

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

Tuesday                      January 3, 2023                      7:00 P.M.

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

Item #4 – Appointment/Chair/Putnam County Legislature was called first. County Clerk Bartolotti requested nominations from the floor for Chair of the Legislature.

Legislator Castellano made a motion to nominate Legislator Jonke as Chairman; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

Legislator Castellano stated Jonke has been a colleague the past six (6) years on the Putnam County Legislature. He stated that he has served as Chairman of the Protective Services Committee, Personnel Committee. He stated that Legislator Jonke grew up in Putnam County and graduated from Mahopac High School. He stated that he also graduated from SUNY Cortland, returned to Putnam County and began his career in public service. He worked as an appraiser in the Town of Carmel Assessor's and has been the Assessor in the Town of Southeast, Town of Carmel and Town of Kent. He brings a wealth of knowledge and government experience to the Legislature. He believed that Legislator Jonke would make a fine Chairman. He is a devoted father to his daughter Linsey and is a strong advocate for the Special Needs community. He has volunteered at Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy as well as the Putnam County Hospital Foundation Board. He is past President of the Lake Mahopac Rotary and a member of the Town of Southeast Fireworks Committee.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she was honored to second the nomination to appoint Legislator Jonke to serve as Chairman of the Putnam County Legislature. He is embarking upon his third term of office and has proven to be a fine Legislator. He has served as Chairman of the Protective Services and Personnel Committees and as a member of the Audit, Health and Economic Development Committees. He has an extensive background in government having worked for municipalities for decades. Legislator Jonke possesses both a personal and professional demeanor, along with strong leadership skills. He is always fair and objective when assessing an issue. He has a no nonsense approach and is never reluctant to challenge anyone on any issue to voice his opinion while always keeping the people's best interests in mind. She looked forward to having Legislator Jonke at the helm and working with her colleagues and the new administration as we work for the people of Putnam County in the upcoming year.

County Clerk Bartolotti asked if there were any other nominations.

County Clerk Bartolotti stated that seeing no further nominations, he asked for a roll call vote on the nomination.

## **RESOLUTION #1**

### **APPOINTMENT/ CHAIR/ PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**RESOLVED**, that Paul E. Jonke be appointed to the position of Chair of the Putnam County Legislature, with all the rights, privileges and duties of the office as set forth in the Putnam County Charter as permitted by law for a period ending December 31, 2023.

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.**

Chairman Jonke thanked his colleagues for their support.

Item #5 – Appointment/Deputy Chair/Putnam County Legislature was next.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to nominate Legislator Sayegh to serve as Deputy Chair; seconded by Legislator Addonizio.

Chairman Jonke stated that Legislator Sayegh is a diligent, hardworking Legislator. She always does her homework and digs deep on many issues. He stated that she is soft spoken but firm.

Legislator Addonizio stated that she was honored to second the nomination for Legislator Sayegh to serve as Deputy Chair. She stated that Legislator Sayegh has served as Chair of the Health Committee for the past three (3) years. She stated that two (2) of those years were the most challenging due to the COVID pandemic. She has also served as a member of the Protective, Rules, Economic Development and Audit Committees. She stated that Legislator Sayegh has strong convictions. One example was a resolution she brought forward opposing Class C Streams this past August. She stated that it was a controversial subject urging the Governor to veto the bill. She stated that Governor Hochul just vetoed the bill on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Legislator Sayegh is a diligent, hardworking, dedicated public servant and is worthy of this nomination.

Chairman Jonke asked if there were any other nominations.

Chairman Jonke stated that seeing no further nominations, he requested a roll call vote on the nomination.

## **RESOLUTION #2**

### **APPOINTMENT/ DEPUTY CHAIR/ PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**RESOLVED**, that Amy Sayegh be appointed to the position of Deputy Chair of the Putnam County Legislature, with all the rights privileges and duties of the office as set forth in the Putnam County Charter, as permitted by law for a period ending December 31, 2023.

