

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
HELD VIA AUDIO WEBINAR PURSUANT TO TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDERS**

Tuesday June 2, 2020 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairwoman Addonizio who led in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Legislative Prayer. Chairwoman Addonizio called for a moment of silence for all those striving for justice and peace in these troubled times. Upon roll call, Legislators Montgomery, Gouldman, Nacerino, Albano, Jonke, Castellano, Sayegh, Sullivan and Chairwoman Addonizio were present. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo.

PROCLAMATIONS

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that the following proclamations are done for informational purposes only this evening. They will be mailed to the relevant parties.

Legislator Nacerino explained that she brought the two (2) proclamations pertaining to the COVID-19 outbreak to the May Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee. She stated that she would have loved to present these in person, however we are not able to do so yet. She explained that acknowledging our healthcare workers and essential workers this evening with these proclamations, presented in a virtual setting, in no way diminishes our heartfelt gratitude and utmost respect for all those on the front line during the pandemic crisis.

RECOGNIZING ESSENTIAL WORKERS AMONG THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

WHEREAS, The outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic is an unprecedented event that has severely impacted economies, municipalities, communities, and individuals all over the world within a period of months. Rarely has the entire world collectively experienced such an event; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to decrease exposure, flatten the curve, and ultimately stop the spread of the virus, guidelines and mandatory restrictions that changed our normal way of life were quickly implemented by both the Federal and State Governments. Over the short time since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Putnam County, we have witnessed our entire community take action. Fortunately, we live in a time when many employees and students have been able to temporarily establish remote workstations at their homes; and

WHEREAS, While daily schedules have drastically changed for most residents, essential workers have not only continued to work, but have bravely stepped up to the challenges that have come with this Pandemic to continue providing necessary services to the community; and

WHEREAS, In the face of this Pandemic, essential workers throughout Putnam County have shown their unwavering commitment to their community by standing on the front lines each day. Healthcare workers have accommodated an increase in patients with limited resources. Pharmacies and grocery store employees have continued working so access to medicine, food, and other vital resources has been uninterrupted. Sanitation workers have continued their routes. Postal services have continued so mail and packages may still be sent and received. Childcare centers have stayed in operation,

providing children of essential workers a safe place to go while their parents are working. Financial institutions have continued their operations in order for banking, accounting, and payroll to continue. News reporters have continued their work, delivering vital updates on this constantly changing situation. These essential workers are among many who have put themselves in the midst of this outbreak to provide vital services to their fellow community members; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby recognize the bravery shown by all essential workers in Putnam County and acknowledge their hard work and unwavering commitment to community as a whole during this unparalleled time.

RECOGNIZING PUTNAM HOSPITAL CENTER HEALTH CARE WORKERS AMONG THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

WHEREAS, The outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic is an unprecedented event that has severely impacted economies, municipalities, communities, and individuals all over the world within a period of months. Rarely has the entire world collectively experienced such an event; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to decrease exposure, flatten the curve, and ultimately stop the spread of the virus, guidelines and mandatory restrictions that changed our normal way of life were quickly implemented by both the Federal and State Governments. In the short time since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Putnam County, we have witnessed our entire community take action; and

WHEREAS, In a united effort, many residents have stayed home from school and work, transitioning their home into temporary classrooms and workspaces. Meanwhile essential workers, especially health care workers, have not only continued to work, but have bravely stepped up to the challenges this Pandemic has created. Putnam County has only one hospital, Putnam Hospital Center located in Carmel. With little time to prepare for the inevitable increase in patients, Putnam Hospital Center doctors, nurses, and staff have tirelessly worked long hours to treat patients in the most effective and safest way possible. These workers have also faced the challenges of operating with a widespread shortage of personal protective equipment. During this time the employees of Putnam Hospital Center have also stayed updated on the constantly changing information being learned about this virus and have proven themselves to be true heroes in Putnam County; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby recognize the efforts of the employees of Putnam Hospital Center and acknowledge their unwavering commitment to not only their patients, but community as a whole, in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING MONTH – JUNE 2020

WHEREAS, recreational boating is a fun and enjoyable sport while being an excellent source of relaxation; however, boating can be a risky sport for the unprepared; and

WHEREAS, knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error and improving judgment when boating. If a person is aware of the risks, they are likely to take precautionary measures to protect themselves, their family, and their friends; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has served the County for nearly seventy (70) years by providing boating education courses, making marine dealer

visitations, conducting boating safety checks, and tending multi-mission patrols. Using their own boats and equipment, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has been able to reduce boating accidents and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, these vital services offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary work in conjunction with local law enforcement, specifically the Carmel Police Department and Putnam County Sheriff's Department, to maintain safety on the water. As a result of the careful attention placed on boating, the waters of Putnam County are made safer through spreading messages of boating safety, not only during National Safe Boating Month, but throughout the entire year; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature do hereby support the goals of the North American Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim June 2020 as "National Safe Boating Month" in Putnam County and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

Item #4 – Approval of Minutes – Regular Meetings – March 5, 2020
April 7, 2020

The minutes were approved 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 Addonizio & Albano)**

Item #6a – Approval/ Opposition to Cuts in State Mental Health Funding was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Sayegh, Chairwoman of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Addonizio and Albano, Legislator Sayegh moved the following:

Legislator Sayegh read excerpts from the resolution.

Legislator Nacerino stated that with so many mental health issues arising due to COVID-19, she believed that this funding was crucial. She hoped that the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo recognizes that cutting funding will have a serious adverse effect on the wellbeing of so many.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that she stands strongly in opposition to any cuts in mental health services. She believed that the mental health of our community has been severely impacted due to COVID-19. She stated that we cannot afford any cuts, in fact, we need additional funding in order to face this crisis and support our community.

