

# **Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board**

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD  
OCTOBER 10, 2019  
7P.M. PUTNAM TOWN HALL

The meeting opened with the auditing of bills, the Supervisor's monthly report and the Town Clerk's monthly report.

## **7:00 Meeting called to order**

Councilwoman Shirley Randall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Roll Call**

<b>Members present:</b>	Supervisor	John LaPointe
	Councilman	Darrell Wilson
	Councilman	Kevin Hart
	Councilwoman	Shirley Randall
	Councilman	Greg Harris

**Others present:** Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Larry Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Christopher Mallon (Resident, 575 Liddle-Harris Road), Bert Windle (Lake Communities of Putnam Chair-LCP, Sagamore Road), Bonnie Maiolo (Resident, 211 County Route 3), Leslie L. Bain (Resident, 371 Peterson Road), Allen Moore (Planning Board, 974 County Route 2), David Manchester (Resident, 5177 Sagamore Road), Ronald Bean (Resident, 4401 Link Way), Cindy Hughes (Resident, 5569 Evergreen Shores Way), Steve Hughes (Resident, 5569 Evergreen Shores Way), Peter Leyh (Resident, 5560 Evergreen Shores Way).

## **Resolution # 66**

### **Accept the minutes of the September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting**

On motion of Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

## **Resolution #67**

### **Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of September 2019**

On motion of Councilman Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

## **Resolution # 68**

### **Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of September 2019**

On motion of Councilman Kevin Hart, seconded by Councilwoman Shirley Randall; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution # 69**

**Pay bill as audited**

On motion of Councilman Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolved, the bills on the following are paid as audited.

General Fund	# 280-302	\$10,838.73
Highway Fund	# 113-123	\$140,827.49
Black Point Sewer District	# 11-12	\$32,535.61
Royal Anchorage Sewer District	#3	\$425.00
Meadow Knoll	# 1	\$500.00

**Correspondence** (7:01)

Supervisor LaPointe reported correspondence from Tom Badenoch of the LGA (Lake George Association) regarding “beaver deceivers”. Supervisor LaPointe read the highlights of the correspondence, “Alex our land steward is working on getting a beaver consultant to come out to the site next week. I don’t have an exact date yet; he will definitely install a culvert and culvert guards under Warrick Road and will look to see if the beaver deceiver device will work. He has asked us to get formal permission from the town to place the guard” (Highway Superintendent Gary Treadway reported that this was finished a week prior to the meeting).

Supervisor LaPointe continued to the second correspondence an E-mail from Josh Bagnato (Vice President, Project Development Transmission Developers, Inc., Champlain Hudson Express) The E-mail was read as follows:

Darlene,

We intend to file an amendment with the NY Public Service Commission in late November, 2019. This amendment will seek approval from the State to modify the permitted transmission route along several segments. One of these modifications is in Putnam, as we previously discussed with your Town in late 2017 to early 2018. The proposed modified route in Putnam is the same as what I presented in December, 2017.

We will file the Town Resolution with our amendment. There is nothing the Town needs to do prior to us filing this amendment, but I just wanted to make sure you had the latest information. The Town will be sent a notice when this amendment is filed. As always, I am happy to provide the Town an update on the Project in person and answer any questions.

Thanks, Josh

Supervisor LaPointe continued to a third correspondence from John Skerchak. The body of the letter was read as follows:

To Darlene Kerr Township clerk;

This is a formal correspondence addressed for the board to be read into the minutes.

A the very end of Dark bay there is a property that has a RV there for years. The rumor was that they had it there while they built their house. That does not seem to be the case. NOW there is two RVs there. Two very concerning points. One; where is their waste going? Two: they are not being taxed on their dwellings? Does this mean that I can start putting RVs on my property, maybe renting them out. If I tear down my cabin and put a couple of RV's on the property , I would have more space, and pay less in taxes. Also there is a very large deck with a tent on it. Was that approved? I had heard that they were

going to put up a house and temporarily had a camper there. That was many years ago. (that is hearsay) This is a bad precedent to be setting. Something must be done. By the way what is happening with the lot and big brush pile and tractor on Sagamore Rd? This has also been going on for years. Have them remove the brush pile and get rid of the tractor blighting the area. Oh and that tractor on Sagamore Rd is leaking some sort of oil onto the ground, not more than 30' from a spring. Time for something to be done. More like "Why hasn't anything been done?"

John

Bert Windle asked if there would be any discussion on the letter. Supervisor LaPointe replied "yes" there would be discussion later in the meeting.

