

Regular Meeting
Of the
Putnam Town Board

May 12, 2022, 7PM ~ Putnam Town Hall ~ Zoom

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilwoman Larry Shiell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present:	Supervisor	Darrell Wilson
	Councilman	Christopher Mallon
	Councilman	Larry Shiell
	Councilwoman	Carole Schneider

Absent:	Councilman	Charles Bain
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Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 14), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), Bill Brown (Planning Board Chair, 17 Charter Brook Lane), Jodi Granger (Resident, 123 Hutton Square Road), Cee McKenzie (BAR Chari, 526 Gull Bay Road), Christopher Grill (PVFD, 202 Schwerdtfeger Road)

Present via ZOOM: Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road) Joe Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Richard Milne (Resident,

Resolution #39

Accept the minutes of the April 14, 2022, meeting

On motion of Councilman Chris Mallon, seconded by Councilman Carole Schneider; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #40

Accept the Budget Officer's report for the month of April 2022

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #41

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of April 2022

On motion of Councilman Chris Mallon, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #42

Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of April 2022

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #43

Pay bills as audited

On motion of Councilman Christopher Mallon, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

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

General Fund	# 100-126	\$14,228.44
Highway Fund	# 48-54	\$7861.26
Black Point Sewer District	# 6	\$20,113.14

Correspondence

Jodi Lynn Granger addressed the Board about concerns with the Putnam Volunteer Fire Department. (See attached)

The Adirondack Park Agency gave notification that the Agency conditionally approved the application of the aquatic herbicide ProcellaCOR EC to control Eurasian Watermilfoil within a four-acre area of Blairs Bay in Lake George. (See attached)

Courtesy of the floor

Jodi Granger addressed the Town Board reiterating the problems presented in her correspondence. Mrs. Granger expressed that she felt that the Fire Department was discriminatory based on personal feelings and not an individual's merits. Mrs. Granger described a recent action taken by the department in the form of a vote, in which her husband, a qualified interior fire fighter was "voted out" due to personal difficulties with other members. Mrs. Granger expressed that she felt it was harmful to the community and that the Fire Department was not working in the best interests of the Town or residents. (Please see attached correspondence)

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent (HS) Treadway discussed the road agreement/paving after the power line is laid. Preferably the paving would be done after one freeze/thaw cycle to produce lasting results from the new paving. HS Treadway also reported that white good pick up will be July 13 & 14. Residents should register with the Town Clerk to have their white goods picked up. HS Treadway continued reporting that Gull Bay projects are on hold until the Gradall is fixed. HS Treadway addressed the accelerated costs of paving. Estimates are only good for 30-day periods because of the rapid inflation of material costs.

Planning Board Report

Planning Board Chair Bill Brown gave the Planning Board Report. Chairman Brown indicated that the prior night's meeting was very productive with a public hearing for the James Coffman project, which was subsequently approved. An update was given on the Jodi Scott project located at 32 Fernwood Way for 2 cabins linked by a porch and a composting toilet, and no electricity. The Scotts will need a site plan map showing contour lines and the building, well and driveway, and a letter from Washington County Code Enforcement stating that a composting toilet is OK. A Public Hearing was scheduled. James Coyle returned with a Site Plan proposal to construct a single-family dwelling at 2246 Black Point Road. Rich Trudeau, representing Carly Pinkowski, presented a proposal to construct a one-story single-family, two-bedroom home on 10 Fernwood Way.

Fire Department report (7:17)

Vice President Christopher Grill attended the meeting representing the Fire Department. Mr. Grill reported the FD had six calls in April. The Chicken BBQ date is set for Saturday July 23, 2022. On April 23 and 24 the FD carried out spring cleaning at the firehouse. The FD is currently working with their grant writer to identify FD needs that might be suitable for FD funding. The FD identified 22 areas that

needed attention. VP Grill commented briefly on Mrs. Grangers statements saying that the department is short on volunteers, procedures were followed, but the outcome of the vote was not unanimous.

Old business

Supervisor Wilson gave an update on the trailer parking saying that the trailers left were towed and parked beside the Town Hall for the owners to claim.

RP-467 Senior Citizen Exemption- Supervisor Wilson raised the topic of the exemption that was discussed at the prior month's meeting. It is a sliding scale exemption based on income for seniors.

Resolution #44

Adopt sliding scale base of \$24,000 at 50% to \$32,400 at 5% as the income levels for the Senior Citizen Exemption maximum income to qualify for the exemption

On motion of Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Christopher Mallon.

Roll Call:

Chris Mallon	Yes
Carole Schneider	No
Larry Shiell	Yes
Darrell Wilson	Yes
Charles Bain Sr.	Absent

Motion passed by majority vote.

Dog Control Officer- Supervisor Wilson indicated that a party interested in acting as the Town's DCO has come forward. Melissa Brown has submitted a letter of interest. Mrs. Brown has experience and is the current acting DCO in Dresden.

