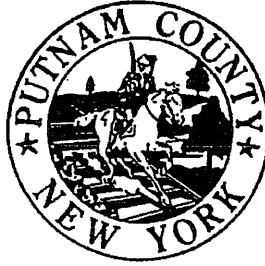


THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

Paul E. Jonke *Chairman*
Amy E. Sayegh *Deputy Chair*
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*
Robert Firriolo *Counsel*



Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Ginny Nacerino	Dist. 4
Greg E. Ellner	Dist. 5
Paul E. Jonke	Dist. 6
Joseph Castellano	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

AGENDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN ROOM #318 PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairman Ellner, Legislators Addonizio & Crowley

Wednesday

6:00PM

March 22, 2023

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Acceptance of Minutes – December 12, 2022 Meeting**
- 4. Discussion/Hotel Occupancy Tax**
- 5. Discussion/Collection of Sales Tax from AirBnb, VRBO, etc.**
- 6. Discussion/Public Safety Training Center/Town of Southeast**
- 7. Approval/Resolution asking Governor Hochul and the NYS Public Service Commission to Dismiss NYSEG and RG&E Rate Hike Requests and to Correct the Billing Problems before Rate Hikes are Considered**
- 8. FYI/Unemployment Report**
- 9. Other Business**
- 10. Adjournment**

#3

Monday **6:30PM** **December 12, 2022**

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There being no further business, at 6:42 P.M., Legislator Jonke made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Montgomery. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.

#4
March 22, 2023
Eco Meeting

#4

Discussion/Hotel Occupancy Tax

#5
March 22, 2023
Eco Meeting

#5

**Discussion/Collection of Sales Tax from AirBnb, VRBO,
etc.**

#6
March 22, 2023
Eco Meeting

#6

**Discussion/Public Safety Training Center/Town of
Southeast**

RESOLUTION ASKING GOVERNOR HOCHUL AND THE NYS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO DISMISS NYSEG AND RG&E RATE HIKE REQUESTS AND TO CORRECT THE BILLING PROBLEMS BEFORE RATE HIKE REQUESTS ARE CONSIDERED

WHEREAS, [MUNICIPALITY] residents are served by [NYSEG and/or RG&E utilities] and

WHEREAS, NYSEG has requested a 34.9% rate increase for electric and 14.9% for gas customers which together would result in an annual bill increase of approximately \$240 for the average residential customer, and RG&E seeks a 21% rate increase for electric and 18.8% for gas customers, which combined would result in an annual bill increase of nearly \$260 for an average residential customer, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul called NYSEG and RG&E's rate hike request "outrageous and unacceptable" and urged her 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 and RG&E rate filings, and as documented in public records, testified to the many deficiencies and errors contained in those filings. Staff further stated that the Companies have been vague and non-responsive to their questions, and that this is the second successive rate filing in which these issues have occurred, and similar problems were noted in a 2016 management audit as well, and

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

WHEREAS, the NYS Public Service Commission is undertaking an investigation of the billing practices of NYSEG and RG&E because the number of consumer complaints skyrocketed to more than 4,700 in 2022, which is 60% more than the two previous years combined, and

WHEREAS, the billing problems as well as the inadequacies of the rate filings call into question the administrative competence of these monopoly utilities, and public trust has been eroded,

Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that [MUNICIPALITY] calls on the Public Service Commission and Governor Hochul to dismiss the NYSEG and RG&E rate increase requests and to protect the public interest by making sure the Companies get their billing straightened out and submit a proper, detailed rate filing before substantive rate hikes are even considered, and further be it

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, [your Assemblymember and NYS Senator], PSC Chair Rory Christian, and to Michelle Phillips, Secretary, Public Service Commission, with a request to file your resolution in each of the following Cases: 22-E-0317, 22-G-0318, 22-E-0319, 22-G-0320.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- Governor [Hochul response](#) (May 2022) to NYSEG/RG&E rate hike requests
- PSC holds public hearings on NYSEG/RG&E [proposed rate hikes](#) (Sept 2022) (PDF)
- NYS Public Service Commission [Expands Investigation](#) of NYSEG/RG&E billing issues (PDF)
- PSC [Docket](#) (23-00068) with testimony about NYSEG/RG&E billing issues
- [USA Today](#): A \$345 utility bill became \$68,000 as NYSEG, RG&E confront billing fiasco.
- [News 10](#): Public packs hearing on RG&E billing, customer service issues
- [WXXI](#) - Despite claims of progress, billing complaints still spiking
- [16 NYCRR 61.1-61.4](#) -Rules governing Rate Proceedings
- [Press Release](#) for Motion to Dismiss NYSEG/RG&E rate hike proposals
- Full [Motion to Dismiss](#) filed by AARP New York, Public Utility Law Project, Alliance for a Green Economy, et. al. (PDF)
- [US Rep Molinaro \(R, NY-19\) Demands Answers](#) & Action from NYSEG Following Outcry from Wrongfully Billed Customers in Upstate New York
- NYSEG ([22-E-0317/22-G-0318](#)) and RG&E ([22-E-0319/22-G-0320](#)) rate case filings
- PSC Docket ([19-00950](#)) with monthly data on customer complaints about Utilities and ESCOs

