

# **Regular Meeting Of the Putnam Town Board**

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2019  
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**

Supervisor John R. LaPointe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Roll Call**

<b>Members present:</b>	Supervisor	John LaPointe
	Councilman	Darrell Wilson
	Councilman	Kevin Hart
	Councilwoman	Shirley Randall
	Councilman	Greg Harris

**Others present:** Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 14) Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), Charlie Bain Sr. (Boat launch attendant, 17 Bain Lane), Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chair, 17360 State Route 22), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Larry Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Christopher Mallon (Resident, 575 Liddle-Harris Road), Bert Windle (Lake Communities of Putnam Chair-LCP, Sagamore Road), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Joe Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Ron Bean (Resident, 4401 Link Way), David Manchester (Resident, 5177 Sagamore Road), Tom Eliopoulos II (Resident, 448 Gull Bay Road).

## **Resolution # 61**

### **Accept the minutes of the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting**

On motion of Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilman Darrell Wilson; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

## **Resolution #62**

### **Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of August 2019**

On motion of Councilman Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Kevin Hart; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

## **Resolution # 63**

### **Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of August 2019**

On motion of Councilman Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution # 64**

**Pay bill as audited**

On motion of Councilman Kevin Hart, seconded by Councilman Darrell Wilson; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

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

General Fund	# 255-280	\$12,890.75
Highway Fund	# 101-112	\$15,980.98

**Correspondence** (7:04)

Supervisor LaPointe read an Email from Josh Bagnato.

Hi John and Darlene,

It was nice speaking with you on Friday. As I mentioned we are completing some pre-construction wetland survey work this fall. One of the locations we need to conduct these surveys is on private land in Putnam Station and the adjacent road.

We still need to secure contracts with downstate energy purchasers to move into the construction phase of the project. We are working on this effort now and are optimistic we will be successful in securing these contracts in the coming months.

I would be happy to attend a Putnam Town Council meeting this fall and provide an update on the Project. Please let me know if this is something the Town would be interested in. We do not have a start date for construction of the Project at this time, but we will make sure we provide the Town significant notice prior to construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank You

Josh Bagnato  
Vice President, Project Development  
Transmission Developers, Inc.

Supervisor LaPointe reported that after he spoke with Mr. Bagnato he contacted Ellen Smith a resident with extensive experience in consulting in similar projects. Mrs. Smith met with Supervisor LaPointe, Councilman Wilson and 3 other Washington County Supervisors whom also have parts of the project going through their town and the Whitehall Assessor. Mrs. Smith has generously agreed to donate her time and services to the Town.

Bert Windle commented stating he has asked many times “what’s in it for the town?” and stated he felt he hasn’t received a satisfactory answer. Mr. Windle continued he felt a project serving a large city such as New York running through a small town should give the small town some compensation. Supervisor LaPointe replied that was the reason he contacted Mrs. Smith. Mr. Windle asked what the Town was looking for in compensation. Supervisor LaPointe’s response was that the Town didn’t know at this point, and that was part of the reason Mrs. Smith was invited to assist the town as she knows what is appropriate to negotiate for. Councilman Wilson joined the conversation saying in terms of project progress there are still unknowns as the company has not divulged where they are in the process. Mr. Windle replied that

there is a specific date that Indian Point is closing down and when that shuts down they need to be prepared. Councilman Wilson agreed adding there are a lot of things they have not accomplished yet that we're aware of; they do not have all of the permitting. Part of the discussion at the meeting with Mrs. Smith was to gather as much information from other people in the county along with information Mrs. Smith has obtained. Councilman Wilson acknowledged that there is not as much information available as we'd like to have. The expected timeline before we see any work in Putnam is between one and three years, from the best understanding of where we think they are in the project. Councilman Wilson continued, in answering the question "what's in it for me?" Mrs. Smith is going to do some analysis on what has already been negotiated with towns down state, and deduce what would be appropriate for "us". Mr. Windle suggested that the team being assembled include state and federal officials like Dan Stec, Alise Stafanic and Betty Little. Bob Rudt commented that a Google search retrieves information showing downstate communities have negotiated things like parks, libraries, town halls and firehouses. He suggested we "start using our imagination" for negotiation. Dave Manchester joined the discussion clarified that Mrs. Smith would be representing the communities in Washington County that will be affected by the project, stating he felt that was a good idea to help determine what collective expectations are. Councilman Wilson agreed with Mr. Manchester stating that collectively the team assembled needs to think about what's reasonable to request, the big money is not here in the middle of the state. Councilman Greg Harris supported Councilman Wilson's statement saying we are a small portion of the project in terms of impact on the community, and that's if they come out of the water in Putnam.

