

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

Tuesday April 4, 2023 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Chairman Jonke who requested Legislator Sayegh lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and Legislator Nacerino lead in the Legislative Prayer. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Addonizio, Nacerino, Castellano, Sayegh, Crowley and Chairman Jonke were present. Legislator Ellner was absent. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo.

PROCLAMATIONS

Chairman Jonke presented the “Alcohol Awareness Month” proclamation to Michael Piazza – Commissioner of Social Services, Sara Servadio – Deputy Commissioner of Social Services.

APRIL 2023 AS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in the United States. One in every 12 adults (17.6 million people) suffer from alcohol use disorder; and

WHEREAS, underage drinking presents an enormous public health issue and alcohol is the drug of choice among children and adolescents. Annually, approximately 5,000 youth under the age of 21 die from motor vehicle crashes, other unintentional injuries, homicides, and suicides that involve underage drinking; 100,000 persons die each year from alcohol-related causes: drinking and driving crashes, other accidents, falls, fires, alcohol-related homicides and suicides; and

WHEREAS, tragic health, social, and economic problems result from the use of alcohol by youth. Underage drinking is a causal factor in a host of serious problems, including traumatic injury, violent and property crime, high risk sex, fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol poisoning, and need for treatment for alcohol use disorder; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Prevention Needs Assessment Survey reports that 33% of Putnam County youth grades 8-12 have used alcohol in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, young people who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol use disorder than those who begin drinking at age 21; and

WHEREAS, over 7 million children live in a household where at least one parent is dependent on or has abused alcohol; and

WHEREAS, alcohol-related problems cost America \$249 billion in lost productivity, absenteeism, healthcare costs, crime, and family-related problems; and

WHEREAS, the typical American will see 100,000 beer commercials before they turn 18; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim April 2023 as Alcohol Awareness Month and along with the Putnam Communities That Care Coalition and all prevention, treatment and

recovery providers in Putnam County encourage all residents to increase their awareness of alcohol use disorders, the dangers associated with underage drinking, the success of prevention and treatment programs, especially for our youth, and to support and encourage referrals for treatment of individuals when an alcohol use disorder is suspected or present.

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Crowley who presented the “Child Abuse Prevention Month” proclamation to Michael Piazza – Commissioner of Social Services, Sara Servadio – Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, Marla Behler – Program Coordinator Child Advocacy Center, Marissa Henderson – Child Advocacy Center, Fran Marocco – Director of Children and Family Services and Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville.

APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs ensure the health of children and families, allowing children to grow into adults who prosper and contribute to society; and

WHEREAS, the Child Advocacy Center of Putnam County, the Department of Social Services Child Protective Services, Child Welfare Services, Legal Division, and Safe Harbour Putnam County are deeply committed to serving child abuse victims and their families with sensitivity, understanding, and compassion and providing services necessary to help healing begin; and

WHEREAS, the Child Advocacy Center of Putnam County, the Department of Social Services Child Protective Services, Child Welfare Services, Legal Division, and Safe Harbour Putnam County especially this month should be commended and recognized for working with schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement, and the business community to implement prevention programs to ensure the physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being of the children of Putnam County; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Putnam County and call upon all citizens to increase their efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Chairman Jonke presented the “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month & Autism Awareness Month” proclamation to the following representatives of Arc Mid-Hudson, Louise Rheem – Director of Operations, Brandon Gilsean, - Regional Director Residential Services, Dave Zoller – Regional Director Day Habilitation Services, Jennifer Beisswenger – Assistant Director for Vocational Services, Zach Disador – Waiver Respite Manager, Harpal Arora – Individual Receiving Support and Jason McConnell – Individual Receiving Support.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH & AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, The Arc Mid-Hudson is an integral part of our community, serving both as a business and as a human services agency with the mission to empower people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to achieve and experience the highest quality of life; and

WHEREAS, for over sixty-five years, The Arc Mid-Hudson has been the leading provider of services in Putnam County for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from birth through advanced age; and

WHEREAS, The Arc Mid-Hudson is one of the leading employers in Putnam County and also offers Vocational Training and Rehabilitation to participants so they can provide quality work to the business community, training employees in both supported and competitive placements; and

WHEREAS, The Arc Mid-Hudson educates and assists over 50 children with autism and special needs through its Preschool to reach their fullest potential and retain their success through their participation in the public school system; and

WHEREAS, The Arc Mid-Hudson's Residential program provides for more than 121 people in both homes and apartments throughout Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, The Arc Mid-Hudson's Day Habilitation programs offer the opportunity to expand social, communication, and life skills to over 133 adults with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Arc Mid-Hudson provides Community Habilitation, Respite, Educational Advocacy and Traumatic Brain Injury services to over 70 children and adults living at home with their families throughout Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, The Arc Mid-Hudson's clinic, Mid-Hudson Health Specialties, offers clinical services for over 150 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Putnam County and their families, including psychology, social work, occupational, physical, and speech therapies, podiatry, psychiatry, and medical services, as well as behavioral supports for families in their homes; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim April 2023 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and Autism Awareness Month, and recognize and commend The Arc Mid-Hudson for the valuable services this agency provides to people with disabilities, their families, and the business community.

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Gouldman who presented the "Donate Life Month" proclamation to Putnam County Clerk Michael Bartolotti.

APRIL 2023 AS DONATE LIFE MONTH

WHEREAS, through their membership in the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), New York's Counties have come together to collectively support several important causes; and

WHEREAS, in New York State there are approximately 8,100 people waiting for an organ transplant which represents the third highest need in the nation; and there are an estimated 400 New Yorkers that die every year while waiting for an organ transplant; and

WHEREAS, a single individual's donation of the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, and small intestine can save up to eight lives; donation of tissue can save and heal the lives of up to 75 others; and

WHEREAS, organ, eye, and tissue donation are life-giving and healing acts recognized worldwide as expressions of compassion to those in need; and

WHEREAS, New York State's County governments play a key role in raising awareness of the need for organ, eye, and tissue donation through the interactions County officials have with the public with regard to this subject through local DMV offices, local boards of elections, departments of health, naturalization ceremonies, and veterans' programs; and

WHEREAS, such interactions by Putnam County officials with the public provide opportunities for the provision of information on how individuals can help their fellow New Yorkers by signing up as organ and tissue donors; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Clerk's Office, through its Department of Motor Vehicles, wishes to promote the month of April 2023 as "Donate Life Month" in Putnam County and calls on residents to join the New York State Donate Life Registry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 as "Donate Life Month" in Putnam County and encourage County departments involved in providing information on organ and tissue donations and enrolling residents in the New York State Donate Life Registry to engage in activities throughout the month to increase the number of organ and tissue donors and promote awareness of the need for organ and tissue donations in Putnam County.

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Crowley who presented the Healthy Teen Brain Day" proclamation to Michael Piazza – Commissioner of Social Services and Sara Servadio – Deputy Commissioner of Social Services.

APRIL 20, 2023 AS HEALTHY TEEN BRAIN DAY

WHEREAS, Our youth are our greatest joy and our hope for the future so it is necessary for us to support them in making safe and healthy decisions, while creating a supportive environment that safeguards their future; and

WHEREAS, Many of our youth are making very healthy and safe decisions to remain marijuana-free and providing leadership in their schools and communities to help other youth remain marijuana-free; and

WHEREAS, There is strong objective evidence that marijuana is harmful to the adolescent brain, with the potential to cause distorted perceptions, difficulty with thinking and problem solving, disrupted learning and memory, and impaired reaction time, attention span, judgment, balance and coordination; and

WHEREAS, It is with special pleasure that we join with the youth and adult leaders of the Putnam Communities That Care Coalition in celebrating the first "Healthy Teen Brain Day" to applaud and support our youth who are making healthy decisions; and

WHEREAS, On behalf of the citizens of Putnam County, we are pleased and proud to join all associated with the inception of "Healthy Teen Brain Day" and urge all citizens to acknowledge this very important day; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim April 20, 2023 to be Healthy Teen Brain Day in Putnam County and proudly join my fellow residents in marking this very special occasion.

