NA CARRIES.	AY – LEGISLATOR MONTGO	MERY. MOTION
Item #4g – County Executive – Chief of Adjustment (COLA). On behalf of the m Chairman Sullivan moved the following	nembers of the Budget & Fin	_
RESOLUTION #200		
County Executive	FROM:	TO:
Chief of Staff (CEO)		

10123000 51000 (10103)

83,195

86,107

(3.5% COLA Increase)

A DIFFERENCE OF: 2,912

Adjust fringes & revenue accordingly.

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

Item #4h – County Executive – Director of Constituent Services - Increase 3.5% for Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #201

County Executive

FROM: TO:

Director of Constituent Services

10123000 51000 (10104) 45,066 46,643

(3.5% COLA Increase)

A DIFFERENCE OF: 1,577

Adjust fringes & revenue accordingly.

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

Item #4i – County Executive – Confidential Secretary - Increase 3.5% for Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #202

County Executive

FROM: TO:

Confidential Secretary

10123000 51000 (10106) 60,000 62,100

(3.5% COLA Increase)

A DIFFERENCE OF: 2,100

Adjust fringes & revenue accordingly.

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

Item #4j – Highway – Engineering – Project Manager Reclass to Chief Project Manager – Move to Subcontingency. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #203

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Highway	/ - ⊢n	aine	erinc
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FROM: TO:

Reclass to

Chief Project Manager

10144000 51000 (10902) 38,309 0

Move to Subcontingency

10199000 54982 0 38,309

A DIFFERENCE OF: 0

Adjust fringes & revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4k - Sheriff – Contracts – NYS Park and Rec – Properly Reflect County Portion of State Aid of Marine Patrol Grant. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #204

<u>Sheriff</u>

FROM: TO:

Contracts

17003000 54646 22,575 0

A DIFFERENCE OF: (22,575)

NYS Park and Rec

17003000 433891 (Marine Patrol) 22,575

25,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 2,425

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4L – Sheriff – Buckle Up Grant. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #205

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Buckle Up Grant	FROM:	TO:
Overtime 17311002 51093 10024	8,500	3,480
State Retirement 17311002 58001 10024	1,934	792
Social Security 17311002 58002 10024	650	266
Workers Comp 17311002 58004 10024	147	70
Buckle Up Grant 17311002 443899 10024	0	3,480

A DIFFERENCE OF: (3,143)

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4m – Sheriff – Police Traffic Services Program. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #206

	FROM:	TO:
PTS - Police Traffic Services Program		
Overtime		
17311002 51093 10021	0	11,484
State Retirement		
17311002 58001 10021	0	2,612
Social Security		
17311002 58002 10021	0	879
Workers Comp		
17311002 58004 10021	0	230
Police Traffic Grant		
17311002 443893 10021	8,500	11,484

A DIFFERENCE OF: 12,221

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #4n – District Attorney – Vacant Assistant District Attorney Line. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following:

RESOLUTION #207

District Attorney

FROM: TO:

Assistant District Attorney

10116500 51000 (10126) 75,000 80,000

Sub contingency

10199000 54982 10,000 0

A DIFFERENCE OF: (5,000)

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #40 – Probation – Stop DWI Fines – Increase in Stop DWI Fines. On behalf of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee, Chairman Sullivan moved the following.

RESOLUTION #208

Probation

FROM: TO:

Stop DWI Fines

10331500 426151 75,325 75,806

A DIFFERENCE OF: 481

Adjust fringes and revenue accordingly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #5 - Other Business

Item #5a – Approval/ Memorandum of Agreements (MOA)/ Accurately Reflect Salary Increase in Individual Budget Lines. Chairman Sullivan moved the following; seconded by Legislator Sayegh.

RESOLUTION #209

APPROVAL/ MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT(S) (MOA)/ ACCURATELY REFLECT SALARY INCREASE IN INDIVIDUAL BUDGET LINES

WHEREAS, the County Executive has executed Memorandum of Agreements with various collective bargaining units representing employees that work for the County regarding salary increases that affect the 2023 Putnam County Budget; and

WHEREAS, the tentative 2023 County budget has provided contingency funding for these salary increases pending approval by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature will vote on these Memorandum of Agreements after the 2023 Putnam County Budget is adopted; and

WHEREAS, if these Memorandum of Agreements are ratified by the Legislature, the 2023 salary increases should be reflected in individual budget lines in the 2023 Adopted County budget in order to provide a more accurate and transparent budget document; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that upon ratification by the Legislature of any Memorandum of Agreement(s), the Commissioner of Finance shall make the necessary changes to the 2023 Adopted Budget to accurately reflect the salary increases in individual budget lines in order to provide for a more accurate and transparent budget document.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #5b – Offset Total Salary Adjustments made \$23,091 – Take from Certiorari Refunds Account. Chairman Sullivan moved the following; seconded by Legislator Jonke.