Peter Leyh also commented on the letter expressing the backhoe is a "real eyesore". He continued it was placed there for a project then abandoned, and should be removed. Supervisor LaPointe clarified where the equipment was located with Mr. Leyh. Mr. Leyh asked if he could make another comment, Supervisor LaPointe approved of further comment. Mr. Leyh stated he'd like to see an annual community gathering perhaps at the new Cummings Park, where residents could gather and get to know one another and have fun. Councilman Hart joked with Mr. Leyh saying, "let me know when you want to have it and I'll come" then continued he thought it was a good idea. Supervisor LaPointe agreed it's a good idea, and continued that the new Cummings Park has been busy this season with several weddings and gatherings.

Leslie Bain spoke asking if anyone knew what was happening with the buildout on internet access. She stated the "Osmos" cars were in town again measuring poles. She believed they were working for SLIC, a company that provides fiber optic sourced internet service. Supervisor LaPointe stated he didn't have anything to report on SLIC, however he said he'd try to contact them to try to obtain information.

Councilman Wilson commented that there has been no comprehensive plan given to the town and none seemed forthcoming with information. Bonnie Maiolo commented as a community they should be more forthcoming with information to the community. Supervisor LaPointe reiterated he would contact SLIC to try to gather more information. David Manchester joined the conversation returning to the topic of Mr. Skerchak's letter with regard to the trailers on Dark Bay. Mr. Manchester stated he felt Mr. Skerchak addressed a compelling economic and environmental point. Mr. Manchester asked if it would be helpful for him to take pictures and send them to the Town Clerk. Everyone agreed that would be helpful. Mr. Manchester agreed to send pictures to the Town Clerk. Ron Bean joined the discussion stating the property with the trailer is the Finster property. Mr. Bean also stated that the Finster's property has a holding tank and once a week a truck comes and empties the tank. He stated he is their neighbor, hence he's aware. Bert Windle also commented that the trailer on Dark Bay was on the list of trailers that he had given to Supervisor LaPointe last year. He also stated that at the Planning Board meeting the night prior, trailers were part of the discussion. He stated the new Site Plan Review needs to address trailers because they can quickly become a problem. Mr. Windle also wondered if people pay taxes on the trailers in Putnam, and expressed he had property he wanted to build a guest house on, however the process was so complicated he decided not to, he then pondered if putting a trailer on the property would be easier if no one was going to object to trailers, and trailers would go untaxed.

A pro

### Highway Report (7:18)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported that the fall paving project was finished. In all 1.75 miles were paved and shouldered. He also reported that the stock pile has been hauled and also some ditching in problem areas has been done. HS Treadway moved along to the topic of the new truck. The truck is a 2020 International Tandem with a stainless steel box, with all the up to date equipment, two one hundred and fifty gallon tanks for brine. The 2020 will replace the 2006 single axle truck. The new truck will have a live edge plow, which has been discussed at the Salt Summit, as well as past meetings. The live edge plow edge has sections that are spring loaded so that the plow will follow the contours of the road for more consistent contact with the surface. Other towns around the lake have used the live edge

plow for a few years and are very pleased with the results. Hague has claimed to have saved 30% on time and material using the live edge plow and pre-treat brine. The State has used the brine for approximately 5 years. When brine is used as a pre-treatment it creates a barrier between the road and frozen precipitation making it easier, and more efficient, when plowing the pre-treated roads.

Peter Leyh asked HS Treadway if he attended the Salt Summit, HS Treadway said he did. HS Treadway briefly touched on the events of the Salt Summit including awards to other towns and the savings discussions. Councilman Hart asked when the new truck will arrive. HS Treadway replied that the truck will not be here for this winter season, it is expected to arrive sometime in June of 2020, due to the back log in production. The discussion turned to the stainless steel box on the new truck, although the cost is one half more than a steel box the stainless steel is expected to have a life span twice that of the steel box and will be transferable to a new truck in the future. Larry Shiell added to the discussion saying the larger trucks these days are highly maneuverable as compared to the bigger trucks of the past, and he felt they are safer now as well. HS Treadway also added that the new truck has a ground speed control that will control the amount of product being laid down on the road more efficiently at different speeds than the older trucks with dial controls.