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Nacerino who presented the "Keep Putnam Beautiful" proclamation to Tracey Walsh – Director of Tourism.

KEEP PUTNAM BEAUTIFUL

WHEREAS, Putnam County is one of the most unique counties in New York State as it is located in close proximity to large cities, but remains a quiet, pastoral community where many natural and historic sites can be enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, Acknowledging the bucolic nature of Putnam County and the importance of preserving it, the County of Putnam established the Keep Putnam Beautiful program in 2005. Lead by Program Coordinator Walt Thompson, Keep Putnam Beautiful utilized an education and community volunteerism approach to work toward their goal of not only preserving the environment, but enhancing it along the way. The collaborative effort set forth involved the towns and villages within the County to achieve a common goal; and

WHEREAS, Legislator Ginny Nacerino recognized that the need to maintain and even improve the environment in Putnam County is ever-present and thereby has launched a campaign to reintroduce the *Keep Putnam Beautiful* slogan and reestablish the program. The Putnam County Health Department and Tourism Department join in the effort with Towns, Villages, and Individual Community Volunteers to make the prevention of litter and preservation of the environment a priority in our community. By employing the same spirit and concerted effort as the original program, a renewed pride will be instilled in our County and Putnam will remain the idyllic home and destination it is and has always been; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature, hereby proclaim April as Keep Putnam Beautiful Month and encourage all residents to remain cognizant of their impact on the environment.

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Addonizio who presented the “National Library Week” proclamation to Kevin Finnegan – President Brewster Library Board of Trustees, Kathleen Sakawicz – Trustee Brewster Library, Dennis Gagnon – Trustee Butterfield Library, Marjorie Gage – Trustee Butterfield Library, Johanna Reinhardt – Director Butterfield Library, Anita Prentice – President Desmond Fish Library Board of Trustees, Otto Romanino – Trustee Kent Library, Breanne Griffith – Trustee Kent Library, Jessica Mcmath – Trustee Kent Library, Frank Del Campo – Trustee Mahopac Library, Michele Cappozella – Director Mahopac Library, George Disbrow – Trustee Patterson Library, Terry Raskyn – President Putnam Valley Library Board of Trustees, Donna Peroli – Director Reed Memorial Library and Carla Taylon – President Reed Memorial Library Board of Trustees.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK – APRIL 23 – 29, 2023

WHEREAS, libraries are the hearts and hubs of their communities, providing essential and valued resources, collections, and programs for all ages and demographics; and

WHEREAS, libraries are continually evolving to meet the needs of their communities by offering opportunities for lifelong learning through both traditional services and new technologies; and

WHEREAS, libraries worked during the pandemic to provide both new and traditional services in ways which were safe for their communities, and

WHEREAS, libraries employ trained, tech-savvy professionals who provide Internet access, technology training, and access to downloadable content like e-books, downloadable audiobooks, and magazines; and

WHEREAS, libraries offer services such as job-seeking resources, homework help, storytimes, literacy training, and summer reading programs; and

WHEREAS, libraries value, promote, and practice sound sustainability measures that ensure economical services, conserve resources, reduce long-term energy costs, and protect the environment; and

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, library staff, and library supporters across America are celebrating National Library Week; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim the week of April 23-29, 2023 as National Library Week. We encourage all county residents to use their local libraries, either in person or online, to take advantage of the wealth of library resources our libraries provide.

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Sayegh who presented the “Peers Influence Peers Partnership Month” proclamation to Stephen Velichko – Chairman of Board of Directors.

APRIL 2023 AS PEERS INFLUENCE PEERS PARTNERSHIP MONTH

WHEREAS, the use of alcohol and illegal drugs cause serious health, social, and educational problems for our young people; and one in four high school girls will suffer from an abusive relationship before they graduate; and

WHEREAS, it has been empirically proven that substance abuse is significantly involved in the three leading causes of death for young people – car crashes, homicides, and suicides – and is also a major factor in school dropouts, violence, and vandalism as well as HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, rapes, and sexual assaults; and

WHEREAS, the recent upturns in drug and alcohol usage, as documented in state and national surveys, show that we must target effective prevention strategies at key population groups, such as middle and high school students; and

WHEREAS, the Peers Influence Peers Partnership has demonstrated a great deal of initiative and sophistication in developing proactive media messages against dating and domestic violence as well as alcohol and other drug use; and

WHEREAS, that work, which has been aired through numerous schools and cable TV systems throughout our state, has won praise from many authorities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby recognize April 2023 as Peers Influence Peers Partnership Month in hope that this declaration and a joint effort of all agencies and authorities to encourage young people to help others by encouraging them to live safe and healthy lives, may one day rid our children and their children’s children of the scourge of drug and alcohol abuse.

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Montgomery who presented the “Teen Driver Safety Awareness Month” proclamation to Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville.

APRIL 2023 AS TEEN DRIVER SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, statistics and experience demonstrate that the greatest danger to our youth in Putnam County, and throughout our country, are the dangers posed from traffic crashes; and

WHEREAS, highway crash statistics inform us that although teen drivers make up only 7% of the driving population, they comprise 11% of the injury related automobile crashes; and

WHEREAS, the leading cause of accidental deaths to our youthful population throughout the United States are automobile accidents; and

WHEREAS, analysis shows us that the reasons for teen overrepresentation in injury related automobile crashes include: driver inexperience, excessive speed, unnecessary risk taking, inattentive driving, and use of alcohol and drugs; and

WHEREAS, in Putnam County, we have too often experienced a tragedy with the death of a teen driver at the wheel. Many of these deaths have occurred during the spring and summer months with a high incidence rate during the period leading up to prom season; and

WHEREAS, all accidents are preventable and crash rates can be lowered through the use of education and awareness programs through the use of our school systems, law enforcement programs and youth services organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Junior RTC programs, the Civil Air Patrol, and the Putnam County Sheriff's Office Cadet Program just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, these programs work best when there is a period set aside for local government at every level, our school districts and churches, synagogues, and youth service organizations coming together to provide these educational programs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim April 2023 as Teen Driver Safety Awareness Month in Putnam County. We encourage all levels of government, our school districts, law enforcement, our churches and synagogues, our youth service organizations and all the citizens of Putnam County to support programs that promote teen driver safety awareness in Putnam County, thereby protecting one of our most precious resources, our children and grandchildren.

Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Castellano who presented the National Telecommunicators' Week" proclamation to Robert Lipton – Interim Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services.

APRIL 9 – 15, 2023 AS NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS' WEEK

WHEREAS, the Putnam County 911 Center answered 114,426 calls for help and dispatched Fire, EMS, and Police agencies 12,963 times during 2022; and

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire, or emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters, and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS, the safety of our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Putnam 911 communications center; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Service Dispatchers are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Service Dispatchers are the single vital link for our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and insuring their safety; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Service Dispatchers of the Putnam 911 communications center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS, each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby proclaim the week of April 9th through April 15th, 2023 to be National Telecommunicators' Week in Putnam County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our County and its citizens safe.