Resolution #45

Amend the Dog Control Officer salary budget line from \$2000 annually to \$2500 annually

On motion of Councilman Carole Schneider, seconded by Chris Mallon; all in favor.

Resolution unanimously passed.

Resolution #46

Appoint Melissa Brown as Dog Control Officer

On motion of Larry Shiell, seconded by Councilman Chris Mallon; all in favor.

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #47

Accept Account Clerk Amy Quesnel-Jones' resignation

On motion of Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Chris Mallon: all in favor.

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #48

Retain Amy Quesnel-Jones on the payroll until the end of June 2022 for the purpose of transitioning the new Account Clerk

On motion of Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor.

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #49

Appoint Margaret (Peggy) Moore as the Account Clerk

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

Solar Law Draft- A public hearing on the proposed Solar Law will be held June 9, 2022, at 6:45 PM.

Resolution #50

Set the Public Hearing date for the proposed Solar Law

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

Resolution #51

Set the salary for the Budget Officer position to \$6,000 annually

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

Memorial Day Observance- Calvin Granger has graciously taken over the Memorial Day Observance activities in Putnam after the death of the long-time organizer Kent Nichols. A brief discussion about the Town continued support of the event.

Resolution #52

Provide the Memorial Day event with Charcoal, lighter fluid, water and chicken

On motion of Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Lifeguards-Recreation Supervisor Mary Jane Dedrick reported that she has all of the lifeguard positions filled for the 2022 season. The new hires will need to take a written exam as well as obtain their Red Cross Lifeguard certification. New hires have signed an agreement to work at least one season or reimburse the Town for the cost of training.

Resolution #53

Adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Councilman Chris Mallon, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM

Solar Public Hearing June 9, 2022.

Next Regular meeting June 9, 2022, immediately following the Public Hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson _____ Supervisor

Christopher Mallon _____ Councilman

Carole Schneider _____ Councilwoman

Larry Shiell _____ Councilman

Charles Bain Sr. _____ Councilman

May 11, 2022

Darrell T. Wilson

Putnam Town Supervisor

14 Putnam Center Road

Putnam Station, NY 12861

SUBJECT: Putnam Volunteer Fire Company

This letter is being submitted to the town board, to raise awareness of ongoing issues within the Putnam Volunteer Fire Company that impact our community. As many of the board members know, I am a supporter of the fire company. I have served as a Board of Director, Secretary and President for the firehouse since I joined this community seven years ago. I was instrumental in leading the efforts to increase transparency for the budget and increasing accountability for decisions related to how taxpayers' money was spent. I submit this letter as a former member of the firehouse, as a taxpayer and most importantly a concerned member of this community.

The town of Putnam contracts with the fire company to ensure our homes and properties are protected in case of fire and to ensure when emergencies arise, we have resources to respond and lend aid. This arrangement is critical to our small community. Extended transit time can determine whether someone lives or dies, or if a home is destroyed or saved. Since I have lived in Putnam, I have witnessed a revolving door within the firehouse of volunteers joining and subsequently leaving primarily due to the politics and behavior within the organization. A list of members who have left, just since my involvement, is provided in Appendix I, and includes many trained interior firefighters, as well as other members who have held civil positions. A long list of additional members prior to this timeframe have also left, with resignation letters clearly pointing to the firehouse dysfunction as their reason for leaving. The town has provided funding to train these volunteers, to provide physicals and pay for their fire gear. Each volunteer that comes and goes costs money to this community. More importantly without volunteers, the community lacks resources to respond to calls.

A recent incident related to membership prompted me coming here today. Cory Granger (my husband) has been an interior firefighter of the company. He left briefly due to the politics previously mentioned but returned as a member just over 6 months ago, because he really wanted to continue to serve this community. He had no desire to be an officer or a decision maker. He simply wanted to help when the tones went off. The bylaws require a 6-month probationary period, at which time the members in good standing would vote to accept or remove him. This vote occurred on May 3rd, 2022, and he was voted out.

I want to highlight a few points pertinent to this vote

- The bylaws (Appendix II) have a provision for disciplinary action if a member is not meeting the requirements set forth. At no time, was disciplinary action brought against him during his probationary period and at no time was he counseled by line officers regarding any issue with his performance.
- The bylaws provide requirements for metrics related to how many drills, meetings and calls each member attends. If a member falls below the required percentage, they are considered not in good standing. A copy of the most recent metrics is provided herein (Appendix IV), and was issued by the firehouse president on May 2nd, a day before the vote took place. The board members can note the following:
 - For drills Cory's metrics are 4th (81.3%) when compared to other members
 - For fire calls Cory's metrics are above ALL members of the fire company year to date, including all officers of the company.
- The bylaws provide a stipulation that any member not in good standing, should not be allowed to vote on any motion, membership decision, make or second a motion during meetings, or be elected to a civil or line officer position. This shall be enforced by the President. On May 3rd, the President, David Hayes did not enforce this and one member not in good standing was allowed to vote.
- The negative votes were in no way prompted by performance within the firehouse, and instead due to personal issues having nothing to do with activities within the firehouse. Had performance been an issue, due process should have occurred to communicate anything being done incorrectly and not within the procedures of the firehouse. This did not happen.
- Due to the vote and other long standing issues, long term volunteer and current Treasurer, Mike Bruce chose to resign on May 3rd. The vote cost this community two volunteers in good standing.

