

Regular Meeting Of the Putnam Town Board

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD
AUGUST 11, 2016
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 Cathie Burke 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) Bert Windle (Resident, 5209 Sagamore Rd.), Wayne Busby (Resident, 11 Charter Brook Lane), Dennis Johnson (Putnam Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief, 17019 State Route 22), Dan Tucker (Putnam Volunteer Fire Department Chief, 35 County Route 2).

Resolution #75

Accept the minutes of July 14, 2016 regular meeting

On motion of Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilwoman Cathie Burke; Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #76

Accept Supervisor's monthly report for July 2016

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

Resolution #77

Accept Town Clerk's monthly report for July 2016

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

Resolution # 78

Pay bills as audited

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris; Resolution unanimously adopted.

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

General Fund	# 219-267	\$38,730.32
Highway Fund	# 99-120	\$139,115.28
Cummings Park	# 2	\$1,853.60
Black Point Sewer District	# 4-6	\$21,199.01

Correspondence (7:03) (None)

Courtesy of the floor (7:04) (4 minute time limit)

Assistant Fire Chief of the Putnam Volunteer Fire Department (AFC) Dennis Johnson reported there has been a change in officers at the Firehouse. The new Fire Chief is Dan Tucker, Dennis Johnson is the Assistant Chief. Doug Thatcher and Bill Brown resigned from the Putnam Fire Department. AFC Johnson also reported three new member applications have been taken in this month. AFC Johnson presented financial projections for 2017 along with current expenditures of the Fire Department to assist in the Fire Department budget process. AFC Johnson reported it was a slow month with a couple of EMS calls, some training and the annual BBQ. The BBQ raised \$2500.00. The financial sheet presented shows an \$8000.00 deficit. The figures presented do not take into account any fund raisers or the 2% fund. The 2% fund is received from out of state insurance companies. When a resident holds insurance outside of New York State for a property in Putnam the insurance companies return a small percentage of that money to the Fire Department every year. This year the return given to the FD was \$6500.00 and was used for the new BBQ pit.

Bert Windle (7:07) of Sagamore Road reported participating in a telephone conference with Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (21st Congressional District of New York). The topics discussed included Congresswoman Stefanik's office now has an individual devoted to assisting towns in Congresswoman Stefanik's district with preparing grants. Mr. Windle encouraged the town to take advantage of this opportunity to see what grants might be available to the Putnam Fire Department and the Town of Putnam.

Lake Communities of Putnam represented by Bert Windle brought forward concerns about the Privilege of the Floor Parameters issued at July's board meeting. "We stand in opposition of this Law for the following reasons 1. A reduction of 20% in the time allowed to present your concerns. 2. Requirement of written copies to be provided, some citizens don't have that ability, and would not step up on issues of concern to them. 3. Limiting comments to the citizens own thoughts and not allowing for a spokesman to deliver a community address or that of a group of taxpayers. 4. My history with the Putnam Town Board meeting over the last quarter century plus has been positive and heated debate has been minimal. I agree derogatory remarks need to be addressed, and they have a small number of occasions they have occurred. 5. I do see a need to address individual Board members on issues and be firm as my observations suggest the Board has in many cases on important issues discussed and made up their minds prior to the public comments (I have seen that in at least three cases over the past seven or eight years) and their history of voting unanimously demonstrates my argument. I need to be able aggressively challenge such behavior and expose this if I believe it to be the truth. 6. I do not see any need for another local law, I do not want it! It just adds to the mistrust of the government and will not be recognized or remembered by the citizens of Putnam three months from now, other than the Supervisor." Supervisor LaPointe responded by

asserting the parameters is not a law and is not intended to be a law, it's a suggested format for public meetings.

Mr. Windle went on to compliment the maintenance and repair being done on the Putnam Town Hall saying it "looks great".

Supervisor LaPointe asked Wayne Busby if the handicap ramp required a rail. Mr. Busby responded he wasn't sure, however if one was needed he'd put one up "no charge". Supervisor LaPointe continued saying that the spaces left beside the new porch would be filled in with pavement, and the end of the ramp would also be completed by the Highway Department.

Highway Department Report (7:14)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported the crew has been hauling the stockpile, building that up. Since last winter was mild, they didn't use a lot of the stockpile. HS Treadway expects to be finished stockpiling in a "week or two". The crew has been ditching, the second cut of roadside mowing has been started. The county mowing will be started Tuesday, August 16, 2016. Councilman Harris asked if the Highway Department was prepared to prep the track at Cummings Park. The grade on each side of the track needs to be brought up level with the track. HS Treadway responded by saying they are prepared and have already done some work near the entry. Councilman Hart asked if concrete ramps would be used. Supervisor LaPointe responded that is what will be put on, 2 on each side. Supervisor LaPointe went on to say the power has been hooked up at the Park, however the railroads end isn't finished, and will need to be finished before everything can be energized. Supervisor LaPointe also noted he and Councilman Harris had met with the former land owners (Alan and Judy Forgette) August 8, 2016. At the meeting the previous land owners were asked to move some old equipment on the property line as well as a building that had been moved to the property line from another location. They (Mr. & Mrs. Forgette) were agreeable to that request. Supervisor LaPointe said he was happy with the recent progress at the park. Bob Rudt asked if a formal opening was planned. Supervisor LaPointe replied there was still work to do, the fence between the property lines, parking areas and road access to the lake among other minor things need to be finished before opening. The opening will likely be next year. HS Treadway added after the stockpile is finished, and the roadside mowing is done, the crew will have time to work on the park. Councilman Hart asked if Brian Merfeld was done with the power at the park. Supervisor LaPointe responded Mr. Merfeld still had fixtures to put in the pavilion. Supervisor LaPointe stated the next thing to address would be the fence, and some discussion in the near future would be appropriate to decide what the Town wanted for a fence.