Item #4 – Acceptance of Minutes – Regular Meeting – March 7, 2023

Special Mtg. State of the County – March 9, 2023

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Item #5 – Correspondence

a) County Auditor

There was no activity during this reporting period.

Item #6 – Pre-filed resolutions:

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
(Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Crowley & Nacerino)**

Item #6a – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (23A009)/ Social Services/ Opioid Settlement Monies was next. Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Sayegh, Chairwoman of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Crowley and Nacerino, Legislator Sayegh moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery stated that she has spoken with Kristin McConnell, Executive Director of The Prevention Council of Putnam throughout the year. She explained that this was for a position that was funded by a grant which The Prevention Council was worried they were no longer going to receive. Legislator Montgomery stated that she was happy The Prevention Council will be able to keep the position to continue the important work they do.

RESOLUTION #64

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (23A009)/ SOCIAL SERVICES/ OPIOID SETTLEMENT MONIES

WHEREAS, The Prevention Council of Putnam was actively participating in the discussions with local government regarding the Opioid Settlement Funds and submitted a formal funding request last year; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2023, the Executive Director of The Prevention Council of Putnam wrote to the County Executive to follow up on the status of said request; and

WHEREAS, due to the time sensitivity of this request, they provided an overview of the scope of work they plan to implement pursuant to Schedule C of the New York Opioid Settlement Sharing Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Social Services has requested a budgetary amendment (23A009) to utilize \$85,000 of the Opioid Settlement Trust Monies to fund the agency's evidence-based programs and strategies for preventing opioid misuse, opioid overdose and connecting individuals to care and harm reduction services to abate the opioid epidemic here in Putnam County; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

Increase Appropriations:

10431000 54646 10202	MH LGU – Contracts	85,000
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Increase Estimated Revenues:

10431000 427350 10202	MH LGU – Opioid Settlement Monies	85,000
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2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6b – Approval/ Request that Putnam's Congressional Delegation Act to Ensure the Safe Handling of Wastewater from Indian Point Energy Center was next. On behalf of the members of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee, Legislators Crowley and Nacerino, Legislator Sayegh moved the following:

Legislator Montgomery stated that she will support this resolution, however she believed that it did not do enough to ask the Federal Government to prevent Holtec from discharging this radioactive poison into our water. She stated that we are at the start of our recreational season in her Legislative District. She believed that we should not be putting our trust in the NRC and Federal Government and believed that we should be sending a resolution that strongly states, "do not discharge this water." She was hoping that we could support the legislation proposed by Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg and Senator Peter Harkham. She stated that we have received emails from constituents asking the Legislature to make a stronger statement. She stated that we also received resolutions approved by other counties that are much stronger than the one (1) on the agenda tonight. She stated that she will continue to request that we approve a stronger resolution, but in the meantime, she would support this one (1).

Legislator Gouldman stated that he was glad we were doing something, however he believed that it did not go far enough. He stated that we are requesting Congress to gather assurances that everything will be safe. He stated that time and time again that the Federal Government provides assurances that turn out not to be true. He stated that the train derailment in Ohio took place on February 3rd and residents still do not know if

their water is safe to drink. He stated that every day they are told that everything is OK, yet animals and livestock are dying in their community. He stated that 9/11 was a tragic time in our history. He stated that we were told that the air was safe and yet people today are still getting cancer and other diseases from being down there. He asks that the Federal Government review every alternative option to assure the safety and well-being of our County and residents that live here. He stated that there are some municipalities that are willing to take this water and store it. He believed that the wastewater should be left where it is until there is a consensus of what to do with it.

Legislator Crowley explained the timeline for shutting down the Indian Point Power Plant. She stated that in May of 2021 the ownership of the plant was transferred from Entergy to Holtec, an International Company that would carry out the decommissioning process. She stated that once Indian Point was passed to the Federal authorities, it is out of our control. She stated that Holtec, as the owner, remains accountable to the NRC until the decommissioning had been completed. She stated that we are asking the responsible parties to keep an eye out for constituents. She stated that we are asking for action that the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives obtain assurances that the relevant regulatory agencies will not permit any discharge of wastewater from Indian Point that will cause environmental harm or pose a threat to the health or safety of Putnam County residents. She stated that there are other alternatives. She stated that evaporation causes a more concentrated release which breathed in is more toxic than the release of water. She stated that she was not sure about the alternatives and the environmental impacts of which would be more detrimental. She stated that is where the NRC, Federal regulators and our elected Federal representatives to ensure. She stated that she has written letters to Congressman Michael Lawler, Senator Charles Schumer and Senator Kirsten Gillebrand asking them to provide assurances that there will not be any environmental or health impact on our Putnam County residents.

Legislator Crowley stated that she did vote for this resolution. She believes that Holtec needs to decommission the plant in the safest way for our Putnam County residents. She stated that we need to continue to contact and hold our representatives accountable.

RESOLUTION #65

APPROVAL/ REQUEST THAT PUTNAM'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ACT TO ENSURE THE SAFE HANDLING OF WASTEWATER FROM INDIAN POINT ENERGY CENTER

WHEREAS, the Hudson River is a federally designated American Heritage River for which special consideration must be given to the effects of actions taken on, around, or within the River on the natural, historic, economic, and cultural needs of the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson River is an invaluable resource providing seafood, transportation, tourism, and recreational activities for the residents of Putnam County, as well as for many others beyond our county, some of whom also use it as a source of potable water; and

WHEREAS, Holtec International has announced plans to release wastewater containing radioactive tritium into the Hudson River later this year as part of the decommissioning of the nuclear reactors at the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC); and

WHEREAS, the management of such radioactive materials falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government, particularly, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore incumbent upon the federal government to ensure that any release of wastewater from IPEC into the Hudson River that it may permit must not cause any detrimental environmental impact to the Hudson River, and must not compromise the health or safety of those who use the Hudson River; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature and the Putnam County Executive hereby respectfully call upon Putnam County's delegation in the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to obtain assurances from the relevant federal regulatory agencies that they will not permit any discharges of wastewater from IPEC that will cause environmental harm or that pose a threat to the health or safety of the residents of Putnam County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Putnam County Legislature is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Putnam County's representatives in the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE
(Chairman Ellner, Legislators Addonizio & Crowley)**

Item #6c – Approval/ Resolution Asking Governor Hochul and the NYS Public Service Commission to Dismiss NYSEG'S Rate Hike Request and Have Correct the Billing Problems Before Rate Hikes are Considered was next. Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Addonizio, member of the Economic Development & Energy Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Ellner and Crowley, Legislator Addonizio moved the following:

Legislator Addonizio stated that many people on fixed income are forced to decide whether to fill their prescriptions, purchase food or pay their heating bills. She stated that we are imploring the Governor to help the people in New York State.

Legislator Gouldman believed that with the number of outages we deal with throughout the year and the increase in electricity costs are ridiculous. He stated that many of the residents in Putnam County have complained that they cannot afford to pay these increased costs. He stated that he supported sending this resolution to the Governor.