RESOLUTION #97

APPROVAL/ OPPOSITION TO CUTS IN STATE MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc. (MHANYS), is a not-for-profit organization that provides support, education, and advocacy for mental health issues, works to end the stigma of mental illness, and promotes mental health wellness in New York State; and

WHEREAS, MHANYS serves well over a quarter of a million New Yorkers directly, as well as hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers by providing them training, educational resources, and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, MHANYS has cautioned that the COVID-19 pandemic has not just had a physical impact, but that it is also having a very significant mental health impact through isolation and job loss; and

WHEREAS, these mental health impacts result in increased trauma, anxiety, depression, and other behavioral health issues like increased substance use, problem gambling, and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the death, loss, and bereavement of loved ones also has both short-term and long-term serious mental health consequences; and

WHEREAS, as Governor Andrew Cuomo stated in his briefing on May 1, 2020, COVID-19 has “caused serious mental health issues. You have anxiety, depression, insomnia, loneliness and feeling of isolation. ... Half of all Americans said that their mental health has been negatively impacted. Don’t underestimate the stress of the situation.”; and

WHEREAS, MHANYS has expressed great concern over the need for additional funding for mental health services, and advises that New York State’s updated financial plan identifies funding cuts that will have dramatic adverse impacts, including lost and delayed services such as supported housing programs, children’s mental health programs, mobile crisis teams, homeless services programs, peer services, family services, suicide prevention programs, medication assistance, clinics, care management and many other community programs that make up the spectrum of behavioral services including addiction disorders; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature hereby express their opposition to any cuts by New York State to mental health services funding; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature hereby call upon the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo to avoid any decreases in State funding, and to seek additional federal funding, for mental health services throughout New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Putnam County Legislature is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to our State representatives in the State Legislature as well as the Governor and leadership of our State Legislature.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6b – Approval/ Resolution Calling on the State of New York to Release Enhanced Federal Medicaid Matching Funds to Counties and New York City was next. On behalf of the members of the Health, Social Educational & Environmental Committee, Legislators Addonizio and Albano, Legislator Sayegh moved the following:

Legislator Sayegh stated that on March 18, 2020, Congress passed a Families First Coronavirus Response Act as part of the Federal government's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. She stated that it temporarily increased the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). She explained that the FMAP increase is expected to provide States with an additional \$9 - \$10 billion in Medicaid funding per quarter. She explained that this resolution is requesting financial assistance from the State through the FMAP monies by reducing County weekly Medicaid payments retroactively through January 1, 2020 to provide some fiscal relief. It is also calling on the State to provide a Timeline to all counties on the release of the enhanced Federal Medicaid Matching Fund related to the Affordable Care Act.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage funds are very important, as it will help to reduce the financial burdens due to COVID-19. Specifically, the decline in revenue due to the shutdown of our business community. Dropping the State's share will help to deliver more funds to our community.

RESOLUTION #98

APPROVAL/ RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO RELEASE ENHANCED FEDERAL MEDICAID MATCHING FUNDS TO COUNTIES AND NEW YORK CITY

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has enacted extraordinary measures to help states and localities with increased costs and lost revenues; and

WHEREAS, a key action enacted by the federal government was a 6.2 percent increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP); and

WHEREAS, Congress has used this mechanism to provide fiscal relief to states and their local government Medicaid funding partners to reduce the financial burden they often experience in an economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, counties and New York City are struggling with higher costs responding to COVID-19 and experiencing extensive revenue declines due to the shutdown of large swaths of the economy; and

WHEREAS, we project that each quarter of enhanced FMAP funding is worth hundreds of millions of dollars for counties and New York City; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Putnam County is respectfully requesting financial assistance through federal FMAP monies by reducing county weekly Medicaid payments retroactive to January 1, 2020 to provide some partial fiscal relief to the current conditions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Putnam County also requests that the State provide a timeline to all counties on the release of the enhanced federal Medicaid matching funds related to the Affordable Care Act "reconciliation funds" that have been withheld for over three (3) years and the likely mechanism on how these funds will be delivered to counties and New York City; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Putnam County Legislature is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to our State representatives in the State Legislature as well as the Governor and leadership of our State Legislature and the New York State Association of Counties.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
(Chairman Jonke, Legislators Nacerino & Sullivan)**

Item #6c – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (20A022)/ Sheriff’s Department BCI Public Safety/ New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Grant/ Livescan Equipment Program was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Jonke, Chairman of the Protective Services Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Nacerino and Sullivan, Legislator Jonke moved the following:

Legislator Nacerino stated that this Livescan equipment is essential and will be used to transmit prints to the Division of Criminal Justice.

Legislator Montgomery stated that there is a handwritten change in the backup that identifies the increase in revenue to line #443890 as Public Safety Other. She questioned which title was correct and is it State or Federal funds.

Commissioner Carlin stated that it is a State grant that will offset half of the County share; the \$28,000.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Commissioner Carlin for the clarification.

RESOLUTION #99

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT / SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT BCI PUBLIC SAFETY/ NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES (DCJS) GRANT/ LIVSCAN EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, by Resolution #312 of 2019, the Putnam County Legislature authorized the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department to apply for the SFY2020-2021 LIVSCAN Equipment Program Grant, through the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), in the amount of \$60,000; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff’s Department has been awarded \$28,901 for expenses associated with the purchase and installation of Livescan equipment to replace outdated/ end of life equipment, including software, intended to be used to transmit prints to (DCJS); and

WHEREAS, the grant is administered by NYS DCJS with funds from the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 NYS national Criminal History Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, the performance period of the grant is from April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Protective Services Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee have reviewed and approve said budgetary amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary amendment (20A022) be made:

Increase Revenue:

32311000	Sheriff BCI	
443890	Public Safety Other	28,901

Increase Appropriations:

32311000	Sheriff BCI
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Legislator Jonke stated that it will be something we will address at the next meeting.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she is in support of this budgetary request which was reviewed by the Personnel Committee, Protective Services Committee and the Audit & Administration Committee. She stated that the necessity is dictated by the circumstances.