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Item #6 – Adoption of Legislative Manual was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Crowley.**

**RESOLUTION #3**

**ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE MANUAL**

**WHEREAS, Section 2, Sub-division B(1)(f) of the Legislative Manual requires that the Legislature adopt annually its Legislative Manual, including any amendments incorporated therein; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature adopts the annexed Legislative Manual for the year 2023.**

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

**Item #7 – Adoption of Legislative Calendar was next. Chairman Jonke made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.**

**RESOLUTION #4**

**ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**

**WHEREAS, the Legislative Manual for the Legislature of the County of Putnam provides that annually the Legislative Calendar shall be adopted and promulgated by the Clerk of the Legislature, that the Legislature meets on the first Tuesday of each and every month thereof, except where noted; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the following schedule be adopted as to Regular Meeting dates of the Putnam County Legislature for the year 2023:**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 3, 2023</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 7, 2023</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 7, 2023</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 4, 2023</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>May 2, 2023</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>June 6, 2023</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>July 5, 2023</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>August 1, 2023</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>September 5, 2023</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>October 3, 2023</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 8, 2023</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 5, 2023</b>

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

**Item #8 – Designation of Official Newspaper was next. Chairman Jonke made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Castellano.**

**RESOLUTION #5**

**DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

**RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 2.04 (k) of the Putnam County Charter, the following newspaper, to wit:**

**Putnam County Press**

**is hereby designated as an official newspaper of the County of Putnam for the publication of all concurrent resolutions, election notices, official canvasses, enactments and other matters required by law to be published for the year 2023.**

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

**Item #9 – Designation of Official Newspaper was next. Chairman Jonke asked if there was a motion to move the following.**

**Legislator Gouldman made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Addonizio.**

**Legislator Montgomery explained that she had a concern about this paper that the one (1) reporter who covers the County is a member on a Putnam County board. She believed it had the appearance of a quid pro quo. She believed this was an ethical issue. She stated that she would be voting no.**

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

**DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

**RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 2.04 (k) of the Putnam County Charter, the following newspaper, to wit:**

**Putnam County News & Recorder**

**is hereby designated as an official newspaper of the County of Putnam for the publication of all concurrent resolutions, election notices, official canvasses, enactments and other matters required by law to be published for the year 2023.**

**Item #10 – Designation of Official Newspaper was next.**

**Legislator Gouldman made a motion to moved the following; seconded by Legislator Addonizio.**

**Legislator Montgomery stated that this is the same editor and reporter as the Putnam County Press. She explained that it was not a personal issue. She believed it was unethical for the reporter to be appointed to a County board and the paper to be the official newspaper of the County for all these years. She stated that she would be voting no.**

**Legislator Gouldman stated that he believed in free press. He believed that both the Putnam County Press and the Putnam County News & Recorder were good newspapers and have a long history in our County. He stated that some people agree with what they publish and some do not, but the reality is that there is free press. He believed that it was important to have a local physical newspaper.**

**Legislator Sayegh stated that she also believed in free press but did not think that was the issue. She stated that for her we would be saving taxpayers' money and we are only required to approve one (1) official newspaper. She believed the Administration would be providing some of this information on the County's website which is available to everyone.**

**Legislator Addonizio concurred with Legislator Gouldman. She stated that we cannot control what is printed in the papers and the Courier has been around for 100 years. She stated that she would be voting in favor of keeping this an official newspaper of the County.**

**Legislator Montgomery concurred with Legislator Gouldman and free press, however, she did not see how we have a free press when we have the appearance of a quid pro quo.**

**Legislator Gouldman stated that to be fair to the entire County, we have a western and eastern part of the County. He stated that even though the Putnam County Courier and the Putnam County News & Recorder are owned by the same company and managed by the same individuals, they publish different articles based on the locations within the part of the County they cover. He believed that both newspapers should be kept as official newspapers of the County.**

