

Regular Meeting
Of the
Putnam Town Board

January 9, 2025, 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
	Councilwoman	Carole Schneider
	Councilwoman	Kayla Bennett
	Councilman	Larry Shiell
	Councilman	Charles Bain

Others present: Bill Brown (Planning Board Chair, 17 Charter Brook Lane), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Kay Greenough (Resident, 427 County Route 3), Dave Hayes (PVFD, 560 Gull Bay Road)

Present via ZOOM: Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Karl Ohly (Resident, 428 County Route 3), Robert Winn (Town Attorney, 13 North Street, Granville, NY 12832)

A moment of silence was observed in memory of former President Jimmy Carter.

Resolution #1

Accept the minutes of the December 12th, 2024, Regular meeting/EOY/Organizational meetings

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

Resolution #2

Accept the Financial reports for the month of December 2024

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

Resolution #3

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of December 2024

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

Resolution #4

Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of December 2024

On motion of Councilwoman Kayla Bennett, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #5

Pay bills as audited

On motion of Councilwoman Kayla Bennett, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.
Resolved, the bills on the following are paid as audited.

General Fund 2024	# 311-321	\$3,350.87
General Fund 2025	#1-12	\$26,639.82
Highway Fund	# 1-17	\$10,320.52
Black Point Sewer District	#1	\$21,628.14

Correspondence

Dr. McKeiver is retiring and will no longer act as Putnam’s Health Officer.

Courtesy of the Floor

Dr. Karl Ohly addressed the board expressing an interest in the Health Officer position vacated by Dr. McKeiver. Dr. Ohly also addressed the recent weather/fire events nationwide that bring to the forefront Putnam’s need for emergency planning, and what type of measures are in place currently should an event occur in Putnam.

Ray Rice addressed the Board. Mr. Rice stated he was the one with the signs on the hay wagons parked beside Route 22. Mr. Rice advised that he was approached by the Planning Board. He stated he attended a Planning Board meeting feeling that the meeting was contentious. Supervisor Wilson advised that the Site Plan Review Law prohibits the type of signs Mr. Rice has posted on the roadside. He advised he would not be removing the signs. Supervisor Wilson advised that it wasn’t Mr. Rice who would receive the citation, it is the landowner where the wagon is parked who will be the recipient.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway was absent.

Planning Board Report

Chairman Bill Brown reported that at the evening priors meeting Christina Pichler applied to build a house on her property. The second project was Jim and Jodi Brashinger of Royal Anchorage have applied to build a patio; however, they didn’t attend the meeting and are expected at next month’s meeting. Sam and Connie Smith applied for a lot line adjustment. The last project was on Peterson Road, a conversion of a garage loft into a living space. The Planning Board also discussed the signs on a hay wagon beside the road on Route 22.

Councilwoman Schneider asked Chairman Brown whether the Planning Board was informed of the Resolution passed in October that said no one on the Planning Board shall investigate a property or issue without unanimous consent from the Town Board. Planning Board member Mark Karlson called and left messages on Mr. Rice’s answering machine stating several times he was representing the Town of Putnam. Mr. Rice provided the recordings to Councilwoman Schneider. Councilwoman Schneider called for Mr. Karlson’s resignation as his breach of the Resolution was made only weeks after the Resolution, by the Town Board. Mr. Karlson was in attendance at the meeting the Resolution was passed by the Town Board . Councilwoman Kayla Bennett suggested the Board speak with Mr. Karlson rather than immediately asking for his resignation. Chairman Brown advised he would ask Mr. Karlson to come before the Board at February’s meeting for a discussion about his infraction of the Resolution conditions set in October.

Fire Department report

Dave Hayes gave the Fire Department Report (See attached)

Old Business

Annual Audit of the Putnam Town Court. Each year the Justice Court Fund (NYS Comptroller) requires the board to examine and audit the court records. The Board does audit each month the Court’s dockets and payments.

Resolution #6 Annual Audit of Putnam Justice Court records

The Board of the Town of Putnam, New York, Washington County does hereby accept the books of the Town Justice Alice M. Forbes as audited at each month’s regular Town Board meeting during the year of 2024, and each audit was recorded in the respective month’s minutes.

