

**AGENDA  
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
ON THE  
2014 TENTATIVE BUDGET  
AND  
REPORT OF THE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
TO BE HELD IN THE  
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Tuesday                      October 22, 2013                      7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Othmer who requested Former Legislator, Regina Morini lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Scuccimarra, Oliverio, Nacerino, Albano, Gross, Castellano, LoBue, DiCarlo and Chairman Othmer were present. Also present was Legislative Counsel Van Ross.

Chairman Othmer requested that the Clerk read the Public Notice (attached).

Chairman Othmer stated that this County has a very good Legislature with varying personalities and the Legislature has put a great deal of thought into this budget. He stated there was a lot of discussion and debate. He stated that he is proud of the people he works with. He stated we have received concern from the public about the budget and that may be reviewed at the Legislative Office during normal business hours. He stated that for every dollar we spend in taxes in this County, approximate numbers are that 70 cents goes to School tax, 22 cents goes to Town tax, the County gets 8 cents and 6 of that 8 cents goes to state mandates.

Chairman Othmer then stated that anyone who wished to speak should come up to the microphone and state their name and the town in which they reside.

Nancy Montgomery, Philipstown Town Councilwoman, Town of Philipstown, thanked the Legislature and County Executive for their hard work on the budget. She further stated that she is primarily here to advocate for the Seniors of Philipstown and asked that the County look at that part of the budget as we move forward. She stated things could be improved such as the site and food quality. She stated that the Legislature has been talking about improvements to Senior Programming in Philipstown for a decade and she hopes that with the next budget that that will be addressed. She addressed the nutritional value of food being delivered from other kitchens in the County to her seniors. She addressed the Emergency Services of Philipstown and the Mercy College Degree and asked for clearer communication between the County and her side of the County. She stated she is very excited for this Mercy College program.

Lynda Ann Ewen, Philipstown Senior Club, Town of Philipstown, stated that she is a lobbyist for the Philipstown Seniors. She stated that the facility is very poor especially compared to Putnam Valley. She stated that she attended classes offered at the Putnam Valley Center. She stated that her Club wonders how the funds are allocated among senior centers because her Club cannot drive to Putnam Valley. She stated that they would like to know how the Office for Aging budget is broken down across the six towns. She stated that the budget is not reader-friendly. She stated that if we built truly strong senior programs that it would attract more tourism and retirees to the County.

**Carol Donick, Director of the Desmond-Fish Library, Town of Philipstown, thanked the County for their support for the libraries. She stated that libraries keep having more and more responsibilities. She reiterated her thanks for the continued support.**

**Gerald Schramek, Chief, Putnam County Sheriff's Department, stated that he is here representing Sheriff Donald Smith who was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He further stated that the Sheriff is steadfast in his belief that the Child Advocacy Center Investigator can better serve the people of Putnam County, especially our most vulnerable population, our children, if it were placed under the auspices of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. He stated that the Legislature has been fully informed of the circumstances surrounding this position by Sheriff Smith and Sheriff Smith is confident that the Legislature will take the appropriate action and do the right thing for the citizens of Putnam County, especially our children.**

**Shirley Norton, Town of Philipstown, stated that she lives in the Cold Spring Senior Housing. She stated that she moved here two years ago from New Hampshire and is currently a member of the Philipstown Senior Club. She further stated that she has been recently learning all that Cold Spring is struggling with to obtain a Senior Center. She stated she is introducing herself in hopes that she can develop communication with the Legislature for her Club to understand the steps and processes for Cold Spring to obtain a Senior Center.**

**Regina Morini, Town of Carmel, Mahopac Resident, Member of the Board of the Mahopac Public Library and Representative from our area to the Mid-Hudson Library System, stated that libraries are asked to do more and more with less and less. She stated that the State has told libraries that they are to be of assistance to the public after storms. She stated that libraries are a refuge. She stated that people are coming to the libraries to sign up for the Affordable Care Act. She stated that we need generators to stay open when everything else is closed in the County. She thanked the County for their assistance for libraries in the budget.**

**Manuel DaCunha, resident Town of Philipstown, Cold Spring, stated he has lived here for a little over three months but was a forty-seven year resident of Rockland County. He stated that when he joined the Senior Club that he was surprised by how inadequate the facilities were for the Club and asked that the Legislature visit the facilities to see for themselves. He thanked the Legislature.**

**There being no further business, at 7:23 P.M., Legislator Oliverio made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.**

**Respectfully submitted by Krista M. Butler, Administrative Assistant.**