**By Roll Call Vote: Three Ayes – Legislators Addonizio, Gouldman & Nacerino. Five Nays – Legislators Castellano, Crowley, Montgomery, Sayegh & Chairman Jonke. Legislator Ellner was absent. Motion Fails.**

#### **DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

**RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 2.04 (k) of the Putnam County Charter, the following newspaper, to wit:**

**Putnam County Courier**

**is hereby designated as an official newspaper of the County of Putnam for the publication of all concurrent resolutions, election notices, official canvasses, enactments and other matters required by law to be published for the year 2023.**

**Item #11 – Permission for Legislature to Attend Conferences, Seminars & Official Business for the County was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.**

**Legislator Montgomery requested that the title be edited to include permission for Legislative staff.**

**Chairman Jonke and Legislator Nacerino stated that it states it in the body of the resolution.**

**Legislator Montgomery made a motion change the title of the resolution to include permission for Legislative Staff.**

**There being no second, motion failed.**

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

**RESOLUTION #6**

**PERMISSION FOR LEGISLATURE TO ATTEND CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE COUNTY**

**RESOLVED, that Legislators and Legislative Staff be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred while attending conferences, seminars and official business of the County for the year 2023 for any such event costing under \$200.00. Any such event costing over \$200.00 will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the Legislature.**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Item #12 – Authorization for County Auditor to Approve Erroneous Assessments Under \$2,500 was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Crowley.**

**RESOLUTION #7**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR COUNTY AUDITOR TO APPROVE ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS UNDER \$2,500**

**WHEREAS, Real Property Law Section 556 Sub (8)(a) authorizes a tax levying body, by resolution, to delegate to an official who is empowered to authorize the payment of bills without prior audit by such board, the authority to perform the duties of the tax levying body as specified in Section 556(8) of the Real Property Tax Law; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the County Legislature hereby delegates to the County Auditor the authority to review and approve applications for refunds of taxes due to erroneous assessments, whether by clerical error or unlawful entry, and where the recommended refund is \$2,500 or less; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that pursuant to statute, this authority shall expire on December 31, 2023.**

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

**Item #13 – Appointment/Legislative Representative/Cooperative Extension Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislators Nacerino and Sayegh.**

**RESOLUTION #8**

**APPOINTMENT/ LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE/ COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BOARD**

**RESOLVED, that Erin Crowley be appointed as the Legislative Representative to the Cooperative Extension Board for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2023.**

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

**Item #14 – Appointment/Legislative Representative/Jury Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislators Castellano and Crowley.**

**RESOLUTION #9**

**APPOINTMENT/ LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE/ JURY BOARD**

**RESOLVED, that Toni Addonizio be appointed Legislative Representative to the Putnam County Jury Board for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2023.**

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

**Item #15 – Appointment/Legislative Representative/Region 3 Forest Practice Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.**

**RESOLUTION #10**

**APPOINTMENT/ LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE/ REGION 3 FOREST PRACTICE BOARD**

**RESOLVED, that Nancy Montgomery be appointed Legislative Representative to the Region 3 Forest Practice Board for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2023.**

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

**Item #16 – Appointment/Legislative Representatives/Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Castellano.**

**RESOLUTION #11**

**APPOINTMENT/ LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES/ PUTNAM COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD**

**RESOLVED**, that Amy Sayegh and Greg Ellner be appointed Legislative Representatives to the Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District Board for a one-year term, said term to expire December 31, 2023.

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

**Item #17 – Appointment/Legislative Representative/Records Management Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.**

**RESOLUTION #12**

**APPOINTMENT/ LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE/ RECORDS MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**RESOLVED**, that Toni Addonizio be appointed Legislative Representative to the Records Management Board for a period of one year, said term to expire December 31, 2023.

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

**Item #18 – Legislative Representatives/Putnam County Board of Health was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Castellano.**

**RESOLUTION #13**

**LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE/ PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**RESOLVED**, that Amy Sayegh shall continue to serve as Legislative Representative to the Putnam County Board of Health for the remainder of her six (6) year term, said term to expire December 31, 2027.