RESOLUTION #101

APPROVAL/ FUND TRANSFER/ SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/ JAIL OVERTIME

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Sheriff has requested a Fund Transfer (20T081) to cover Overtime expenses due to three (3) vacancies, one (1) extended sick leave and one (1) officer on 207C for April 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Protective Services Committee, 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:

10315000 51000 10103	Jail Personnel	4,206
10315000 51000 10116	Jail Personnel	6,460
10315000 51000 10160	Jail Personnel	<u>4,206</u>
		14,872

Increase:

10315000 51093	Jail Overtime	14,872
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2020 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

(Chairwoman Nacerino, Legislators Jonke & Montgomery)

Item #6f – Approval/ Ratification/ PCSEA Contract was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Nacerino, Chairwoman of the Personnel Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Jonke and Montgomery, Legislator Nacerino moved the following:

Legislator Nacerino believed that it was a fair, equitable and well-deserved contract which is in the best interest of both the Putnam County Sheriff's Employee's Association membership, as well as the taxpayers. She applauded the negotiating team, members of the Putnam County Sheriff's Employee's Association, County Executive Odell, Sheriff Robert L. Langley, Jr., Personnel Director Paul Eldridge, Commissioner of Finance William Carlin and County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner, for the hard work put forth through five (5) negotiation sessions and arriving at an agreement of the terms and conditions of employment for the years; January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2023 at their final meeting on December 13, 2019.

Chairwoman Addonizio thanked everyone who was instrumental in the negotiation process. She believed it was in the best interest for Putnam County residents and the Putnam County Sheriff's Employee's Association. She stated that she was happy to see this move forward.

RESOLUTION #102

APPROVAL/RATIFICATION/PCSEA CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Sheriff's Employee's Association, Inc. ("PCSEA") and the County of Putnam are parties to a Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA") which expired on December 31, 2016, which was an agreement imposed on the Union by the Public Employment Relations Board ("PERB") by Decision dated May 26, 2017 which was later executed by PCSEA on June 2, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the PCSEA did not then file a request to negotiate with the County for a successor agreement until March 8, 2019; and

WHEREAS, PCSEA and the County then engaged in negotiations and proposals and counter-proposals were exchanged by both sides; and

WHEREAS, negotiating sessions were held between the parties on April 24, 2019, May 17, 2019, June 13, 2019, October 15, 2019, October 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, a final meeting took place between the negotiating teams of PCSEA and the County of Putnam on December 13, 2019, and all of the parties were able to arrive at an agreement concerning all of the terms and conditions of the employment of its members for the years January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") was executed by Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, by Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley, by Paul J. Eldridge, Putnam County Personnel Officer, by William J. Carlin, Jr., Commissioner of Finance and by negotiating team members of PCSEA, in which specific changes to the underlying Collective Bargaining Agreement were outlined, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature held a Personnel Committee meeting on May 18, 2020 to discuss the terms of the MOA; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is in agreement with the administration and the negotiating team that the MOA is in the best interests of the County of Putnam and the Membership of PCSEA; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby approves and ratifies the attached Memorandum of Agreement, dated April 14, 2020, which was entered into with PCSEA for the period of January 1, 2017 up to and including December 31, 2023.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6g – Approval/ Budgetary Transfer (20T074)/ Commissioner of Finance/ Ratified Contract Settlement between Putnam County and Putnam County Sheriff's Employees Association, Inc. (PCSEA) was next. On behalf of the members of the Personnel Committee, Legislators Jonke and Montgomery, Legislator Nacerino moved the following:

Legislator Nacerino thanked Commissioner of Finance William Carlin for having the foresight to forecast this expenditure. She stated that we are moving the monies out of

Contingency and placing them in the appropriate lines to fund the salary and benefit costs pursuant to the ratified Putnam County Sheriff's Employee's Association, Inc. contract.

RESOLUTION #103

**APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY TRANSFER (20T074)/ COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE/
RATIFIED CONTRACT SETTLEMENT BETWEEN PUTNAM COUNTY AND PUTNAM
COUNTY SHERIFF'S EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, INC. (PCSEA)**

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has requested a budgetary transfer (20T074) to provide funding for the 2020 salary and benefit costs pursuant to the ratified contract settlement between Putnam County and the Putnam County Sheriff's Employees Association, Inc. (PCSEA); and

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

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

10311000 51000	Personnel Services	4,258
10311000 58002	Social Security	326
13311000 51000	Personnel Services	51,193
13311000 58002	Social Security	3,916
15311000 51000	Personnel Services	8,251
15311000 58002	Social Security	631
17311000 51000	Personnel Services	4,683
17311000 58002	Social Security	358
32311000 51000	Personnel Services	14,649
32311000 58002	Social Security	1,121
10315000 51000	Personnel Services	357,366
10315000 58002	Social Security	27,339
10010000 51000	Personnel Services	15,126
10010000 58002	Social Security	<u>1,157</u>
		490,374

Decrease Estimated Appropriations:

10199000 54980	Contingency	490,374
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2020 Fiscal Impact \$490,374

2021 Fiscal Impact \$500,181

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6h – Approval/ Budgetary Transfer (20T092)/ County Executive/ Deputy County Executive Position was next. On behalf of the members of the Personnel Committee, Legislators Jonke and Montgomery, Legislator Nacerino moved the following:

Legislator Nacerino stated that this matter was discussed in great detail during the Personnel Committee meeting and the Audit & Administration Committee meeting. She stated that the transfer was necessary to reinstate the position of Deputy County

