



PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
KEVIN M. BYRNE

October 3, 2024

Putnam County Legislature  
40 Gleneida Avenue  
Carmel, New York 10512

Dear Legislators,

To supplement what was submitted to the Legislative Clerk on October 1, 2024, my office has dutifully assembled this document to provide you with the most accurate and up-to-date information about my administration's proposed budget.

The 2025 Tentative Budget continues last year's tax cuts, reduces the property tax rate, funds our departments, programs, and initiatives that this administration feels are in the best interest of its residents, all with zero county tax increase.

Let this document serve as my additional request that the Legislature adopt this proposed Putnam County Budget for the 2025 fiscal year.

Please be aware that all of this material will be available on our county website.

Sincerely



Kevin M. Byrne  
Putnam County Executive

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## Putnam County Charter Mandate on Tentative Budget

### **Tentative budget. §7.04**

**(a)** Upon completion of the review and investigation of the estimates and appropriation requests from the various administrative units and authorized agencies, the Commissioner of Finance shall prepare, under the direction of the County Executive, the tentative budget for the ensuing fiscal year for both current operating and capital budget purposes.

**(b)** The tentative budget shall be filed with the Clerk of the County Legislature on or before the first (1st) day of October and posted on the County's internet website by close of the following business day. The tentative budget shall include such information and detail as may be requested by the County Legislature pursuant to § 7.04(A)(2).

[Amended 3-4-2014 by L.L. No. 5-2014]

**(c)** The tentative budget shall include, without modification by the County Executive, such line item appropriation requests of the County Legislature, the Clerk of the County Legislature and the County Auditor, as are submitted by the Chair of the County Legislature and a member of the County Legislature representing the member of another minor political party, if another party is represented, or a member elected without party endorsement, if any. This budget request shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Finance in writing before the first (1st) day of September.

**(d)** The tentative budget shall contain such line items appropriations requested by the Board of Elections pursuant to Section 3-300 of the New York State Election Law. These requests must be submitted to the County Legislature by the 15th day of August with a copy to the Commissioner of Finance. The County Executive may make recommendations to the Legislature as to whether these requests should be adjusted.

[Added 4-8-2015 by L.L. No. 7-2015]

Putnam County Charter (2015, April 8). Tentative Budget.

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #140

Introduced by Legislator: Paul Jonke on behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee at a Regular Meeting held on July 2, 2024.

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**APPROVAL/ 2025 DECENTRALIZED BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS FOR PREPARATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2025 COUNTY BUDGET**

**WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee has reviewed and recommended the adoption of the attached Decentralized Budget Review Process for implementation in 2024 of the adoption of the 2025 budget; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby adopts the attached budget review process; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that pursuant to Putnam County Charter Section 7.04 the Putnam County Legislature hereby adopts and notifies the County Executive of the policy and practice guidelines contained in Section E of this Decentralized Budget Review Process/2025 to be complied with by the County Executive.**

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

State of New York  
ss:  
County of Putnam

**APPROVED**  
  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**      **DATE** 7/11/24

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on July 2, 2024.

Dated: July 5, 2024

Signed: 

Diane Schonfeld  
Clerk of the Legislature of Putnam County

## **DECENTRALIZED BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS/2025**

### **CONTENTS:**

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- F. CONCLUSION**
- G. RESOLUTION**

#### **A. PROPOSAL SUMMARY:**

The review and adoption of the annual budget is among the most important functions of the Putnam County Legislature. The various Committees of the Legislature have increasingly important roles in this approach. The respective Committee Chairs and all members of the Legislature also are called upon to contribute their expertise in several capacities.

The Budget Adoption Process for an ensuing fiscal year effectively began on March 5<sup>th</sup> of this year when the County Executive filed his Annual Report on the State of the County. In addition, the various Department Heads at this time submitted a written report detailing the activities of their unit of government. By July 15<sup>th</sup>, the County Legislature must determine policy guidelines for expenditures, limits and priorities so that they can be distributed to the Head of each Administrative Unit. The materials submitted in March and the policy guidelines approved by July 15<sup>th</sup> form an important background foundation for the entire process.

#### **B. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each committee shall meet in a timely fashion and consider the various departmental budget requests under its overview.

It shall schedule and obtain necessary information from the Executive Branch at its Committee deliberations and produce a brief and concise written report on its recommendations.

Care should be taken by the Chair to be certain that the Committee records a reason or rationale behind each recommendation. Failure to disclose a reason or rationale behind a recommendation to amend the tentative budget usually results in unnecessary delay and discussion. Observance of these responsibilities will benefit the Full Legislature in its deliberations on the suggestions of each Committee.

**C. RELEVANT BUDGET DEADLINES PURSUANT TO THE PUTNAM COUNTY CHARTER**

- i. BUDGET DUE: Section 7.04 A(6b) – By the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October the County Executive shall submit the Tentative 2025 Fiscal Year Budget to the Clerk of the Legislature by 5:00 P.M. Recommended date – October 1, 2024 (TUESDAY).**
- ii. Tentative Budget posted on the County Internet Website by 5:00 P.M. Recommended date – October 2, 2024 (WEDNESDAY)**
- iii. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS WITH THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE: Section 7.04 B(2) – Within five (5) days after the transmittal of the Tentative Budget of the County Executive and the Commissioner of Finance shall meet with the Budget and Finance Committee to review the Tentative Budget. Recommended date – October 3, 2024 (THURSDAY) – at 7:00 P.M.**
- iv. BUDGET AND FINANCE HEARING: Section 7.04 B(3) – The Budget and Finance Committee shall conduct a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget with the County Executive and Commissioner of Finance present to answer questions. Recommended date - October 3, 2024 (THURSDAY) – at 8:00 P.M.**
- v. COMMITTEE REVIEW: Section 7.04 B(3) – After the Public Hearing, the Budget and Finance Committee shall review the Tentative Budget as submitted by the County Executive. Recommended dates for Sub-committees are October 4th through October 15, 2024. The Full Budget and Finance Committee will meet on October 17, 2024 (THURSDAY) to review the Tentative 2025 budget.**
- vi. COMMITTEE ACTION: section 7.04 B(3) – On or before October 24, 2024 the Budget and Finance Committee shall file with the Clerk of the Legislature its report on the Tentative Budget and shall include any recommendations made by the Committee. Recommended date for this action is October 22, 2024.**
- vii. LEGISLATIVE HEARING: Section 7.04 B(4) – On or before the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, the County Legislature shall conduct a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget and the Report of the Budget and Finance Committee. Recommended date: October 24, 2024 (THURSDAY) at 7:00 P.M.**
- viii. LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION: Section 7.04B(5) – Prior to the thirty-first (31<sup>st</sup>) day of October, the Legislature shall commence consideration of the annual budget. Recommended dates: October 29, 2024 (TUESDAY) to October 30, 2024 (THURSDAY).**
- ix. BUDGET ADOPTION: Section 7.04 B(6) – If a Budget has not been adopted on or before November 1, 2024, the Tentative Budget as submitted by the County Executive shall be the Budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Recommended Budget Adoption date: October 29, 2024 (TUESDAY).**

- x. **DELIVERY TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE: Section 7.04B(7) -** Within three (3) business days following the adoption of the annual budget, the Clerk of the Legislature shall forward to the County Executive the changes made to the tentative budget.
- xi. **EXECUTIVE VETO: Section 7.04 B(7) –** The County Executive shall approve or veto any or all changes by line item and return the same to the Clerk of the Legislature by the 8th day of November.
- xii. **LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION: Section 7.04 B(8) –** The Legislature shall convene on or before November 15<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of reconsidering each vetoed item.

**TO BE ADOPTED FOR ACTION:**

**D. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

The Clerk of the Putnam County Legislature shall advertise in a timely fashion during the month of September for the public hearing to be held according to Action IV and during the month of October for the public hearing to be held according to Action VII below:

1. The County Executive will be submitting the tentative budget to the Clerk of the Legislature on or before October 1, 2024.
2. All Legislators should be present to discuss the budget with the County Executive at the meeting held with the County Executive and the Commissioner of Finance.
3. All Legislators should be present to observe and participate at the public hearing on the County Executive's Budget. The County Executive and the Commissioner of Finance shall be present to answer questions about the budget.
4. It is recommended that the above two separate actions be conducted on October 3, 2024 as follows:  
Legislators meet with the County Executive at 7:00 p.m.  
Public Hearing will be held on October 3, 2024 at 8:00 p.m.
5. Between October 4, 2024 and until October 15, 2024, each Committee, including:
  - a. Economic Development
  - b. Health
  - c. Personnel
  - d. Physical
  - e. Protective
  - f. Rules
  - g. Audit

shall meet and consider the budgets as defined under that particular Committee's responsibilities and submit a concise, written report of changes, exceptions, additions and comments to the Clerk, including the reasoning behind each recommendation.

6. The Budget and Finance Committee will meet on October 17, 2024 (THURSDAY) to consider and adopt the various Committee Reports. The

Budget Committee shall file a report with the Clerk of the Legislature by October 22, 2024 (TUESDAY).

7. Legislature shall hold its Public Hearing on October 24, 2024 (THURSDAY) at 7:00 P.M.
8. The County Legislature shall meet during a period beginning on October 27, 2024 and if necessary, through October 31, 2024 at the call of the Chair of the Legislature, to consider all recommended actions and to adopt the budget. In all cases, it shall be the responsibility of the various committee Chairs to see that all majority recommendations of the Committee are considered by the Full Legislature.
9. In any case, the budget must be adopted by November 1, 2024.
10. Within three (3) business days of budget adoption, the Clerk will deliver the budget and changes to the County Executive for approval or veto.
11. The last day for the County Executive to veto the budget resolutions is November 8, 2024 (FRIDAY).
12. Upon receipt of a veto message by the County Executive, the County Legislature shall convene on or before November 15, 2024 (FRIDAY) to consider each specific veto and shall vote to sustain or override each separate question.

**E. GUIDELINES TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR DETERMINING EXPENDITURES, LIMITS AND PRIORITIES:**

1. In the Tentative Budget submission, the term "Capital Project" as used in Section 7.05 (a) of the Putnam County Charter shall not include the routine repairing and re-surfacing of highways and routine repair of guardrails (guiderrails) nor shall said routine repairs be subject to long term bonding and that such routine repairs shall be included in the Operating Budget. The Capital Projects Committee shall determine which requested projects meet the criteria to be defined as a Capital Project as set forth above, and their recommendations will be included in the applicable operating and capital budget procedures contained within the Putnam County Charter.
2. In the Tentative Budget submission, the term "Capital Projects" so used in Section 7.05 (a) of the Putnam County Charter shall not include replacement of existing equipment and machinery, and that such replacement shall not be included in the Operating Budget. The Capital Projects Committee shall determine which requested projects meet the criteria to be defined as a Capital Project as set forth above, and their recommendations will be included in the applicable operating and capital budget procedures contained within the Putnam County Charter. A detailed narrative identifying the preceding five (5) year's Capital Projects Budgets and any additions or changes to same including the dates on which the additions or changes to same took place.
3. The County Executive will submit a detailed narrative explaining any differences between the Department's request and the County Executive's recommendation and the reason for not granting the request or increasing any such request.



4. Any subsequent information that the County Executive is aware of that the Department Head did not submit relating to the request and recommendation must also be included in the narrative.
5. The revenues are to be reported and itemized in each individual department's budget for the fiscal year and not in the budget of the Commissioner of Finance, or any other department, where applicable.
6. Each revenue account shall indicate in the Tentative Budget the amount of revenue requested and the amount of revenue projected and actually received to date from the prior fiscal year.
7. All proposed changes in grades, promotions or reclassifications in position in management or non-management be collated and presented as a separate part of the Tentative Budget, including a detailed narrative for each.
8. a) The names of all employees engaged in employment for the County of Putnam in more than one department be separately listed and disclosed apart from the budget document with the name of the position for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year separately.  
b) The names of all employees engaged in employment for the County of Putnam who have had overtime be listed with the amount of dollars for overtime for 2023 and 2024 year-to-date separately.
9. All current and expected personnel vacancies be identified by line item in the budget or in supporting documents throughout the entire budget process.
10. a) Each department head shall identify those personnel positions within his/her department that were entitled to either New York State or Federal Government reimbursement, either by statute, grant or otherwise, including the rate of reimbursement, amount of reimbursement actually received and amount of reimbursement expected to be received until the end of the fiscal year.  
b) Also to be included is a separate list of personnel positions funded fully or partially by grant funds expected to expire and include the expected grant expiration date.
11. Each department head shall identify all line items in their department that are entitled to either New York State or Federal Government reimbursement and maximum allowable reimbursement, if applicable.
12. The Commissioner of Finance shall supply this information with the Tentative Budget.
13. Each department head shall complete a Motor Vehicle Inventory Control Form for any and all vehicles being used by said department.
14. An organizational chart by department for 2024 shall be provided along with an organizational chart for 2025 highlighting all proposed changes.

