

Regular Meeting Of the Putnam Town Board

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD
JUNE 11, 2020
7P.M. PUTNAM TOWN HALL

7:00 Meeting called to order

Supervisor Darrell Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy 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), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Earl Harrington (Resident, 31 Firehouse Lane), Sally Harrington (Resident, 31 Firehouse Lane), Paula Wilson (Planning Board Clerk), Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chair), Karl Ohly (Resident, 428 County Route 3), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Joe Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Dave Manchester (Resident, 5177 Sagamore Road), Christine Costello (Resident, 657 County Route 2), Matt Simpson (Horicon Supervisor), John Breitenbach (Town Attorney, 23 Father Jogues Place, Ticonderoga NY 12883)

Resolution # 64

Accept the minutes of the May 14th, 2020 meeting

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

Resolution #65

Accept the Budget Officer's report for the month of May 2020

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

Resolution # 66

Pay bill as audited

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

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

General Fund	# 139-166	\$9,138.63
Highway Fund	# 54-57	\$1,204.67
Black Point Sewer District	# 4-5	\$3,259.00
Royal Anchorage Sewer District	# 2	\$1,550.00

Correspondence

None

Courtesy of the floor (7:04)

Matthew J. Simpson, the Horicon Town Supervisor, who's running for a New York State Assembly seat in 2020's November election addressed the Board and the cyber audience via ZOOM. Mr. Simpson began by thanking Supervisor Wilson for the introduction. Mr. Simpson stated he is currently the Horicon Supervisor in Warren County serving his fourth term. He continued saying he began serving on the planning board, then served one term as a town board member before running successfully for Supervisor. Mr. Simpson also operated a small business for over 30 years. Mr. Simpson currently serves as President on the board of the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages. Mr. Simpson described how he and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages have been in Albany advocating for rural towns regarding issues such as Adirondack Park Association (APA) regulations, internet access in rural upstate communities, as well as other issues pertinent to Adirondack communities. Councilman Larry Shiell stated to Mr. Simpson that Putnam needs broadband internet and that this should be a priority in Albany, and to any potential representative. Mr. Simpson agreed with Councilman Shiell's assertion adding that in his own town even hard-wired phones are unreliable, he continued that the COVID-19 pandemic has put emphasis on the need for reliable internet and phone services in the Adirondack Park. (Mr. Simpson's dogs joyously affirmed what he was saying in the background).

Nancy Wolf-Fisher addressed Supervisor Wilson and the Board next asking what the status of a reply to the Department of Conservation's (DEC) letter regarding recycling is. John Breitenbach the town attorney replied the letter was reviewed and that there is a legal disagreement regarding the interpretation of the law. Mr. Breitenbach stated that the discrepancy in opinions revolve around municipalities picking up recyclables at a resident's home, versus a place for residents to properly dispose of recyclables, currently there is a place for Putnam residents to properly dispose of recyclable materials. Mr. Breitenbach offered to send a letter or to get in touch with the DEC to resolve the issue. Nancy Wolf-Fisher replied, "well I would say that, one, that might be your interpretation but that's certainly not their interpretation of the law, but more importantly, ya know, you get a letter from a state organization that asks you to respond by January 15th and you just ignore it, I don't quite understand how the Town Board can ignore something for months, ya know, and it takes a citizen to bring it up again then you say oh well maybe we should respond to them, ya know, how is that a way to, ya know, run the town board?" Supervisor Wilson responded that the former Supervisor John LaPointe did respond while still in office via a phone call to the agency, more specifically to the person who wrote the letter, and explained the Town's position in the interpretation of the law. Joe Fisher joined asking if John (the town attorney) was given unilateral authority to make such decisions on behalf of the Town. He continued saying he didn't believe that John (the town attorney) was given that authority and that the Town has "dropped the ball here" he continued there was nothing in the minutes from the past 3 or 4 months that there was any decision. Supervisor Wilson disagreed and responded reviewing the timeline of events surrounding the recycling issue. Supervisor Wilson began, John LaPointe received the letter while still in office. Mr. LaPointe surrendered the letter to the Town's attorney for an opinion, after receiving a legal opinion he called the entity responsible for the letter and explained the Town's position and interpretation of the law cited in the letter. Dave Manchester joined the conversation stating that in the absence of anything being in the minutes there is a presumption by the public that there was no conversation.(note: if an issue is not discussed at a meeting it will not appear in the minutes) Supervisor Wilson asked John Breitenbach to reply to the letter in writing rather than a phone call, Mr. Breitenbach agreed. Supervisor Wilson stated, "to be clear, the decision to discontinue recycling was fiscal one". The cost associated with the pickup,