Legislator Jonke stated that he brought this forward. He explained that with the salary adjustments made in the County Executive's budget and the Legislature's budget totaling \$23,091, rather than using fund balance for these adjustments, he would like to utilize the certiorari refunds account. He explained that in speaking with Commissioner of Finance Carlin, there are years when we do not allocate anywhere near what is in reserve in the certiorari refunds account. He stated that after the discussion, they both agreed that the \$23,091 could be taken from that account. He stated that they were both confident that enough money would be left in the certiorari refunds account.

Chairman Sullivan stated that it was taxpayer money one (1) way or the other.

Legislator Jonke stated that we would not be utilizing fund balance for the \$23,091.

Legislator Montgomery stated that this proposal came late in the day and she has not had the chance to look at it and work through it. She questioned what page the certiorari refunds account was on in the budget.

Legislator Jonke stated that it was on page 46.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she would abstain. She did not know why it was not done during the budget process in Committee. She stated that when she asks for late addons or has additional questions, she is always told it should be done in a Committee meeting.

Legislator Jonke stated that he thought of this in the last week.

Legislator Montgomery stated that it happens. She stated that she would abstain because she has not had enough time to review it.

Legislator Nacerino stated that the point is that Legislator Jonke brought forward a resolution. It was not proposed on the floor.

RESOLUTION #210

Offset Total Salary Adjustments of \$23,091

FROM: TO:

Certiorari Refunds

10193000 54960 100,000 76,909

(Offset Total Salary Adjustments Made @ B&F Mtg of \$23,091 – take From Certiorari Refunds Account)

A DIFFERENCE OF: 23,091

BY POLL VOTE: EIGHT AYES. ONE ABSTENTION - LEGISLATOR MONTGOMERY.

MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6 - Offset Changes to Budget was next.

At 7:31 P.M., Chairman Sullivan made a motion to recess the meeting for a final tally from the Auditor on the adjustments that were made; seconded by Legislators Jonke and Nacerino.

At 7:33 P.M., Chairman Sullivan called the meeting back to order.

Item #6(1) – Offset Changes to Budget

Chairman Sullivan stated what the change would be to the Fund Balance and the approximate difference.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that there are two (2) resolutions, #6(1) or #6(2) that would need to be adopted. He stated that #6(1) would keep the tax levy that same as it was in the 2023 tentative budget and the excess would be taken from the reserve. He stated that #6(2) you would be increasing the tax levy. He stated that the motion should be which one (1) of the two (2) resolutions you want to move forward.

Chairman Sullivan stated that #6(1) would keep the tax levy flat.

The Legislature agreed with keeping the tax levy flat.

Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adopt Item #6(1); seconded by Legislator Jonke and Nacerino.

Legislator Montgomery asked for clarification. She stated that the comment was that the tax levy would be kept flat. She stated that it is flat based on the tentative budget and not flat based on last year's figures. She stated that we would still be increasing taxes.

Commissioner Carlin said, "no." He stated that the 2023 tentative budget is the same number as last year's adopted budget and this year would be the same as those.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that it is flat in the sense that the levy proposed in the 2023 tentative budget is what is being proposed to be adopted. It will not increase the levy in the tentative budget because the offset difference that was just calculated is going to be taken from the tax fund and not added to the levy.

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PESOLUTION #

Offset Changes		
_	FROM:	TO:
Use of Fund Balance		
10131000 427161	1,731,473	1,763,110

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 adopt a Real Property Tax levy of \$46,687,781.00 the same real property tax levy as contained in the 2022 County Adopted Budget and the 2023 Tentative budget.

APPROXIMATE DIFFERENCE OF: 31,637

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item#6(2) – Offset Changes to Budget. Item #6(2) was not needed since Item #6(1) was adopted.

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Offset Changes			
	FROM:	TO:	

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 L	evy of \$	647,963,124.00.	

APPROXIMATE	DIFFERENCE OF:	

Item #7a – Approval of the 2023 Budget Resolutions was next. Chairman Sullivan moved the following; seconded by Legislator Sayegh.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she was glad the budget included some long overdue raises for County employees. She referred to her previous comment not being in favor of the raises in the County Executive's office for people that we do not even know yet. She believed there were no significant increases for resources in Social Services which was unfortunate due to the mental health crisis, addiction, and substance abuse. She believed that the County should do more to support mental health providers. She stated that she was glad that the vehicles and resources for the Sheriff's Department were funded. She believed it was important to note that a lot of these items were denied in the previous Sheriff's budget, along with positions. She believed that the increase in salaries for the Sheriff's command staff, employees who have not even been here for a year, was distasteful especially since the Sheriff did not make himself available to talk about these increases. She explained that the Sheriff and County Executive salaries were higher than some neighboring counties. She stated that in previous budgets, Sheriff Captains were not given significant raises, it was the same percentage that management employees received. She stated that the 2023 budget once again puts upper management and elected officials first and those who need it the most come out last.