Executive for the remainder of 2020. The position has been vacant since 2017 which has saved the taxpayers \$485,000. She stated that it is an appointed position. She stated that this Legislature does not select, nor review resumes of appointees. She stated that these are not decisions reserved by the Legislature. She stated that this holds true for the County Executive and all elected official's appointees. She believed that the reinstatement of the position was necessary due to the nature of the healthcare crisis and the economic crisis. She stated that the candidate is Thomas Feighery. He is a uniquely qualified individual who will be readily available to interface with the Economic Development Corp. (EDC) and local businesses during these unprecedented times. She stated that he is presently a Project Manager within the Highways & Facilities Department and will be shared between that department and the County Executive's office for a combined annual salary of \$106,217. She explained that we know from experience that utilizing the talents and expertise of our County employees has proven beneficial. She stated that John O'Connor is the Senior County Safety Officer in the Law Department and in the Highways & Facilities Department. She stated that Alexis Hawley is the Assistant Supervisor of Planning & Design in the Purchasing and Highways & Facilities Departments. She stated that Michael Budzinski was shared between the Health Department and Consumer Affairs for a short while. She rejected anyone's assertion that the County Executive is in need of help. She stated that, as Commissioner Carlin said, she has not only doubled down, but tripled down this conference. She has worked solely for three (3) years and hasn't skipped a beat. She stated that no one could have predicted a worldwide pandemic would cripple our Federal, State, local economies, our budgets, our health and welfare. She applauded the County Executive for her intuition and ability to get in front of the issues, knowing that this is a benefit to better serve the people of Putnam County. She believed the Deputy County Executive position is a wise decision given the circumstances of the healthcare crisis and economic fallout. She stated that we have yet to realize the gravity of the situation at hand.

Legislator Sullivan stated that we were very lucky to have Thomas Feighery filling in as the Deputy County Executive. He stated that he looked forward to working with him in the coming months. He believed that he was an asset and would provide us with a lot of knowledge and management experience to carry our projects forward to get them completed. He would also assist the County Executive with all the items she is currently dealing with.

Legislator Montgomery questioned the process. She stated that it is a budgetary transfer that we are approving. She stated that it was coming forward under the Personnel Committee and therefore questioned why it wouldn't require some indication of qualifications. She understood that the statements made that this person is highly qualified for this position. However, she did not have anything before her that shows how this person is qualified. There is no documentation or anything in our conversations that show he meets the qualifications in the job description for Deputy County Executive. She believed those would be issues for the Personnel Committee and she stated that none of this was discussed during a Personnel Committee meeting. She stated that if this is just a budgetary transfer, she questioned if the final vote should be under the Audit & Administration Committee with a notation that it was also reviewed under the Personnel Committee. She explained that even on a town level when Planning Board members were being approved, even though it was not under the Town Board's purview to approve a Planning Board member; it's up to the Supervisor, the Town Board would still receive a resume and conduct an interview. She stated that although that is not required here, any indication to see how this person meets the job description would

be appreciated. She also noted that a press release of the appointment of the Deputy County Executive was already published and he had already taken up his duties as the Deputy County Executive before this body approved the budgetary transfer for this position. She believed this has been anything but transparent and has the appearance of being rushed through to limit discussion. She stated that we spent months talking about the reclassification of an SRO Sergeant position. She explained that in less than 10 days with two (2) Committee meetings, during which she was the only Legislator to ask questions, funding to expand the County's highly paid executive team is about to be approved. She believed it was a rubber stamp on a patronage hirer.

Legislator Sullivan believed that you can't compare an SRO to a Deputy County Executive.

Legislator Montgomery stated that in the Commissioner of Finance stated in the press on May 22, 2020 that County government is considering layoffs and furloughs of working men and women.

Legislator Sullivan stated that we were not furloughing anybody.

Legislator Nacerino requested to get back on task.

Legislator Montgomery explained that we are expanding the Executive's staff instead of leaving our workers as our first priority.

Legislator Sullivan stated that workers are our first priority.

Legislator Montgomery believed that now was the time for hiring freezes and austerity measures at every level until we can stabilize County finances. She believed that we needed to take care of our rank and file employees; retaining as many as we can before we expand any County management in executive positions.

Many Legislators were speaking at the same time at this point with Chairwoman Addonizio getting everyone back on task.

Legislator Montgomery continued and stated that Mr. Feighery as Project Manager in the Highway Department receives \$80,975 plus benefits. She stated that she still has not received an answer on the cost of a car for next year. She stated that there are multiple executive staff collecting multiple salaries for multiple positions. She stated that the Commissioner of Health has four (4) County positions. She stated that it does not serve the Health Department well when we have one (1) person in a role of a nonexistent epidemiologist position, also serving as the Supervisor Health Educator and the Public Information Officer. She stated that this does not serve anyone in her community well.

Legislator Sullivan stated that he would like to call the question.

Chairwoman Addonizio tried to maintain order of the meeting. She stated that she wanted to give other Legislators a chance to speak on the matter.

Legislator Nacerino stated that this is not under our purview as it would any other elected official. She stated that we do not have a resume on the Undersheriff, Captains or Chief of Staff. She stated that it is not under the Legislature's purview to pick

appointed personnel. It belongs in the Personnel Committee as any other personnel expenditure would. She stated that it is not under Legislator Montgomery's purview to assess what the Commissioner of Health needs either. She stated that assertions of who is short staffed and what is needed, that is not what we are focusing on tonight, and that is not our decision to make at any point in time. She explains that the funds for the Deputy County Executive position are coming from the County Executive's temporary line. She stated that the County Executive has every right and ability to utilize that temporary line any way she deems fit without apprising us of any personnel coming into her office because it was already pre-approved in the budget. She explained that the Legislature was considering tonight the allocation of \$20,558 moving from the County Executive's temporary line to the Deputy County Executive line. She believed many Legislators spoke their concerns on this item. She requested that the Chair call for a roll call vote on the item.

Legislator Castellano reiterated that he said at the Audit & Administration Committee that there is a savings of not having two (2) benefit packages. He stated that there is a vacant Deputy County Executive position that has a salary of \$116,000 which over the years have saved \$485,000. He explained that the County Executive would have the right to fill that position and hire a full-time person which would mean another benefit and pension package. He stated that we have an individual here who can job share, hold two (2) different hats and do a great job. He stated that most importantly right now we need to open the economy and we need people in place to do so. He stated that by getting people back to work we can get our tax base stabilized. He stated that we are moving \$20,558 for the remainder of the year, so a person can take on extra responsibilities which will generate a huge savings for the taxpayers of Putnam County.