HS Treadway presented a resolution to the Board for a live edge plow, temperature sensors, ground speed control, items that pertain to salt reduction. The resolution is an agreement between the Village of Lake George, who was awarded grant funds by the New York Department of State for a project referred to as the Lake George Watershed Management Priority Action Plan Implementation, and the Town of Putnam. The Village of Lake George intends to use the grant funds to reimburse the Town for “actually paid” project costs, with the parties to provide for and achieve matching funds or qualified matching services, goods or equipment under the grant.

#### **Resolution #70**

#### **Resolution By The Town Board Of The Town Of Putnam Authorizing Memorandum Of The Agreement Relating To Lake George Watershed Priority Action Plan Implementation Village Of Lake George #C1000532**

On motion of Councilman Darrell Wilson, Seconded by Councilman Greg Harris;

Roll Call:

Greg Harris-Aye  
Shirley Randall-Aye  
Kevin Hart-Aye  
Darrell Wilson-Aye  
John LaPointe-Aye  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

#### **Resolution #71**

#### **Authorize the Purchase of A 2020 International Model HX620 SBA 6X4 Heavy Duty Tandem Axle Truck with S/S Combination Dump Body/Sander, Plow Frame, Wing and All Necessary Hydraulics and Attachments \$239,305.00**

On motion of Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart;

Roll Call:

Greg Harris-Aye  
Shirley Randall-Aye  
Kevin Hart-Aye  
Darrell Wilson-Aye  
John LaPointe-Aye  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

#### **Fire Department Report (7:40)**

NONE- meeting in the coming week.

### **Planning Board Report** (7:40)

In the absence of Planning Board Chair Galen Seerup, Allen Moore gave the report.

Mr. Moore reported that there was one person on the Planning Board Agenda, Tom Eliopoulos II. Mr. Eliopoulos presented a plan to improve on 6 lots in Glenburnie and Gull Bay. Mr. Moore reported that the Planning Board had a lengthy discussion about the plan presented; in the end the Planning Board's recommendation to Mr. Eliopoulos was to put together a development team to make a proper application. The Planning Board felt that the materials presented were not sufficient and did not meet the criteria for a proper application. Mr. Eliopoulos' intent is to clear approximately 6 lots that he owns and place 1500' manufactured homes on the lots. His current application was not accepted. Mr. Eliopoulos also sent materials to the APA (Adirondack Park Agency) and to the LGPC (Lake George Park Commission) and is awaiting their replies.

Mr. Moore went on to report that the Planning Board reinstated the LRCC1 that had been revoked because of unapproved blasting on the Hurson project. Mr. Moore reported that a presentation was given by resident Bert Windle pertaining to the Hurson project, centering on the relocation of a well, exposure of the sewer main, and damage to the road allegedly due to the Hurson project.

### **Old business** (7:44)

A recycling update was given by Supervisor LaPointe. Supervisor LaPointe addressed an E-mail from Nancy Wolf-Fisher for an update on concerns expressed at the prior month's meeting about the ending of the recycling program. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher asserted that the town may be in violation of NY CLS ECL 27-0106 and NY CLS Mun 120-aa. Supervisor LaPointe reported he spoke with Jessie Sangster with the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation). Ms. Sangster cited the same laws that Mrs. Wolf-Fisher brought to the attention of the Board the prior month. Mr. LaPointe reported both laws were submitted to the town attorney for review, and he also spoke with Washington County's attorney. Both attorneys were of the opinion that the Town of Putnam was not in violation of either law submitted. Mr. LaPointe continued stating although the town is not picking up recyclables anymore, recycling is available to residents through the transfer stations in Whitehall and Ticonderoga. Supervisor LaPointe revisited his conversation with Ms. Sangster saying he explained to her that the program has become cost prohibitive to the town, and expressed to Ms. Sangster that any funds she could provide would be gratefully accepted. Dave Manchester asked if Ms. Sangster suggested any alternatives or strategies that might be less expensive to the town. Supervisor LaPointe replied that she offered nothing. Ms. Sangster indicated she'd be sending a correspondence to Supervisor LaPointe; however no correspondence has been received as of the meeting.

### **New business** (7:51)

A **Planning Board** seat will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, and the current sitting member does not wish to renew their appointment. An ad will be placed soliciting letters of interest from anyone who might desire to serve on the Planning Board. The Planning Board is a 7 year appointment.

**2020 Preliminary Budget** is available for viewing. Copies are available at the Town Clerk's office, online at [www.townofputnamny.com](http://www.townofputnamny.com) on the Notices page, or via E-mail upon request. A public hearing for the 2020 budget will be held November 14, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the Putnam Town Hall prior to the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board.

