

Regular Meeting

Of the

Putnam Town Board

February 11, 2021, 7PM ~ Putnam Town Hall ~ Zoom

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilman Charlie Bain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 14), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), David Hayes (PVFD, President-elect, Resident, 560 Gull Bay Road), Doug Thatcher (PVFD Chief, Resident 351 County Route 2), Leslie L. Bain (Resident, 371 Peterson Road). **Present via ZOOM:** Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), John Breitenbach (Town Attorney, 23 Father Jogues Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road) Joe Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chair, 17360 State Route 22), Mary Schreiner (Resident, 2118 Black Point Road), Chris Edwards (Planning Board, Resident, 507 Cummings Road)

Resolution # 11

Accept the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting

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

Resolution #12

Accept the Budget Officer's report for the month of January 2021

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

Resolution # 13

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of January 2021

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

Resolution # 14

Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of January 2021

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

Pay bills as audited

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

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

General Fund	# 7-37	\$6,051.18
Highway Fund	# 11-21	\$7,076.87

Correspondence (7:08)

None

Courtesy of the floor (7:08)

Resident Nancy Wolf-Fisher addressed the Board with two items. The first, Mrs. Wolf-Fisher inquired as to whether a meeting with the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) has been held.

Supervisor Wilson replied that no meeting has been held or scheduled, a time has not been confirmed by either party. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher moved to the next topic saying that the Town Clerk indicated on the last emailed distribution of the minutes that the Fire Department had declined to have their minutes circulated, she asked if those minutes are available to the public some other way. Fire Chief Doug Thatcher replied that he didn't believe that the FD minutes are available to the public because they are a private company and the matters discussed are internal. Chief Thatcher indicated he would check with the FD attorney to see what can be released and make it available to the Town. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher expressed that the prior month at the Town Board meeting the Chief vocalized a desire to be transparent and passing their minutes on to the public would be a way of being transparent. Chief Thatcher said he agreed "100%" and reiterated he would check with the FD attorney to be clear on what could be divulged to the public and as soon as he has that laid out the FD will begin to distribute the information available.

Resident Joe Fisher addressed the Board next. Mr. Fisher asked for a timeline from the FD for an answer on minutes so that time doesn't pass without transparency from the FD. Chief Thatcher said he would meet with the FD attorney in the coming week and will report back at the next Town Board meeting.

Highway report (7:11)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported that the equipment is in good shape and the stockpile of sand is doing well, he expects it will last through the winter season with possible surplus. The crew was able to cut brush on Pulpit Point and Gull Bay with a few days of good weather. The brine making unit is now with Washington County. The unit was in Whitehall where they made 4000 (four thousand) gallons of brine that was delivered to Putnam's tanks. If Putnam were to buy the brine instead of taking interest in the brine unit, the price would be over \$1 (one dollar) per gallon. Putnam bought a share in the brine making unit giving the Town significant savings. Putnam contributed \$5000 (five thousand dollars) toward the brine making machine and is now paying approximately \$.04 (four cents) per gallon. HS Treadway reported that he was contacted by a resident who is requesting signage in his area as there has been increased traffic.

Resolution #15

Approve requested signage in Black Point

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

HS Treadway also reported that a second request for a speed limit on Warrick Road was made by a resident. Speed limit requests have a process in which the State has the final approval of the speed limit. Currently there is no posted limit on Warrick Road.

HS Treadway indicated he is still working on a quote for a cab tractor with a side mower and possibly an over the rail mower. The new mower will replace the 1974 mower currently being used by the highway crew. Councilwoman Schneider asked if HS Treadway would be getting other quotes. HS Treadway replied yes, he will be getting 3 different quotes from various dealers.

Planning Board report (7:20)

Planning Board Chairman Galen Seerup reported the PB had met the evening prior and that it was a short meeting. The PB had the Carry Cross Subdivision. Rich Trudeau is representing the Cross'. The survey map has not been completed, a 90-day extension was requested and approved. The second project presented to the PB was by Gary & Kate Crammond who are proposing an addition and a wrap around porch to their home on Pulpit Point Road. The Crammonds need to gather additional information for the PB before the project can move forward. The third project before the PB was by James & Kathleen Coffman. The Coffman's are represented by Rich Trudeau. The Coffman proposed project on Gull Bay Road would demolish an existing 3 bedroom home and garage that will be replaced with an energy efficient 3 bedroom home.

Supervisor Wilson advised he has copies of Solar guidelines for the PB and Town Board for those who are interested, also advising that the document is available on the New York State website.