- 15. If the County Executive plans on out-sourcing or privatizing any department, or part thereof in the total departmental budget, in the 2025 budget, the County Executive must provide a detailed statement of the rationale and his/her proposed recommendations to the Legislature no later than August 1, 2024.**
- 16. Certain budget lines are considered approved with specific limitations or conditions on how the funds shall be applied and this limitation shall not be disregarded without the formal approval of the Legislature. Any violation of these limitations may result in withdrawal of funding for these or other budget lines within the department.**
- 17. The County Executive will present an inventory of all County vehicles including a report on the condition, mileage and maintenance of each vehicle. The report will be supplied with the Tentative Budget.**
- 18. Any personnel positions which are vacant at the time of the submission of the Tentative Budget to the County Legislature shall state the calendar date at which time the position first became vacant.**
- 19. Any and all revenue projections for the 2025 budget shall only include revenue that falls within the jurisdiction and approval of the Putnam County Legislature and requires no other jurisdiction's approval (federal, state or other). Any revenue projections that require approval from an outside jurisdiction (federal, state or other) shall not be budgeted unless the revenue has been approved by that outside jurisdiction prior to the submission of the budget to the Legislature.**
- 20. Any not-for-profits seeking funding from the County must submit to the Administration along with their request for funding the following documentation, which documents shall be forwarded to the Legislature along with the Tentative Budget:**
  - Any distributed summary or report of the strategic plan and the accomplishments of the Non-For-Profit (NFP);**
  - A list of the NFP's current serving directors, including contact information for each, the date and length of their respective terms and their conflict disclosures;**
  - A complete list of the NFP's employees;**
  - Complete copies of the NFP's current by-laws and the minutes for any board and committee meetings conducted in the last two (2) years;**
  - Copies of each independent audit and/or auditor compilation of the NFP's financial reports for the last three (3) years;**
  - Copies of the NFP's current Code of Conduct and any Administrative Policies, including but not limited to policies that**

address check signing authority, opening of bank accounts, or use of credit cards;

- Copies of the NFP's Conflict of Interest and Related Party policies, if any;
- Records relating to review and approval by the NFP of the engagement and salary for any compensated positions; and
- Copies of the NFP's IRS 990 or IRS 990EZ filed for the last three (3) years and the records relating to review and approval by the NFP's board for said filings.

21. The Tentative Budget shall breakout the "Contracts" line as shown in previous budgets of the Golf Facility and Tilly Foster Farm, and shall delineate any Capital improvements to each facility or its grounds.

22. The budget will break out in each department the cell phone expense from the total telephone expense and provide a separate account number for this cell phone item.

23. Any additional new items, if desired.

**F. CONCLUSION:**

Implementation of this Legislative Budget Review System will bring the expertise of the various Legislative Committees and their Chairs to bear on one of the most important functions of the Legislature.

It is expected that proposal acceptance will result in increased budget efficiency and greatly reduced cost to the County.

**G. PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee has reviewed and recommended the adoption of the attached Decentralized Budget Review Process for implementation in 2024 of the adoption of the 2025 budget; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby adopts the attached budget review process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Putnam County Charter Section 7.04 the Putnam County Legislature hereby adopts and notifies the County Executive of the policy and practice guidelines contained in Section E of this Decentralized Budget Review Process/2025 to be complied with by the County Executive.

## **Putnam County Charter Mandate on Capital Plan**

### **Capital program and capital budget. §7.05**

4. Preparation of the capital program and the capital budget. The Commissioner of Finance shall prepare the proposed capital program and the proposed capital budget under the direction of the County Executive. The proposed capital budget shall include the amount proposed for the capital program to be financed by direct budgetary appropriation for the ensuing fiscal year shall indicate the proposed down payments and other expenditures for the new capital projects and shall provide all proposed capital financing, including but not limited to reserve funds, sinking funds, current revenues, temporary borrowing, bond sales, federal and state grants, loans or advances. The capital budget for the ensuing<sup>(1)</sup> fiscal year shall be incorporated into the tentative budget and shall be submitted to the County Legislature by the first (1st) day of October in accordance with section 7.04(A)(5) of this Charter.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Kevin M. Byrne, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

**October 3, 2024**

Honorable Members of the County Legislature:

As required by the Putnam County Charter, I hereby submit a Capital Plan for the years 2025 through 2030.

The proposed Capital Plan provides for necessary investments in County facilities and infrastructure for the next six years, based on project priorities and the County's financial capacity.

The County has demonstrated true fiscal responsibility and resiliency these past few years, and I am proud of where we are and look forward to the important projects that are part of this Capital Plan.


Included in the Capital Plan for 2025 are the following projects:

- *Capital Request #2025-001 - Capital Reserve- Minor Reservations*
- *Capital Request #2025-002 - Generator Replacement Program*
- *Capital Request #2025-003 - DPW Stockpile Modernization*
- *Capital Request #2025-004 - ADA Improvements - Various County Facilities*
- *Capital Request #2025-005 - Cart Storage Barn & Maintenance Facility - Preliminary Design*
- *Capital Request #2025-006 - Veterans' Museum*
- *Capital Request #2025-007 - Programmatic Facilities' Parking Lot Improvements*
- *Capital Request #2025-008 - DBS Campus Buildings 2 & 3 Window Replacements*
- *Capital Request #2025-009 - Additional Funding for Underground Storage Tank Removal Program*
- *Capital Request #2025-010 - County Office Building Generator*
- *Capital Request #2025-011 - Youth Bureau Relocation*
- *Capital Request #2025-012 - Myrtle Ave @ Route 6N Garage Roof Replacement*
- *Capital Request #2025-013 - Pavement Maintenance & Rehabilitation*
- *Capital Request #2025-014 - CHIPS - Eligible Equipment & Highway Infrastructure Improvements*
- *Capital Request #2025-015 - Putnam Bikeway II, Stage IV*
- *Capital Request #2025-016 - PIN 8762.97 - Culvert Replacement Program*
- *Capital Request #2025-017 - Transit Section 5307 Funds*
- *Capital Request #2025-018 - EI/Pre-K Buses*
- *Capital Request #2025-019 - Pedestrian Improvements*
- *Capital Request #2025-020 - Highway Equipment*

The recommendations in the attached Capital Plan reflect a consensus arrived at through productive discussions among members of the Capital Program Committee, including myself as County Executive, the Chairman of the Legislature, and senior members of the Executive and Legislative branches of County Government.

I thank all the members of the Capital Program Committee for their efforts and urge the members of the Legislature to thoughtfully consider the Committee's recommendations.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Byrne - County Executive

**PUTNAM COUNTY**  
**Six Year Capital Plan**  
**2025 – 2030**  
**Capital Program Committee**

County Executive (Chairman):	Kevin M. Byrne
Commissioner of Finance (Vice-Chairman):	Michael J. Lewis
Chairman of the Legislature:	Paul Jonke
Commissioner of General Services:	John Tully
Commissioner of Public Works:	Thomas Feighery
Commissioner of Planning:	Barbara Barosa, AICP
Minority Political Party Member:	Nancy Montgomery

# **PUTNAM COUNTY**

## **2025 Capital Plan**

**Kevin M. Byrne, County Executive**

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## Introduction

Every municipality has a portfolio of capital assets that it owns, maintains, and employs to help deliver quality services to its residents. These assets include equipment and vehicles, but also more permanent assets such as roads, buildings, county facilities, recreation, and natural areas. With ownership comes an obligation to maintain and continually improve these assets. The process is used to determine how to invest County resources to maintain and improve the County's capital assets is known as the Capital Plan ("Plan"). The County of Putnam endeavors to adopt a Plan that is updated annually in conjunction with the Annual Operating Budget.

Putnam County has always strived to offer its residents and businesses the most desirable community facilities and reliable infrastructure to maintain their quality of life. As the County plans for the future, maintaining existing high-quality assets must be a high priority

The Plan is a multi-year planning instrument used to identify needs and funding sources for municipal capital project expenditures. *It is not a commitment to fund requested projects, but rather a schedule of necessary and/or desired public physical improvements and possible funding sources.* The existence and condition of infrastructure and major capital assets has a direct bearing on the County's ability to provide services and facilities needed or desired by the community, and the perception of the community on its quality of life. These capital assets have an impact on property values and the community's ability to attract and retain residents and businesses. The Plan is the best available tool for advising the Legislature, other agencies, and the public of the County's capital and infrastructure needs. The Plan comprehensively identifies projects so that they can be properly coordinated, and future funding needs can be anticipated.

It is important to the effort of maintaining a multi-million-dollar infrastructure portfolio to explore various approaches to secure adequate revenues to fund our capital needs which could include pay-as-you-go practices, designation of reserves, use of dedicated federal and state revenues, borrowing and grants.

Putnam County's Capital Plan covers a six-year period and is revised annually to reflect the County's changing needs and priorities. The Plan is a comprehensive listing and description of planned capital projects and cost estimates. The projects are necessary to meet the goals and objectives of the County Executive and Legislature. Several criteria are used in establishing priorities for project selection. These include the potential that a given project will resolve a health or safety issues, bring the County into or ensure compliance with Federal or State mandates, reduce County operating costs and/or increase revenue or leverage the availability of grants or other sources of revenue.

The County works with its Municipal Advisor to project the impact of the debt service associated with any borrowings on the Annual Operating Budget. The County Executive or Legislature may deem it necessary to defer certain projects depending on budgetary constraints.

Preparing a Capital Plan for Putnam County is no easy task. The extensive number of services the County provides to its constituents require many unique and extensive infrastructure requirements to meet the capital needs of the County. Balancing these needs with the many "wish lists" makes preparing a capital plan such an arduous process. Management needs to prioritize the immediate needs with projects that can be deferred at this time as well as having flexibility in the plan to deal with any contingencies that may occur.

## Annual Process

As part of the annual budget process, each department completes a proposed six-year capital plan for their department. Each submission is summarized by type of expense and the funding source.

The Capital Plan Committee, comprised of the County Executive, County Legislators, and selected staff, conduct discussions with Department Heads as to the necessity of proposed projects taking into consideration constituent needs as well as the cost and tax impact on the residents. Upon approval of the Capital Plan, bond resolutions will be brought forward to the County Legislature for approval when appropriate. As with any county resolution, residents may comment.

After adoption of the bond resolution (if applicable), work on the proposed projects can begin.

## Calculation of Debt Limit

### Tax Limit Calculations

Fiscal Year	Taxable Full Value
2023	\$16,911,170,477
2022	\$15,436,547,875
2021	\$14,984,161,663
2020	\$14,430,632,203
2019	\$14,039,355,173

Five Year Total Full Valuation	\$75,801,867,391
Five Year Average Full Valuation ?	\$15,160,373,478
Constitutional Tax Limit ?	\$227,405,602
Total Tax Levy	\$46,687,781
Total Exclusions ?	\$7,054,304
Tax Levy Subject to Tax Limit ?	\$39,633,477
Percentage of Tax Limit Exhausted ?	17.43%
Constitutional Tax Margin ?	\$187,772,125

## General Obligation

### Debt Service

Schedule Profile as Of	Maturity Dates
Frequency	12/31/2024
First Period End	Annual
End Date	12/31/2025
	N/A

General Obligation					Outstanding Balance
Date	Principal	Interest	Total	Annual Total	
12/31/2025	5,320,000.00	952,810.53	6,272,810.53	6,272,810.53	28,690,000.00
12/31/2026	4,450,000.00	783,102.48	5,233,102.48	5,233,102.48	24,240,000.00
12/31/2027	4,050,000.00	633,310.53	4,683,310.53	4,683,310.53	20,190,000.00
12/31/2028	4,090,000.00	500,463.87	4,590,463.87	4,590,463.87	16,100,000.00
12/31/2029	3,220,000.00	380,625.02	3,600,625.02	3,600,625.02	12,880,000.00
12/31/2030	3,315,000.00	300,125.02	3,615,125.02	3,615,125.02	9,565,000.00
12/31/2031	3,190,000.00	217,956.27	3,407,956.27	3,407,956.27	6,375,000.00
12/31/2032	1,780,000.00	153,387.52	1,933,387.52	1,933,387.52	4,595,000.00
12/31/2033	1,495,000.00	115,709.39	1,610,709.39	1,610,709.39	3,100,000.00
12/31/2034	1,000,000.00	82,581.26	1,082,581.26	1,082,581.26	2,100,000.00
12/31/2035	1,035,000.00	50,784.38	1,085,784.38	1,085,784.38	1,065,000.00
12/31/2036	1,065,000.00	17,306.25	1,082,306.25	1,082,306.25	
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,010,000.00</b>	<b>4,188,162.52</b>	<b>38,198,162.52</b>	<b>38,198,162.52</b>	

The use of debt financing is an important method of funding capital projects as some large capital outlays are challenging to fund within a single budget year. In addition, financing through short-term or long-term debt allows the County to distribute the tax burden over the life of the asset. Moody's has assigned Putnam County an **Aa1** rating, which reflects a sound financial position.