RESOLUTION #66

RESOLUTION ASKING GOVERNOR HOCHUL AND THE NYS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO DISMISS NYSEG'S RATE HIKE REQUEST AND HAVE NYSEG CORRECT ITS BILLING PROBLEMS BEFORE A RATE HIKE IS CONSIDERED

WHEREAS, many Putnam County residents are served by New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG); and

WHEREAS, NYSEG proposes to increase its electric delivery revenues by approximately \$274 million (a 31% percent increase in base delivery revenues or a 16.8% increase in total revenues), and its natural gas delivery revenues by approximately \$43.4

million (a 19% increase in base delivery revenues or a 9.8% increase in total revenues; and

WHEREAS, this revenue increase would result in rate increases of 34.9% for electricity service and 14.9% for gas service, which together would result in annual bill increases in the hundreds of dollars for the average residential customer, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul called NYSEG's rate hike request "outrageous and unacceptable" and urged the Department of Public Service (DPS) to "scrutinize every number and word of this proposal to protect New York families from unjustified and unfair rate increases," and

WHEREAS, DPS staff experts have reviewed the NYSEG rate filing, and as documented in public records, testified to the many deficiencies and errors contained in that filing; staff further stated that the company has been vague and non-responsive to their questions, that this is the second successive rate filing in which these issues have occurred, and that similar problems were noted in a 2016 management audit as well; and

WHEREAS, State regulations governing rate proceedings (16 NYCRR §61) require the NYSEG provide "competent testimony" with detailed financial justification that is "neither speculative or conjectural" to support its rate requests, but NYSEG has failed to do so; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Public Service Commission is undertaking an investigation of the billing practices of NYSEG because the number of consumer complaints has skyrocketed recently; and

WHEREAS, the billing problems as well as the inadequacies of the rate filing call into question the administrative competence of this monopoly utility and have eroded the public trust in the company; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the County of Putnam calls on the Public Service Commission and Governor Hochul to dismiss the NYSEG rate increase request and protect the public interest by making sure NYSEG corrects its billing practices and submits a proper, detailed rate filing before a substantive rate hike is even considered; and further be it

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul and Putnam County's delegation in the New York State Legislature, and to PSC Chair Rory Christian and PSC Secretary Michelle Phillips with a request to file this resolution in each of the following rate cases: 22-E-0317 and 22-G-0318.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

**RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislators Ellner & Gouldman)**

Item #6d – Approval/ Putnam Arts Council Grants for 2023 was next. Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Addonizio, Chairwoman of the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Addonizio moved the following:

Legislator Addonizio explained that along with the \$13,993.00 in public funds from Putnam County, the Putnam Arts Council will receive funding of \$30,800.00 through the NYS Council on the Arts. She expressed the importance of Arts in our community. It increases self-awareness and is used as a form of therapy. She stated that artistic expression can help people overcome depression, anxiety, stress and build confidence. She stated that she was very supportive of this grant.

Legislator Montgomery stated that the Putnam Arts Council received 25 funding requests totaling \$77,782.00. She stated that the Putnam Arts Council had an allocation of \$44,793.00. Therefore, many of the organizations did not receive grant funding. She stated that the Arts is one (1) of the major economic drivers in Putnam County. She stated that the last time she checked statics showed they inject \$6.1 million into our County. She believed that with the County's budget we could do better than \$13,393.00 for the Putnam County Arts Council.

Legislator Gouldman stated that he was glad to see Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley was a recipient of grant funding from the Putnam Arts Council.

RESOLUTION #67

APPROVAL/ PUTNAM ARTS COUNCIL GRANTS FOR 2023

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2023, the Putnam Arts Council reported to the Putnam County Legislature their recommendations for distribution of the 2023 Arts Link Community Regrant Program (formerly Putnam Arts Fund) totaling \$13,993; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature accepts and approves the recommendation of the Putnam Arts Council dated March 7, 2023, distribution of \$13,993 for the 2023 Arts Link Community Regrant Program for the first round of applications pursuant to the attached list.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Castellano & Montgomery)

Item #6e – Approval/ Renew Lease of Portion of Tilly Foster Farm/ Putnam/Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services was next. Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Gouldman, Chairman of the Physical Services Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Castellano and Montgomery, Legislator Gouldman moved the following:

Chairman Jonke stated that this past week the Legislators were invited to attend a brunch hosted by the Culinary and Animal Care Academies BOCES program at Tilly Foster Farm. He explained that it provided insight on how valuable these programs are that are offered to our youth and the positive impact these programs provide to our community. He stated that he was happy to move this resolution forward.

Legislator Sayegh stated that she also attended the brunch. She stated that they were able to meet the students who took care of the animals and the students who participated in the culinary program. She explained that the students left letters on the tables for the Legislators. She proceeded to read a few of these letters written by the students about their positive learning experiences while attending the programs offered by BOCES at Tilly Foster Farm.

Legislator Addonizio stated that she also had the opportunity to attend the brunch. She stated that the students were so proud of their work. She stated that it was very impressive and she was very proud to support BOCES this evening.

RESOLUTION #68

**APPROVAL/ RENEW LEASE OF PORTION OF TILLY FOSTER FARM/
PUTNAM/NORTHERN WESTCHESTER BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the County of Putnam is the owner of certain real property located at 100 Route 312, Brewster, New York 10509, including the numerous buildings located thereon, which is commonly known as the Tilly Foster Farm; and

WHEREAS, certain portions of the Tilly Foster Farm, including Building # 4 and Building # 8, are not required for the County's use during certain times, and therefore constitute surplus space during those times; and

WHEREAS, Putnam/Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services (hereinafter "BOCES") is a regional education agency which offers a variety of educational programs and services, including but not limited to, nearly all of Putnam County School Districts; and

WHEREAS, the County previously entered into a lease agreement with BOCES for said surplus space at the Tilly Foster Farm; and

WHEREAS, said lease agreement expired on July 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the County is desirous of renewing said lease agreement with BOCES;
and

WHEREAS, the County Executive, pursuant to the authority granted to him under Section 31-22 of the Putnam County Code, has entered into negotiations with BOCES for the renewal of the lease of said portions of the Tilly Foster Farm; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 31-22 of the Putnam County Code, the County Executive has requested that the Putnam County Legislature approve such lease agreement; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that portions of Building # 4 and Building # 8 of the Tilly Foster Farm are not required for the County's use during certain times, and therefore constitute surplus space during those times; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature approves the Lease Agreement between the County of Putnam and BOCES, which shall be in substantial conformance with the form attached hereto and made a part hereof as Schedule "A", and that the Putnam County Executive is authorized to execute said Lease Agreement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Attorney is authorized to take whatever legal action is necessary to effectuate the Lease Agreement between the County of Putnam and BOCES in the manner approved herein.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
(Chairman Jonke, Legislators Castellano & Nacerino)**

Item #6f – Approval/ Fund Transfer (23T054)/ Officer for Senior Resources/ Reclassification was next. On behalf of the members of the Personnel Committee, Legislators Castellano and Nacerino, Chairman Jonke moved the following:

RESOLUTION #69

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (23T054)/ OFFICER FOR SENIOR RESOURCES/ RECLASSIFICATION

WHEREAS, the Director of the Office for Senior Resources is requesting the reclassification of the Principal Account Clerk position to a Fiscal Technician position, due to the outcome of a job analysis review of the position in the fiscal unit initiated in August of 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Office for Senior Resources has requested a fund transfer (23T054) to account for this reclassification effective 4/01/23; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer be made:

Decrease:

10677200 51000 10119	Pers. – Principal Acct Clerk	49,785
10199000 54980	General Contingencies	<u>2,700</u>
		52,485

Increase:

10677200 51000 10145	Pers. – Fiscal Technician	52,293
10677200 58002	FICA	<u>192</u>
		52,485

2023 Fiscal Impact - \$2,700

2024 Fiscal Impact - \$6,934

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6g – Approval/ Fund Transfer (23T065)/ District Attorney/ Reclassification was next. On behalf of the members of the Personnel Committee, Legislators Castellano and Nacerino, Chairman Jonke moved the following:

RESOLUTION #70

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (23T065)/ DISTRICT ATTORNEY/ RECLASSIFICATION

WHEREAS, the Personnel Department recently conducted of a job analysis review of two (2) clerical positions in the District Attorney’s office; Typist/Office Assistant and Office Assistant Legal; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the job analysis review, it was determined that the appropriate classification for these two (2) positions is Senior Office Assistant Legal; and

WHEREAS, the District Attorney has requested a fund transfer (23T065) to account for this reclassification effective 4/01/23; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approved said fund transfer; now therefore be it RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer be made:

Decrease:		
10116500 51000 10121	Typist/Office Assistant	35,553
10116500 51000 10120	Vacant Senior Office Asst Legal	6,294
10116500 51000 10117	Office Assistant Legal	<u>38,467</u>
		80,314

Increase:		
10116500 51000 10131	Senior Office Assistant Legal	39,362
10116500 51000 10132	Senior Office Assistant Legal	<u>40,952</u>
		80,314

2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –
2024 Fiscal Impact – unknown

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
(Chairman Castellano, Legislators Ellner & Gouldman)

Item #6h – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (22A092)/ Commissioner of Finance/ Year End Journal Entry #3 was next. Chairman Jonke recognized Legislator Castellano, Chairman of the Audit & Administration Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #71

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT (22A092)/ COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE/ YEAR END JOURNAL ENTRY #3

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested a budgetary amendment (22A092) for the third Year End Journal Entry for the year ending December 31, 2022; and
WHEREAS, further entry(s) will follow as more information becomes available during the year end closing process; and
WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment be made:

GENERAL FUND:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:
SEE ATTACHED SHEET 2,083,890.00

Decrease Estimated Appropriations:
SEE ATTACHED SHEET 83,890.00

Increase Estimated Revenues:
SEE ATTACHED SHEET 2,000,000.00

CAPITAL FUND:

**Increase Estimated Appropriations:
SEE ATTACHED SHEET** **2,860,503.00**

**Decrease Estimated Appropriations:
SEE ATTACHED SHEET** **2,514,335.25**

**Increase Estimated Revenues:
SEE ATTACHED SHEET** **3,181,903.00**

**Decrease Estimated Revenues:
SEE ATTACHED SHEET** **2,835,735.25**

2022 Fiscal Impact \$83,890

2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6i – Approval/ Fund Transfer (23T048)/ Risk Manager/ Putnam Golf & Tilly’s Table/ Insurance Increase was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #72

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER (23T048)/ RISK MANAGER/ PUTNAM GOLF & TILLY’S TABLE/ INSURANCE INCREASE

WHEREAS, Putnam County was notified by Brown & Brown Insurance that Selective Insurance completed an Audit on Putnam Golf which resulted in an additional premium for 2022 / 2023 of \$7,701.00; and

WHEREAS, based on the same audit, there was an adjustment made to the 2023 / 2024 policy term to reflect the increase in sales, resulting in a \$8,258.00 additional premium for the current policy; and

WHEREAS, the insurance premiums which are based on sales, are split - 75% for Putnam Golf and 25% for Tilly’s Table; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Risk Manager has requested a fund transfer (23T048) to cover the invoice received from Selective Insurance which reflects this additional increase; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following fund transfer be made:

Decrease:		
10199000 54980	General Contingencies	15,877

Increase:		
10084000 54800 10137	Insurance – Tilly’s Table	15,877

2023 Fiscal Impact - \$15,877
2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6j – Approval/ Budgetary Transfer (23T067)/ Sheriff’s Department/ Vehicle Leasing was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Castellano explained that leasing vehicles would save money for the Putnam County taxpayers and will also provide better vehicles for the Sheriff’s Department to operate and serve the community.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she would be supporting this resolution. She stated that this recent program will certainly improve efficiencies and fiscal accountability.

Legislator Montgomery explained that, as she has brought up in the past while discussing County vehicles, she hoped that the County will move forward with considering electric vehicles. She stated that it is time that we start building infrastructure to manage a fleet of electric vehicles. She stated that it has been four (4) years of approval after approval of cars, with mention of electric vehicles but absolutely no movement.

Chairman Jonke recognized Sheriff Kevin McConville, First Sergeant Keith and Purchasing Director John Tully for doing a great job creating a program that will ultimately save taxpayers money in the long term and give our deputies a safer vehicle to ride in.

Legislator Crowley concurred, stating that it was safer and better for our County as a whole with response times. She stated that it was also fiscally responsible not having to waste precious time going back and forth to the County garage with a vehicle that needs assistance.

RESOLUTION #73

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY TRANSFER (23T067)/ SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT/ VEHICLE LEASING

WHEREAS, at the Protective Services Committee meeting, the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office demonstrated the benefits of Leasing Sheriff Vehicles as opposed to Purchasing Sheriff Vehicles, per their presentation to the Committee on March 21, 2023; and

WHEREAS, per the discussion at the Protective Services Committee, the Committee approved that a transfer be forwarded to the Audit & Administration Committee for consideration and approval; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Sheriff has requested a budgetary transfer (23T067) to transfer funds from the Sheriff’s Motor Vehicle lines to the Sheriff’s Vehicle Leasing lines; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

10161000 54210	Vehicle Leasing	422,101
10311000 54210	Vehicle Leasing	19,500
17311000 54210	Vehicle Leasing	86,900
32311000 54210	Vehicle Leasing	<u>21,800</u>
		550,301

Decrease Estimated Appropriations:

10311000 52650	Motor Vehicles	99,500
17311000 52650	Motor Vehicles	365,301
32311000 52650	Motor Vehicles	<u>85,500</u>
		550,301

2023 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2024 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6k – Approval/ Local Law to Amend Chapter 41 of the Code of Putnam County Entitled “Deposit & Investment Policy” was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Castellano explained that there was a discussion at the Audit & Administration Committee meeting last month regarding the money we had in Signature Bank. He stated that all the money was moved out of Signature Bank into other accounts. He stated that there was no impact to Putnam County taxpayers. He stated that these are the banks that the County deposits money into.

Legislator Gouldman thanked the Commissioner of Finance William Carlin and the Finance Department. He stated that when Signature Bank failed, Commissioner Carlin responded quickly by transferring the money out of that bank and placing it in other accounts.

Legislator Sayegh stated that one (1) of the comments Commissioner Carlin made at the Audit & Administration Committee meeting was that had it been his own money in Signature Bank he would have felt comfortable leaving the money in the account. However, it was the taxpayers’ money and he stated that he did not want to take any risk with the taxpayers’ money. She applauded him for being vigilant and watching over the taxpayers’ investment.

RESOLUTION #74

APPROVAL/ LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 41 OF THE CODE OF PUTNAM COUNTY ENTITLED “DEPOSIT & INVESTMENT POLICY”

A Local Law to Amend Chapter 41 of the Code of Putnam County Entitled “Deposit & Investment Policy”

Be it enacted by the County Legislature of the County of Putnam as follows:

Section 1.

Section 41-5 of the Code of Putnam is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 41-5 Designation of official depositories.

The banks and trust companies authorized for the deposit of monies up to the maximum amounts are:

DEPOSITORY NAME	MAXIMUM AMOUNT
JP Morgan Chase Bank NA	\$40,000,000
Key Bank	\$40,000,000
M&T Bank	\$40,000,000
Putnam County National Bank	\$20,000,000
PCSB Commercial Bank subsidiary of PCSB	\$40,000,000
TD Bank	\$50,000,000
Tompkins Mahopac National Bank	\$30,000,000
Webster	\$40,000,000

Section 2.