Fire Department report (7:27)

President-elect Dave Hayes addressed the Board advising that the FD is trying to purchase a new fire truck, the estimated price is around \$400,000 (four hundred thousand dollars) with an estimated payment of \$33,000 (thirty-three thousand dollars) per year. The FD has submitted an application for financing to the Bank of Green County and have received preliminary approval. One of the requirements of the bank is that the FD issues a tax-exempt promissory note. To do that the Town of Putnam would have to extend its tax-exempt status to the FD for the promissory note. There is a specific procedure that will include a public hearing in which the Town's people can gather information about the purchase. A summary report of the public hearing is then submitted to the Town Board for their approval or denial of the tax-exempt extension to the FD. If there is an approval the Town Clerk will issue a certificate. The bank has provided templates to the FD for the procedure. Chief Thatcher pressed the point that if the Town of Putnam approves the extension of the tax-exempt status the Town of Putnam nor the State of New York will have any liability for the actual loan even if the FD defaults. Councilman Mallon inquired about the FD's ability to sustain the loan obligations with their current income. Chief Thatcher answered that the FD is comfortable going forward with the last increase and a 2% annual increase in their budget. Chief Thatcher explained that President-elect Hayes has completed budgets going forward 8 years and the FD is comfortable in those projected budgets. President-elect Hayes added that the projected budgets are available for anyone who would like to look at them. The FD will need to meet a timeline for a commitment on the truck purchase before an anticipated 3% price increase on the truck that will occur after March. The FD expects to satisfy other debts in the next few years which will add available funds to their bottom line. The Town Clerk agreed to assist the FD with posting notices and the ZOOM meeting. On a different matter, Chief Thatcher advised the FD is not in favor of the proposed helipad in Gull Bay because of lack of accessibility in an emergency.

Old business (7:50)

Dog Control Law - Supervisor Wilson revisited the revision of the Dog Control Law saying the Town Clerk has created a draft that was distributed to the Board for review and suggestions. Fort Ann's Dog Control Law passed in 2017 was used as a model. The intent of the dog law revision is to bring the document passed in 1988 up to date in language and penalties. A timeline was distributed. April is the target window for adopting the new law. A brief discussion about habitual barking or chasing took place, the draft will be reviewed and clarified. Councilman Mallon pointed to impoundment fees and the structure. The language on fees will be reviewed and clarified.

Solar Law – Supervisor Wilson advised that he has copies of the Solar regulations for commercial applications put out by NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority). Supervisor Wilson researched other organizations that impact Putnam, and their position or regulatory articles regarding solar. None were found. Town Attorney John Breitenbach joined the discussion saying that his research shows that the APA (Adirondack Park Agency) is assuming some authority over larger projects, and they have an application process, however they do not have a body of regulations. Attorney Breitenbach advised that the document from NYSERDA contains a sample ordinance, and he felt the document contained good guidance. Attorney Breitenbach also suggested that the Town may want to pass any solar regulations as a local law rather than incorporating it into the Site Plan Review. Supervisor Wilson asked if a moratorium would be appropriate or a ban. Attorney Breitenbach replied an outright ban likely would be legally challenged, and a moratorium, if considered, should not be used until the Board has researched and developed an actual plan outline. Bans and moratoriums are not favored by the courts as they restrict what private landowners can do with their property. Attorney Breitenbach suggested that the NYSERDA document was full of useful information and should be reviewed prior to developing a plan.

Emergency Plan update – At a prior meeting Supervisor Wilson indicated that the State put out a mandate that public employers will need an emergency plan in place for potential future emergency situations. Supervisor Wilson developed a plan from a template supplied to him from Northern Insurance. A draft of the plan has been submitted to the Union for review as applied to unionized workers employed by the Town of Putnam.

Cummings Park fee structure - Councilman Bain reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee developed a fee schedule for Cummings Park at their last meeting. The fees proposed are as follows. Weddings and large events \$300 for the day \$200 for residents, plus \$50 per preparation/clean up days before and after large events. \$500 refundable security deposit per event. The grounds must be cleaned at the end of the reserved period to qualify for the refund. Small events such as birthday parties, \$50 per day no resident discount, with a \$100 refundable security deposit, the park must be cleaned the same day to qualify for the refund. To qualify for a resident discount the agreement must be signed by the resident and the resident assumes all liability for guest actions. A resident is defined as a taxpayer in Putnam or someone who physically lives in the Town of Putnam.

Resolution #16

Adopt fee schedule for Cummings Park

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

New business (8:30)

Cummings Park road name proposal – Supervisor Wilson acknowledged a letter submitted by the Town Clerk proposing naming the roads leading into and around Cummings Park in honor of the people who worked over a decade on the park's inception and development. Councilman Mallon asked how many roads there are at the park. There are three segments of roads. Councilman Bain added that Greg Harris was also instrumental in the parks development and completion and should be recognized as such. Names were discussed, the topic was tabled for further discussion at a later date.

Justice resignation – Supervisor Wilson read a resignation letter from the Town Justice Edward F. Krawiecki. Justice Krawiecki is resigning due to health reasons.

Letters of interest for the Justice seat appointment should be into the Town Clerk by March 5th. An appointed Justice is required to run for election in November.

Councilman Shiell asked if there had been any further development in the CHPE (Champlain Hudson Power Express) proposal. Supervisor Wilson acknowledged that a proposal has been sent to CHPE for review. A counter proposal has not been received to date.

Resolution # 17

Adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Next regular meeting, March 11, 2021 at 7PM via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson _____ Supervisor

Christopher Mallon _____ Councilman

Larry Shiell _____ Councilman

Carole Schneider _____ Councilwoman

Charles Bain Sr. _____ Councilman