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

**Item #19 – Appointment/ Legislative Representative/ Putnam County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Addonizio.**

**RESOLUTION #14**

**APPOINTMENT/ LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE/ PUTNAM COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD**

**RESOLVED, that Erin Crowley be appointed as the Legislative Representative to the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2023.**

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

**Item #20 – Appointment/Putnam County Representative/Catskill Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.**

**RESOLUTION #15**

**APPOINTMENT/ PUTNAM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE/ CATSKILL REGIONAL OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION BOARD**

**RESOLVED, that Vincent Tamagna be appointed as the Putnam County representative to the Catskill Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation Board, for a one-year term, said term to expire on December 31, 2023; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that this appointment comply with any requirements to file an Oath of Office pursuant to the New York State Public Officers Law.**

**BY POLL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR MONTGOMERY. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.**

**Item #21 – Appointment/Legislative Representative/Fish & Wildlife Management Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Crowley.**

**RESOLUTION #16**

**APPOINTMENT/ LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE/ FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**RESOLVED, that Nancy Montgomery be appointed as Legislative Representative on the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, for a one (1) year term to expire on December 31, 2023.**

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

**Item #22 – Appointment/Law Library Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Crowley.**

**RESOLUTION #17**

**APPOINTMENT/ LAW LIBRARY BOARD**

**RESOLVED, that Joseph Castellano be appointed to the Law Library Board for a one (1) year term, said term to expire December 31, 2023; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that Amy Sayegh shall serve as an Alternate to the Law Library Board for a one (1) year term, said term to expire December 31, 2023.**

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

**Item #23 - Appointment/Legislative Liaison/Veterans Affairs was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Castellano.**

**RESOLUTION #18**

**APPOINTMENT/ LEGISLATIVE LIAISON/ VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**RESOLVED, that Ginny Nacerino be appointed Legislative Liaison for Veterans Affairs for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire December 31, 2023; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that William Gouldman shall serve as an Alternate as Legislative Liaison for Veterans Affairs for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire December 31, 2023.**

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

**Item #24 – Approval/Appointment/ Legislative Representative/ Putnam County Traffic Safety Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Sayegh.**

**RESOLUTION #19**

**APPROVAL/ APPOINTMENT/ LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES/ PUTNAM COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**

**RESOLVED, that William Gouldman and Ginny Nacerino be appointed as the Legislative Representatives to the Putnam County Traffic Safety Board for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2023.**

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

**Item #25 – Appointment/Legislative Representatives/Putnam County Fire Advisory Board was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Addonizio.**

**RESOLUTION #20**

**APPOINTMENT/ LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES/ PUTNAM COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD**

**RESOLVED, that Ginny Nacerino be appointed as Legislative Representative to the Putnam County Fire Advisory Board, for a one (1) year term to expire on December 31, 2023; and be it further**

**RESOLVED**, that Erin Crowley will serve as an Alternate to the Putnam County Fire Advisory Board, for a one (1) year term to expire on December 31, 2023.

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

Item #26 – Approval/Appointment/ Budget & Finance Committee Representative / Capital Projects Committee was next.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to discuss Item #26; seconded by Legislator Addonizio.

Chairman Jonke stated that it was customary to have the Chairman of the Physical Services Committee to serve on the Capital Projects Committee. He stated that since there are currently no committee assignments, he would like to table this item.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to table this item; seconded by Legislators Nacerino and Gouldman.

By Roll Call Vote: Seven Ayes – Legislators Addonizio, Castellano, Crowley, Gouldman, Nacerino, Sayegh and Chairman Jonke. One Nay – Legislator Montgomery. Legislator Ellner was absent. Motion Carries.

**APPOINTMENT/ BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE/ CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, County Charter § 7.05 (B)(3) provides that there shall be a Capital Projects Committee consisting of various members including a designee of the Budget and Finance Committee; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as Budget & Finance Committee Representative to the County’s Capital Projects Committee for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2023.