Section 41-10 of the Putnam County Code entitled "Purchase of Investments", Subsection 41-10 A(2) is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) By utilizing eligible cash management program(s), approved by the Putnam County Legislature in which can be invested a maximum amount of \$50,000,000. Approved Cash Management programs include:

Section 3.

Section 41-10 of the Putnam County Code entitled "Purchase of Investments", is hereby amended by adding a new Subsection 41-10 A(2)(d) to read as follows:

(d) NY Muni Trust

Section 4.

This local law shall take effect immediately.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6L – Approval/ Authorization / County Auditor to Attend the Association of Local Government Auditors 2023 Annual Conference Held Virtually was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Ellner and Gouldman, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #75

APPROVAL/ AUTHORIZATION/ COUNTY AUDITOR TO ATTEND THE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITORS 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD VIRTUALLY

WHEREAS, the County Auditor and Deputy County Auditor have requested permission to attend the Association of Local Government Auditors 2023 Annual Conference which will be held virtually May 8-9, 2023, for a total expenditure of \$450 per person; and

WHEREAS, the Audit & Administration Committee has reviewed and approved this request; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature authorizes the County Auditor and Deputy County Auditor to attend the Association of Local Government Auditors 2023 Annual Conference held virtually May 8-9, 2023.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #7 – Other Business

Item #7a – Approval/ Request to Governor Hochul to Restore Funding for Critically Needed Veterans’ Service Programs Removed from the FY 2023-24 Executive Budget was next. Chairman Jonke made a motion to move the following proposal made by Legislator Addonizio; seconded by Legislators Nacerino and Crowley.

Legislator Addonizio stated that this topic was discussed at the March Rules meeting with Putnam County Veterans Service Agency Director Karl Rohde in attendance. She stated that Putnam County greatly appreciates and recognizes the commitment and sacrifices made by our military service members and their families. She explained that this resolution requests Governor Hochul to restore funding for critically needed Veterans’ service programs removed from the FY2023-24 Executive Budget.

Legislator Gouldman explained that Governor Hochul’s proposed funding cuts to 17 Veterans’ programs are programs that many Putnam County Veterans and their families utilize. He stated that he would support this resolution requesting that the funding be restored.

Chairman Jonke stated that it was upsetting that our NYS Government does not provide funding for the care our Veterans deserve. He stated that every year they pull the funding out of the budget, and we must fight for it to be restored. He stated that at the last minute, they always seem to find the money to restore the funding. He stated that he did not know why they do it, however, we find ourselves in that position every year. He believed that it was disgraceful. He stated that he will support this resolution as he does every year.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she called the Governor’s regional representative to this district, and she spoke with our Assemblymembers staff. She questioned why this happens every year. She stated that the Governor takes the funding out to give the State representatives for those districts, the opportunity to put it back in.

RESOLUTION #76

APPROVAL / REQUEST TO GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO RESTORE FUNDING FOR CRITICALLY NEEDED VETERANS' SERVICE PROGRAMS REMOVED FROM THE FY 2023-24 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

WHEREAS, the County of Putnam greatly appreciates and recognizes the commitment and sacrifices made by our military service members and their families, and pledges to continue to honor and support them for their contributions; and

WHEREAS, the County of Putnam, while small in size, has from its very origins in 1812 provided military leaders of national and historical significance: Named for Gen. Israel Putnam, an American Revolutionary War hero, the County had four fighting Generals in the Civil War including Gen. Daniel A. Butterfield, who is credited with composing "Taps," and five Congressional Medal of Honor recipients: Abraham K. Arnold, Samuel N. Benjamin, William J. Brewer, Daniel A. Butterfield, and John McCloy; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to the fifth-largest veteran population in the country, with more than 830,000 of these brave men and women residing in our state; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul has proposed removing funding for 17 veterans' programs, totaling \$2.6 million, in her Fiscal Year 2023-24 Executive Budget Proposal, including funding for these programs of importance to Putnam County's veterans and their families:

- **New York State Defenders Association Veterans Defense Program: The Veterans Defense Program (VDP) provides legal assistance, research and consultation to promote trauma-informed effective representation of veterans and service members in New York State's criminal and family court systems. The VDP was launched in response to a growing crisis in the number of veterans with service-related mental health illnesses who were lost in the criminal justice system.**
- **Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Veterans and Military Families Advocacy Project: This project provides comprehensive free civil legal services to more than 120,000 veterans residing in the Hudson Valley, with attorneys helping to navigate the complex systems of resources and benefits to which veterans are entitled.**
- **Clear Path for Veterans: A non-profit community-based resource center that partners with local businesses and organizations to connect veterans and their families with the resources they need. Clear Path provides in-house, non-clinical programs to ensure that veterans are supported with wraparound services addressing all physical and emotional needs.**
- **Helmets-to-Hardhats: A national, nonprofit organization that connects transitioning active-duty military service members, veterans, the National Guard, and Reservists with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry. This program helps service members transition back into civilian life by offering them the means to secure a quality career in the construction industry. Since 2013, the New York division of Helmets to Hardhats has assisted more than one thousand military veterans transition into direct-entry apprenticeship opportunities within the construction sector.**
- **Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders (SAGE): SAGE has established a comprehensive legal and wraparound service program for New York's LGBT+ elder veterans. SAGE has made presentations to more than 600 veterans and caregivers at senior centers, nursing homes,**

veterans' service providers, community boards, and networking events. SAGE has also connected with 172 veterans' service providers across New York, and plans to continue its engagement with LGBT+ veterans and organizations across the State.

- **Outdoor RX:** This coalition helps veterans in their transition from the military to a healthy and purposeful civilian life through outreach and advocacy. It works to identify the numerous barriers faced by more than one million New York veterans, military members, and families seeking to access our pristine parks, public lands, and waterways, and it spearheads efforts to mitigate these barriers.
- **Vietnam Veterans of America NYS Council:** The VVA is the nation's only congressionally-chartered veterans' service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. It provides assistance in navigating and ascertaining available veterans' benefits.

and

WHEREAS, since these programs make a real, tangible impact on the livelihood and well-being of those who served us both overseas and here at home, it is incumbent on Putnam County and New York State to ensure that these individuals continue to receive these supportive services in the upcoming fiscal year; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature and the Putnam County Executive respectfully call upon Governor Hochul to fully restore the veterans' service programs eliminated in the FY 2023-24 Executive Budget Proposal; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Hochul and to Putnam County's representatives in the New York State Senate and Assembly.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to place Item #7b on the agenda; seconded by Legislator Sayegh.

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

Item #7b – Approval/ Request to Accept Donation of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle (MRAP) from Madison County Sheriff's Office was next.

Chairman Jonke stated that this request was brought forward by Sheriff Kevin J. McConville. He explained that the Madison County Sheriff's Office has offered to donate a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle (MRAP). He stated that there are several other counties interested in this vehicle and that is the reason we are putting it on for other business tonight. He stated that this MRAP vehicle would replace another vehicle in the Sheriff's possession that has aged out.

Legislator Montgomery explained that the name of the vehicle sounds shocking, and one would ask why we need such a vehicle in Putnam County. She stated for her district in particular, the vehicle would be used for high water rescue, it can travel in all sorts of weather, and has the advantage of multiple applications.

Chairman Jonke stated that the vehicle will protect our employees and it is for the safety of our community. He stated that we are swapping an older vehicle for a newer vehicle.

Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Crowley.