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

New Business

William McCarty, Putnam’s former Sole Assessor, has agreed to act as the interim assessor until another qualified individual is found.

Resolution #7

Appoint William McCarty the Interim Sole Assessor for 2025

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

Councilman Bain inquired about the status of recovering funds spent to care for a dog that was previously in Town custody. Attorney Winn advised the process to recover the funds from the former pet owner is in motion. Councilwoman Carole Schneider asked about a lifeguard who owed the Town reimbursement for lifeguard training she did not attend but was paid for after the lifeguard signed an agreement. Attorney Winn advised a letter had been sent to the former lifeguard.

Resolution #8 (7:55)

Adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Councilman Charlie Bain, seconded by Councilwoman Kayla Bennett; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2024, at 7PM at the Putnam Town Hall and ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson _____ Supervisor

Carole Schneider _____ Councilwoman

Kayla Bennett _____ Councilwoman

Larry Shiell _____ Councilman

Charles Bain Sr. _____ Councilman

Putnam Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC)
4th Quarter (October, November, December) 2024 Report to the Putnam Town
Board

January 08, 2024

Presented by D. Hayes, PVFC Secretary

Staffing and Training

There are currently 10 members in the Putnam Volunteer Fire Co.. Seven members are Interior Firefighters, one is an Exterior Firefighter, one has completed the fire police course, and one member is new to the company. Two members are certified EMT's and all members have current CPR certifications. Company members are expected to regularly refresh and update their skills through weekly drills and formal coursework led by NYS certified instructors. Our 2nd Assistant Chief, Doug Thatcher, is a NYS Fire Instructor who is certified in several subspecialties. Doug Thatcher and Scott Cook completed their EMT recertifications during this reporting window, and Doug also completed Firefighter II training.

Emergency Responses

During the 4th quarter (October thru December) the PVFC responded to twenty-one 911 calls of the following types, giving us 90 for the year (our yearly average over the past eight years is 75):

EMS calls in Putnam --- 9

Putnam fire alarm activations/false alarms/but no fires --- 3

Fires in Ticonderoga --- 2 (both were structure fires)

Fires in Putnam --- 1 (lawn mower fire)

Motor vehicle accidents --- 2 (one in Putnam and one in Dresden; both involved injuries)

Standbys at the Putnam fire station --- 1 (for a structure fire in Ti)

Standbys at the Ticonderoga fire station --- 1

Standby at the Whitehall fire station --- 1

Rescues --- 1 (water emergency on Lake Champlain)

To provide historical context a table is included as an appendix to this report showing the number and variety of emergency calls the fire company has received since 2017.

Budget Forecast, Expenditures, and Overall Financial Condition of the Company

As of the end of December the balance in our operating budget account was \$19,339.94, which must last the fire company until March 1, 2025 when we receive our fire tax funds for the new year. We are currently carrying two truck loans with total annual payments of \$64,378.33, or 38 % of our total budget. Our two truck loans will be paid off in 2028 and 2039. A spreadsheet showing the fire company's expenditures during 2024, separated into 52 distinct

categories, is included as an appendix. In addition, the fire company's 2025 budget forecast is also included as an appendix.

Over the last 4 years, from 2021 to 2025, the fire company's budget has increased from \$162,600 to \$168,482, which is equivalent to a 0.9% compounded annual increase over the same period. During this same 4-year period, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics' CPI tracker, the US consumer price index has risen a little more than 20%, which corresponds to an annual compounded annual increase of 4.8%. This shortfall in our budget each year is obviously unsustainable and will at some point require a significant catchup.

Condition of the Fire Trucks

The PVFC has five fire trucks: two engine/pumpers and one water tanker for fighting fires and responding to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous incidents, one SUV (a Chevrolet Tahoe) for EMS calls, and one truck to take members and their gear to rescue scenes, including water and ice rescues. This rescue truck was purchased used from another fire company with funds generously donated by Putnam Town residents. During 2023, also using donated funds, we purchased a 19-foot boat to use for water rescues, and were given, at no cost, a hovercraft from the North Queensbury Fire District to use for ice rescues.

