

County Executive Odell continued and explained the use of the General Fund Surplus. She stated that they started with \$20.1 million in the 2014 General Fund. She stated that they will utilize \$4.1 million for operating expenses which equates to \$2.8 million (same amount used in 2015) plus \$1.3 million to offset the additional \$3.5 million in NYS mandates. She stated that the Administration is also proposing to utilize \$3.6 million to pay down the \$8.5 million amortized Pension Debt that was incurred in years 2012 and 2013 to secure employees and retirees pensions after the market down turn. She stated this will also save \$500,000 in interest payments and help to secure our Aa2 Moody's Rating. She stated that in New York State, County pension contributions increased from \$47 million in 2000 to over \$1 billion annually in 2015. She explained the Pension Amortization breakdown as follows: Amortized in 2012 with a balance of \$4 million plus \$4.5 million Amortized in 2013 equals \$8.5 million. Principal paid in 2014 equals \$352,000 leaving a balance of \$8.15 million. Principal paid in 2015 equals \$1.5 million leaving a balance of \$6.6 million. Principal to be paid in 2016 equals \$3.7 million leaving a balance of \$2.9 million which the Administration is proposing to be paid off in the year 2017. She explained that these accelerated payments result in an interest cost savings of \$773,000. She explained that by not borrowing to pay off the \$6.6 million, it saved our taxpayers an additional \$1 million in interest through year 2027.

County Executive Odell continued with the Quality of Life Services and gave a breakdown of some major programs in the Sheriff Department's \$13.1 million budget such as: 24/7 Emergency Response, SRO's & SPO's partnership with local school districts, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Road/Marine Patrol, Narcotics Enforcement and Emergency Response Team. She continued with the Office of Senior Resources budget of \$5.7 million which includes services such as: Nutrition Programs, Meals on Wheels, the Senior Centers; Koehler, Putnam Valley, Carmel and hopefully the Cold Spring Nutrition Center at the Butterfield Campus. She stated that renovations need to be done at the Carmel Senior Center located at the Donald B. Smith Campus. She stated that through the help of Senator Terrence Murphy, the County will be receiving \$500,000 in effort to maintain this center. She stated that in speaking about the Cold Spring Senior Center and moving to the beautiful state of the art campus at Butterfield, she mentioned that Assemblywoman Sandy Galef has sponsored \$250,000 and \$500,000 has been requested of Senator Sue Serino for this site.

County Executive Odell continued and explained that Retiree Health Benefit costs have increased every year and equals \$4.7 million of the budget. She said there are approximately 380 retirees and surviving spouses receiving health benefits from Putnam County and the average cost to provide this benefit is \$12,500 per retiree. However, the average contribution by retirees is less than 8%, or less than \$1,000 annually. She stated that 50% of our retirees pay nothing for this benefit because they receive a reimbursement from the County for Medicare Part B of approximately \$1,200.

County Executive Odell continued with the Quality of Life Services and stated that the Emergency Operations Center budget of \$4.6 million includes services such as: a 24/7 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, Advanced Life Support Services, Support for Volunteer Fire Departments through training; fire and EMS training. She continued with the Parks & Recreation budget of \$3.6 million which includes: Putnam County Golf Course & Banquet Center, Veterans Memorial Park, 11 miles of Bikeways & Trailways, Tilly Foster Farm, Cornerstone Park and Dill & Ciaiola Preserves. She stated that Putnam Area Rapid Transit (PART) system equals \$2.5 million of the budget and includes: four (4) scheduled bus routes, para-transit for the disabled community, Veteran transport for medical

appointments, Cold Spring to Beacon Trolley for tourism and we assist commuters in providing transportation from Park & Rides to the trains.

County Executive Odell continued and stated that County government is always there for our outside agencies. She explained some of the many services libraries offer to our residents. She stated that \$1.5 million of the budget is designated for the outside agencies which include: Putnam County Libraries, Putnam County Humane Society, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Putnam County Fish & Game, Putnam History Museum, Southeast Museum and the Putnam Arts Council. She stated that the Administration is adding two (2) more not-for-profit agencies in the proposed 2016 budget that they would like to support: Putnam County SPCA and Putnam Community Action Program.

County Executive Odell continued with the Quality of Life Services and stated that \$316,000 in the proposed budget is designated the Veterans Service Agency which provides local services for our Veterans. She stated that \$562,000 of the budget is dedicated to the Youth Bureau which provides services such as: the Pegasus Program; which is for children of parents suffering from an addiction, a mentoring partnership with local school districts, SIDNE – Simulated Impaired Driving Experience, Annual Youth Awards and Youth Court since 1985.

County Executive Odell stated that the Operational Costs associated with running the day to day operations for all the “Quality of Life Programs” that are outside of the Mandated Programs is \$8.1 million. She stated that the total budgeted amount for all of these Quality of Life Programs equate to 30% of the County’s budget or \$44.7 million. She stated that the remaining 70% of the County’s budget are the Federal & State mandated programs. She stated that unfunded mandates that account for 74% of the Putnam County tax levy and total \$30.5 million include: Pensions - \$11.6 million, Medicaid - \$9.8 million, Pre-school - \$3.1 million, Probation - \$2 million, Child Welfare - \$1.1 million, Early Intervention – \$1.1 million, Indigent Defense \$1 million, Safety Net - \$693,000 and Youth Detention - \$122,000.00. County Executive Odell stated that some of the other programs which Putnam County is forced to pay for are: Social Services/Mental Health - \$24.1 million, Sheriff & Jail - \$15.5 million, Highways & Facilities - \$12.3 million, MTA Subsidies - \$1.5 million. She stated that there are 200 more mandates; one of which is Community College - \$3.1 million and Board of Elections - \$1.8 million, for a total of \$4.9 million. She explained that these two programs alone are nearly twelve times the value of our 2016 tax cap. She stated that by Federal & NYS Law, these programs are the fiscal obligations of our towns and villages. However, the County continues to pay the full cost of these programs without charging back the towns and villages.

County Executive Odell continued and provided a breakdown of the 2016 anticipated revenue of \$151.4 million as follows: 36% or \$54.7 million from Sales Tax, 27% or \$41 million from Property Tax, 16% or \$24.5 million from Federal/State Reimbursement, 15% or \$23.44 million from Department Revenue and 6% or \$7.76 million from the General Fund. She stated that her Administration pledges to stay within the tax cap which would allow the residents to be eligible for the property tax rebate checks, which are yet to be calculated by New York State.

County Executive Odell explained the NYSAC 2015 Demographic Snapshot of the Property Taxes in Putnam County. She stated 71.19% of property taxes are from the School Districts, 18.5% from the Towns, .54% from the Villages, .67% from Fire Districts

and 9.1% from the County. She stated that Putnam County has the lowest portion of the total property tax bill of any County in the State of New York. She stated that the average County portion in NYS is 21.52%. County Executive continued and explained how Putnam County sales tax rate compared with the rest of New York State. She stated that nearly all NYS Counties have been forced to set their sales tax rates to pay for unfunded mandates. She explained the different areas where Putnam County is able to generate sales tax revenue such as; gasoline sales, through Putnam County Tourism producing more visitors and department revenue. She explained how Putnam County has been managing our assets and optimizing our resources.

County Executive Odell ended the meeting with a Summary of the 2016 Proposed Budget Challenges and Accomplishments. She stated that her Administration believes this is a firm, but fair budget that will meet our fiscal and social responsibilities to our residents.

Chairman Albano thanked the County Executive Odell for presenting a sound financial business plan. He stated that the Legislature will review this proposed budget over the next few weeks.

There being no further business, at 7:56 P.M., Chairman Albano made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.