Obviously, this issue is personal to me. I know the hours Cory put into training. I know the speed in which he responds to calls in the middle of the night. I know the impact of the calls on him and how he carries each death with him of someone he was unable to save. That being said, the issue is not specific to Cory – it is systemic. I know members of this board have been on the receiving end of the explosive personalities of a few members of the firehouse. I know many of you have seen this issue for many years long before I moved here.

The bottom line is those creating the volatile environment in the firehouse have learned to play the game. If you control the membership by driving out all those who do not agree with you, then those few remaining can

- Control membership and limit it to only those with their point of view
- Control who is placed in a leadership position
- Control the money – limited membership means you always have the votes during meetings to determine how money is spent
- Change the policies and bylaws to ensure they can manipulate practices in the organization. As an example, Doug Thatcher was voted back into the firehouse with an emergency meeting instead of the 30 days dictated by the bylaws at the time. (See attached minutes Appendix 3)

The firehouse currently has 12 members,

- Doug Thatcher, Chief – in good standing – interior certified – able to vote
- Michael Alteri, 1st Assistant Chief – not in good standing and unable to vote
- Scott Cook, 2nd Assistant Chief – in good standing – interior certified – able to vote
- Mike Wallace Junior – in good standing – interior certified – able to vote
- David Hayes, President – in good standing, unable to vote, other than to break a tie per bylaws
- Chris Grill – Vice President – metrics show does not meet criteria to be in good standing, but waived since absence was health related – able to vote per Chief
- Allan Johns, not in good standing and unable to vote
- Dan Tucker – in good standing – interior certified – able to vote
- Suzanne Tucker – not in good standing – unable to vote, but was allowed to vote on May 3rd against the bylaws
- Gavin Tucker – not in good standing – unable to vote (may be considered a Junior member, but I cannot confirm)
- Kayley Alteri – not living local metrics below threshold to vote
- Brett Moore, not living local metrics below threshold to vote

The firehouse has a Quorum requirement of five (5) voting members in order to conduct a meeting. Only 4 members are considered in good standing, without the waiver granted to Chris Grill. With Chris, if one member is absent business cannot be conducted and votes on paying bills or making decisions cannot be made. Limited membership also means members are holding multiple positions within the company further diluting the checks and balances needed to prevent corruption. Line officer positions remain empty. Civil officer positions remain empty.

I know my coming here tonight will not solve the problem, but I urge the town board and the members of this community to think of options to ensure checks and balances are in place to provide those that step up to volunteer a chance to be treated fairly. I ask you to try and help ensure those that are showing up to drills, responding to calls, and meeting the by-law requirements are allowed to serve this community. Be sure your money spent is not being wasted investing in members who will only be driven out or voted out a short time later for reasons completely unrelated to performance. If you can find a way to correct the systemic issues, there are plenty of us out here in the community waiting to rejoin the firehouse and provide the service the town expects for the dollars being paid.

Thank you for your willingness to let me speak and share this information with the board.

Respectfully,

Jodi Lynn Granger



CC: Putnam Town Clerk, Putnam Town Board, PVFC President David Hayes



Adirondack Park Agency

**MAJOR PROJECT PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION DETERMINED
APA PROJECT NO. 2022-0004**

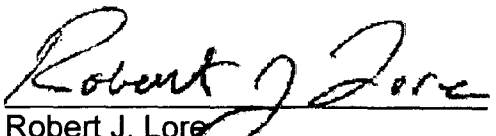
Date: April 22, 2022

The purpose of this notice is to inform you that on **April 22, 2022**, the Agency conditionally approved the project and issued Permit **2022-0004**.

The project is located in the Town of **Hague, Warren County**, on or near **Blair's Bay, Lake George**. The project is briefly described as follows: **Application of the aquatic herbicide ProcettaCOR EC to control Eurasian Watermilfoil within a 4.0-acre area of Blairs Bay, Lake George.**

Please contact **Aaron Ziemann**, the assigned APA staff member, if you should have any questions.

4/22/22
Date


Robert J. Lore
Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs

cc: Lake George Park Commission
Glenn Sullivan
Adjoining Landowners
Town, County & LGRB Officials