proper disposal, and the exponential increase in costs to do so, is not in the budget, given the current situation it will not likely fit in the budget at the current rates, he continued saying “the last thing we want to do is incur more costs to the taxpayers”. Supervisor Wilson stated he shares the moral reasoning behind recycling and he understands the concern, however, in the current economic and recycling atmosphere strategic decisions must be made, and that decision was made last year because recycling became cost prohibitive for the Town and taxpayers. Collection sites for recyclables are now charging because the market for recyclables has dwindled to nothing, there is no place to sell or dispose of recyclables which often end up in landfills. Collection centers have begun charging exorbitant fees to handle recyclables. Municipalities in Washington County are no longer collecting or transporting recyclables. The Town of Putnam is not prepared to carry the fiscal burden incurred with recycling in today’s environment.

Board of Assessment Review report (7:27)

The BAR Chair, Cee McKenzie, reported that this year 7 grievances were received. The total requested reductions were \$494,109. The total reductions granted is \$122,100, this represents .04% of the total taxable town value of just over \$289 million.

Highway report (7:29)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported the highway workforce is back to 100%. HS Treadway relayed to the Board and Supervisor Wilson that the crew wanted to thank them for their support during the COVID-19 crisis. HS Treadway went on to report that the crew has been working on roadside mowing and that most of the Putnam roads were mowed before the tractor broke down. The tractor is currently being repaired in Granville and will take a few weeks. The new tandem truck arrival date was pushed out again by the supplier, as the COVID-19 pandemic is delaying shipments. The truck is now expected sometime in August 2020. HS Treadway reported the Pave New York & CHIPS (Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program) is currently available at 100% reimbursement, further out the worst-case scenario reimbursement would be at 80%, at last month’s meeting there was uncertainty about the funding. HS Treadway re-introduced the paving schedule discussion as a continuation of a discussion from last month’s meeting. He reported he contacted the company we contract for paving; they can fit Putnam in their schedule the middle of July. HS Treadway advised that Schwerdtfeger Road may need to much prep to have it ready for paving in such a short time frame, his concern is that if the preparation pushes the paving out until the end of summer or early fall that the reimbursement funding would be reduced to 80% during that time. HS Treadway advised that there are other roads in Putnam slated for paving soon that will require less preparation, if the paving schedule is adjusted this would enable paving sooner rather than later, lowering the risk of losing a portion of the reimbursement money. The Board agreed with HS Treadway’s assessment of the situation. The Town Clerk asked HS Treadway if there was going to be a white goods pick up this year. HS Treadway replied yes, pick up will be Wednesday and Thursday July 8th and 9th. The Clerk also asked if the garbage truck at the town shed is manned on Sundays as it has been in past years. HS Treadway replied yes, that began Memorial Day, the truck is manned 3PM to 7PM. Karl Ohly asked if it is possible to have a portion of the road side by his home not mowed so wild flowers could have the opportunity to grow. HS Treadway replied yes that is possible, but Mr. Ohly would need to mark the area out for the mowing crew.

Planning Board report (7:40)

Planning Board Chair (PBC) Galen Seerup reported the Planning Board met the evening before. They conducted a public hearing on the Frank Emmi project, a single-family home on Donat Turnpike off from Sagamore Road. The agenda also held two other projects, Reginald Vincent who wants to construct an Amish storage shed measuring 14’ X 20’, and William Becchina who has a previously approved site plan, and is seeking an amendment to the original plan, adding 94 square feet to the plan, along with an adjustment to the placement of the structure on the site. Both the Emmi and Becchina projects gained approval from the Planning Board. The Planning Board also discussed enforcement. The Planning Board

would like to meet with the Town Board and the County Enforcement Officer for a discussion about enforcement in Putnam.