Item #27 – Approval/ Appointment/ Additional Legislative Representative Member of Capital Projects Committee was next. Chairman Jonke moved the following; seconded by Legislator Sayegh.

**RESOLUTION #21**

**APPOINTMENT/ ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER OF CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, County Charter § 7.05 (B)(3) provides for the appointment to the County’s Capital Projects Committee a member of the County Legislature representing the minority political party, if another party is represented, or a member elected without party endorsement; and

**WHEREAS**, Legislator Nancy Montgomery is the sole member of the County Legislature representing the minority political party; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that pursuant to County Charter § 7.05 (B)(3), the County Legislature designates Nancy Montgomery as the additional member of the County’s Capital Projects Committee for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire on December 31, 2023.

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

**Item #28 – Confirmation/ Designation of Jail Chief Medical Officer was next.**

**Chairman Jonke made a motion to remove the following item from the agenda; seconded by Legislator Crowley.**

**Legislator Montgomery questioned if we were going to designate a Medical Officer for the Jail.**

**Chairman Jonke requested that Legislative Counsel Firriolo explain why we cannot at this time.**

**Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that it was his understanding that the Legislature has not received any confirmation from the Administration or the Sheriff's Department that an option to exercise the contract to extend it for one (1) year with PrimeCare has been executed. There is correspondence indicating that both sides are in favor of it, but as of today, he and the Legislative Clerk were trying to get confirmation that the option was actually exercised, and they were unable to obtain that. He stated that another piece of information that we would be required to vote on would be a recommendation from either PrimeCare or the Sheriff's Department that they would like the Legislature to designate an individual as the Chief Medical Officer. He stated that the Legislature has not received that either request. He believed it would be impossible for the Legislature to vote on this issue in the absence of that information.**

**Legislator Gouldman questioned if the resolution would be brought back up when the information is received.**

**Legislative Counsel Firriolo said yes. He stated that the benefit of removing it from the agenda instead of moving to table this is that once it is removed from the agenda it could be placed on the agenda at the next opportunity, whether it's a Special or Full meeting agenda. If it was tabled and referred to a Committee it could take longer.**

**By Poll Vote: All Ayes. Legislator Ellner was absent. Motion carries.**

#### **DESIGNATION OF JAIL CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

**WHEREAS, due to a change in the Corrections Law, Section 501 in July of 2017, a physician from the medical services provider to the Putnam County Jail shall be designated by the Putnam County Legislature to act as the Chief Medical Officer of the Jail; and**

**WHEREAS, PrimeCare was awarded the RFP to provide medical services for the Putnam County Corrections Facility initially through December 31, 2021; and**

**WHEREAS, as stated in Resolution #26 of 2022, Putnam County exercised the contractual option to extend Prime Care's contract under the terms of the RFP response through December 31, 2022; and**

**WHEREAS, Putnam County has exercised the contractual option to extend Prime Care's contract under the terms of the RFP response through December 31, 2023; and**

**WHEREAS, PrimeCare has proposed Dr. Michael Nesheiwat to continue to act as the Chief Medical Officer for the Jail; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby designates Dr. Michael Nesheiwat to act as the Chief Medical Officer for the Putnam County Corrections Facility, for a period of one (1) year, said term to expire December 31, 2023.**

**Item #29 – Approval/ Purchasing Department/ Identifying Individuals Responsible for Purchasing was next. Chairman Jonke made a motion to move the following; seconded by Legislator Sayegh.**

**RESOLUTION #22**

**APPROVAL/ PURCHASING DEPARTMENT/ IDENTIFYING INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING**

**WHEREAS, Section 140-1.5 of the Putnam County Code (Procurement Policy) requires the Legislature to annually identify the individuals responsible for purchasing and their respective titles; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature re-affirms the County's Procurement Policy as contained in Chapter 140 of the Putnam County Code and identifies the following individuals and their respective titles as the individuals responsible for purchasing:**