All our trucks undergo regular servicing and NYS inspections. Our newest pumper is one year old and replaced a truck that was 32 years old. It is short and has 4-wheel drive making it particularly suitable for reaching houses on narrow and unpaved roads, such as are found in the Gull Bay and Glenburnie areas. It carries 1250 gallons of water, compared with 500 gallons on the truck it replaced. Our next newest pumper is 11 years old, and our tanker is 22 years old. Our fire trucks collectively carry 5,000 gallons of water, which is needed because the Town does not have fire hydrants. Note that a single small diameter (1 3/4 ") fire hose flows at the rate of 160 gallons/minute, sufficient for just 31 minutes of operation at a fire. Therefore, an important task at any major fire is to use our tanker and one of our engine/pumpers to ferry water from Lake George or a nearby pond to the scene of the fire. Our newest engine/pumper, which can operate several hoses simultaneously, stays at the scene of the fire to provide fire suppression.

Condition of other Equipment

Our other emergency response equipment is in good shape. There is a need for annual inspections and replacement of hoses and air-packs, inspections of ladders and fire extinguishers, and calibration checks of air monitors. We are up-to-date on all of these and the future costs of doing these are built into each year's budget forecast.

Condition of the Fire Station Building and Grounds

The fire station has many maintenance needs but none of them are critical. All the basic systems, heating, septic, electrical, water, and standby generator are functioning properly. We could use additional space for our turnout gear and the new washer and dryer, which for health reasons should be in their own room but are currently located in the main truck bay. During the

second half of 2024 we made substantial upgrades to the firehouse's electrical and plumbing systems, some of which are continuing into the early months of 2025.

Communications to the Community

Each summer we send an annual newsletter to all Putnam property owners describing our activities during the preceding 12 months.

External Grant Applications

In February we submitted a new FEMA-AFG grant application in the amount of \$61,500 for 1,000 feet of 1.75", 1,000 feet of 2.50", and 1,200 feet of 5" fire hose, 9 fire hose nozzles, and a truck-mounted driver-operated nozzle (also called a remotely operated deck gun). The truck mounted nozzle will allow the driver of a fire truck, arriving at the scene of a fire, to immediately and single-handedly apply water on the fire without spending time hooking up hoses or waiting for other firefighters to arrive at the scene. In August we were notified that our application was approved and we are currently acquiring these grant-funded items.

Fundraising Efforts

Our annual newsletter to the Putnam community is generally our most successful fundraising effort and usually yields \$10,000 - \$12,000 in donations to the fire company. In past years, we have also hosted a Chicken BBQ in July, but we did not do that this year because we didn't have enough people available to take this on.

PVFC Incident Statistics

Prepared by D. Hayes -- Last Updated on 01/08/2025

Type of Incident	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% of Responses Since 2017
EMS	31	22	30	35	29	47	31	41	44.6
False & Cancelled Alarms	8	10	8	5	5	7	10	7	10.1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	5	4	2	5	12	8	4	7.5
Water Rescues	1		2	2	1	4	5	4	3.2
Ice Rescues	2			1		2	0		0.8
Other Rescues (hiking, snowmobiling, etc.)				1		0	0		0.2
Standbys at Ti Fire Station	4	9	8	5	10	2	2	5	7.5
Standbys at Putnam Fire Station					1	1	1	4	1.2
Standbys at Dresden Fire Station				1		0	0		0.2
Standbys at Whitehall Fire Station				1		0	0	1	0.3
Fires in Putnam		6	5	4	5	5	3	7	5.9
Fires in Ticonderoga	1	6	3	2	6	10	4	6	6.4
Fires in Dresden or Whitehall	1	1	1			3	1	1	1.3
Fires in Crown Point								1	0.2
Smoke	1	2		2	1	0	4	3	2.2
CO Alarms	1		1			1	0		0.5
Service calls (water in cellar, tree on road)	2		3			0	1		1.0
Hazardous Situations (Elec., Chem.)	1	2		1		0	0		0.7
Power Lines Down	1	1	2	5	10	7	2	6	5.7
Lightning strikes		1				0	0		0.2
Other		1				1	1		0.5
	CHECK THE % SUMMATION =								100.00
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES	59	66	67	67	73	102	73	90	597