Fire Department report (7:46)

Councilman Larry Shiell reported that the Fire Department met this month. The FD is having issues with doors that need to be fixed. The Department is beginning work on their 2021 budget, they are awaiting information from the Budget Officer. Councilman Shiell reported besides a few minor issues the FD is doing well. The FD has expressed that they would like their support from the Town in one payment instead of two in coming years. Councilman Shiell stated the FD may need additional help this year as they will not be having their annual chicken barbeque fundraiser due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The FD has an issue with the bay doors, during the winter snow falls in front of the doors raising the ground level with the snowpack, in turn the larger truck can not move in or out of the bay because the clearance is insufficient with the snowpack. Possible options will be looked at to remedy the problem. Councilman Shiell commented the FD is doing well getting training and drills going again. Councilman Shiell felt a truck fund and possibly a building fund for future purchases so the amount financed would be less. Jodi Frasier commented on behalf of the FD saying the FD is very appreciative of the Town Board's engagement in the FD. Ms. Frasier went on to say that without fundraising this year the FD will be around \$15,000 in the red. Ms. Frasier reported that there were also some unexpected expenses such as truck repair.

Old business (7:58)

A Spectrum communications proposal was presented to the Board members. Supervisor Wilson addressed the Board saying the savings for the Town would be about \$100 a month in long distance with the all-inclusive service from Spectrum. Currently Spectrum provides internet service, when the internet service was purchased Spectrum didn't offer phone service.

Resolution #67

Accept Spectrum's Communications Proposal

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

Cummings Park Fee- Supervisor Wilson described the types of usage the park is getting along with the increased usage. Larger parties, such as weddings, are reserving the park for extended periods of time, leaving the pavilion unusable to other park patrons. The costs associated with park maintenance and possible future improvements could be alleviated with a small fee. Councilman Bain asked if there has been any trouble with people who have reserved the pavilion leaving a mess or not getting the refundable deposit back. The Town Clerk replied no, everyone has had their deposit returned thus far. Councilman Mallon asked if there was anything in the incorporation of the park, or applications to the State that would impact the Board's decision. Supervisor Wilson asked Mr. Breitenbach if he was aware of any restrictions. Mr. Breitenbach replied he was not aware of any, that he believed that the restrictions were construction based, and that fees would not fall under the construction, fees would be under the management. Councilman Shiell stated he felt Putnam residents should be allowed to use the park free of charge, however people from outside towns should pay a small fee. As a point of discussion Councilman Mallon asked if the Town is ok with extended reservations that would prohibit others from using the pavilion during the reserved time. Councilman Bain stated that has happened for weddings where the park is reserved for a weekend for weddings. Set up Friday, wedding Saturday, clean up Sunday. Councilman Mallon in jest commented on the "really great" picnic tables, everyone chuckled as Councilman Mallon donated and built the tables, (which are great!). Jodie Frasier suggested a sliding fee scale for the park based on residency. The Town Clerk suggested a scale based on party size. Karl Ohly suggested the funds go to a community fund to benefit, for example, the Fire Department. HS Treadway stated two summers ago there were events at the park almost every weekend and the holding tanks were pumped out 3 times that summer. Christine Costello expressed concern stating she walks at the park often and the boat launch

site is often covered in litter. She continued saying there are campfires built on the shore near the launch also. Ms. Costello commented the litter is on the shore and often gets carried into the lake with wind, rain and high water. Ms. Costello stated she felt it is important to enforce respect for the area. Supervisor Wilson thanked Ms. Costello for her comments and said that enforcement would be part of the park discussion.

Grant writer- Supervisor Wilson advised there is opportunity in the form of grants out there. Supervisor Wilson stated a master plan would set the stage for grant writers to go after appropriate funds. Although we do not have a grant writer in the budget, he would like to investigate one for consideration in future budgets. Councilman Bain suggested we look inside of Putnam for anyone who has experience in grant writing who might want to contribute their skills to the Town. Jodi Frasier advised that a new member of the fire department has some experience in grant writing, and that he be contacted. John Breitenbach suggested a plan be developed before pursuing a grant writer. Mr. Breitenbach also suggested that the land development plan the Town developed in 1989, but was never adopted, be updated and used as a foundation to a master plan, along with preliminary guidance from the County planning department. Supervisor Wilson cautioned everyone saying this is a long-term project and immediate results are not expected, using the ten years of planning that went into Cummings Park before it's completion as an example.

Direct deposit update

Supervisor Wilson advised that the direct deposit has not been established, and work continues to complete that goal.

New business (8:23)

LGS-1 - The State Archives is revising and consolidating its local government records retention and disposition schedules and issuing a single, comprehensive retention schedule for all types of local governments on August 1st, 2020. The new schedule, *Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records* or LGS-1, will supersede and replace the MU-1 schedule currently accepted and used in the Town of Putnam. A resolution is needed by the Board to accept the LGS-1 as the accepted record retention schedule for the Town of Putnam.