The County issues General Obligation Bonds, Bond Anticipation Notes, and Refunding Bonds. The proceeds from the issuance of these instruments fund capital improvement projects such as road construction, county buildings, improvements to County facilities, and upgrading County wide technology and/or equipment.

Outstanding Debt Service for FY2025 is **\$34,010,000**. Based on this data, the outstanding principal and interest is defined above through 2036.

SIX-YEAR CAPITAL PROJECTS 2025 - 2030

Six Year

PROJECTS	Capital Request #	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Totals
<b>FACILITIES:</b>								
Capital Reserve - Minor Renovations	2025-001	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	1,500,000
Generator Replacement Program	2025-002	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,500,000
DPW Stockpile Modernization (Phase II, Salt Shed)	2025-003	800,000	-	-	-	-	-	800,000
ADA Improvements - Various County Facilities	2025-004	200,000	-	-	-	-	-	200,000
Cart Storage Barn and Maintenance Facility - Prelim Design *	2025-005	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
Veterans' Museum *	2025-006	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Programmatic Facilities Parking Lot Improvements *	2025-007	650,000	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-	2,650,000
DBS Campus Buildings 2 & 3 Window Replacements *	2025-008	500,000	500,000	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
Underground Storage Tank Removal Program *	2025-009	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
COB Generator *	2025-010	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
Youth Bureau Relocation *	2025-011	125,000	-	-	-	-	-	125,000
Myrtle Ave @ Route 6N Garage Roof Replacement *	2025-012	350,000	-	-	-	-	-	350,000
Kern Building Exterior Renovations *		-	-	1,500,000	-	-	-	1,500,000
DBS Campus Parking Lot Rehabilitation *		-	1,750,000	-	-	-	-	1,750,000
<b>Sub Total:</b>		<b>\$ 4,275,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,750,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>12,525,000</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL - MS/4</b>								
Repairs and Improvements to various Dams		\$ -	\$ 575,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ -	\$ 5,750,000
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>								
Repair and Replacement of Various Bridges & Culverts/BRIDGENY Program Local Match		\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	2,500,000
Pavement Maintenance and Rehabilitation	2025-013	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	6,000,000
CHIPS - Eligible equipment & highway infrastructure imp	2025-014	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	7,200,000
PIN 8759.05 - Putnam Bikeway II Stage IV *	2025-015	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
PIN 8762.97 - Culvert Replacement Program	2025-016	500,000	100,000	2,300,000	-	-	-	2,900,000
Transit Section 5307 Funds	2025-017	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	7,200,000
El/Pre-K Buses *	2025-018	285,000	-	-	-	-	-	285,000
Pedestrian Improvements *	2025-019	7,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	7,500,000
Hill St. @ NYS 6N Intersection Reconstruction (2026-2030 TIP) *		-	-	1,743,750	562,500	-	7,537,500	9,843,750
NYS RT 22 & Haviland Hollow Intersection Improvements (2026-2030 TIP) *		-	-	-	1,912,500	562,500	4,612,500	7,087,500
Simpson Rd. & Rt 6 Intersection Improvements (2026-2030 TIP) *		-	-	-	1,150,000	500,000	2,800,000	4,450,000
Ludingtonville Rd. Reconstruction & Resiliency Improvements (2026-2030 TIP) *		-	-	-	3,500,000	1,000,000	13,690,000	18,190,000
<b>Sub Total:</b>		<b>\$ 12,685,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,943,750</b>	<b>\$ 11,025,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,962,500</b>	<b>\$ 32,540,000</b>	<b>74,156,250</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>								
Highway Equipment	2025-020	\$ 700,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	4,450,000
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>\$ 17,660,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,075,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,068,750</b>	<b>\$ 14,675,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,612,500</b>	<b>\$ 33,790,000</b>	<b>\$ 96,881,250</b>
<b>FUNDING SOURCES:</b>								
COUNTY		\$ 6,180,000	\$ 5,130,000	\$ 5,948,750	\$ 4,295,000	\$ 4,282,500	\$ 8,598,000	34,434,250
FEDERAL		7,660,000	1,160,000	4,315,000	6,780,000	2,730,000	23,992,000	46,637,000
STATE		1,820,000	1,210,000	1,430,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	8,060,000
WOIP		-	575,000	375,000	2,400,000	2,400,000	-	5,750,000
BORROWING**		2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>\$ 17,660,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,075,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,068,750</b>	<b>\$ 14,675,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,612,500</b>	<b>\$ 33,790,000</b>	<b>\$ 96,881,250</b>

ROJECTS	Capital Request #	2025	2025 Funding Source				
			County	Federal	State	WQIP	Borrowing
<b>FACILITIES</b>							
Capital Reserve - Minor Renovations	2025-001	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Generator Replacement Program	2025-002	250,000	250,000	-	-	-	-
DPW Stockpile Modernization(Phase II. Salt Shed)	2025-003	800,000	400,000	-	400,000	-	-
ADA improvements various County Facilities	2025-004	200,000	200,000	-	-	-	-
Cart Storage Barn and Maintenance Facility - Prelim Design *	2025-005	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	-
Veterans' Museum *	2025-006	50,000	50,000	-	-	-	-
Programmatic Facilities Parking Lot Improvements *	2025-007	650,000	650,000	-	-	-	-
DBS Campus Buildings 2 & 3 Window Replacements *	2025-008	500,000	500,000	-	-	-	-
Underground Storage Tank Removal Program	2025-009	500,000	500,000	-	-	-	-
COB Generator *	2025-010	500,000	500,000	-	-	-	-
Youth Bureau Relocation *	2025-011	125,000	125,000	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Ave @ Route 6N Garage Roof Replacement *	2025-012	350,000	350,000	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub Total:</b>		<b>\$ 4,275,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,875,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 400,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>							
Pavement Maintenance and Rehabilitation	2025-013	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CHIPS - Eligible equipment & highway infrastructure imp	2025-014	1,200,000	-	-	1,200,000	-	-
PIN 8759.05 - Putnam Bikeway II Stage IV *	2025-015	1,000,000	100,000	800,000	100,000	-	-
PIN 8762.97 - Culvert Replacement Program	2025-016	500,000	100,000	400,000	-	-	-
Transit Section 5307 Funds	2025-017	1,200,000	120,000	960,000	120,000	-	-
EI/Pre-K Buses *	2025-018	285,000	285,000	-	-	-	-
Pedestrian Improvements *	2025-019	7,500,000	-	5,500,000	-	-	2,000,000
<b>Sub Total:</b>		<b>\$ 12,685,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,605,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,660,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,420,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,000</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>							
Highway Equipment	2025-020	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>\$ 17,660,000</b>	<b>\$ 6,180,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,660,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,820,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,000</b>



# Capital Request # 2025-001

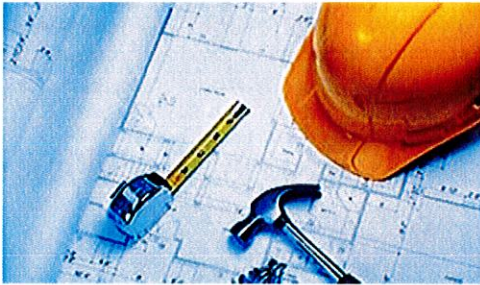
REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Capital Reserve—Minor Renovations



Includes minor facility renovation capital projects (i.e. 6N, Koehler Center, Board of Elections). Also includes previously adopted CP's which are replenished when funding is drawn down (i.e Flooring @ various County facilities, Sidewalks & Stair Safety, & Doors/Frames/ Hardware).

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

The facilities division is responsible for the planning, design, operations, maintenance, construction, and general administration of the County's 39 buildings and various properties. The division consistently addresses verbal, written, or scheduled work orders for a variety of maintenance and repair tasks. The division is responsible for 5 park and rides, 9 radio towers, 27 standby generators with remote monitoring along with building management systems. The Division's workforce consists of highly skilled tradesman licensed in Electrical, HVAC, Carpentry and Plumbing disciplines.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$250,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$250,000.00
Notes: Multi-year funding plan for Capital Reserve Minor renovations	



# Capital Request # 2025-002

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Description of Project or Purchase: Generator Replacement Program***

The installation of a new exterior generator at the Sheriff's Dept/Correctional Facility will become the primary source of backup power for the facility. There are currently two aging generators inside of the facility. An exterior generator can be more easily accessed for maintenance and repairs and will contain an aboveground fuel source, allowing the County to separately continue its programmatic removal of underground storage tanks., one of which currently serves the two interior generators.



Design and installation of a new generator at the Putnam County Golf Course. The Clubhouse was recently named a remote emergency services center during times of need. The Clubhouse will also be used for early voting. The existing generator that serves the Clubhouse is antiquated and inadequate for the demands that will be put upon it if called to do so.

### **Description of program impacted by capital request:**

Backup power supply to County facilities is essential to prevent operational impacts from loss of power. Recognizing and proactively replacing aging generators with new will allow the County to continue to deliver essential services to the public during times of outages, emergencies and declared disasters.

<b>Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information</b>	
<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>2025</b>
<u>Capital Request</u>	\$ <u>250,000.00</u>
<b>COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$ 250,000.00</b>
Notes: Multi-year funding plan for generator replacements	



# Capital Request # 2025-003

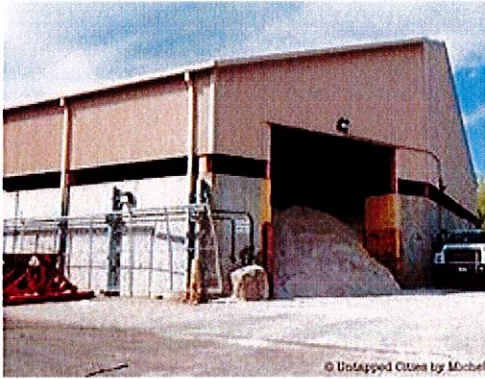
REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: DPW Stockpile Modernization



Phase II of the DPW Stockpile modernization project involves the construction of a new salt storage shed. The new, larger storage shed will improve the County's snow response operations and allow DPW to accept larger deliveries of salt. The ability to store large amounts of salt allows the County to make purchases when salt prices are low and to be able to respond to successive storms without the threat of running out of material. The existing salt shed across the street will remain in place as a backup for additional storage, if needed.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

The completion of Phase II will formalize a new DPW operations hub that will centralize operations and create a more efficient system for providing essential services to residents and the traveling public.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$800,000.00
State Funding	NYSDEC CFA Grant 100% (50% of total project cost) \$400,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	<b>\$400,000.00</b>





# Capital Request # 2025-004

REQUEST INFORMATION:

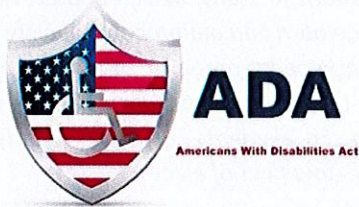
DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Description of Project or Purchase: ADA Improvements Various County Facilities**

This funding will cover upgrades at the County Office Building including the installation of a main entrance access ramp and automatic door along with bathroom renovations on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors.



### Description of program impacted by capital request:

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity and access for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, Putnam County complies with all federal requirements to ensure non-discriminatory transportation in support of our mission to enhance the social and economic quality of life for all Americans. The FTA Office of Civil Rights is responsible for civil rights compliance and monitoring to ensure nondiscriminatory provision of public transit services.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$200,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	<b>\$200,000.00</b>
Notes: Second year of a two-year funding program for ADA improvements	



# Capital Request # 2025-005

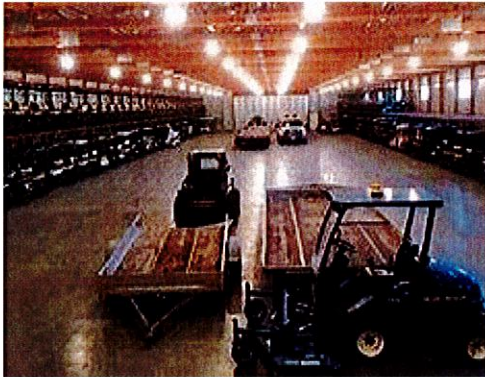
REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Cart Storage Barn & Maintenance Facility— Preliminary Design



The project will involve contracting with a consultant to study, design and provide plans and specifications for a new golf cart storage barn and maintenance facility at the Putnam County Golf Course. The existing maintenance garage is in a severe state of disrepair and previous attempts to rehabilitate the facility have been unsuccessful. Currently, carts are stored outdoors, subject to the elements. It is the County's intention to convert the current gas-powered carts to a fleet of electric carts.