Supervisor LaPointe continued with correspondence by acknowledging an Email from Nancy Wolf-Fisher in which she cited a law, saying the town attorney is reviewing the law (the email was not read aloud).

*Courtesy of the floor* (7:20)

Nancy Wolf-Fisher addressed the board reading aloud from a prepared statement.

"I would like to make a formal request the Town Board contact Mr. Kevin Wood at the Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Office #5 (518) 623-1233 and/or Miss Jessie Sangster in charge of recycling (Ray Brook office (518) 897-1200 regarding recycling in Putnam Station.

I believe the Putnam Town Board is in violation of the New York Solid Waste Management Act of 1988 and specifically General Municipal Law 120AA Article 6 by not separating and segregating recyclable or reusable materials from solid waste. In addition, the Town should inquire about 50% matching grants for municipalities to help with recycling. I also request the initial contact be made before the next Town Board meeting and all information discovered be entered into the minutes".

Supervisor LaPointe thanked Mrs. Wolf-Fisher for her statement and said he'd contact Mr. Wood.

Dave Manchester spoke in support of Mrs. Wolf-Fisher adding he understands the rationale of the Town Board given the economics of recycling while trying to maintain a balanced budget for the town. Mr. Manchester felt there are ways the Town can pursue this either through a grant process or limited ways to continue a recycling program within Putnam that would allow the town to be in conformance with what appears to be a state regulation. Mr. Manchester finished saying he felt it is "socially responsible" for the board to reconsider their decision. Bert Windle also spoke in support of Mrs. Wolf-Fisher's position. He continued it appears to him that the Putnam recycling program has failed because it was too well supported, taking time and resources from the Highway Department. He suggested putting that project out to "some entrepreneur" who would run a truck. He stated that way any funding coming in funding would not be hurting the Highway Departments man power. He stated he felt it was very advantageous especially with plastics. Joe Fisher spoke next in support of Nancy Wolf-Fisher's initiative saying the actions taken by the board are "in violation" and there is no need to over think it as a moral or ethical issue.

Supervisor LaPointe thanked everyone for their comments.

### **Highway report** (7:28)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported that the second roadside mowing is nearly completed and the stock pile will be finished with a few more hauls, in preparation of the winter season. The crew has been preparing for paving 1.75 miles. HS Treadway also reported that Deidrick's Tree service was hired to trim Moore Road with their bucket truck. It was the first time the Town has worked with a tree service and it worked out well. The Highway crew did the ground work. He added it was a lot safer because of the perilous location of power lines on that road.

Tom Eliopoulos addressed HS Treadway about a catch basin located in the ditch in front of his property on Gull Bay Road. Mr. Eliopoulos inquired as to whether the catch could be relocated to either side of his property. HS Treadway replied that he worked with the Lake George Association (LGA) and their recommendations for the project. The LGA's Project Manager/GIS specialist Randy Rath developed the plan for placement of the basins. Mr. Eliopoulos questioned the placement and indicated that he'd like to see that all alternatives were investigated before determining the placement in front of his property. Mr. Eliopoulos asserted there may be other places that would serve the same purpose. HS Treadway replied he'd speak with Mr. Rath about it.

Bert Windle asked HS Treadway if a policy of trimming town roads with a bucket truck could be adopted, doing a few miles each year. Mr. Windle stated "if something is safe and it worked well, why not institute a policy?" Councilman Wilson joined saying HS Treadway does a risk assessment prior to doing work, in this case the bucket truck was deemed appropriate. Councilman Wilson stated he wasn't sure that every mile of road in Putnam would require a bucket truck; a determination is based on the size of the trees and potential hazards. HS Treadway added one quarter mile cost \$2800.00 for the service plus the cost of one day's work for the crew.

### **Planning Board report** (7:41)

Planning Board Chair (PBC) Galen Seerup reported the Planning Board had a public hearing in August on Mark and Dawn Karlson's project on Black Point Way. The Karlsons are proposing a single family residence. The Karlsons still have to obtain new approval with the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC), and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). The Putnam Town Board also requires a retaining wall for the bank on the back side of the property. PBC Seerup presented the Town Board with engineer stamped plans for the retaining wall (see attached).