Resolution #68

Accept the LGS-1 as the record retention schedule for the Town of Putnam

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

Beach opening- Supervisor Wilson advised the beach will open July 1, 2020, however additional requirements for beach goers is required. Supervisor Wilson made social distancing signs for the beach (and Town Hall) that are kid friendly. The signs cover respiratory educate, hand washing and distancing. The beach will run at half capacity. The Washington County Sheriff's department will assist in enforcement should it be necessary, as we do not want our teen lifeguards to act as security guards. The lifeguards will be given procedures/instructions for situations that may arise. Mary Jane Dedrick, the Recreational Supervisor, advised that the lifeguards will meet at the town hall on Monday June 22, 2020 at 10 A.M., she asked Supervisor Wilson to attend the meeting to explain to the lifeguards when and how to enforce social distancing guidelines. Supervisor Wilson agreed to attend the meeting. Supervisor Wilson reviewed the specific COVID-19 rules put forth by New York State to be included in a resolution accepting the guidelines for Putnam Beach. (No more than 50% capacity, no contact activity, areas of social gathering shall be closed, concessions are closed, and social distancing is enforced)

Resolution #69

Accept additional health and safety guidelines from New York State for Gull Bay Beach

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

Resolution #70

Appoint Charles Bain Sr. as Chair to the Parks and Recreation Committee

On motion of Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor, (Councilman Bain abstained from the vote), Resolution unanimously adopted.

Garbage sticker price review

Supervisor Wilson began the discussion saying the garbage program is operating at a deficit and has for many years. The price of trash stickers has been one dollar since the inception of the program in Putnam, 30 years ago. Supervisor Wilson posed two questions for discussion, the first, should we raise the cost of stickers? And second, if we do by how much? Stickers are currently one dollar (\$1), a thirteen-gallon household garbage bag takes one sticker, above thirteen to thirty-gallon bags take two stickers, and a fifty-gallon construction size bag requires three stickers. Councilman Bain inquired how much of a deficit the program is operating at and Councilman Mallon stated he would like to see last year's numbers for analysis. Supervisor Wilson replied that we would get numbers together for a future discussion.

Adirondack Park Association land classification

Supervisor Wilson introduced the idea of approaching the APA's land classifications in Putnam. The goal is to make it possible for families to sub-divide family homesteads. Putnam has a very large track of land that is classified as rural. Rural classification requires forty-two acres to build. When the map was developed Putnam was rich in agriculture and it made sense to classify the land in the manner that it was. Over time the agricultural community has dwindled in Putnam, as it has everywhere, the current classification now seems antiquated in practice. Supervisor Wilson would like to approach the APA about re-classification of certain areas of Putnam. Paula Wilson joined the discussion saying she and her husband take an interest in this discussion because they have two sons who would like to build in Putnam. Mrs. Wilson and her husband have thirty-two acres boarding Putnam Center, Mrs. Wilson does not feel it's "unreasonable" to have two homes on the thirty-two acres. John Breitenbach the Town Attorney suggested forming a committee that can look at different points in the town to look for what areas are appropriate to adjust, and if there are any areas that can be traded off for the adjustments. Cee McKenzie commented it is going to take effort and discussions within the town before going to the APA. Trading one landowner's benefits at the expense of another might not be acceptable to some landowners. Galen Seerup suggested the Land Development Plan be brought out again, tweaked then have the APA approve it again, then it can be used for re-classifying land in Putnam.

Open Town Board seat (8:58)

Supervisor Wilson addressed the open Board seat, at this time he has received written interest from Galen Seerup, Cee McKenzie, and Carole Schneider. Supervisor Wilson thanked the individuals for their interest. As of this time it is uncertain if an appointment will take place at July's meeting.

Supervisor Wilson asked Mr. Simpson if he had any parting words. Mr. Simpson expressed that he took notes during our meeting, and that Putnam has similar issues that many small towns in the area experience. Supervisor Wilson thanked Mr. Simpson and the residents for their participation.

Resolution #71

Adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

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

Meeting closed at 9:08 P.M.

The next regular meeting is July 9th, 2020 at 7 P.M. via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99133676147?pwd=SjZtekNKNnRTRVRaaSt1ak1GbUpHZz09>

Meeting ID: 991 3367 6147

Password: 215564

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Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr

Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson _____ Supervisor

Christopher Mallon _____ Councilman

Larry Shiell _____ Councilman

Charles Bain Sr. _____ Councilman