Legislator Jonke stated that he did speak at the Personnel Committee meeting. He believed that Legislator Montgomery was grandstanding.

Legislator Albano stated that he concurs with his fellow Legislators who support the position. He stated that he was glad to see who would be filling that position and he can see the need for it. He stated that he could understand why the County Executive would need extra help. He stated that was her decision and he did not have a problem with it.

Legislator Nacerino stated that this isn't about the County Executive needing help. It is about providing a benefit to the people of Putnam County to help get this County back on its feet. She believed it should be clear on the intent of bringing this position back at this particular time.

Legislator Sayegh stated that we are approving a budgetary transfer from the County Executive for a position that she has every right to fill and has left vacant for three (3) years. She stated that the County Executive can appoint whomever she sees fit for that position. She explained that there was a lot to do with opening and supporting our businesses and getting our Putnam County residents back to work. She stated that she fully supports this, and believed it was an emergency and special situation that certainly no one ever saw coming. She explained how all the personnel issues could be addressed soon during the 2021 budget review process.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that the majority of the County Executives in New York State have a Deputy County Executive. She stated that, out of the 62 counties in New York State, 57 have a Deputy County Executive.

Legislator Albano made a motion to call for a vote.

As some Legislators spoke over each other in disagreement on the matter, Legislator Jonke seconded Legislator Albano's motion.

Chairwoman Addonizio called for order in the meeting and called for a roll call vote on the motions.

By Roll Call Vote: Eight Ayes. One Nay – Legislator Montgomery. Motion carries.

Chairwoman Addonizio called for a Roll Call Vote on the resolution.

RESOLUTION #104

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY TRANSFER/ COUNTY EXECUTIVE/ DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE POSITION

WHEREAS, the County Executive has requested a budgetary transfer (20T092) to provide funding for the Deputy County Executive position effective June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this position has been vacant since October 2017, saving the County approximately \$485,000 by leaving the position unfunded since that time; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created the need to fill the position at this time; and

WHEREAS, the position will be funded for the remainder of 2020 from County Executive's Temporary budget line #10123000 51094, resulting in no fiscal impact for 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Project Manager in the Highway Department, budget line #10149000 51000 149010104, will fill the role of Deputy County Executive on a part time basis, while continuing to perform his functions as Project Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy County Executive salary will be \$116,217 annually; and

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

RESOLVED, that Resolution #284 of 2019, setting the 2020 Salaries of Officers and Employees Paid from County Funds, is hereby amended to include the following position effective June 1, 2020.

Budget Line:	Position:	Salary:
10123000 51000 (10102)	Deputy County Executive	20,558

And be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfer be made:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:		
10123000 51000 (10102)	Personnel Services	20,558

Decrease Estimated Appropriations:		
10123000 51094	Temporary	20,558

2020 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: EIGHT AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR MONTGOMERY.
MOTION CARRIES.

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

Item #6i – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment (20A023)/ Planning Department/ Transit Facility Rehabilitation Project was next. Chairwoman Addonizio recognized Legislator Castellano, Chairman of the Audit & Administration Committee. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Legislators Gouldman and Sayegh, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #105

APPROVAL/ BUDGETARY AMENDMENT/ PLANNING DEPARTMENT/ TRANSIT FACILITY REHABILITATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Planning & Development has requested a budgetary amendment (20A023) to allocate Modernization & Enhancement Program (MEP) and transit 5307 funds to the Transit Facility Rehabilitation Project per Resolution #150 of 2019; 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:

CAPITAL FUND:

Increase Estimated Appropriations:

55997000 53000 52009	Transit Facility Rehabilitation	2,232,000
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Increase Estimated Revenues:

55997000 445970 52009	Fed Aid – Section 5307	1,181,332
55997000 435970 52009	State Aid – Section 5307	147,666
55997000 428601 52009	Transfer from General Fund	147,666
55997000 435971 52009	State Aid – MEP Program	<u>755,336</u>
		2,232,000

Decrease Estimated Appropriations:

55997000 53000 51806	Transit – Section 5307 FFY 2018	922,564
55997000 53000 51906	Transit – Section 5307 FFY 2019	<u>258,768</u>
		1,181,332

Decrease Estimated Revenues:

55997000 445970 51806	Fed Aid – Section 5307 FFY 2018	738,051
55997000 435970 51806	State Aid – Section 5307 FFY 2018	92,257
57997000 428601 51806	Transfer from General Fund	92,256
55997000 445970 51906	Fed Aid – Section 5307 FFY 2019	207,014
55997000 435970 51906	State Aid – Section 5307 FFY 2019	25,877
57997000 428601 51906	Transfer from General Fund	<u>25,877</u>
		1,181,332

2020 Fiscal Impact – 0 –
2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6j – Approval /Budgetary Transfer (20T091)/ Probation Department/ Electronic Monitoring Costs was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Gouldman and Sayegh, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #106

APPROVAL /BUDGETARY TRANSFER / PROBATION DEPARTMENT/ ELECTRONIC MONITORING COSTS

WHEREAS, the Probation Director has requested a budgetary transfer (20T091) to fund projected electronic monitoring costs; 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:

10098000 54646	Contracts	9,000
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Decrease Estimated Appropriations:

10314000 54445	Lab Analysis	4,000
10199000 54980	Contingency	<u>5,000</u>
		9,000

2020 Fiscal Impact \$5,000

2021 Fiscal Impact – 0 –

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #6k – Approval/ Sales Tax Adjustment was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Gouldman and Sayegh, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

Legislator Castellano stated that this is a way to share the burden through sales tax revenue both from residents and visitors in Putnam County. He explained that the additional 1% helps balance the Putnam County budget; collecting approximately \$14 - \$15 million per year. He stated that without the 1% sales tax revenue, this amount would be passed onto the property tax owners.

Legislator Montgomery questioned how this resolution is different than Resolution #68 approved at the March Full meeting.

Legislator Albano stated that it is usually an extension for two (2) years and this one is for three (3) years.