- a. John Tully, Director of Purchasing**
- b. Alexis Hawley, Assistant Supervisor of Planning and Design**
- c. Michele Pinto, Account Clerk**

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

**Item #30 - Authorization for Intermunicipal Agreement with Certain Putnam County Municipalities to Effectuate a Mutual Aid and Rapid Response Plan for the Police Departments of Participating Municipalities (approved at December Protective Committee Meeting) was next. Chairman Jonke made a motion to moved the following; seconded by Legislators Addonizio and Nacerino.**

**Legislator Montgomery stated that she raised some issues during the Committee meeting. She was surprised that it still moved out of Committee because this had not been shared with the executive officers of the municipalities involved. She stated that because it is scanned confidential, she can not share it with the representatives in her district. She did not see a reason for the document to be marked confidential. She believed this would impact the municipalities. She explained that usually there is no cost involved in a mutual aid agreement. She explained the situation in the Town of Philipstown with a Countywide Mutual Aid Plan for Emergency Response and Ambulance Care. She stated that the Town of Philipstown has paid EMTs and because of the Mutual Aid Plan are covering calls from Putnam Valley and the Town of Kent. She stated that at the Town of Philipstown taxpayer's expense we are left without EMTs in our town because they are responding to calls from other areas. She believed that sometimes these Mutual Aid Plans do not always work the way they should. She explained that the**

**Sheriff said during the Committee meeting that there was no cost involved. She stated that the plan mentions that the municipality receiving police aid shall reimburse the municipality providing such aid for any money paid by it by police salaries and other expenses incurred by it including damage to or loss of equipment and supplies. She believed it was saying that we do have to reimburse that municipality. She stated that she would like to see a response from the Supervisors and Mayors of the towns and villages regarding what their attorneys were thinking about this. She explained that the Plan itself appears to be in draft form and not ready for adoption. She explained how the table of contents does not correspond with the body of the document. She believed the Mutual Aid Plan was a good idea but it was not ready for adoption. She questioned the costs related to it and will an umbrella insurance policy be needed.**

**Legislator Montgomery made a motion to table this item.**

**Chairman Jonke stated that there being no second; motion fails.**

**Legislator Gouldman questioned Legislative Counsel Firriolo if this is approved tonight, was a living document that could be changed moving forward.**

**Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that he could not answer that question. He would need to defer to the Law Department. He stated that they were the ones negotiating this with the towns. He stated that because the other municipalities have not yet executed it, there is always room for amendments. It might need to come back to the Legislature in its amended form, but if the Legislature approves it tonight it certainly is not an executed document.**

**Chairman Jonke read the seventh Whereas Clause which explains the Plan is to be revised as necessary. It also explained who would implement those revisions.**

**Legislator Nacerino believed it was important to approve the essence of the document of the Mutual Aid Plan in Putnam County. She believed that the municipality has the law enforcement agency to communicate to the town board. She believed that the town board deserves the right to perform their due diligence and confer with their lawyers, insurance companies and whoever else they need to before they make their decision.**

**Legislator Addonizio stated that she spoke with Town of Kent Supervisor Jamie McGlasson and Town of Kent Police Chief Kevin Owens who believed it was a good idea to have this Plan in place. She believed in the collaboration and Mutual Aid Response Plan and its commonsense approach. She believed that each department had their own tactical gear that is shared when responding which was the essence of this Plan.**

**Legislator Sayegh stated that she was surprised that a Plan had not already been implemented. She believed that law enforcement should be working collaboratively. She was concerned about overtime and inquired during the Committee meeting. She stated that each department is responsible for their own assets. She stated that it was her understanding that this is an agreement with respective police departments which can be revised.**

**Legislator Castellano stated that Sheriff McConville mentioned that he had spoke with the police departments involved. He stated that certainly the option will be on the local municipalities to opt out. He stated that the three (3) big police departments are; the**