The proposed facility will be designed to accommodate the electrical infrastructure to support the charging of the electric golf carts under the cover of the building.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

The design of a new golf cart storage barn and maintenance facility will allow us to look to the future construction of a modern facility which will centralize operations and create an energy efficient building that will improve services for one of the premier golf courses in Putnam County.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$100,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$100,000.00



# Capital Request # 2025-006

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

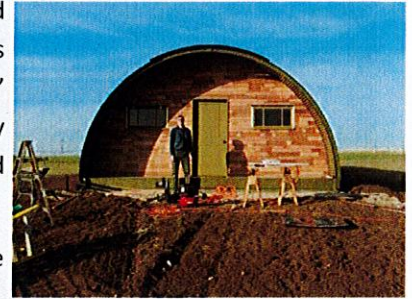
STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Veterans' Museum



This project will involve the construction of a prefabricated Quonset style military hut at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park to house the Putnam County Veterans' Museum. The building will be outfitted with the necessary utilities and will be insulated so that it can be used throughout the year.

The new building will be appropriately located within the display area where the war memorials and military equipment are currently staged.



The Veterans Service Agency plans to conduct public tours and presentations within the new facility.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

A new Veterans' Museum will pay honor to our Veterans', allow memorabilia to be displayed and provide educational opportunities to the public through tours and special events.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$50,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$50,000.00
Notes: Pending State Funding of \$50,000. Sponsored by Assemblyman Slater CREST Grant.	



# Capital Request # 2025-007

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Programmatic Facilities' Parking Lot Improvements



The goal of this program will be to programmatically address parking lot drainage and pavement deficiencies at multiple County facilities. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has assessed each facility and has developed scopes of work. Some of the work can be handled internally with County staff and resources. However, the volume of these deficiencies will necessitate outsourcing some of the proposed work with contracted paving services.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

This Capital funding program coupled with the DPW's own in house efforts will help to bring our facilities' parking lots into a state of good repair.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$650,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$650,000.00
Notes: This is a biennial program for parking lot improvements	



# Capital Request # 2025-008

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Description of Project or Purchase: DBS Campus Buildings 2 & 3 Window Replacements**



This project will include the replacement of the inefficient existing single pane windows for Buildings 2 and 3. The new windows will all be operable and energy efficient in reducing glare and providing a proper R-value.

### **Description of program impacted by capital request:**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has already undertaken a variety of campus improvement projects (including upgrading windows in Building 1) and this project will further the continued efforts in bringing the campuses' buildings and grounds up to modern, energy efficient standards.

<b>Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information</b>	
<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>2025</b>
Capital Request	\$500,000.00
<b>COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$500,000.00</b>
Notes: This is a two-year program with \$500,000.00 being requested each year to address one building per year.	



# Capital Request # 2025-009

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Additional Funding for Underground Storage Tank Removal Program



This request is for the addition of funding to continue the County's established underground storage tank removal and replacement program. Aging underground storage tanks are a potential liability. Removing these tanks, while they are still in good condition, eliminates the potential of future soil or water contamination and the costly environmental impacts and resulting remediation. Underground storage tanks also have many compliance requirements, including reporting, testing and monitoring that take substantial time and expense to do. Under this program, the County has removed and/or replaced tanks at the Transit Facility, the Department of Public Works, the Sheriff's Dept, the 6N garage and the Donald B Smith Campus.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has prioritized and systematically removed aging underground storage tanks throughout the County. The ability to carry on this program will reduce liability and expense and continue the County's efforts to be good stewards of the environment.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$500,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$500,000.00



# Capital Request # 2025-010

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: County Office Building Generator



This project would involve the installation of a generator at the County Office Building. The County Office Building is a critical facility for providing essential services to the public but does not currently have a power backup system. The new generator would ensure continued operations during power outages, without disruption, so that staff, the legislature and the administration can continue to serve the public.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

This project would provide a new, properly sized, exterior generator to provide backup power for the County Office Building.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$500,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$500,000.00



# Capital Request # 2025-011

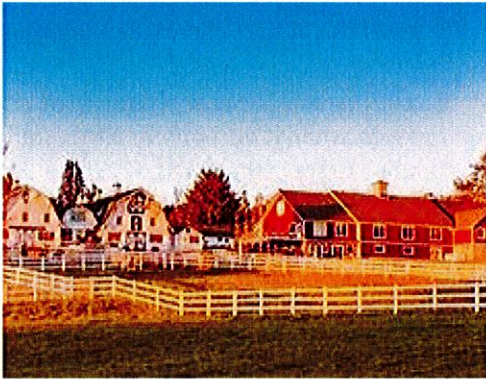
REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Youth Bureau Relocation



This project involves the renovation of Building 7 at the Tilly Foster Farm and the subsequent relocation of the Putnam County Youth Bureau from the Donald B Smith Campus to the Farm. This new location would provide additional and advantageous resources and opportunities that are not available at their current offices at the Donald B Smith Campus.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

Relocating the Youth Bureau to the Tilly Foster Farm would enhance the services the Youth Bureau currently provides.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$125,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	<b>\$125,000.00</b>





# Capital Request # 2025-012

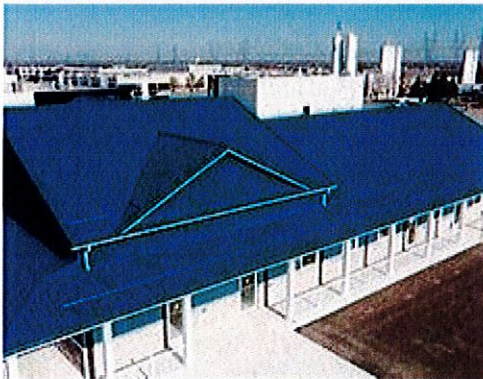
REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Description of Project or Purchase: Myrtle Ave @ Route 6N Garage Roof Replacement**



This project will replace the roof at the Department of Public Works' Myrtle Ave @ Route 6N Garage. The roof was irreparably damaged during a storm event this past year. DPW has made temporary accommodations to prevent leaks, but the roof is in need of a full replacement.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

This project will replace the roof at the DPW's Myrtle Ave @ Route 6N Garage.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$350,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$350,000.00



# Capital Request # 2025-013

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Pavement Maintenance & Rehabilitation



This program will address deficient County roadways. The Engineering Division in the Department of Public Works has assessed, identified and prioritized certain roads in need of repair in 2025.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

This project will continue the County's efforts to maintain a state of good repair of its County roadways.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$1,000,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$1,000,000.00
Notes: This is a multi-year program for pavement rehabilitation	



# Capital Request # 2025-014

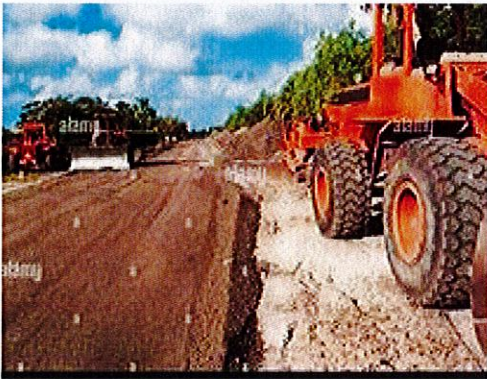
REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Description of Project or Purchase: CHIPS—Eligible Equipment & Highway Infrastructure Improvements**



The CHIPS program is a State-funded program that provides aid to municipalities to support the construction and repair of highways, bridges, highway-railroad crossings, and other facilities that are not on the State highway system. The program was established by the NYS Legislature in 1981. The authorization for the CHIPS Program is contained in Section 10-c of the State Highway Law. The program provides aid to cities, counties, towns and villages on a formula basis.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

The CHIPS program supports the County in the construction and repair of highways, bridges, highway-railroad crossings and other facilities.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information		
FUNDING SOURCE		2025
Capital Request		\$1,200,000.00
State	CHIPS	
	100% (reimbursable)	\$1,200,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED		<b>\$0.00</b>



# Capital Request # 2025-015

REQUEST INFORMATION:

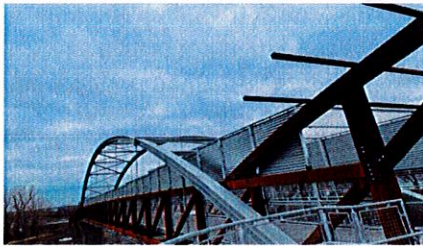
DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Description of Project or Purchase: PIN 8759.05—Putnam Bikeway II Stage IV**

Completion of the construction of a 3-meter (10 ft) wide asphalt shared use path, beginning at Putnam Avenue in the Town of Southeast running approximately 0.58 km (0.36 miles) easterly to the Village of Brewster, ending at North Main Street. The project begins at the terminus of the recently completed section of Putnam Bikeway II Stage 4 at Putnam Avenue and ends at the proposed Maybrook Bikeway II at North Main Street.



The Putnam Bikeway Pedestrian Bridge over MNRR project includes the construction of a multi-span bridge over the Metro-North Railroad Brewster Yard and the Metro-North Railroad Harlem Line, retaining wall systems, new closed drainage, storm water management facilities, railing, drainage and pavement marking and signs.



### **Description of program impacted by capital request:**

The Putnam Trailway is a paved bicycle/pedestrian path located primarily on right-of-way lands of the former Putnam Division of the New York Central Railroad. The "Old Put" as it was formerly referred to by commuters, provided freight and passenger service from 1881 to 1958 between the Bronx in New York City and Brewster in Putnam County.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information			
FUNDING SOURCE			2025
Capital Request			\$ 1,000,000.00
Federal Funding	Section 5307 Funding	80%	\$ 800,000.00
State Funding	NYS DOT	10%	\$ 100,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED			<b>\$ 100,000.00</b>



# Capital Request # 2025-016

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: PIN 8762.97—Culvert Replacement Program



This Federally funded project (PIN 8762.97) will replace culverts in Putnam County to bring them into a state of good repair. Culverts to be replaced will be those with the lowest rating, as determined by County asset management and condition assessment programs.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

PIN 8762.97—Culvert Replacement Program

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information		
FUNDING SOURCE		2025
Capital Request		\$500,000.00
Federal Funding	STBG LG URB 80% (reimbursable)	\$400,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED		<b>\$100,000.00</b>
Notes: This is a multi-year project funded in phases. 2025 is design, 2026 is right-of-way acquisition and 2027 is construction with a total project cost of \$2,900,000.00.		



# Capital Request # 2025-017

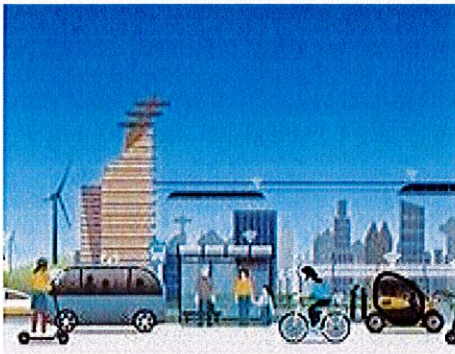
REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Planning, Development and Public Transportation

REQUESTER: Barbara Barosa, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Transit Section 5307 Funds



The Urbanized Area Formula Funding program (49 U.S.C. 5307) makes federal resources available to recipients for transit capital and operating assistance and transportation-related planning in urbanized areas. Eligible activities include: planning, engineering, design and evaluation of transit projects and other technical transportation-related studies; capital investments in bus and bus-related activities such as replacement, overhaul and rebuilding of buses, crime prevention and security equipment and construction of maintenance and passenger facilities; and capital investments in new and existing fixed guideway systems including rolling stock, overhaul and rebuilding of vehicles, station infrastructure, track, signals, communications, and computer hardware and software. In addition, associated transit improvements, workforce development activities, and certain expenses associated with mobility management programs are eligible under the program. For urbanized areas with populations less than

200,000, operating assistance is an eligible expense.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

5307 funds support the County for transit capital and operating assistance and transportation related planning.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information		
FUNDING SOURCE		2025
Capital Request		<u>\$1,200,000.00</u>
Federal	Section 5307	
	80%	\$960,000.00
State	NYS DOT	
	10%	\$120,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED		<b>\$120,000.00</b>



# Capital Request # 2025-018

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Planning, Development and Public Transportation

REQUESTER: Barbara Barosa, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: EI/Pre-K Buses



This funding would be used to purchase three additional Early Intervention/Pre-K buses. Enrollment is expected to increase beyond the vehicle resources available currently. New buses are needed to fulfill the County's obligations to this program.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

Additional Early Intervention/Pre-K buses are needed to meet growing demand.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$285,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$285,000.00



# Capital Request # 2025-019

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Planning, Development and Public Transportation

REQUESTER: Barbara Barosa, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Pedestrian Improvements



This comprehensive pedestrian improvement project would replace existing or construct new sidewalks throughout the County in an effort to improve accessibility, safety and connectivity.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

The installation or repair of sidewalks would improve accessibility, safety and connectivity and encourage alternate means of travel.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$7,500,000.00
Federal	Congressman Lawler Grant \$5,500,000.00 100% (73% of total project costs)
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$2,000,000.00





# Capital Request # 2025-020

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Highway Equipment



This program is for the funding of needed equipment for the Department of Public Works (DPW) operations, including, but not limited to: Dump trucks, heavy equipment, pickups, mowers, paving equipment, tractors.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

This is a continued, programmatic effort to replace aging equipment and to acquire new to keep the DPW fleet in a state of good repair and to ensure efficient operations.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2025
Capital Request	\$700,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$700,000.00
Notes: This is a multi-year program for highway equipment	



# Capital Request # 2026-XXX

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## **Description of Project or Purchase: Donald B Smith Campus Parking Lot Improvements**



The proposed work will include site grading, stormwater management, drainage, pedestrian walkways, parking, and associated work. The existing parking lot will be altered and expanded to allow for additional parking and to improve pedestrian safety throughout the campus. The sidewalk layout will promote connectivity not only throughout the campus but into the surrounding sidewalk network and associated business district (Putnam Plaza).