Commissioner of Finance Carlin explained that multiple resolutions are approved. The first resolution is a request to our State representatives and then a resolution gets approved again once the State Legislature approves their budget; which allowed for a three (3) year sales tax extension. This resolution reaffirms that you want to accept the three (3) year extension.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Commissioner Carlin for his explanation. She believed that the additional 1% sales tax increase is a burden for the taxpayers. She did not believe that we needed to share any more burdens with the taxpayers. She stated that she would be voting, "no" on this.

Legislator Sullivan explained that as a fiscal conservative he was never a fan of the additional 1% sales tax. He stated that during these trying times when Governor Cuomo is looking to cut State reimbursements to the County by 20% - 50%, the 1% additional sales tax revenue is spread among many different people in the area. He explained that the additional revenue is approximately \$12 million, and we don't want to have furloughs and layoffs, therefore this additional 1% in sales tax revenue is crucial for the County to continue its operation.

Legislator Nacerino stated that we recognize this is a necessary evil. However, we don't want the burden to fall on the backs of our taxpayers. She stated that we welcome the opportunity to distribute some of that when people visit our County. She stated that it is not a perfect solution, however it helps to ease the burden on our taxpayers.

Legislator Jonke stated that his background for the last 32 years has been in property tax. He stated that if we don't pass this additional 1%, approximately \$15 million which this 1% generates would be placed on the backs of our County taxpayers. He stated that he did not want to hurt our taxpayers and that was the reason he would be voting yes on this resolution.

Legislator Albano stated that in a sense this is not an extra tax, it is just a different place where to put the tax. He stated without this we would be short \$15 million in revenue, and as Legislator Jonke pointed out, the next place would be the homeowners who are the backbone of our community. He believed it is a fair tax because it spreads it across the board, and it is based on spending which fills a big gap. He stated without it something else would have to change and he did not believe anyone would be happy if it went in that direction.

Legislator Sayegh stated that if we don't approve this, the burden of the loss in revenue would be on the backs of every homeowner in Putnam County, who are already paying quite a bit on their property taxes. She stated that we still may be faced with cuts moving forward. She explained how people visiting our County help in generating sales tax revenue. She stated that she is in support of this resolution, so we don't over burden our homeowners.

Legislator Montgomery stated that there are a lot of claims here that we don't have the data on. She stated that it would be great to have that data to actually see what is coming from people who are visiting Putnam County and what is actually falling on the

backs of the taxpayer. She stated that she has never seen the data to back any of this up regarding the claims we will see this from people visiting. She stated that the Town of Philipstown receives many visitors. In speaking with the Parks Department, they are getting anywhere from 6,000 to 10,000 people on any given nice weekend. She did not know if that many people were visiting the towns of Carmel or Patterson. She stated that her constituents are concerned that they are not seeing any of that sales tax back in their district. She stated that it would be great to see the data.

Legislator Castellano stated that we have spoken about this year after year since he has been on the Legislature. He stated that when he was first elected, many of his constituents asked him to remove this sales tax and he stated that he would look at it. He stated that he has defended this year after year. He stated that it obviously does fall on the residents of Putnam County. He explained that the 1% generates \$12 to \$15 million per year. He stated that you also need to remember the unfunded mandates that the County is required to pay for every year. He explained that if we remove this tax and lose \$12 to \$15 million in revenue, there will be either massive cuts, or we dump it back on our local property tax base. He stated that with six (6) towns it would equate to approximately \$2 million each. He stated that a vote no on this resolution means that local property tax would be increased significantly or there will be massive cuts in the Putnam County budget. He stated that every person he has ever explained this to understands it. It is understood that it is a good way of sharing the tax burden evenly. He explained that Putnam County does not have a large number of people from outside the area coming in and purchasing a lot of merchandise, however it does add to this 1% tax and he believes it was a fair way of distributing it. He explained that in the past the argument was that Northern Westchester doesn't have this additional tax. He stated that now all of Westchester County has it too.

Legislator Jonke asked Commissioner of Finance Carlin what the total tax levy for the County was.

Commissioner Carlin stated that it was approximately \$40 million.

Legislator Jonke explained that if the 1% equates to \$14 million in sales tax revenue, he questioned if we would have to raise property taxes by approximately 30% to cover the loss of the 1% in revenue.

Commissioner Carlin stated yes, that was correct or make massive cuts which Legislator Castellano eluded to.

Legislator Jonke stated there would probably a mixture of a huge property tax increase and massive cuts to make up for that 1% loss in revenue.

Commissioner Carlin stated yes, that was correct.

Legislator Montgomery stated that we could find that in the property taxes or we could cut the fat in the budget; which would be the most fiduciary responsibility on our part.

Chairwoman Addonizio called for a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #107

APPROVAL/SALES TAX ADJUSTMENT

County Legislature of the County of Putnam imposing taxes on sales and uses of tangible personal property and of certain services, on occupancy of hotel rooms and on amusement charges, pursuant to Article 29 of the Tax Law of the State of New York.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4-A of Resolution #85 of 1977, adopted by the County Legislature of the County of Putnam on February 10, 1977, imposing sales and compensating use taxes, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 4-A. Imposition of additional rate of sales and compensating use taxes.

Pursuant to the authority of section 1210 of the Tax Law, in addition to the sales and compensating use taxes imposed by sections 2 and 4 of this resolution, there is hereby imposed and there shall be paid an additional one percent rate of such sales and compensating use taxes, for the period beginning September 1, 2007, and ending November 30, 2023. Such additional taxes shall be identical to the taxes imposed by such sections 2 and 4 and shall be administered and collected in the same manner as such taxes. All of the provisions of this resolution relating or applicable to the administration and collection of the taxes imposed by such section 2 and 4 shall apply to the additional taxes imposed by this section, including the applicable transitional provisions, limitations, special provisions, exemptions, exclusions, refunds and credits as are set forth in this resolution, with the same force and effect as if those provisions had been incorporated in full into this section and had expressly referred to the additional taxes imposed by this section.