**Sheriff's Department, Town of Carmel and Town of Kent. He believed that we needed this Plan in place. He believed that there was no requirement to participate and it has not been executed as of yet. He hoped that the local police departments can work together to implement something that is needed in the case of emergency.**

**Legislator Montgomery wanted to clarify something Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated. She stated that the Law Department is not speaking with the towns yet. She did not understand what everyone was reading when they say that there is no cost involved. She stated that on many different pages of the document it states that the municipality needing police aid shall reimburse the municipality providing such aid. She did not understand why we would put something on the towns which we represent without having their input. She stated that she would not be voting in favor of this.**

**Chairman Jonke stated that this is something that can be revised as necessary. It is about public safety, and he will be voting in favor of it.**

**Legislator Sayegh explained that she too was concerned about the reimbursement by the municipality provided such aid for any money paid by it for police salaries and other expenses including damage to, or loss of, equipment and supplies. She stated that it was clarified to her during the Committee meeting that it applied only for damage to or lost equipment supplies. She concurred with Legislator Montgomery that it is a Mutual Aid Agreement and why would wording include police salaries.**

**Chairman Jonke called for a Roll Call Vote:**

#### **RESOLUTION #23**

#### **AUTHORIZATION FOR INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES TO EFFECTUATE A MUTUAL AID AND RAPID RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENTS OF PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES**

**WHEREAS, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office has created a Mutual Aid and Rapid Response Plan (hereinafter the "Plan") to formalize operational procedures for law enforcement assistance to participating agencies; and**

**WHEREAS, the Plan provides that each member law enforcement agency agrees to make available its police personnel and equipment to the others upon the occurrence of a condition which is beyond the scope of its police resources; and**

**WHEREAS, the County of Putnam desires to enter into this agreement with neighboring municipalities in and outside of Putnam County; and**

**WHEREAS, entry into such intermunicipal agreement is permitted under Article 5-G of the General Municipal Law; and**

**WHEREAS, due to prevailing world, national, and local security situations, the ever-increasing flow of intelligence, and actual threats directed against once benign sites and facilities, the parties desire that the Plan be flexible and subject to review and revision as necessary in a timely manner; and**

**WHEREAS, the Plan is governed by, and liabilities and costs are apportioned pursuant to, the provision of New York State General Municipal Law Section 209-m, which provides, inter alia, that absent agreement to the contrary, the municipality receiving police aid shall reimburse the municipality providing such aid for any money paid by it for police salaries and other expenses incurred by it including damage to, or loss of, equipment and supplies; and**

**WHEREAS, the Plan is to be revised as necessary and revisions to the Plan will be approved and implemented by the Putnam County Chief Law Enforcement Officers, namely, the Putnam County Sheriff and the Police Chiefs of the Town of Carmel, Town of Kent, the Village of Brewster and the Village of Coldspring, and such revisions may include, but are not limited to, updates in protocols and additions of new municipalities and their police departments located within or outside of the physical boundaries of Putnam County to participate in the Plan; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the County of Putnam be and hereby is authorized to enter into an inter-municipal agreement (“IMA”) with certain municipal corporations as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law, located both within and outside of the County of Putnam (collectively the “Participating Municipalities”), in order to effectuate a Mutual Aid and Rapid Response Plan for the police departments of the Participating Municipalities (the “Plan”) to carry out the purpose described in Section 209-m of the New York State General Municipal Law; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that such IMA and the Plan shall be substantially similar in form and content to the draft items accompanying this Resolution; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, the term of the IMA will conform with the existing term agreed upon by the municipalities, which is five (5) years commencing in January, 2023, and continuing through January, 2028; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to execute said IMA on behalf of the County of Putnam; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.**

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE: FIVE AYES. TWO NAYS – LEGISLATORS MONTGOMERY & SAYEGH. ONE ABSENTION – LEGISLATOR CROWLEY. LEGISLATOR ELLNER WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.**

Chairman Jonke made a motion to remove Item #31 and Item #32 from the agenda; seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo clarified that the motion to remove is not debatable.