**Description of program impacted by capital request:**

This project will improve the existing parking lot and pedestrian walkways at the Campus.

<b>Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information</b>	
<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>2026</b>
Capital Request	\$1,750,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	<b>\$1,750,000.00</b>



# Capital Request # 2026-XXX

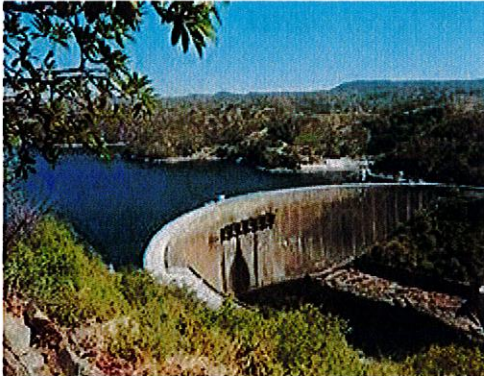
REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Repairs & Improvements to Various Dams



This program will aim to inventory and perform periodic inspections on County-owned dams while prioritizing and performing the required repairs based on routine inspection reports.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

This project will continue the County's efforts to maintain a state of good repair of and compliance for the Lake MacGregor Dam, the Town of Kent Middle and Upper Dams and the Continental Village dam.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information		
FUNDING SOURCE		2026
Capital Request		\$575,000.00
State	NYSDEC WQIP 100%	\$575,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED		\$0.00
Notes: This is a multi-year program for repairs & improvements to dams		



# Capital Request # 2026-XXX

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Description of Project or Purchase: Repair & Replacement of Various Bridges &*

### *Culverts/BRIDGENY Local Match*



This program will fund routine and emergency culvert repairs and replacements as well as supplemental County required funding for BRIDGENY awarded bridge and culvert projects.

**Description of program impacted by capital request:**

This project will fund routine and emergency culvert repairs and replacements and supplement funding for BRIDGENY projects.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2026
Capital Request	\$500,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	<b>\$500,000.00</b>
Notes: This is a multi-year program for bridges and culverts.	



# Capital Request # 2027-XXX

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: Kern Building Exterior Renovations



This project will include exterior siding, gutters, landscaping and window replacements for the entirety of the building which houses The Putnam County Department of Health, DMV and Cornell Cooperative Extension amongst others. The building has been in a state of disrepair for quite some time with reactive incidental work being done as needed to address immediate issues. This project will proactively address infiltration and aesthetic deficiencies thereby improving building functionality and public appeal. The Department of Public Works intends to outsource the majority of the work to an outside contractor.

### Description of program impacted by capital request:

This project will rehabilitate the exterior of the Kern Building, improving building functionality and public appeal.

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information	
FUNDING SOURCE	2027
Capital Request	\$1,500,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED	\$1,500,000.00



# Capital Request # 2027-XXX

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Description of Project or Purchase: PIN TBD—Hill St @ Route 6N Intersection Reconstruction**



This is a Federally funded project (PIN TBD) will provide safer access through the intersection. This project will also include stormwater runoff mitigation.

**Description of program impacted by capital request:**

PIN TBD—Hill St @ Route 6N Intersection Reconstruction

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information		
FUNDING SOURCE		2027
Capital Request		\$1,743,750.00
Federal Funding	STBG LG URB 80% (reimbursable)	\$1,395,000,.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED		<b>\$348,750.00</b>
Notes: This is a multi-year project funded in phases. 2027 is for design, 2028 is for ROW and 2030 is for construction. Total project cost is \$9,845,000.00.		



# Capital Request # 2028-XXX

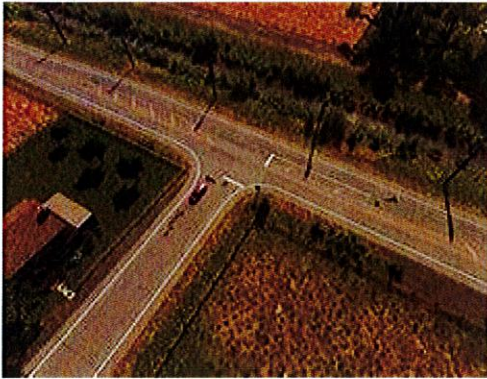
REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Description of Project or Purchase: PIN TBD—Haviland Hollow Rd at Route 22 Intersection Improvements***



This is a Federally funded project (PIN TBD) This project at the intersections of Haviland Hollow Road/ NYS Route 22 and Haviland Hollow Road/ East Branch Road will provide safer passage through the intersections, include a turning lane onto Rt 22, and modernized signalization.

**Description of program impacted by capital request:**

PIN TBD—Haviland Hollow Road at Route 22 Intersection Improvements

<b>Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information</b>		
<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>		<b>2028</b>
Capital Request		<u>\$1,912,500.00</u>
Federal Funding	CMAQ 80% (reimbursable)	\$1,530,000.00
<b>COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED</b>		<b>\$382,500.00</b>
Notes: This is a multi-year project funded in phases. 2028 is for design, 2029 is for ROW and 2030 is for construction. Total project cost is \$7,089,000.00.		



# Capital Request # 2028-XXX

REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Project or Purchase: PIN TBD—Simpson Road at Route 6 Intersection Improvements



This is a Federally funded project (PIN TBD) This project at the intersection of John Simpson Road and NYS Route 6 will create a right-hand turning lane onto Route 6 and improve the signalization.

**Description of program impacted by capital request:**

PIN TBD—Simpson Road at Route 6 Intersection Improvements

Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information		
FUNDING SOURCE		2028
Capital Request		<u>\$1,150,000.00</u>
Federal Funding	CMAQ 80% (reimbursable)	\$920,000.00
COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED		<b>\$230,000.00</b>
Notes: This is a multi-year project funded in phases. 2028 is for design, 2029 is for ROW and 2030 is for construction. Total project cost is \$4,450,000.00.		





# Capital Request # 2028-XXX

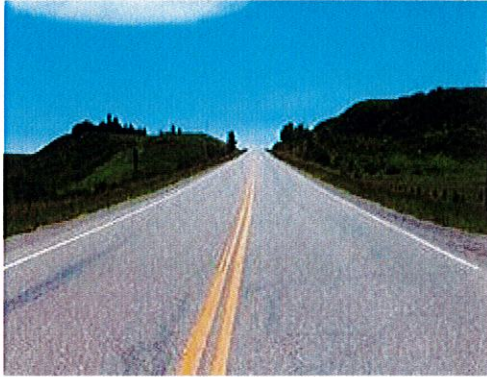
REQUEST INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

REQUESTER: Thomas Feighery, Commissioner

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Description of Project or Purchase: PIN TBD—Ludingtonville Rd Reconstruction & Resiliency Improvements**



This is a Federally funded project (PIN TBD) This project limits are from the I84 interchange to the intersection of NYS Route 311. The project includes pavement restoration, road shoulder construction, bank stabilization, and drainage system up-grades where required along the project limits.

**Description of program impacted by capital request:**

PIN TBD—Ludingtonville Rd Reconstruction & Resiliency Improvements

<b>Capital Request: Financial Summary/Information</b>		
<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>		<b>2028</b>
Capital Request		<u>\$3,500,000.00</u>
Federal Funding	STBG LG URB 80% (reimbursable)	\$2,800,000.00
<b>COUNTY FUNDING REQUESTED</b>		<b>\$700,000.00</b>
Notes: This is a multi-year project funded in phases. 2028 is for design, 2029 is for ROW and 2030 is for construction. Total project cost is \$18,190,000.00.		

# Capital Projects Committee Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2024

County Executive's Office Conference Room

10:00 am

## 1. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Paul Jonke, Chairman of the Legislature, at the request of County Executive Byrne, led the Committee and others in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 2. Roll Call Committee members

Kevin Byrne, County Executive, Chairman

Michael Lewis, Commissioner of Finance, Vice Chairman (remotely via TEAMS)

John Tully, Commissioner, Department of General Services

Thomas Feighery, Commissioner, Department of Public Works

Barbara Barosa, Commissioner, Planning, Development and Public Transportation

Paul Jonke, Chairman, Putnam County Legislature

Greg Ellner, Legislator

Nancy Montgomery, Legislator

Also in attendance:

Michele Alfano-Sharkey, County Auditor

Joseph Bellucci, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works

Conrad Pasquale, Senior Deputy County Attorney, Department of Law

Sheila Barrétt, Deputy Commissioner of Finance

Matthew Covucci, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office

Diane Schonfeld, Clerk, Putnam County Legislature

Alexis Hawley, Supervisor of Planning & Design, Department of General Services

## 3. Opening remarks – County Executive

The County Executive referenced the Charter requirements for the Capital Committee Budget Meeting. He then introduced Committee members whose titles had changed since last year's meeting, including Barbara Barosa, Commissioner of Planning, Development and Public Transportation, John Tully, Commissioner of the Department of General Services, Thomas Feighery, Commissioner of DPW and Michael Lewis, Commissioner of Finance. The County Executive requested that voting be done by consent in which a motion is made, seconded and then, if there are no objections, the motion passes by consent. The Committee concurred with this approach. The County Executive noted that because Commissioner Lewis was remote, he would be ineligible to vote. The meeting was then handed over to Commissioner Feighery to review the status of projects approved in the 2024 Capital Budget.

#### **4. Accomplishments YTD – Commissioner Feighery**

Commissioner Feighery discussed several 2024 Capital budget approved projects and their progress YTD, including infrastructure projects, facilities projects and equipment purchases.

#### **5. Grant Applications Review – Commissioner Barosa**

Commissioner Barosa reviewed the various Federal and State grants received, pending and yet to be applied for and what their financial impact to the 2025 Capital projects will or could be.

#### **6. Financial Overview – Commissioner Lewis**

a. Debt status:

Commissioner Lewis highlighted that \$34,010,000 debt is outstanding in 2024 after paying down \$5,135,000 in debt. In 2025, the County will be paying down \$5,320,000 in debt lowering the outstanding debt to \$28,690,000. The County's legal debt margin is less than 5%.

b. Funding options (General Fund, Borrowing, Grants, etc.):

Commissioner Lewis reviewed the various funding sources which will be used for the proposed 2025 Capital budget including the County's General Fund, Bonding, Federal, State and Grant monies. Commissioner Lewis added that as part of his reporting duties for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, he planned to do a reconciliation of the funds as of August 31, 2024. Any funding associated with ARPA projects that will not move forward could be made available for application to these 2025 Capital projects as a means of lowering the County's fiscal share.