SECTION 2. Paragraph (g) of subdivision (1) of section 11 of Resolution #85 of 1977, adopted by the County Legislature of the County of Putnam on February 10, 1977, imposing sales and compensating use taxes, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

(g) With respect to the additional one percent rate of taxes imposed for the period beginning September 1, 2007, and ending November 30, 2023, in respect to the use of property used by the purchaser in this county prior to September 1, 2007.

SECTION 3. This enactment shall take effect December 1, 2020.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: EIGHT AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR MONTGOMERY. MOTION CARRIES.

Item #6L – Approval/ Semi-Annual Mortgage Tax Report/ October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 was next. On behalf of the members of the Audit & Administration Committee, Legislators Gouldman and Sayegh, Legislator Castellano moved the following:

RESOLUTION #108

APPROVAL/SEMI-ANNUAL MORTGAGE TAX REPORT/ OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2020

WHEREAS, upon receipt of approval of the Semi-Annual Report showing the amounts to be credited to each district of the County of the money collected during the period October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, the Putnam County Audit and Administration Committee reviewed and hereby forwards same to the Putnam County Legislature; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 261 of the Tax Law, the Putnam County Legislature issues tax warrants for the payment to the respective districts of the amounts so credited and authorizes and directs the Commissioner of Finance to make a payment of said amounts to the respective district in accordance with the report as follows:

Town of Carmel		\$ 555,170.80
Town of Kent		190,775.75
Town of Patterson		153,645.11
Town of Philipstown		
	Village of Cold Spring	16,421.89
	Village of Nelsonville	4,685.16
	Town Outside	200,843.44
Town of Putnam Valley		193,062.94
Town of Southeast		
	Village of Brewster	8,984.12
	Town Outside	<u>270,746.84</u>
Total		\$1,594,336.05

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #7 – Other Business

Legislator Sayegh made a motion to accept the other business related to a pre-filed resolution which was forwarded to the Legislators on May 18, 2020 regarding Telehealth; seconded by Legislator Albano.

By Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Carried Unanimously.

Item #7a – Approval/ Support for Continued Authorization for Telehealth Services was next.

Legislator Sayegh made a motion for continued authorization of telehealth services for Mental Health. She explained that she brought this forward before the Senate and Assembly recess and the Governor's executive order expires on June 6, 2020. She continued by reading some excerpts from the resolution. She stated that the COVID-19 Pandemic, along with the economic downturn, have negatively affected the mental health of New Yorkers. It created more difficulty for people already suffering from mental illness and substance abuse. She stated that Telehealth has proven to be a lifeline to help people navigate the COVID-19 Pandemic. She explained that as we move to open our economy and begin the slow process of finding our new normal, it is important for social services and healthcare providers to continue to provide these telehealth services. She stated that, as Chairwoman of the Health Committee meeting, she has had the opportunity to attend in person the mental health providers meeting, hosted by Commissioner of Social Services, Michael Piazza. She stated that, during this pandemic and per the Governor's executive orders, these meetings have been conducted through the web and telephonically. She explained that although this crisis has been extremely challenging, it brought to the forefront the benefit of being able to provide these essential mental health services remotely and allowed mental health services to continue during this critical time. She stated this was first brought forward by Commissioner Piazza as something we need to address moving forward, discussing this useful tool for all our healthcare providers during this crisis and continuing its use after the pandemic subsides. She stated that this resolution is specific to telehealth and telephonic health. It allows for the continued authorization for telehealth services for mental health after the pandemic, and on a permanent basis, as a tool for all of our mental healthcare providers to use.

Seconded by Legislator Nacerino.

Legislator Montgomery explained that she had previously proposed a similar resolution. She stated that it was unfortunate that we could not collaborate on this to save time and resources. She explained that through two (2) separate requests, she asked that her draft resolution to be addressed by the Health Committee and the Rules Committee in May. She stated that her requests were rejected. She believed it would be most efficient to have one (1) resolution asking that the Governor continue temporary suspension and modification of laws relating to the disaster emergency. The resolution would simply mirror the original executive order and cover, not only mental health, telehealth, but also allow flexibility for childcare providers, the suspension of regulations, expanded in-home services for the elderly and would allow for the suspension of requirements for the apportionment of school aid, suspension of laws relating to emergency procurements and provisions for appearance for defendants, provisions related to unemployment and allow for meetings telephonically. It would also continue the provisions for voting and nursing home residents. She stated that she would support the resolution proposed by Legislator Sayegh, however, she did not want to alarm any of the providers. She believed the provisions would stay in place until the disaster emergency is lifted. She did not believe they would go away on June 6th as mentioned by Legislator Sayegh. She stated that she would like one (1) resolution making provisions for all these services that are at risk.

Legislator Sayegh stated that she appreciated Legislator Montgomery's comments and the hard work she put into drafting her resolution. She explained that Legislator Montgomery's resolution was forwarded to the Health Committee two (2) hours prior to the Health meeting. It was a seven (7) page resolution that did not mention telehealth.

She stated that it spoke of childcare, school aid, voting, emergency procurement, unemployment and other items that related to the Governor's executive orders. She believed that it covered a lot more ground than what was under the purview of the Health Committee. She stated that was the reason she suggested forwarding it to the Rules Committee. She did not believe it had anything to do with the need that CoveCare and Commissioner Piazza spoke about at the meeting concerning telehealth and mental health and the ability to be able to expand their services throughout the end of this crisis.

Chairwoman Addonizio called for a Roll Call Vote.