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224
Fax: 518-474-1513 or U.S. mail. (no public email)

Find your [NYS Senator](#) and [NYS Assemblymember](#)

The Honorable Rory Christian
Chair and CEO
New York State Public Service Commission
Agency Building 3, Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350
Fax: 518-474-9842 or U.S. mail (no public email)

The Honorable Michelle L. Phillips
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Agency Building 3, Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350
Email: secretary@dps.ny.gov
RE: NYSEG/RG&E rate cases, 22-E-0317, 22-G-0318, 22-E-0319, 22-G-0320
Resolution supporting Motion to Dismiss

2023 MAR 17 PM 1:28

Select Seasonal Adjustment
☒ Not Seasonally Adjusted

Select Measure
☐ Employed
☐ Unemployed
☐ Labor Force
☒ Unemployment Rate

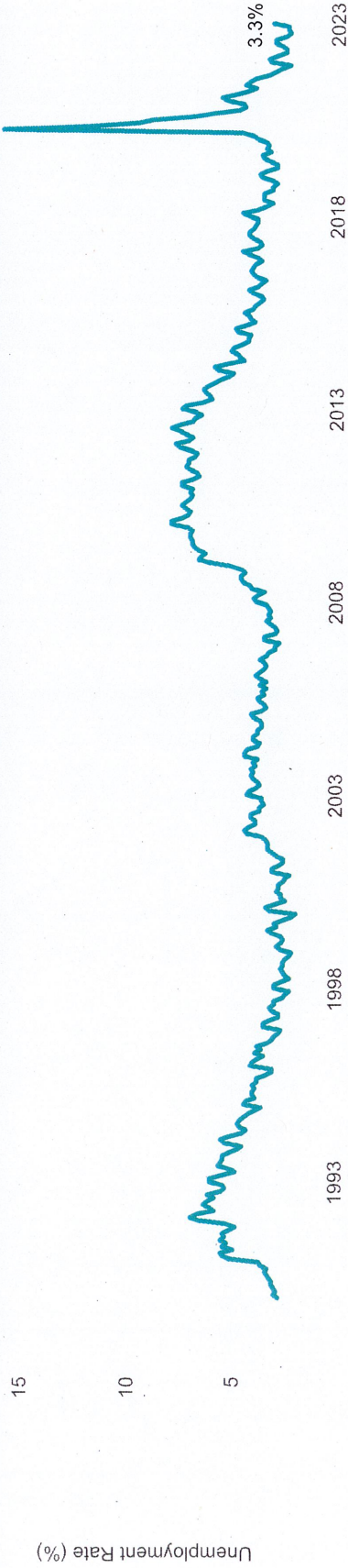
Select Area Type
 County

Select Date Range
 January 1976 to January 2023
 and Null values

Area
☒ Putnam County

Select Area
 Putnam County

Area: Putnam County Measure: Unemployment Rate Adjustment: Not Seasonally Adjusted Date Range: January 1990 to January 2023



Year	Month	Area Name	Employed	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
2023	January	Putnam County	48,400	1,600	50,000	3.3%
2022	December	Putnam County	49,100	1,300	50,400	2.6%
	November	Putnam County	49,400	1,300	50,700	2.6%
	October	Putnam County	50,100	1,300	51,400	2.5%
	September	Putnam County	50,000	1,400	51,400	2.7%
	August	Putnam County	50,400	1,700	52,100	3.2%
	July	Putnam County	50,800	1,700	52,500	3.2%
	June	Putnam County	50,900	1,500	52,400	2.9%
	May	Putnam County	50,600	1,400	52,000	2.7%
	April	Putnam County	50,300	1,400	51,700	2.7%
	March	Putnam County	50,200	1,600	51,800	3.1%
	February	Putnam County	49,500	1,800	51,300	3.5%
	January	Putnam County	49,200	1,700	50,900	3.4%
	December	Putnam County				

#8