

Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD
JANUARY 12, 2017
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

Councilman Greg Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present:	Supervisor	John LaPointe
	Councilman	Greg Harris
	Councilman	Kevin Hart
	Councilwoman	Cathie Burke
	Councilwoman	Shirley Randall

Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Town Clerk, P.O. Box 14), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), Charlie Bain Sr. (Resident, 17 Bain Lane), Stephanie Wagner (Resident, 2198 Black Point Road), Bill Duprey (Resident, 2191 Black Point Road), Sylvia Duprey (Resident, 2191 Black Point Road), Susan Johnson (Town Justice, 17019 State Route 22), Judy Walker (Resident, Black Point Road), John C Ford (Resident, 2226 Black Point Road)

Resolution # 34

Accept the minutes of the December 8, 2016 meeting & December 29th Organizational meeting

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

Resolution # 35

Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of December, 2016

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilwoman Shirley Randall; Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 36

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of December, 2016

On motion of Councilman Kevin Hart, seconded by Councilwoman Cathie Burke; Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 37

Pay bill as audited

On motion of Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilwoman Shirley Randall; Resolution unanimously adopted.

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

General Fund	# 294-333	\$20,866.30
Highway Fund	# 143-158	\$10,215.68
Black Point Sewer District	# 7	\$69,738.33
Royal Anchorage Sewer District	# 3-4	\$12,465.64
Cumming Park	# 3-4	\$1,064.30

Correspondence

Supervisor LaPointe acknowledged correspondence that addressed an issue with Black Point Sewer bills, but did not read them aloud, stating he would address them during the discussion about the Black Point Sewer bills under “new business”.

Courtesy of the floor (7:05)

John Ford of Black Point Road addressed the board saying he received his sewer bill and he was upset that a “bill would go up that much and we weren’t notified in advance that there was going to be a huge increase”. He went on to say he’d been paying (for the last year) \$249.50 a quarter, He said he realized that was a reduced rate due to surplus monies in the account. This rate totaled \$998 a year. The previous rate he paid was \$340.50 quarterly which totaled \$1362.00 per year. He stated he knew the bill would go up once the surplus monies were used, but he didn’t expect it to go above what was previously paid before the subsidies. He went on to say his new rate was \$446.00 a quarter for a total of \$1784.00 for the year. The increase is \$105.50 a quarter equaling an increase of \$442.00 a year. He stated he wouldn’t have wanted the reduced rate if he’d known this increase would happen a year after the reduced rate. He said he spoke with Amy Quesnel and she indicated that, that’s what was needed to pay the bill. He went on to say he’s not an accounted but he’d expect the interest rate would have been a fixed rate, so he’s not sure what’s contributing to the increase. Supervisor LaPointe responded he was going to have Amy Quesnel do a breakdown of the bills with an explanation, and that would be published on the Town’s website. (www.townofputnamny.com). He went on to say he can’t answer the question, he knew it was going to go up, but he’s not sure why. Judy Walker added to the conversation saying that Ticonderoga’s sewer bills did not increase at all, so it’s hard to explain why people living on the same road, half in Putnam, half in Ti, why Putnam’s went up approximately \$400.00 per family per year. She also stated the other thing that makes things difficult with this increase is the time of year since most of the families affected are summer residents and are not here. She said she acts as a secretary for the Black Point Civic Association and she’s gotten Emails from residents as they receive their bills. Many ask why they wouldn’t be notified ahead if there was going to be such a dramatic increase. Also, there has been no explanation with the increase. Supervisor LaPointe reiterated he would get an explanation and publish it on the website. Ms. Walker also asked that the explanation be Emailed to her at judywalker419@gmail.com. Councilman Kevin Hart joined the discussion by saying he and Councilwoman Burke had attended a sewer district meeting about a year and a half ago. They had learned at that meeting that usually an increase was due to individual residents shutting off power to their pumping stations down over the winter to save on the power. When the system cannot pump up and discharge into the sewer main it puts the station on alarm. When it goes into alarm, maintenance is dispatched to the area in question to investigate the problem, which incurs a maintenance charge. There is a charge every time they are called out. Judy Walker responded that Dennis Fleury went to their (Black Point Civic Association) annual meeting and explained about things residents could do to keep costs