Legislator Jonke explained that he was happy with the work that was put into the budget and the end result. He stated that we have shown that we care about our employees. He believed that Legislator Montgomery was making a political speech. He wondered if she reached out to our federal officials regarding our open borders and the fentanyl that is coming through those borders killing our people. He believed that Legislator Montgomery focuses on positions, titles, and human beings and not the jobs. He stated that we are talking about the jobs. He stated that the Sheriff's Captains were being paid less than the Captains under the previous Sheriff. He explained that the adjustments made to the Captain's salaries was to correct those deficiencies. He believed that the current Captains were treated unfairly, since they took a pay cut when they became employees of the County, and the previous Sheriff Captains did not. He also explained that the County Executive's office was the only office in the budget that did not receive the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

Legislator Nacerino stated that she was proud to vote in support of the 2023 County budget. She stated that once again County Executive Odell did not disappoint and delivered a fiscally sound budget. She explained that during the budget review process,

the Legislature made very few revisions to the tentative budget, which indicated that we started with a good working document. She stated that the County has a healthy fund balance and a great financial standing with a Aa1 bond rating. She stated that the tax levy will remain the same as 2022, and the property tax rate is the lowest since 2009. She stated that this year's budget presented many challenges with high inflation effecting our economy, rising health care costs, soaring fuel and utility increases and community college costs. She stated that despite these challenges, tonight we are voting to approve a budget incorporating the rising expenses while meeting both our fiscal and social responsibilities. She explained that the outside agencies will receive the 3.5% increases. She stated that management/confidential employees that work hard every day will receive the 3.5% COLA increase, as well as our largest union, CSEA, who elected to a one (1) year extension to their contract. She stated that she was also proud of the share the growth intermunicipal partnership with our local municipalities; sharing sales tax and ARPA funding to support their infrastructure projects. She hoped that this initiative would be feasible in the future. She stated that she was also proud to support the Tilly Foster Farm and Educational Institute and the Putnam Golf Course, which have attributed to our quality of life.

Legislator Sayegh stated that according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, between March 2021 to March 2022, she provided the consumer percentage price increases for energy, fuel oil, gasoline, electricity, natural gas, food, and shelter. She stated that when the budget season began, we were all faced with rising prices, inflation and possible recession for the coming year. She stated that these increases not only effect Putnam families, but also local government. She stated that we must budget for those increases and the unfunded mandates coming from Albany. She stated that knowing this stress on the taxpayer and the instability of the economy going forward, she commended the County Executive with her proposed \$180 million budget that does not increase the property tax levy to homeowners. She stated that the budget addresses the concerns of economic downturn without limiting services. She stated that it also covers the unfunded mandates. She explained that the Legislature has reviewed this budget over the past month. She stated that it is a sound budget, once again submitted by the County Executive. It is respectful of the taxpayer who funds this budget. She stated that our fiscally healthy county is a result of years of good financial management planning. She explained that the healthy fund balance, along with a reduction in debt, has allowed the County to maintain its Aa1 Bond rating, putting our County on solid footing to face an uncertain economy. She believed that we were in the best position to weather the storm ahead. She thanked the County Executive and Department Heads for their hard work in submitting a responsible budget to the Legislature to work with and do the best for the taxpayers, along with taking care of our employees.

Chairman Sullivan commended the Administration for submitting fiscally sound budgets over the last 11 years, leaving the County in a great financial position for the future. He thanked the employees for all their hard work, and he believed they were certainly due

the cost of living adjustment. He thanked the Legislature for all their hard work on the budget, ensuring that we are the proper stewards of the taxpayer's money.

RESOLUTION #212

APPROVAL OF THE 2023 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby approves the 2023 budget resolutions as pre-filed by the Budget & Finance Committee and amended by the Legislature on October 28, 2022; 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 2023 Commencing January 1, 2023 Making Appropriations for the Operation of the County Government and Establishing Rates of Compensation for Officers and Employees for the Fiscal Year 2023 was next. Chairman Sullivan made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

RESOLUTION #213

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2023 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023

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, 2023.

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

There being no further business, at 7:53 P.M., Chairman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislators Jonke and Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.