RESOLUTION #77

APPROVAL/ REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION OF MINE RESISTANT AMBUSH PROTECTED VEHICLE (MRAP) FROM MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Madison County Sheriff's Office ("Madison County") located at 138 N. Court Street, Wampsville, New York is the record owner of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle ("MRAP"), the specifications of which are more fully described in Schedule "A," attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Madison County Sheriff's Office has offered to donate the aforementioned MRAP to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office ("Putnam County") without compensation or consideration; and

WHEREAS, Putnam County are participants in the 1033 Military Program covered by Presidential Executive Order # 14074 (Section 12) which provides them with the ability to review used or about to be discarded military surplus equipment files and request acceptance of materials (vehicles, containers, etc.) without cost; and

WHEREAS, the only expense to be incurred by Putnam County associated with this donation is arranging for delivery or pickup of the MRAP; and

WHEREAS, by accepting this donation, it would allow Putnam County to return the Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) they have had for over twenty years which is currently outdated, in failing condition and a state of disrepair; and

WHEREAS, the MRAP is not only capable of high-water rescue and can travel in all sorts of weather conditions but also has the advantage of multiple applications in addition to being able to be used by the Emergency Response Team (ERT); and

WHEREAS, per EO14704, Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville is required to notify the governing body (Legislature) of his acceptance of this donation; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff McConville has discussed the donation of the MRAP to Putnam County with various Department Heads including Purchasing, Finance, etc. and all are in favor of it; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has reviewed the facts and circumstances surrounding said offer to donate; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature, after due consideration, approves and accepts the donation of the MRAP from Madison County to Putnam County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Attorney is directed to forward a "Letter of Acceptance" indicating formal acceptance of the donation to Madison County, the owner of the MRAP; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BY POLL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to discuss and approve a resolution in support of NYS Senate Bill S.5181 Opposing the Discharge of Contaminated Water into the Hudson River; seconded by Legislator Gouldman.

By Roll Call Vote to put it on the agenda: All Ayes. Legislator Ellner was absent. Motion carries.

Item #7c - Discussion/ Resolution in Support of NYS Senate Bill S.5181 Opposing the Discharge of Contaminated Water into the Hudson River

Legislator Montgomery stated that we approved a resolution this evening opposing the discharge of wastewater from Indian Point. She explained that both she and Legislator Gouldman agree that the resolution does not make a bold enough statement to prevent Holtec from discharging the water. She understands that we cannot make the Federal government do something, but a resolution expresses how we feel. She stated that her proposed resolution tells them not to discharge the wastewater into the Hudson. She stated that this resolution mirrors the Westchester County resolution.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to provide the additional Westchester County resolution; seconded by Chairman Jonke. All in favor.

Legislator Montgomery explained that since our lengthy Health Committee meeting which moved forward the resolution we approved this evening, we have received numerous emails from constituents requesting us to approve a resolution like this resolution approved by Westchester County. Legislator Montgomery proceeded to read some of the Whereas clauses from Westchester County's resolution.

Chairman Jonke questioned why Legislator Montgomery did not make a motion to amend the resolution previously approved this evening.

Legislator Montgomery explained that there was no harm in approving this too and out of respect for Legislator Sayegh's resolution.

Legislator Gouldman stated that he opposes the discharge of the wastewater into the Hudson River. He stated that we have no idea if it could pose a problem in the future. He stated that until there is a consensus from the experts, he believed it should be left where it is. He stated that there are municipalities out west that would gladly take this wastewater. He questioned why we would not give it to them.

Legislator Addonizio believed that none of the Legislators want the water discharged into the Hudson. She was concerned about bringing this resolution forward now when we previously approved a similar resolution.

Chairman Jonke did not know what message we would be sending by approving another resolution.

Legislator Nacerino concurred with Legislator Addonizio and Chairman Jonke. She stated that whether our elected officials listen to us remains to be seen no matter what resolution we move forward with. She stated that the fact is we all feel the same way about discharging the wastewater. She believed that our message in the previous resolution was very clear. She stated that Legislator Sayegh made very valid points regarding trucking this fossil fuel across the country, potentially having an adverse effect as well. She said that might not be the proper solution or option either. She stated that she would support the previous resolution approved this evening.

Legislator Castellano explained that it certainly sounds like we should not discharge the wastewater into the Hudson River. He stated that one (1) of the most interesting days he experienced on the Legislature was going on a tour of the Indian Point Power Plant. He

stated that it was a phenomenal learning experience. He stated that you think about the movies and the radioactive material, yet here we were walking right around the pool. He stated that the pool wasn't that large. He stated that they managed the facility very well all these years and the people who worked in that facility took great pride in running an incredible facility. He explained that since its closure, we see an increase in the NYSEG rates. He stated that it was spoken about nuclear waste being stored at the facility and we were informed that it could not be transported on the Federal highway system because Congress did not give them the opportunity to do so. He stated that his concern tonight would be that he did not believe the residents in Montrose or Buchanan would like the material to be kept within a building that is not being operated like it was in the past. He stated that confidence in the Federal Government is not high today. He wished that we could have more confidence in them to do the right thing. He stated that he did not have the ability to make that decision. He believed that the wastewater in the facility needed to be removed. He hoped that the Federal Government would make the right determination.

Legislator Nacerino questioned the Chairman why this proposed resolution would supersede the previous one (1) approved this evening.

Chairman Jonke explained that, as he previously stated, he did not know what message we were sending. He believed that it would have been appropriate to request the previous resolution to be amended prior to approving it.

Legislator Montgomery stated that her resolution was denied being accepted during the committee process. She stated that to answer Legislator Nacerino's question, she explained that we approved a resolution that requests the safe handling of this material and that assurances be provided that any release of wastewater will not be permitted that would cause environmental harm or pose a threat to the health and safety of the residents. She explained that her proposed resolution states not to discharge the wastewater into the Hudson River. She believed both resolutions could be approved.

Legislator Sayegh explained that at the Health Committee meeting, she read into the record the other business letter received from Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg regarding her bill which was co-sponsored by Senator Peter Harckham on this issue. She stated that she did not recall receiving any additional material for the meeting to accept their resolution. She provided a few comments regarding their proposed legislation. She believed that it would not do anything for the Hudson River because it will not affect current contracts or previous contracts. She stated that for the future their legislation would essentially shut down all nuclear power plants in the State of New York because they must release water. It would shut down hospitals who have x-ray or chemo machines because they must release water. She listed procedures that people receive which release radiation such as; mammograms, spinal x-rays, and CT scans. She stated that the Holtec permit from the Federal Government will allow three (3) millisievert of radiation per year to be released. She stated that Holtec plans to release 1% of that amount each year which equals .03 millisieverts per year. She stated that her annual mammogram has .4 millisieverts. She stated that she was comfortable with the resolution previously passed.

Chairman Jonke questioned Legislative Counsel Firriolo how this worked structurally.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that if this resolution was approved, it would be sent to the State and Federal delegates per the resolve clause, as would the previous resolution already approved. He stated that it appears based upon his understanding of the bill, as well as Legislator Sayegh's comments, that the last whereas clause is factually incorrect because the bill being proposed would not ban the release of radioactive waste. He stated that the State has no power to ban the discharge of radioactive waste because it is the sole jurisdiction of the Federal Government. He stated that you have a factual inaccuracy in both whereas and resolve clauses. He stated that it would not stop the discharge.

Legislator Montgomery stated like many of our resolutions that are presented and often need to be edited for accuracy, we could edit this proposed resolution as well.

Legislator Montgomery made a motion to amend the resolution by removing the second to last resolve clause. There was no second.

Chairman Jonke called for a Roll Call Vote on the proposed resolution.