down and to insure maintenance issues were not owner inflicted. Homeowners were also informed by mail that if they were doing something that incurred costs for maintenance or repair they would be billed individually for the costs. John Ford added that on operation and maintenance, his bill for 2016 the operation and maintenance charge quarterly was \$55.00, this year it went down to \$20.00. He said that's not the thing that went up and didn't contribute to the increase. Mr. Ford also added that many residents are now renting their properties in the summer and he believes that may be causing problems because people that come in don't really know what's expected with the use of the sewer system. Stephanie Wagner added to the conversation reiterating what was said previously, she also confirmed where the explanation would be posted. Supervisor LaPointe replied on the Town website (www.townofputnamny.com). Supervisor LaPointe said he'd get together with Amy Quesnel to gather information about why this increase occurred.

Susan Johnson Town Justice(7:23) reported she had submitted a monthly report to Darlene Kerr the Town Clerk. The report included hours spent in court and on paperwork. She reported that the court has seen an increase in traffic due to more law enforcement in the area. Mrs. Johnson went on to give the Putnam Volunteer Fire Department monthly report in the absence of the Fire Chief, and Assistant Fire Chief who were attending a meeting with Ticonderoga EMS. She continued on to give the end of year report. In 2016 the Fire Department had a total of 50 calls, 25 fire calls, 25 EMS calls. There were a total of 480 man hours for the fire calls, and 50 man hours for the EMS calls. There were approximately 4,000 training hours in 2016. Mrs. Johnson reported the Jr. program is still going strong, now having 9 juniors. She also reported on Tuesday January 17, there are 3 individuals beginning the Fire Fighter I training in Schroon Lake.

Highway Report (7:25)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported December was a busy month, the crew had a little over 40 hours of overtime with the ice storms. He reported the sand and salt are holding up well and he said he doesn't anticipate having any problems with supply for the rest of the season. HS Treadway reported the new pick-up truck arrived. It was used for driveways during the last storm and it performed well. He reported "ole yeller" (the old pick-up truck used for recycling and garbage pickup) is running well. Councilman Harris asked if the salt was still being monitored (a program funded and run by Save Lake George, and The Fund for Lake George partnership) HS Treadway responded it is still being monitored and the equipment was taken to Ticonderoga to be calibrated again to ensure it's working properly. HS Treadway went on to report that all the equipment is working well, the new tandem truck is saving about 30 minutes around the plow routes because it has a larger capacity for sand and salt thus reducing the need to return to the garage to reload as often. Councilman Harris commented he was at the Cummings Park a few days earlier, he said the plowing and sanding of the road looked good.

Charlie Bain Sr. added the town crew did a "really good job" on the road at the park.

Supervisor LaPointe joined the discussion explaining, for those who might not have known in the audience, that Putnam had purchased a piece of property on Lake Champlain and built a park. The park is accessible year round for picnics, kayaking, and ice fishing along with other outdoor activities. A grand opening will be planned for next summer.

Planning Board Report (7:29)

Bob Rudt reported the planning board had two issues at the last meeting. The first, a public hearing for the Michael and Luisa Kisel project, they are building a single family home on Oliver Way. Mr. Rudt reported that the LGPC (Lake George Park Commission) has a 27 items that need to be addressed before the project can proceed. The public hearing was adjourned until next month. The second issue, a 2 lot subdivision by the LGLC (Lake George Land Conservancy) they are purchasing a lot on Black Point Road. The property is approximately 16-18 acres; the LGLC wants to cut a 2 acre lot from it on the road side, leaving the back portion without access. The planning board is going to require that they merge the back lot with an adjacent lot.