#### **7. Proposed Capital Projects FY2025**

The following projects were individually introduced and put forth to the Committee by Commissioner Tully.

a. **Facilities**

i. **2025-001 Capital Reserve – minor renovations**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Legislator Ellner made a motion to increase the proposed Capital request by 12%. A second was not made. Motion then made by Commissioner Tully to approve as requested. Seconded by Barbara Barosa. Approved by consent.

ii. **2025-002 Generator Replacement Program**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Legislator Ellner. Approved by consent.

iii. **2025-003 DPW Stockpile modernization phase II salt shed**

- Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Commissioner Barosa. Seconded by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Approved by consent.
- iv. **2025-004 ADA Improvements various county facilities**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislator Ellner. Seconded by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Approved by consent.
  - v. **2025-005 Cart Storage barn and maintenance facility -prelim design**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Commissioner John Tully. Legislator Montgomery voted no. All other voting members approved. Motion carried.
  - vi. **2025-006 Veterans Museum**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislator Ellner. Seconded by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Approved by consent.
  - vii. **2025-007 Facility parking lot improvements**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Legislator Ellner. Approved by consent.
  - viii. **2025-008 DBS Campus bldg. 2 & 3 window replacements**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Commissioner Barosa. Approved by consent.
  - ix. **2025-009 Underground storage tank removal**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Commissioner Tully. Seconded by Commissioner Barosa. Approved by consent.
  - x. **2025-010 County Office Building generator**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislator Ellner. Seconded by Commissioner Barosa. Approved by consent.
  - xi. **2025-011 Youth Bureau Relocation**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Commissioner Barosa. Seconded by Legislator Montgomery. Approved by consent.
  - xii. **2025-012 Myrtle Ave at Route 6N Garage Roof Replacement**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Commissioner Tully. Seconded by Legislator Ellner. Approved by consent.

b. **Transportation**

- i. **2025-013 Pavement maintenance and rehabilitation**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Commissioner Tully. Seconded by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Approved by consent.
- ii. **2025-014 CHIPS eligible equipment and infrastructure improvements**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislator Ellner. Seconded by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Approved by consent.
- iii. **2025-015 PIN 8759.05 – Putnam Bikeway II Stage IV**  
Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Commissioner Barosa. Seconded by Commissioner Tully. Approved by consent.

iv. **2025-016 PIN 8762.97 – Culvert Replacement Program**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Commissioner Barosa. Approved by consent.

v. **2025-017 Transit section 5307 funds**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Legislator Ellner. Approved by consent.

vi. **2025-018 EI/Pre-k Buses**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Commissioner Tully. Approved by consent.

vii. **2025-019 Pedestrian Improvements**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Commissioner Tully. Seconded by Commissioner Feighery. Approved by consent.

c. **Equipment**

i. **2025-020 Highway Equipment**

Project introduced. Commissioner Feighery made a motion to amend 2025-020 to increase funding to accommodate the rising costs of equipment. Discussion ensued. As proposed, the requested funding was \$650,000 a year over the six-year Capital Plan. Commissioner Feighery requested that this be increased to \$700,000 in 2025 with increases of \$50,000 each year in subsequent years. County Executive Byrne proposed \$700,000 in 2025, \$750,000 in 2026 and then maintaining \$750,000 over the remaining years of the six-year Capital Plan. The motion was seconded by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Subsequently a motion was made by Legislator Ellner to approve project 2025-020 as amended. Seconded by Barbara Barosa. Approved by consent.

8. **Other business**

The Committee then proceeded to review and vote on the Capital projects proposed for years 2026 – 2030.

a. **Kern Building Exterior Renovations (Proposed in 2027)**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Commissioner Tully. Approved by consent.

b. **Donald B Smith Campus Parking Lot Rehabilitation (Proposed in 2026)**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Legislator Ellner. Approved by consent.

c. **Repairs and Improvement to Various Dams (Proposed 2026 – 2029)**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Commissioner Feighery. Approved by consent.

d. **Repair & Replacement of Various Bridges & Culverts/BRIDGENY Program Local Match**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Legislator Ellner. Approved by consent.

e. **Hill Street at Route 6N Intersection Reconstruction (Proposed 2027, 2028 and 2030)**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislator Ellner. Seconded by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Approved by consent.

f. **NYS Route 22 & Haviland Hollow Road Intersection Improvements (Proposed 2028-2030)**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Commissioner Barosa. Approved by consent.

g. **Simpon Road & Route 6 Intersection Improvements (Proposed 2028 – 2030)**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Legislator Ellner. Approved by consent.

h. **Ludingtonville Road Reconstruction & Resiliency Improvements (Proposed 2028 – 2030)**

Project introduced. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Seconded by Legislator Ellner. Approved by consent.

9. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Tully at 11:54 am. Seconded by Legislative Chairman Jonke. Approved by consent.



## **Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne**

### **2025 Executive Budget Presentation**

Good evening everyone. As is required by Section 7 of the Putnam County Charter, earlier this week my office submitted to the legislative clerk our Administration's proposed executive budget, also referred to in our charter as the county's tentative budget, for 2025.

Chairman Jonke, members of the Legislature, thank you for scheduling this special legislative meeting. To those watching this meeting at home, thank you for tuning in. To everyone here tonight, many of whom are our remarkable department heads and county employees, thank you for being here. And thank you for being the incredible public servants our community not only needs, but deserves.

Before we begin, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that today marks the beginning of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. For those observing, this is a time of reflection, renewal, and the celebration of new beginnings. To our Jewish community members, I extend my warmest wishes for a sweet, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Shana Tova!

Allow me to open by giving a deep heartfelt thank you to everyone who came together over the past 4 months to craft this year's proposed budget. We did more to streamline the process this year and began earlier than normal. Everyone stepped up to the plate. Our Department of Finance, led by Commissioner Michael Lewis, Deputy Commissioner Sheila Barrett, bolstered by our newest Deputy Commissioner Alexandra Gordon, they put in countless hours of hard work into making this happen. Critical to our County's unique budget process is our Legislature's Auditing Department led by the incredible Michelle Sharkey, who attended every single meeting and consistently goes above and beyond to make sure the budget is accurate, transparent and fair. And of course, there are those working in my Executive Office who not only have to deal with me every day... but are there every step of the way throughout this important process. Deputy County Executive Jim Burpoe, Chief of Staff Matt Covucci, Director of Communications Chris Formisano, Director of Compliance and Intergovernmental Relations Jen Caruso, the

invaluable Lisa Ranghelli, our Confidential Secretary, and our newest team member Barbara Reitz.

We are fortunate to have so many great public servants who are willing and able to put in long hours to get the job done. Please join me in giving all of these individuals a round of applause.

As many of you are undoubtedly aware we in Putnam County, have what is referred to as a "decentralized budget process." Unlike most counties in the region, we have no designated central budget office or budget director and in fact the county charter specifically states that the County Executive serves as the Chief Budget Officer, but this is not without tremendous support from our team in Finance. We always begin this budget process with our departments and elected officials presenting their requests to the Finance Department and our Executive Office where we review their requests with representatives of the Legislature included as part of the early vetting. This is a detailed process with many moving parts. This Administration remains focused on practicing fiscal discipline and prioritizing spending. In doing so, we are commonly confronted with difficult decisions.

Too many of our residents, and New Yorkers in general, are all too familiar with the struggle of having to make tough financial choices.

Inflation and rising costs continue to hit our state and nation hard. Some professional pundits and economists may try to tell us that inflation is slowing, but the fact is our dollar still just doesn't buy what it did only a few years ago. Housing costs remain astronomically high, utility rates continue to rise... healthcare, gas, groceries, construction materials, everything is still far too expensive. The average cost of a NEW car in America right now, is close to \$50,000. A used car? Nearly \$30,000. These astronomical costs impact people as individuals and at home, and it also impacts them through increasing the cost of government and public services.

Adding salt to the wound, is New York State's crushing taxation on its citizens and small businesses. For reference, the Tax Foundation's 2024 State Business Tax Climate Index has once again ranked New York's tax system 49<sup>th</sup> (just behind New Jersey for worst overall), and this year's Rich States, Poor States once again ranked New York State 50<sup>th</sup> (dead last) for economic outlook.

I highlighted these sources last year to show some of the obstacles we all have to overcome, but also to say... I recognize... and this administration recognizes, the burdens our friends, family and neighbors are faced with for the mere privilege of calling themselves New Yorkers. As such, I believe it is our responsibility as public servants, to do whatever we can to relieve that burden.



No matter how small our impact may seem, as long as I am County Executive, we will strive to bring quality services to our residents while asking them to contribute *only* what is needed.

Accordingly, the budget I present to you today, represents our continued commitment to the core tenets of this administration: *affordability, accountability, and accessibility*. This budget continues to prioritize county government spending, while doing more to reduce the tax burden by continuing last year's tax cuts, offering zero County tax increase, and slashing the property tax rate to its lowest level in 18 years.

While this is unquestionably a major accomplishment, it's important to breakdown how this translates to an average homeowner when considering the other contributing forces to taxation. Putnam County's portion of an average homeowner's property tax bill remains at about 9% on average – a relatively small amount considering the total tab every resident is forced to pay. In New York State, the overwhelming majority of an individual's property tax bill is made up of school taxes, town taxes, and other special districts. Still, within the portion of that tax bill we do control, we do our level best to practice fiscal discipline and always strive to do better, which is evident in this budget.

This budget lowers the property tax rate to \$2.7 per \$1,000 of assessed property value or 2.7%, representing the lowest property tax rate for Putnam County since 2007. In this budget, our team is projecting a conservative estimate of \$79 million in sales tax revenue supplemented by approximately \$46.2 million collected from the County's property tax levy.

The taxation Putnam County does bring in is essential to continuing the programs and services, our residents rely on and supplements other sources of revenue we receive to fund the plethora of mandated services we provide, but of course those other State & Federal dollars often come with strings attached, and have very restricted uses. All of this comes together to form a \$205 million budget.

I've always found it amusing when cynics and wannabe pundits point out that a budget is "the largest in history." That has been the case for every year for the past 30 years. Regardless of party or political control, the fact of the matter is the cost of services, materials, and labor goes up – not down. It used to be a nickel to make a call on a pay-phone. I used to walk up the street from Carmel High School to then Arthur Avenue's Deli on Fair St. and get a bacon egg and cheese sandwich for a buck fifty, and McDonald's used to have a "dollar menu"... But that simply isn't the case anymore. Costs go up, especially during an era experiencing record setting

inflation rates. The real challenge in government is for leadership in the public sector to manage these increases responsibly and demonstrate it can do more to control the growth of spending, so it doesn't unnecessarily squeeze the taxpayer. And that's precisely what we are demonstrating here in Putnam County with our record of tax cuts, enhanced efficiencies and opportunities for savings (See Appendix A). Putnam County's budget also remains significantly smaller when compared to most other counties in our region, spending less per capita than the vast majority of our neighbors. But make no mistake, that doesn't mean we don't spend money on important programs and services necessary for our county to function. That's why it is incumbent upon me to give residents a glimpse into how we got here and reassure them that we are spending their tax dollars wisely.

Breaking the \$200 million barrier was inevitable. But it finally occurred this year because of a number of outliers, unfunded mandates, and cost increases beyond our control. In addition to rising inflation costs, we're budgeting for a 10% increase to health insurance premiums as well as a substantial increase in the County's public insurance premiums, surging increases to our mandated pre-K and early intervention programs, a record number of mandated 730 cases in DSS, and of course, we have to account for the County's contractual obligations to its hard-working employees. While we have managed to account for all of these, each one represents a significant new increase in our budget.

One of the many reasons we were able to maintain a lower tax rate this year was by taking action to put dozens of previously foreclosed properties back on the tax rolls through a successful public auction. Over the years, Putnam had begun to develop an unfortunate reputation for having possession of the most delinquent properties in the area. Putnam County spent years missing out on recovering millions of dollars from these properties having been taken off the tax rolls, and not selling them off. So, in a significant effort to return foreclosed properties to productive use, this Administration successfully auctioned off a substantial portion of its foreclosed property inventory, recovering dollars owed and putting millions of dollars in assessed property values back on the tax rolls. The auction resulted in the approval of 144 property sales by the County Legislature, with an average sale price of \$10,751. It's our intention to stick to this model moving forward to better protect ourselves from falling into a similar situation again. This auction was an important step in our ongoing efforts to reduce the over-all tax burden on taxpaying residents and assist in ensuring these properties once again contribute to our local economy. By reintroducing these properties to the tax rolls, we not only generated immediate revenue for the county, but also helped stabilize and strengthen communities.

As I noted earlier, inflation continues to be a burden on all our residents, but what some may not realize is that directly affects county government, and therefore it also affects their tax bill. . While inflation remains high, our operating expenses increase as well.

And while the news of the Federal Reserve finally cutting rates is welcome, interest rates remain high, even for those with great credit scores like ours. We've managed to once again maintain our AA1 Moody's bond rating (the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest possible bond rating achievable, and the highest of any current county in NYS). Borrowing is still expensive and that's why under this administration, we've managed to drastically reduce the amount of financing we've required for major projects included in our 6-year Capital Plan.

In fact, this year, there is only one project that our Capital Plan does call for *the potential* to borrow for; a major pedestrian walkway project that was only made possible because of funding delivered by Congressman Mike Lawler! I have said it many times before; I have worked for and with members of Congress throughout my entire career. I can confidently say we've never had a Congressman more committed and accessible in Putnam County than Mike Lawler. Thank you Mike for everything you do for the residents of Putnam County.

Congressman Lawler notified us earlier this year that in the House Appropriations Bill he had secured \$5.5 million for this sidewalk project. In order to access that \$5.5 million from the federal government, our Capital Plan prepares us to borrow \$2 million to fund the remaining cost of the project. However, that doesn't mean we are necessarily committed to borrowing for this. If the Legislature agrees to utilize other means to finance this portion of the project, upfronting a portion of the cost to save tax dollars on future interest, I would welcome it.

After years of following fiscally sound practices, Putnam County is blessed to have a healthy general fund. That's part of the reason why we plan, as we did in our 2024 budget, to utilize assigned funds from our capital reserve responsibly, and support the many other infrastructure projects we have going across our County. This act permits us to finance these important projects without overloading ourselves with debt while interest rates remain high.