Chairman Jonke called for a Roll Call Vote.

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

Item #31 - Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)/ Putnam County Sheriff’s Department Police Benevolent Association (PBA) was next.

Item #32 - Approval/ Fund Transfer (23T001)/ Sheriff’s Department/ Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)/ Police Benevolent Association, Inc. (PBA) was next.

Item #33 – Other Business

There was no other business submitted to the meeting.

Item #34 – Recognition of the Public on Agenda Items.

There was no member of the public that wished to speak.

#### **Item #35 - Recognition of Legislators**

Legislator Gouldman congratulated Legislators Jonke and Sayegh for their positions as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Legislature. He also congratulated the two (2) new Legislators. He explained that all these new positions will change the makeup of this Legislative body. He was hopeful that there would be positive changes moving forward.

Legislator Nacerino echoed Legislator Gouldman's remarks regarding the new Chair, Deputy Chair and two (2) newly elected Legislators. She stated that she looked forward to a productive year.

Legislator Montgomery welcomed Legislators Crowley and Ellner. She congratulated Legislator Crowley for how much work she did during Covid. She congratulated Legislators Jonke and Sayegh and looked forward to the coming year.

Legislator Addonizio concurred with her colleagues. She congratulated Legislators Jonke and Sayegh as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Legislature and the newly elected Legislators Crowley and Ellner. She stated that she was looking forward to a successful 2023 year.

Legislator Sayegh thanked her colleagues for putting their faith in her to serve as Deputy Chair of the Legislature. She stated that she is humbled for this responsibility and will do her best to serve on the Legislature with a humble heart. She congratulated the newly elected public officials and the newly appointed Chair of the Legislature Paul Jonke. She stated that she has faith in his judgement. She welcomed Legislators Crowley, Ellner and newly elected County Executive Kevin Byrne. She was confident that the County was in good hands moving forward. She stated that she attended a few of the Swearing-In Ceremonies. She stated that at the Swearing-In Ceremony for County Executive Byrne, former Dutchess County Executive and incoming U.S. Congressman Marc Molinaro made remarks that being in public office, it is not about making a point but rather making a difference. She stated that making a point is easy, but making a difference is difficult and it takes time. She stated that we live in a society that thrives on making a point on social media which can cause division and arguments. She stated that when we are making a point, we aren't listening. We are only trying to win an argument to seem more intelligent or to put others down. She stated that it does nothing to make a difference to achieve a better solution. She stated that her goal for 2023 is for government to be difference oriented, working together with a common goal to benefit the people who choose to live in Putnam County. She stated that it is alright not to agree on everything, but asked that we be solution oriented. She looked forward to working respectfully and collaboratively with her colleagues on the Legislature, as well as with County Executive Byrne to make a difference for Putnam County.

Legislator Castellano congratulated Legislators Sayegh, Jonke, Crowley and Ellner. He was looking forward to a great year. He explained that he is a football fan and mentioned the story from last night regarding the gentleman from the Buffalo Bills who was injured. He remarked about what a wonderful country this is that he was able to receive immediate attention and was sent to the hospital after a cardiac arrest. He hoped that he makes a speedy recovery. He also mentioned that this gentleman started a go-fund-me page with an initial goal of \$2,500 for a local charity in a small town in Pennsylvania. He

stated that it took his breathe away this afternoon when it was already over \$4 million this afternoon. He stated that this is a fantastic country that we live in and he was proud to be part of it and part of this Legislature.

Legislator Crowley congratulated Chairman Jonke and Deputy Chair Sayegh on their appointments. She thanked her colleagues for welcoming her with open arms. She looked forward to working with everyone.

Chairman Jonke thanked his colleagues for their support. He also congratulated Legislators Sayegh, Crowley and Ellner. He wanted to extend a sincere olive branch to Legislator Montgomery and hoped that we could work together in a civil way moving forward to make things better for everyone in Putnam County, especially her constituents. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

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

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.