Planning Board Report (7:19)

Bob Rudt reported there were two Planning Board meetings this month. Tuesday, August 9th the Planning Board met with the Town Board to discuss the mobile home ordinance as it currently exists. Mr. Rudt stated there were no conclusions from the meeting. Supervisor LaPointe added the Code Enforcement Officer Bill Ball believes the mobile home law that exists now is not legal. Also, the pros and cons of zoning were discussed. Councilman Harris contributed to the topic saying the biggest change brought up at the meeting was the new state code that requires a trailer (mobile home) to have a poured concrete foundation, setting up on blocks was no longer allowed. Supervisor LaPointe suggested a meeting with the APA (Adirondack Park Association) to have a conversation about zoning would be beneficial. Councilman Harris added something to consider about zoning and relieving the APA is that the Town will then be acting "on your own" and the Town could end up "knee deep" in litigation. Bob Rudt spoke reiterating Councilman Harris' point. Mr. Rudt also said a few more mobile homes have "appeared in town", adding a site plan review was not done on any of them. Mr. Windle added to the discussion that one of the trailers being discussed is about 10 feet from the water (Lake George) and that the plants between the trailer and the water had been cut down. Mr. Windle stated "if it's let go everyone will do it" and "we're seeing more and more of it". Supervisor LaPointe responded by saying the Code Enforcement

Officer was aware of the sites being discussed. Mr. Windle added the APA already has regulations in place regarding trailers and mobile homes on their web site. Supervisor LaPointe said he'd have the Code Enforcement Officer look at the regulations.

Bob Rudt continued with the Planning Board report, the first issue was the Planning Board Clerk Paula Wilson needs a locking filing cabinet. Supervisor LaPointe told Mr. Rudt to have Paula contact him about the cabinet. Mr. Rudt went on to report the Planning Board had three issues presented at the meeting. The first was a couple (Earl/Glesner) who want to build on a lot on Gull Bay. A stream runs through the property, (The DEC determined it was a "stream" 20 years ago) making the lot unbuildable. The land is currently taxed as unbuildable. The owners didn't consider the fact that the water is a stream and any building has to be 100 feet away from the stream. They had intended to build multiple 9x11 buildings essentially avoiding the Lake George Park Commission regulations for storm water control on buildings 100 sq. feet or larger. The couple will be redoing their plans and resubmitting them to the Planning Board. The second item, Brian Merfeld on Backus Lane applied to put a 2 car garage on the end of his house. Storm water will not be an issue there. The third and final item was the Rapaports in Royal Anchorage. The Rapaports have been through the APA, and will now need to file with Park Commission as well as the Planning Board for approval of their plan.

Old Business (7:40)

Town Hall Repairs

Supervisor LaPointe updated the status of the Town Hall repairs. The kitchen floor will be replaced August 24. Ti Paint will also prepare a quote to replace the floor in the meeting room. Councilman Hart added there is a man in Ticonderoga, the "Sandman", who may be able to repair the current wood floor in the meeting room. Wayne Busby added the current floor looked like yellow pine, a soft wood, and stated the rolling office chairs "eat the top right off these floors". Supervisor LaPointe said he will contact the Sandman for an estimate on refinishing the floors for consideration.

Grievance Day Date Change

A public hearing was held July 14, 2016 to hear public comments about repealing Local Law #1 of 2001. No comments came from the floor. Putnam's sole assessor in 2001 worked for two towns. In an effort to alleviate the conflict in scheduling Putnam changed the grievance day date to the first Wednesday after the fourth Tuesday in May. The current assessor does not have a scheduling conflict, hence repealing the Local Law #1 of 2001. Putnam's grievance day will revert to the fourth Tuesday in May to accommodate Section 512 of the Real Property Law.

Resolution #79

Repeal Local Law #1 of 2001

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

Joint meeting of the Town Board and Planning Board regarding Putnam's trailer ordinance

The Town Board and the Planning Board met on Tuesday, August 9th at the Town Hall to discuss the current trailer ordinance and possible updates/changes needed. The Code Enforcement Officer Bill Ball and the town attorney John Breitenbach will meet to review the current ordinance and enforcement of such an ordinance in the future. Other possible avenues were explored including creating a zoning board. Another meeting will be scheduled at a later date after more information is collected and researched.

New Business (8:03)

Budget Workshop 2017

A budget workshop will be scheduled for early September.

Moment of Silence for Walton Smith

At the request of Bert Windle, a moment of silence was observed in honor of Walton Smith, a Putnam resident who recently passed in an automobile accident.

Old Business revisited

Applicants to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board

Supervisor LaPointe will make arrangements to interview the applicants for the Planning Board vacancy. The current applicants are Wayne Busby, and Cynthia Floor.

8:11 Motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart;

Meeting closed at 8:11 P.M.

Next meeting, September 8, 2016 at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

John LaPointe _____ Supervisor

Greg Harris _____ Councilman

Shirley Randall _____ Councilwoman

Cathie Burke _____ Councilwoman

Kevin Hart _____ Councilman