RESOLUTION #109

APPROVAL/SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED AUTHORIZATION FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Andrew Cuomo enacted Executive Order 202.1 on March 7, 2020, which made temporary changes to New York State laws during the declared State disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 202.1 temporarily suspended or modified Sections 131, 132 and 349-a of the Social Services Law to the extent necessary to allow screenings to be conducted by telephone; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 202.1 temporarily suspended or modified Section 2999-cc of the Public Health Law and any regulatory provisions promulgated thereunder by the Department of Health, the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Addiction Services and Supports, and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, to the extent necessary to allow additional telehealth provider categories and modalities, to permit other types of practitioners to deliver services within their scopes of practice, and to authorize the use of certain technologies for the delivery of health care services to established patients, pursuant to such limitations as the commissioners of such agencies may determine appropriate; and

WHEREAS, these provisions of Executive Order 202.1 were originally effective through April 11, 2020, but were extended by Executive Order 202.14 through May 7, 2020, and extended again by Executive Order 202.28 through June 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such telemedicine services, which include both telephonic and televisual health methods, has proven to be invaluable to the residents of Putnam County who are unable to obtain such services in-person during the restrictions imposed by government during the State disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, authorization to allow social services and healthcare providers to use telemedicine also allows them to bill patients for services, which enables these providers to continue their ability to offer critical public health and social services; and

WHEREAS, such telemedicine services have proven so effective that social services and healthcare providers should be authorized to continue to provide them while Putnam County transitions to restoring regular activities as the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, as well as on a permanent basis; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature hereby call upon Governor Cuomo to continue the authorization for social services and healthcare providers to provide telemedicine services, including both telephonic and televisual health methods, until such time as a State disaster emergency is no longer in effect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Executive and the Putnam County Legislature hereby call upon the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo to enact legislation amending the Social Services Law and the Public Health Law to

authorize social services and healthcare providers to provide telemedicine services, including both telephonic and televisual health methods, on a permanent basis; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Putnam County Legislature is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to our State representatives in the State Legislature as well as the Governor and leadership of our State Legislature.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item #8 – Recognition of Legislators

Legislator Sullivan congratulated all the Senior High School graduates throughout the County. He acknowledged the tough time they have experienced during the COVID-19 Pandemic. He stated that yesterday, June 1, 2020, he along with other officials, had the pleasure to honor these graduates on the shore of Lake Gleneida. He mentioned the many County employees and Elected Officials who also graduated from Carmel High School.

Legislator Gouldman stated that what was happening throughout our Country now was very troubling. He expressed his sympathy with African Americans and acknowledged their frustration regarding police brutality. He stated that we are currently in a pandemic which has affected everyone in some capacity in the last few months. He stated that we are in a new normal now as a community, a state and a nation, we must stop the violence and looting.

Legislator Jonke thanked Chairwoman Addonizio for starting the meeting off with a moment of silence. He believed that anyone who saw the video of what happened in Minneapolis last week is outraged. He stated that there are gatherings planned here in Putnam County and there have already been a couple that have taken place this week. He hoped that everyone keeps in mind that a gentleman passed away at the hands of the police and that we remember him and his life and to keep these gatherings peaceful. He also stated that this Sunday, June 7, 2020, will be the 95th birthday of one (1) of his constituents, Willis Stephens Sr. who served in the Assembly for many years. He is a neighbor, a World War II Veteran and he wished him a very happy birthday.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she stood in solidarity against the horrific abuse resulting in the untimely death of George Floyd. She stated that she stands with those who wish to peacefully protest. However, she did not support those engaging in violence, looting and destruction of our communities. She stated that in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, although our cases are flattening, she reminded everyone to continue to take precautions to stay safe.

Legislator Montgomery appreciated everyone's comments about the tragic events that have been happening in our country. She explained that she just came from a peaceful vigil at St. Mary's Church and was frightened by what is taking place around us. She stated that she knows that she can make an impact by focusing locally. She believes this is the time for a Human Rights Commission. She hoped the Legislature will continue to look at and put forward to the public something that was presented back in January. She believed the Human Rights Commission would be a way to provide a productive forum to air all of these grievances and collectively solve problems and build community.

Legislator Castellano stated that the events that have been taking place in our nation for the last week was something that he never would have thought would happen in the United States. He stated that what happened in Minnesota was a terrible tragedy. He believed that we could do better. He stated that he wanted to thank the police officers that are out there on the front lines every day. He stated that it is incredibly disturbing what is going on. He stated that there are many peaceful protestors and there are people taking advantage of the situation. He stated that these are scary times. He understood there were some bad individuals in many professions, however, he asked everyone to let the legal system take its course. He stated that what happened to Mr. Floyd was a terrible tragedy that should not have happened. He stated that he is praying for the police officers out there tonight performing a very difficult job. He respected the peaceful protestors but at some point, this has to stop. He stated that he comes with 25 years working in the courts helping all sorts of people. He stated that people are generally good, and it is awful what is going on.

Legislator Albano concurred with Legislator Castellano. He believed this was a good time for prayer. He hoped our places of worship would be opening soon because he believed this is what our country needs.

Legislator Sayegh stated that this is a very sad time in our country. She stated that we stand with all our brothers and sisters on the police force. She stated that 99% of all law enforcement officers are against these horrific acts and 99.9% of all Americans are against them too. She stated that there are a few bad apples which she hopes can be weeded out. She stated that Putnam County is a bedroom community for a lot of law enforcement officers and firefighters who work in New York City. She stated that she hears there are fearful wives, husbands and children of these first responders who are afraid that their spouses/mothers/fathers are not going to return home from work. She believed that we needed to protect our law enforcement officers and stand in solidarity with them as well. She stated that she would also like to look towards the future with our children who are coming out of COVID-19 and as they are graduating are facing a world that is in total upheaval. She ended with a few quotes from seniors such as; "I've learned the importance of building bonds with my family and other loved ones, as well as not taking any experience for granted. When we can find normalcy, I will take every opportunity worthwhile". She continued to read more quotes and she ended with this one from a senior; "I believe struggles in our lives prepare us for bigger and better things to come. I think this pandemic isn't only getting us high school students prepared for the real world, but also going to help us, or has already helped us, with some type of challenges to come in our lives". She congratulated the Putnam County Class of 2020!

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that we in Putnam County respect everyone in our community. She stated that we need to be an example for justice, and we accomplish this with peaceful and civil protests. She ended by reading a quote from Martin Luther King. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that".

There being no further business, at 8:40 P.M., Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.