Last year, our skilled crews at DPW completed major renovation projects at the Koehler Memorial Senior Center in Mahopac and the 6N DPW Garage, both of which had fallen into embarrassingly bad condition and were in desperate need of upgrades. This past year, our County team completed major improvements at the Board of Elections, inside and out, and

complete with new security upgrades to ensure our elections, and the people working them, remain safe and secure.

When I first took office, I emphasized the need to do more to professionalize services and prioritize spending around the core functions of county government. Few functions are more central to our American democracy than the work of the Board of Elections. The new and improved county building now sports a brand-new roof, new landscaping, new siding, and proper drainage to prevent persistent flooding. Following through on our commitment to ThinkDIFFERENTLY, we installed ADA compliant sidewalks and curb cuts. Inside there have been numerous upgrades to improve working conditions for our employees, including a series of security upgrades. When I took office, I toured every county facility and was SHOCKED to learn that the BOE had no security cameras. Now they have a complete security system.

All of this, combined with the talents and commitment brought to us by our all star Commissioners Primavera and Croft, makes us fully prepared to handle what is expected to be a highly active election season. As the County looks ahead to the upcoming election, the renovated Board of Elections facility stands as a testament to Putnam County's dedication to maintaining secure, fair, and transparent elections for all its residents. To thank them and wish them luck next month, please join me in giving a big round of applause to all those at the BOE. And join me in applauding Commissioner Feighery and Director Lannon and all our staff from DPW and IT that completed the majority of these upgrades!

One of the other core functions of local government is maintenance of roads and bridges. One of my first actions in office was to address the long-standing issues regarding the delayed work and the prior contractor on Peekskill Hollow Road. While the County is currently in litigation with the previous contractor, our Law Department has been working diligently with its outside counsel to get justice for the painful delays experienced by so many of our Putnam Valley residents.

But since then, we've brought in a new contractor who's been dynamite. Given the delays and mystery surrounding this project for years prior to me taking office, Legislator Bill Gouldman and I held a joint town hall in Putnam Valley to address residents' questions and concerns, while mapping out timelines and expectations for residents. And since then, work has completed at a steady pace and I am excited to announce that the construction phase of Peekskill Hollow Road is currently 90% complete. Barring any unforeseen interruptions, we are expecting it to be 100% complete by November 1<sup>st</sup>. No more metal plates on bridges, no more one lane traffic. Later this

year we will be celebrating the completion of the construction at Peekskill Hollow Road with our incredibly patient friends in Putnam Valley.

The drama surrounding this project was felt far and wide. We learned a lot and have already begun using those lessons learned applying them to the upcoming Fair Street project, here in Carmel. We already have a Project Labor Agreement signed with our friends in organized labor to do the job and have a reputable contractor prepared to tackle this extremely important task. Earlier this month we issued the Notice to Proceed. The contractor on the job has already agreed to co-host a community forum, in the same format as the Peekskill Hollow Road project, on Wednesday, November 13th. This forum will be held at the Bureau of Emergency Services auditorium, named after the late Commissioner, Bob McMahon. All are invited to attend, ask questions and learn about this decades in the making capital project.

In addition to the more traditional infrastructure improvements, our capital plan also focuses on increasing water quality and energy efficiency improvements to further bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and save taxpayer dollars in utility expenses for years to come. We've installed solar arrays on the County Office Building roof, and throughout the Donald B Smith campus; we've conducted energy audits and made many of our county buildings more efficient; and we've instituted a Complete Streets plan that makes sure our county roads are accessible for driving, biking, walking, and public transit. All of these were recommendations from our Climate Smart Task Force, which submitted our application to become a Climate Smart Community earlier this year, and I'm excited to report that in June, we were awarded Bronze Status by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Putnam County remains one of the most beautiful places to live, work and raise a family. It's important we continue to do our level best to protect its natural beauty and environment for not only this generation, but for those yet to come. We've already taken numerous steps to promote the use of clean energy and reduce our own carbon footprint in our daily operations and expenditures, and in doing so seized financial savings as well. I appreciate the NYSDEC for the recognition of Putnam County's efforts, and I thank our Climate Smart Task Force for all their hard work on obtaining this important recognition.

Earlier this week, we received confirmation that the major components of our Fire Training Center will be delivered this month, and we will celebrate its grand opening later this year. The old fire training center had been significantly underutilized since the tower was deemed unsafe over ten years ago and the burn facility repeatedly closed due to costly repairs. The new Fire

Training Center will provide our first responders with a modern, safe, and comprehensive environment to sharpen their skills and prepare for a variety of emergency situations. Thank you to State Senator Peter Harckham who helped secure multiple State grants totaling \$300,000 to support the creation of this \$1.3 million state-of-the-art campus.

This highlights yet another example of how County government has taken a lead role in implementing a shared service which will not only bolster the capabilities of our County agencies and specialized response teams, but will also enhance local volunteer fire dept. and other emergency service efforts without creating duplicate costs to their own budgets. We welcomed shouldering this cost as the investment further represents Putnam County's steadfast commitment to the safety and preparedness of our first responders, who selflessly protect us every day. With this new facility, we will equip them with the training they need to respond effectively to emergencies and safeguard the lives and properties of our residents. I am excited to announce that later this month we plan to complete this brand-new center and be open for operations later this year.

While our Fire Training Center, named after the late Lt. Michael Neuner of the Brewster Volunteer Fire Department, is widely considered to be essential, it is not a federally or state mandated service for county government. In fact, no fire support service is. Neither is police road patrol, or paving, or plowing, or much of what we think of as essential and worthy of being mandated.

Those mandated services and expenses we do provide still make up about, on average 70 cents of every tax dollar that we as a county government collect. Unfunded mandates from Washington DC and Albany continue to be a burden and occupy much of our budgeting. It seems as though every year, Albany chooses to push more of a property tax obligation onto its citizens. In facing this ever-growing burden, we are still responsible to our residents. We have an obligation to be fiscally responsible with the remaining 30 cents of our citizens' tax dollar. That 30% that isn't mandated still represents nearly \$61.5 million.

As part of our effort to provide residents with some sort of stability in the face of ever-changing taxes, rules and regulations from Albany, we've taken bold steps to prepare us for the future. That includes bolstering our Property Tax Stabilization Fund. This fund strengthens our County's financial position and provides us a more flexible alternative to reduce the County's reliance on future property tax increases. The fund currently stands at \$7.5 million, and because of proper management, we haven't had to tap into it, and don't expect to in the near future. But for when

it may be needed, we have this as an important guardrail which better enables us to control county taxation.

Of course, this isn't the only way we've committed to assisting residents with tax relief. Last year, we eliminated all county sales tax on clothing and footwear under \$110 for two years. Sales tax on needed goods like these are regressive, and wind up harming those most economically vulnerable in our society. With inflation still crushing many residents that 4% discount on a new pair of shoes or socks for a young child can suddenly become very helpful. Then factor that the State does not charge sales tax on any of these items either, that means Putnam residents buying these items online or at a small business in Putnam County pay ZERO sales tax. This budget accounts for the continuation of this meaningful tax cut throughout the 2025 Fiscal Year. Putnam County has demonstrated that it can cut taxes, make them less regressive, and still take care of business. At a time when businesses and families are still struggling, we are happy to continue doing our part, no matter how small it may seem, to offer relief.

There is no doubt, that economically, times are still tough. And while taking care of our residents is always my top priority, as the Chief Executive Officer of this County I also have a duty to make sure our employees are adequately care for as well. Earlier this year we announced two multi-year contracts for increased compensation and benefits with two of our collective bargaining units; PuMA and the Sheriff Office PBA. And while our negotiations with our friends in CSEA are ongoing, today, I'm excited to announce that this Administration, in partnership with Sheriff Kevin McConville, has reached an agreement with the men and women of the Putnam County Sheriff's Employee Association. PCSEA, represents those in corrections and administrative roles in the Sheriff's office... The terms set in the MOA , signed by myself, Sheriff McConville and the PCSEA provides for a good and fair contract for the remarkable men and women of PCSEA and all they serve, including our taxpayers. It has my full support, as well as Sheriff McConville's. We expect it will be presented to the Legislature soon, and it is my sincere hope that they approve of it. Special recognition and gratitude to Deputy County Executive Jim Burpoe, Director of Personnel Paul Eldridge, Undersheriff Thomas Lindert and PCSEA President Ismael Matias and their council Warren Roth for all your hard work that helped make this happen.

We have some of the hardest working, most dedicated public servants here in Putnam County. Many of our employees have been with us for decades and we are extremely grateful for their service. But we can't kid ourselves. Challenges lay ahead. The recruitment and retention of star talent isn't getting easier. We must plan for the future in what is already a highly competitive

market for talent. One of the biggest roadblocks we often hear from candidates for employment is the cost of health insurance contributions in Putnam County. While the health insurance benefits and coverage we offer is some of the best you can get, in order to get it, employees are asked to contribute a considerable amount. I firmly believe that every public employee should contribute a portion of the cost of their insurance premium. This practice ensures the employee has skin in the game so they appreciate the cost of the benefit, and it also provides an added layer of protection for taxpayers on the growing expense. Still, the appropriate amount of what that contribution should be is debatable. When comparing the contribution required of Putnam County employees to other counties as well as how it affects our retirees and their decision making, we are an outlier. And it's increasingly clear that this outlier is becoming an impediment for our recruitment and retention efforts in today's market for skilled personnel.

This is why, today, exercising the authority provided to me as County Executive under §3.02(e) of the Putnam County Charter, I am announcing the formation of a special blue-ribbon committee to analyze and assess Putnam County's existing health insurance contribution policy and how it relates to the current economic climate, recruitment of new talent, and retention of current employees (Appendix B). This volunteer led committee will be chaired by former Putnam County Chief ADA Christopher York who has happily accepted the role. Also on the committee will be current and former employees, management and union. This includes Former Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin, former Office of Senior Resources Director Pat Sheehy, Putnam County Health Dept. Employee Shanna Siegal (CSEA member) and Deputy County Executive James Burpoe. This committee will make an official recommendation on how to proceed to me and my office, which we will then present to the legislature for review and consideration.

And speaking of Executive committees... earlier this year in my State of the County presentation at Tilly Foster Farm, I announced the creation of an executive review committee to review the County's mission statement, charter and code. Throughout this year, representatives from our Administration and this committee have held regular meetings tackling something often overlooked but important, something that's core to what we do every day, our county Mission Statement. Former Deputy County Executive and Carmel Town Supervisor Frank DelCampo, current Mayor of Nelsonville Chris Winward, and former Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension Marjorie Keith, assisted by representatives from my office, spent many hours crafting a new proposed mission statement for consideration (Appendix C).

***Mission Statement:***

*Putnam County Government provides for the health, safety and well-being of the public while upholding the laws of the United States, New York State, and the County. Our dedicated workforce is critical to meeting community needs and we strive to deliver a fiscally responsible,*



*accountable, and accessible government that serves everyone with transparency. By working in partnership with all levels of government and others, we are committed to providing services that will achieve the best possible outcomes for our residents.*

***Our Vision:***

*The County seeks to encourage community engagement, responsible economic growth, and a high-quality of life for all residents through innovative and collaborative efforts. We aspire to be a vibrant and healthy community that values and nurtures Putnam County's natural beauty, rich history, cultural heritage, and most importantly, our people. Together, we seek to build a future that honors our past, embraces our present, and inspires generations to come.*

This is the first time an update to the mission statement has been proposed in over twenty years. The Committee's proposal has my full and complete support. A formal resolution has been drafted and is being shared with the Legislature later this week for their review and consideration. The members of this committee have made it clear that if given the opportunity, they are eager to attend and present their work to the legislature directly. Please join me in thanking Frank, Chris, and Marjorie for their hard work and many hours of volunteer service on this endeavor.

We have a lot of exceptionally talented public servants who have come and gone in the employment of Putnam County. This Administration is lucky to have had so many long serving Department Heads stay on throughout this term. People like Mike Cunningham, Director of Office of Senior Resources, work every day to improve the lives of our residents. Mike has been working for Putnam County for 10 years, 7 of them as Director of OSR. So it's bittersweet to announce today that he'll be retiring at the end of this year. We already posted the position and will be conducting interviews to find a suitable replacement prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>. We thank Mike for his many years of exceptional service and wish him nothing but the very best in a well-deserved retirement. Thank you, Mike.

Throughout my time as your County Executive, I've been vocal about my desire to focus county government on its core functions that provide for the health and safety of our residents. Since I've taken office, a large part of that has been investing more in our Department of Mental Health, Social Services & Youth Bureau. Last year Commissioner Sara Servadio took over the department after Mike Piazza announced his retirement. Sara was doing an exceptional job while working with multiple high-level positions vacant. In last year's budget address, I announced the creation of the Director of Mental Health for Putnam County. And I'm happy to report tonight that we have hired Carmel resident, Paul Tang to fill this position, who started

earlier this week. Paul brings a wealth of experience and knowledge and will be tasked with assisting in responding to the growing needs in our communities as well as strengthening our relationships with our providers like CoveCare, our county's main provider of mental health and recovery services. That's in addition to playing a critical role in helping to oversee a new Stabilization Center, as well as working with our new co-response team with the Putnam Sheriff's Office, designed to assist with responding to emergencies by having law enforcement work hand-in-hand with mental health professionals.