Old Business (7:32)

NONE

New Business (7:32)

Budget adjustment Supervisor LaPointe brought the need for an adjustment to the Black Point Sewer District, \$135,000.00 was budgeted, however \$165,179.00 is what it should be.

Resolution # 38

Black Point Sewer District budget adjustment from \$135,000.00 to \$165,179.00

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; Resolution unanimously adopted.

Rabies Clinic

A rabies clinic will be set up for a date in March. The clinic will be one hour long and free of charge to dogs and cats of residents of Putnam. Dr. Mack will run the clinic.

Planning Board Chair (7:34)

Supervisor LaPointe asked the board what they wanted to do regarding the Planning Board Chair. Councilman Hart said he thought the Chair should be rotated between planning board members, for maybe a one or two year term. He went on to explain, theoretically if a real estate agent is sitting on the planning board, and he/she has to make a determination on somebody's parcel, that he/she did not sell, and he/she attaches stipulations to the person who buys the property that are unreasonable, and that someone else is not asked to do, is a potential problem. He went on to say that there are builders and real estate people on the planning board, and he hopes a position on the board wouldn't be used as an opportunity to "get even" with an individual. Bob Rudt responded "in defense of realtors and planning board members" that as a matter of practice members would recuse themselves from a vote that might pose a conflict of interest, but they can express an opinion. Mr. Rudt asked if there was a specific instance in mind. Councilman Hart responded there was an individual who was going through the process who felt they were singled out and required to put in additional steps because an individual on the planning board wanted something above and beyond what was needed. As a result the individual's plans were held up for an extended period of time. Mr. Rudt replied that sometimes the planning board needs additional information and they have to ask for that from the property owner. Councilman Harris suggested that a sit down with the Planning Board might be a good thing to discuss issues and differences. Supervisor LaPointe added, this issue about the Chair came up at the organizational meeting, and said he'd set up a meeting with the Planning Board to discuss complaints and concerns.

Miscellaneous Business (7:43)

Cummings Park Road Councilman Kevin Hart asked Sue Johnson if anyone from the fire department has gone to the park with a fire truck. Sue Johnson answered no one has. Councilman Hart went on to say when that road was built; part of its intended purpose was to give the fire department access to water on that side of town. Access will be investigated further in the near future.

Fire Department re-visited (7:44)

Newspaper article about the Departments new air packs

Susan Johnson added that in the January 14, 2017 issue of the Sun (Times of Ti) there will be an article about the Putnam Fire Department getting a grant (\$74,000.00) and new air packs. All of the new air packs are in service. A group of the old air packs were sold to the Town of Dresden, and a group of them were donated to Dresden's Fire Department in honor of Dresden's Fire Chief's son who was killed in a car accident. Supervisor LaPointe asked of the 2017 contract with the Town had been signed. Sue Johnson indicated that it had been signed and given to the Putnam Town Clerk.

Lake George Association grant (7:46)

Bob Rudt stated he had received a newsletter from the LGA stating there was a grant to assist various towns with the cost of manning the boat launches. Supervisor LaPointe responded that there was a grant for \$43,000.00 that was in Putnam’s budget. The Supervisor went on to say the Town has been underwriting that program from taxpayer money, the grant helped to keep the Town budget flat for 2017.

Compliments to Highway Superintendent Gary Treadway (7:47)

John Ford complimented HS Gary Treadway on his responsiveness and wanted to express his appreciation, stating he’s very good when called and quick to respond.

Resolution # 39 (7:49)

Adjourn regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, Seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; Resolution unanimously adopted.

Meeting closed at 7:49pm

Next meeting is February 9th, 2017 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

John LaPointe_____	Supervisor
Cathie Burke_____	Councilwoman
Kevin Hart_____	Councilman
Shirley Randall_____	Councilwoman
Greg Harris_____	Councilman