



County Executive Odell continued and explained that 70% of the County's operating expenses cover Mandated Programs; leaving 30% for Quality of Life Programs, such as; the Libraries, Humane Society, Mental Health Department and the Highway Department with the maintenance of roads and bridges. There are 200 plus mandates. She explained that the Help America Vote Act and Community College are mandates that are the responsibility of the Towns and Villages. However, in partnering with the towns, Putnam County has assumed those responsibilities at a cost of \$5 million. She explained the increase in costs associated with Community Colleges since 2008 at \$2,653 per student to 2017 at \$3,846 per student or \$3.15 million per year. With the Help America Vote Act the 2018 election year activities will result in the Board of Elections operating expense increase of \$211,000 for an annual budget of \$1.9 million.

County Executive Odell continued and explained the breakdown in costs associated with Early Intervention/Pre-K Programs. The 2018 operating budget for these programs has increased by \$753,000 at a total cost of \$9.6 million. She stated that 100% of our tax levy, sales tax and property tax combined, is allocated to mandates. She stated that while we are told we must deliver the Mandated Programs, we are not reimbursed at a fair rate.

County Executive Odell continued and explained some of the costs associated with Quality of Life Services such as: \$7.2 million for the Sheriff's Road Patrol; \$6.4 million for Office for Senior Resources; \$5.1 million for Retiree Health Benefits; \$4.6 million for Emergency Services; \$4 million for Parks & Recreation; \$2.8 million for PART Bus System and \$2.9 million for Outside Agencies. She explained some of the services provided by each. County Executive Odell also explained a new proposed voluntary plan which will be offered to Medicare Retirees. It will become available January 1, 2018 and will be administered by Benistar as an alternative to NYSHIP for Medicare Retirees. She stated that participation could result in a cost savings for retirees and the taxpayers. She explained how the plan would be implemented and provided a cost comparison on the annual premiums. She also detailed the County's partnership with BOCES at Tilly Foster Farm and the opening of Tilly's Table. County Executive Odell also explained what was next for Tilly Foster Farm such as: working with the Putnam Arts Council and the Center For Discovery, located in Monticello NY, which provides programs that educate and support the whole child as well as being at the forefront of research and training. She stated that Legislator Jonke and Deputy County Executive Walker have been working with this Center and they will be visiting Putnam County in the next 30 days. County Executive Odell also detailed how the Putnam County Golf Course has proven to be a solid financial investment. She also thanked the Outside Agencies for all they do with the limited funding they have. She stated that Putnam County will keep their funding level.

County Executive Odell continued and summarized the following expenses: total Mandated costs \$107.6 million, Quality of Life costs \$47.7 million, resulting in \$155.3 million in total Putnam County expenses. She stated that Putnam County is ranked second lowest in expenditures per capita of all 57 NYS counties outside NYC for the year ended December 31, 2014. She stated that Putnam County's portion of your homeowners tax bill is only 9.1%; remaining the lowest County portion of any tax bill in New York State. The NYS average is 21.52%. She detailed how the budget was built on revenue: Sales Tax at \$58.5 million, Property Tax at \$42.3 million and Department revenue at \$26.8 million, with a total of \$127.6 million being raised locally. She stated that Federal and State reimbursements total 27.7 million; Federal at \$8.6 million and State at \$19.1 million.

County Executive Odell explained how it was important to have our Sales Tax revenue continue to grow in order to keep property taxes at a minimum. She explained how the 1% sales tax extension set to expire on November 30, 2017 was extended for another three (3) years until November 30, 2020. She stated that as the 2018 President of the NYSAC Board, one of her priorities will be for counties to have home rule control over maintaining Sales Tax extensions.

County Executive Odell continued and explained some of the Capital Projects such as maintaining our roads, bridges and improving our facilities. She stated that projects and grants are one of the main focuses of our Planning, Development & Public Transportation Department which is led by Deputy Commissioner, Sandra Fusco. The department is currently managing over \$18.5 million in grants and the top projects that are being looked at are: Envision Brewster Project, Traffic Improvement Investments, Bikeway Projects, Office for Senior Resources and Stoneleigh/Drewville/Hospital Corridor. She explained that the Planning Department, working together with the Office for Senior Resources and the Veteran's Service Agency, enacted a plan that reduced transportation expenses from \$87,000 in 2014 to an estimated \$2,500 in 2017.

County Executive Odell continued and explained that to keep our economy strong in Putnam County we need to provide real estate opportunities, mobility, leisure/travel and technology. She stated that commerce in Putnam is dependent on the millennials. She explained that we are staying focused on TOD's, Transit-Oriented Development projects. She stated that "Envision Brewster" is one of them and we were awarded \$2 million in 2016 to start funding this project. The \$2 million will offset the costs of acquisition, demolition and initial construction of Phase 1 of this plan. It will bring to the Village of Brewster parking for 450 cars, 270-300 apartments and 30,000 square feet of retail space. This important project will provide a place for people to live, work and play while helping to stabilize the County's tax base by providing sales and real estate tax dollars. She continued and explained the development of the Danbury/Brewster corridor by working closely with the City of Danbury to bring sewer flow for the U.S. Route 6/202 commercial corridor in the Town of Southeast. She stated that the engineer has promised that we will have the facility study by February. She stated that funding has also been allocated for the Town of Kent Sewer Project.

County Executive Odell continued and explained that the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency is back in full swing. They are working with Ace Endico Company, located in the Town of Southeast, helping to make sure that 324 jobs were retained in Putnam County and assisted them in their expansion of their headquarters/distribution center by almost 63,000 square feet. This will allow them to continue to grow as one of the County's larger employers.

County Executive Odell continued and spoke about Governor Cuomo's Shared Services Initiative. She explained how the Legislature voted to reconvene the panel on Fiscal Vision & Accountability to begin looking at areas of shared services. She explained what Putnam County has already accomplished without this formal shared services initiative: the East of Hudson Corporation, Sheriff Road and Marine Patrols, County Clerk – Records Storage and Management and IMAs with local Highway Departments. She explained what Putnam County anticipates doing moving forward: Centralized Court Appearance, Consolidation of Assessors and Electronic Court Appearances. She stated that Putnam County works hard to be good partners and will continue to help the towns with the community college chargebacks, the Help America Vote Act and the local agencies, libraries and museums.

**County Executive Odell ended her presentation by stating that the Administration believes the 2018 Budget is a fair balance between our fiscal and social responsibilities. She thanked everyone for their teamwork and dedication on this collaborative effort.**

**There being no further business, at 8:14 P.M., Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Albano. All in favor.**

**Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.**