### **Trailer discussion revisited** (7:56)

Bert Windle returned the discussion to a trailer in his area that was supposed to be temporary, however it appears to have been made permanent as it was put up on blocks and appears to have water. Mr. Windle wondered if any taxes were being paid on the structure. He continued that it's not the only one in Putnam. He'd suggested while the board was working on the Site Plan some rules about trailers be instituted. Supervisor LaPointe replied that some of the trailers on the list supplied by Mr. Windle are camper

trailers. Mr. Windle asserted that some camper trailers are being used as permanent structures. Bob Rudt supplied the name of one of the property owners where a situation exists. Dave Manchester asked if the owners of these properties refuse to do anything about the trailers or other items seemingly abandoned on a property, if the town has any way to motivate or order the property owner to do something. Supervisor LaPointe said that Code Enforcement would then be called and if they are in violation they would be issued a citation. Councilman Hart added that if a property owner decides to abandon equipment on private property there is very little the town can do, however if the equipment is leaking fluid the best course of action would be to notify the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation), they have regulations in place that they can enforce. Supervisor LaPointe said he'd contact code enforcement about the particular properties discussed. Bob Rudt asked the status of a situation property near the town hall. Supervisor LaPointe replied that the property owner was ticketed by Jim Buxton the previous Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Rudt asserted that a time frame should be imposed on the property owner. Supervisor LaPointe advised that the property owner is working at cleaning the property. Councilwoman Shirley Randall also stated that the property owner is at the property everyday working on it. Town Clerk Darlene Kerr advised that the property owner is reporting to the court once a month, and that the ADA (Assistant District Attorney) and the Town Justice are setting the goals for the property owner, the matter is out of the Town's hands, and is now in the hands of the court. Bert Windle expressed he'd like to see the public to have more involvement with the new Site Plan Review. Supervisor LaPointe replied it is an open meeting, the public can come but very few take advantage of the opportunity. Mr. Windle asked if it will be voted on the same night as the public hearing. Councilman Hart replied that it was likely. Councilman Hart continued that the new Site Plan Review is an open ended document and will be subject to review and fine tuning in the future. Councilman Wilson added that the current objective was to have the Planning Board review the updated document prior to their meeting, vote on it at their meeting and recommend it to the Town Board, however the document didn't make it to the Planning Board prior to their last meeting. Burt Windle stated he'd like to see more discussion with the public prior to a vote rather than having the public hearing then a vote immediately after. Councilman Wilson replied that by law the document has to be available to the public prior to the public hearing, so it's not a "drop and vote". Councilman Wilson said it has been available in draft form while it's been worked on. Mr. Windle acknowledged he had received the document electronically from the Town Clerk, and he had passed it along to others. Allen Moore spoke saying the Site Plan Review is a document that probably doesn't mean much to people who are not involved in a project; he encouraged people to attend the Planning Board meetings to see the document in use. Dave Manchester also commented he has read the document in draft form and believed it was a huge improvement, easy to follow and understand. Peter Leyh asked what the time frame was. Councilman Wilson replied that the goal was to get the document in place by the end of the 2019 calendar year; however a window of opportunity was missed. Peter Leyh stated the problem he sees is that the document will be approved while the seasonal population is gone. He asked if it could be done in May or June. Councilman Wilson replied that the intent was to have the document in place before the onset of the busy building season and the influx of applications to the Planning Board early in the year. Allen Moore added to Councilman Wilson's statement saying that both boards will take comment in writing regardless of where they may reside in the winter. The document is available to those residents prior to the public hearing.

Dave Manchester spoke prior to adjournment. Mr. Manchester said he appreciated what the board has to do and recognizes that the composition of the board will change before seasonal residents return in the spring. He thanked Mr. LaPointe and the others leaving for their honest and ethical efforts for the community over the years. He continued that he hasn't always agreed over the years, but that's the nature of democracy. Supervisor LaPointe thanked Mr. Manchester for the kind words.

Supervisor LaPointe adjourned the meeting.

**Resolution # 72**

On motion of Supervisor LaPointe, seconded by Councilman Wilson; all in favor,  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned at 8:16 P.M.**

The next regular meeting is November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr  
Putnam Town Clerk

John LaPointe\_\_\_\_\_Supervisor

Darrell Wilson\_\_\_\_\_Councilman

Kevin Hart\_\_\_\_\_Councilman

Shirley Randall\_\_\_\_\_Councilwoman

Greg Harris\_\_\_\_\_Councilman