By Roll Call Vote: Two Ayes – Legislators Gouldman and Montgomery. Six Ayes – Legislators Addonizio, Castellano, Crowley, Nacerino, Sayegh and Chairman Jonke. Legislator Ellner was absent. Motion fails.

Item #8 - Recognition of the Public on Agenda Items.

Paula Clair from Garrison stated that she was glad to see that the Legislature did draft a resolution addressing the potential dumping of radioactive water that has cooled the highly radioactive spent fuel rods. She stated that, although she thought it was a good idea to ask our elected officials to advocate on our behalf, she hoped that the resolution would clearly spell out Putnam County's opposition to the dumping. She compared Putnam County's resolution to the resolutions passed by Westchester and Rockland counties. She stated that Rockland County's resolution is quite emphatic in their opposition. She stated that tritium is carcinogenic and can not be filtered out of water. She stated that according to the NRC it is chemically indistinguishable from regular water. She stated that the Hudson River water can leach into soil, air, water and well water which can be a major health problem and potentially increase cancer rates in our area. She stated that Holtec is also the decommissioning agent for the Pilgrim Center in Massachusetts. She stated that they also want to dump 1.1 million gallons of this water into Cape Cod Bay. She stated that the residents in Cape Cod and the surrounding areas are up in arms. She stated that when the EPA weighed in, they said it was illegal for Holtec to dump this with its current permit. She assumed that it was the same as the permit with us. She stated that it was punishable by fines, imprisonment or both. She stated that they are telling Holtec that they can not dump the water there. She believed that we should be contacting the EPA asking the same for us. She did not believe that Putnam County's resolution was strong enough and it should be made clear that we are opposing the dumping of the radioactive water from Indian Point.

Jim Meyers from the Town of Carmel stated that he has two (2) children attending George Fisher Middle School, one (1) in Kent Primary, as well as children who have gone through the Carmel High School over the years. He wanted to speak to the agenda items with a transfer of funding in the District Attorney's office and the Sheriff's Department. He

stated that the Legislature has the power of oversight of many of the Executive functions in local government. He stated that the power of the purse was the most important oversight. He stated that many parents spoke to the Public Safety Commission when it met, and he would like to speak about an issue that involves both of those departments. He explained that he had received news at 5:00 am that there were threats against the school. He received a message that students said they were going to shoot up the school and they were arrested.

Chairman Jonke explained that the agenda items for the District Attorney's office were a Personnel matter on reclassification. He stated that the Sheriff's Department item was for a piece of equipment. He stated that Mr. Meyers was not speaking to an agenda item, and that the Legislature would be discussing school safety on April 17, 2023 at the Protective Services Committee meeting.

Mr. Meyers stated that they were aware of that, however, when the District Attorney's office requests funding, the Legislature has the power to ask for something in return.

Chairman Jonke again stated that this was not an agenda item. He stated that the appropriate venue for that would be the Protective Services Committee meeting. Chairman Jonke suggested that they could send correspondence to the Legislature before that meeting.

Karl Rohde, Director of the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency thanked the Legislature for the resolution requesting Governor Hochul to restore funding for the Veterans. He stated that the Veterans funding in the budget should be left alone. He stated that we have other things we need to lobby about and not waste our energy on things that they are going to play games with. He explained that the Dwyer Vet to Vet program is almost 10 years old and we have never received an increase for this program. He stated that the Veterans Agency would have worked on getting an increase for that if they did not have to work on getting almost \$10 million restored that was cut by the Governor.

Linda Harris from the Town of Kent stated that she would like to speak to the issues brought up regarding child abuse and the mental health aspect. She requested that the Legislators walk in the shoes of abused school children. She stated that daily they sustain derogatory verbal attacks, now they are being targeted by racists threatening murder. She stated that the Legislature's lack of concern is disturbing and says quite a lot. She stated that the body of this Legislature has never condemned in public these acts of terrorism.

Chairman Jonke explained that they were proclamations and that this was not relative to an agenda item. He explained that if she did have something to verbalize, it should be done at the Protective Services Committee meeting. He stated that this is not the appropriate time or venue.

Ms. Harris provided a handout for the Legislature regarding derogatory comments.

Chairman Jonke questioned if there were any other members of the public that wished to speak on agenda items.

Abigail Santana from the Town of Carmel stated that it goes back to child abuse which is on the agenda.

Chairman Jonke stated that it is not an agenda item. He clarified that it was a proclamation.

Ms. Santana explained that you want us to wait until April 17th which would be nine (9) weeks since our children were victims of a racist rant, and the Legislature has not mentioned anything.

Legislator Nacerino explained that this was not an agenda item. She asked that our process be respected.

Chairman Jonke moved onto recognition of Legislators.

Item #9 – Recognition of Legislators

Legislator Nacerino welcomed anyone that wished to speak at the April 17th Protective Services Committee meeting and stated that their voices would be heard. She explained that would be the appropriate venue. She stated that we will not have the meeting get out of control and asked that everyone respect our process and follow our rules. She explained that it would give the public the opportunity to collaborate with this Legislature. Your comments will be welcome, and we will discuss it at that time. She wished everyone a Happy Easter and Passover.

Legislator Montgomery wanted to clarify her comments for Director Rohde regarding the request to restore the Veterans' funding in the State budget. She explained that she too was baffled and concerned with the State taking the Veterans' funding out of the budget and then putting it back in every year. She explained that she called the Governor's Office and her State Legislators to get to the bottom of this. She explained that she made the call because she was concerned and believed it was not acceptable that they do this to the Veterans. She also encouraged her colleagues to reconsider making the call to prevent Holtec from dumping wastewater into the Hudson River. She stated that we have spent so much time, money, and effort over the years cleaning up the Hudson River. She believed that we were not making a strong enough statement in preventing this.

Legislator Gouldman stated that there was a lockdown in the Putnam Valley schools this past Thursday. He stated that apparently there were calls targeting several NYS schools, and Putnam Valley was one (1) of them. He stated that there was no active shooter, and everyone was safe and secure. He thanked the Putnam County Sheriff and his department for responding quickly and dispatching extra patrols when they were needed for the safety of the students and facility. He explained that he is noticing more and more garbage on the side of our roads. He encouraged everyone to keep our environment and wanted to raise awareness of the costs involved with littering such as; polluting the environment, killing wildlife, and it affects the aesthetic look of our beautiful community. He stated that this past month in Putnam Valley we celebrated Florence Clifton's 105th birthday. He stated that the Putnam Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corps is looking for new members. He stated that the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) annual spring seedling sale is open until May 12, 2023. He

encouraged individuals to take advantage of this great opportunity to purchase affordable NYS grown trees and shrubs.

Legislator Crowley shared that on Saturday the VFW celebrated our oldest World War II Veteran's birthday. Jimmy Dipelesi's was turning 97 years young. She stated that he is a wonderful gentleman and a great member of our community.

Chairman Jonke stated that when it came to the Carmel School incident, he did not know or see any TikTok videos at the time of the last Protective Services Committee meeting. He was told that someone was going to send it to him, and he did say at that time what was described to him was disgusting and deplorable. He explained that since that time he did not receive the videos from the person that told him they were going to send them. However, he explained that he was able to get access to them. He stated that they were disgraceful and not to be tolerated in Putnam County. He stated that we are addressing it and moving forward with a discussion at the Protective Services Committee meeting. He stated that it was not an agenda item for this evening. He apologized to anyone who sat through the meeting tonight waiting to make a statement.

There being no further business, at 8:52 P.M., Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.