Putnam County is also coming up against a firm deadline to fully encumber and utilize its American Rescue Plan Act (or ARPA) dollars from the federal government.

By December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, all \$19 million afforded to us must be allocated, or else this funding could be lost. According to our friends at NYSAC, Putnam County was the only county government in the state that gave a portion of its ARPA dollars to local governments on top of what they had already received directly. This act was done separately from any traditional budgeting process and in a manner that had tied up some of the funding with various federal requirements associated with ARPA. That's part of the reason why one of the very first actions I took as County Executive was to create an ARPA Review Committee led by Deputy County Executive Burpoe to ensure these projects progressed appropriately and that compliance concerns were adhered to. The committee has benefited from several other skilled members like Finance Commissioner Michael Lewis, DGS Commissioner John Tully and Auditor for the Legislature Michelle Sharkey who have been dedicated stewards of this federal funding, but no one has done more to ensure our County does not have to return dollars to the federal government or that no sub-recipient gets the rug pulled out from under them than our Director of Compliance and Intergovernmental Relations Jennifer Caruso. Just ask our friends in town and village government. The whole team has done an incredible job. Thank you all.

That said, none of these reallocations could have been done by administrative action alone. That's why it's important we thank and recognize the Legislature for working with us to reallocate ARPA dollars at multiple points over the past 18 months so that we can take advantage of every cent. We've successfully used ARPA dollars for many projects including the aforementioned Fire Training Center. Regardless of any potential disagreement on reallocations before the end of this year, this Administration has a plan in place to ensure all the ARPA money has been properly encumbered in time - and that's in large part due to the hard work of the members of the ARPA Review Committee.

Making sure we are fiscally responsible with every tax dollar afforded to us is always a top priority. That's why early on, my office engaged in discussions with New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli's Office to explore the various resources they make available to assist local and county government. In response to my request, the Comptroller's Office then notified us they would begin performing a comprehensive risk assessment and review of our County's fiscal practices. Following that assessment, the Comptroller's Local Government and School Accountability Division informed us they would then be conducting an audit of Putnam County's Recreation and Golf Course collections. Just last month their full report was published. Their report is a culmination of months of collaboration between Putnam County and the State Comptroller's office. The audit period covered a portion of the prior County Executive's last year and continued into a portion of 2023, the first year of my administration. This service came at no expense to the County budget and highlighted several areas for improvement. We do a great job in Putnam County, but we know we can always do better. We took the time to listen, learn, and have already instituted a number of policy changes that will better safeguard county resources. The Comptroller's Office has tasked the legislature with passing a corrective action plan within 90 days. We will be submitting a draft corrective action plan for their review and consideration for the purpose of submitting it to the Comptroller's Office. Bottom line, the results from this audit highlight another opportunity. I am confident we will continue to work together to bring about more positive and lasting change when it comes to our assets, including our County Golf Course and Veterans Memorial Park.

And let's talk about our beautiful parks for a moment. Earlier this year, we hosted the first of its kind Youth Business Market at Tilly Foster Farm and it was an overwhelming success, especially for a first-time event! The team at our Youth Bureau led by Janeen Cunningham, with support from Tourism, DPW, the Health Department, IT, and our Sheriff's Department, put on an absolutely incredible event for all our young entrepreneurs. The event drew over 600 visitors who came to support 70 youth vendors showcasing an impressive array of products. This event was made possible because of our incredible Putnam County staff, and our volunteers, chief among them our Community Sponsor and Business Advisor Ed Santalone, owner of Promenade on 6 in Carmel. Thank you, Ed.

The 2025 Executive Budget ensures we will do this event again, and I cannot wait to see what our young people come up with next year!

Veterans Memorial Park. In many ways it is the hidden gem of our County. Every year it features a number of incredible events like our County Fair, or the Irish Feis put on by the Emeralds Association, both drawing in thousands of visitors to our park.

One of the lesser-known attractions at the park is our Veterans Museum, which, let's be honest, has seen better days. Unfortunately, due to years of neglect in prior budgets, the museum is in serious need of financial support to be opened and operational. Fortunately, thanks to our very own Assemblyman and Naval Reservist Matt Slater, we will be receiving those funds in the form of a \$50,000 State Grant to bring about a new Veterans Museum at the Park, a project that is also recognized in the County's Capital Plan. Thank you, Matt for your commitment to our County Parks and honoring our military heroes.

This year, our Veterans' Park was also honored to host Putnam County's first Feast of San Gennaro. And we look forward to that event growing every year. And yet, still, on a more daily basis, the park is sometimes sparsely attended. I must admit this presents a dilemma for me. I want everyone to visit the park! But I, and many folks who I talk to, love the privacy and quiet that it offers. Bri and I love taking our young Braeden to the lower park. Hanging out at the beach, fishing off the doc, looking at the decommissioned tank and helicopter, playing on the playground or of course, racing as fast as we can through the grass (Braeden now regularly beats me as he turned 4 and I'm turning 40). But it should be part of my job to shout from the rooftops and promote this wonderful park that we've invested in.

And so with the ultimate goal of encouraging more attendance, last month I presented a proposal to the Parks Advisory Board that we reduce the entrance fee by 50% for all Putnam County employees and first responders. This is a benefit presently provided to our Senior Citizens while Veterans are already afforded free admission. At their first official meeting since their reorganization, the Park Advisory Board considered our recommendation and has announced that they fully support the move. A resolution permitting this change will be presented to the Legislature for their consideration (Appendix D).

We don't expect to see a hit in revenue from this move. Honestly, the increase in attendance should more than make up for any shortfall. This not only helps with exposure of our park to our community, but it also helps address an issue I mentioned earlier about recruitment and retention. Our public employees work this property. This cut in fee may be small, but it is a well-deserved token of thanks for our own public servants, as well as those fire fighters and EMS personnel who respond to emergencies serving us each and every day.

Putnam County government continues to serve our local towns and villages with a number of shared services that it is not necessarily mandated or obligated to offer. This Budget continues that practice. For example, in Westchester County when a property owner is delinquent on their taxes it is the local government that pays the county to make it whole—but here it is us at the county level that pays to make local governments whole. Another example, counties can charge back the cost to operate a Board of Elections, but Putnam County government shoulders that

responsibility. While several of these points have been raised before by previous administrations, they are no less true today than they were several years ago. The reality is, with the advent of expanded early voting, the cost of operations at our Board of Elections has significantly increased. With a looming Presidential Election expected to drive huge turnout, there is a cost to running this essential service and that is realized by county government. We also continue to shoulder the multi-million dollar expense to pay for a county-wide Advanced Life Support paramedic service. And of course, not only that, but if you find yourself in an emergency situation and dial or text 911, no matter where you are in Putnam, our dispatchers at the Bureau will answer the call. Yes, the county seat is here in Carmel, but that has not and will not stop us from providing necessary help and assistance to all of our residents.

As we continue to take inventory on our county finances, our newly formed Department of General Services (or DGS) headed up by Commissioner John Tully and IT Director Tom Lannon have been hard at work identifying ways to better manage county resources and save tax dollars. In last year's budget we consolidated a number of line items like fuel, security cameras, utilities, copiers and vehicle leases. We already have a clearer picture of the County's total spending on these items enabling us to better leverage our purchasing power in the free market which has garnered us better deals and rates.

I have said it many times before... If there are opportunities for us to improve and strengthen our financial controls, we want to know about them. This is part of our commitment to being the most transparent and accountable administration in Putnam County's history (Appendix E). Which is why when the Journal News published a series of articles about a longstanding verbal agreement our county has with the incredible folks at United for the Troops, it forced us to look inward at our internal policies and procedures with regards to those not-for-profit organizations that the county does business with.

It's no secret, I am huge supporter of all the work Patty and Jimmy Rathschmidt have done supporting our brave men and women who serve overseas—and for good reason. United for the Troops has packed and shipped tens of thousands of care packages over the years. And several years back, they shipped a package to my brother, now Chief Master Sgt in the Air Force, when he was serving overseas in Afghanistan. I, along with many members of this legislature, Senator Harckham, Assemblyman Slater, former Senator Murphy, Congressman Lawler and many other officials, regardless of political party, have attended their events and fundraisers. We are all supportive and applaud their efforts. But the fact is, they have been operating out of a county building without a lease agreement for several years now. Following the Journal News article, it became clear that even though there may have been some form of written agreement in the past, Putnam County had no record of it, and that needs to be rectified. In order to

protect the County's interests, property, and personnel, I instructed our Law Department to immediately begin work on drafting a lease agreement to codify their current temporary tenancy arrangement which, in fairness, predated my service as your County Executive.

This work prompted a more comprehensive review into the agreements with several of our other partners. It revealed that the remarkable people at Putnam CAP and Cornell Cooperative Extension have also been operating inside our County owned facilities as "guests" on more or less a "handshake" or "gentleman's" agreements made by prior administrations. Thanks to the quick work of our dedicated Law Department, we now have written draft lease agreements with all of these organizations which we hope the Legislature will consider and review in the near future (Appendices F, G, & H).

We never stop learning, and we never stop striving to do better. Transparency is very much at the core of this effort, and to further our efforts to be transparent and accountable to our taxpaying residents, last year I proposed the creation of a budget transparency website. And last year, thanks to the legislature, funds for this were added to the county budget with the goal of having the website complete for this year's budget presentation. Well, after hearing me talk about it long enough, here it is...

Thanks to the hard work of Commissioner Lewis and our partners at ClearGov, we now have a fully functioning budget transparency website that the public can view, more easily understand and digest at any given time. Gone are the days of just dropping a hundred plus page spreadsheet with numbers and line items that the average citizen has no time to look at. This budget transparency site provides accurate, up to date breakdowns by department, shows where and how much debt we carry, and also illustrates and lays out our strategic goals and plans. This is a project many, many months in the making, that was worked on alongside crafting this year's budget by our remarkable team in the Finance Department. Thank you to all those who put in the extra effort to make this a reality.

As you can tell, I am extremely proud of the work we've done to make county government more accountable and accessible to our constituents. As I mentioned during my last State of the County, the Legislature installed camera equipment in their legislative committee room so meetings are now recorded in audio and visual formats, making it much easier to digest and understand what's happening during their meetings. Our administration is also more active on social media, utilizing multiple verified platforms, while updating residents more than ever before. We standardized our departments' annual reports, creating a more professional, consolidated, digestible document that every legislator can have, and is available online for all

to see. I even went so far as to posting my financial disclosure form on the county website, something new for Putnam County but that wasn't unique to me since I already did it for six years prior when I was in the State Assembly. This Administration has also made itself available at constituent forums throughout my term as your County Executive. Last week we held our first virtual town hall forum live streamed on social media. And this year, to bring an even greater level of transparency and engagement to residents, on October 9<sup>th</sup>, at Carmel Town Hall, I will host another constituent forum, making myself available to listen and to be grilled, affording me the opportunity to answer questions about the proposed budget from our residents. All are welcome, especially our Jewish friends who may not have been able to participate this evening. Many of you who are watching at home tonight, or if you're watching a recording of this, please, join us at 5:30pm at Carmel Town Hall on October 9th. Supervisor Mike Cazzari has graciously allowed us to go on the road and use their building for this first-of-its-kind-in-our-county forum.

As I stated in last year's budget presentation, this is not the Final budget. It must still go through our county charter's required Legislative process. I have no doubt we will have some robust and at times, perhaps heated discussions about what is to be done with our County Budget. But when done professionally that is healthy, that is democracy in action. I take that idea very seriously. It also requires engagement if we want to avoid unnecessary vetoes. It is difficult to explore opportunities for compromise if there is no opportunity for discussion or engagement. I sincerely hope those opportunities are open.

I was elected to govern in a fiscally responsible and conservative manner. And while some may feel we are beginning to turn a corner on some gloomy economic times, others believe we are standing at the precipice. The fact is, we don't know what tomorrow holds. But I believe this is a budget that prepares us for whatever lies ahead.

This budget continues our tax cuts from last year keeping county taxation lower than it has been in years. It continues the elimination of sales tax on regressive purchases. It slashes the property tax rate to its lowest level in 18 years. It offers new cuts in fees for Putnam County public employees and first responders. It funds major capital projects. It pays down debt, enhances services, honors our collective bargaining agreements, prepares us for the future, and gives us the best chance to succeed as a county. It makes Putnam County more Affordable, Accountable, and Accessible for all. Thank you.

## ADDITIONAL SOURCES

1. Commissioner of Finance (2024), Department of Finance, Putnam County Government
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