PBC Seerup continued, Doug Thatcher had been approved in 2015 for a site plan to replace an existing trailer. Mr. Thatcher returned to gain an updated approval for a double wide home. Mr. Thatcher was approved.

Robert Finster addressed the Planning Board. Washington County Code Enforcement Officer Steve Smith had noticed activity on Mr. Finster's property and alerted the Planning Board. Mr. Finster didn't know he needed a permit from the Planning Board, however his project was under the 25% exemption so no permit was needed.

PBC Seerup continued his report with the September meeting.

Mark and Dawn Karlson returned, they have not yet obtained the APA or LGPC permits so their Plan approval with the Planning Board was extended for another 45 days by mutual agreement.

John Hurson's project on Royal Anchorage Way started blasting; however blasting was not part of their submitted plan to the Planning Board. On September 9<sup>th</sup> a stop work order was issued. Blasting continued the following day, and now the blasting is complete. It is believed that digging to the blasting site caused damage to a sewer line. The stop work order is still in effect until an amended plan is approved by the Planning Board that includes plans for the sewer line. Councilman Kevin Hart expressed concern about the sewer pipe potentially breaking and flushing waste into Lake George.

Ronald Bean addressed the Town Board about blasting that was approved to take place near his home. Mr. Bean is concerned about the potential damage to his home. Mr. Bean asserted that no pre-blasting survey has been done by the blasting company. PBC Seerup responded to Mr. Bean saying at this point in time the Town does not have any regulations or rules concerning blasting. The Planning Board is currently asking for blasting plans and pre-blast surveys. Mr. Bean asked who determines that "everything

is ok?" PBC Seerup replied the engineer who works with the blaster. Bob Rudt suggested that Mr. Bean contact the blasting company and request a pre-blasting survey. Mr. Rudt believed that the blasting company would be willing to do this to protect themselves as well as neighboring home owners.

**Fire Department report** (7:50)

None

**Old Business** (7:50)

Supervisor LaPointe gave a reminder that a joint meeting with the Planning Board and the Town Board is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 P.M. for the purpose of a workshop targeting the updated Site Plan Review. Bert Windle asked if the Site Plan Review meeting was public. Supervisor LaPointe indicated it was. Mr. Windle asked for a copy of the current draft. The Town Clerk advised Mr. Windle one would be. Supervisor LaPointe continued to the topic of the budget workshop, asking the board what a good time would be for the board to meet. The workshop was scheduled for Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M. Supervisor LaPointe advised everyone that it is an open meeting.

**New Business** (8:06)

None

Tom Eilopoulos II addressed the board stating he would like to make a request. Mr. Eliopoulos explained that he has plans for six of his properties. One of his project plans he believes has "security components" to it requiring a level of confidentiality. He requested that the Town develop a onetime enhanced Planning Board review and that confidentiality be taken into consideration with additional measures taken to assure his site plan's privacy. PBC Seerup asked Mr. Eliopoulos if he had received the communication from the town attorney, he replied he did. Mr. Seerup continued stating the town attorney advised that an Executive session would not be appropriate as Planning Board records are public and require a public hearing where the public can see the plans and give comments about such plans. Supervisor LaPointe commented that the town does not hold secret meetings and it appeared that that was what Mr. Eliopoulos was requesting. After a brief discussion Councilman Darrell Wilson suggested to Mr. Eliopoulos that he contact the town attorney with his information so the town attorney could determine if Mr. Eliopoulos' plan met the criteria for an Executive session. Councilman Wilson continued that the current opinion of the town attorney based on the information he has, is that Mr. Eliopoulos has not met the minimum standards to trigger an Executive session meeting.

Bert Windle addressed the board asking what the minutes would say about Mr. Eliopoulos' request, as he felt that a 10 minute discussion deserved more than two lines. The Clerk replied that she tries to capture the "essence" of conversations.

**Resolution #65**

**Adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board**

On motion of Supervisor LaPointe, seconded by Councilman Kevn Hart; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned at 8:16 P.M.**

The next regular meeting is October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr  
Putnam Town Clerk

**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Putnam Town Board meeting minutes.**

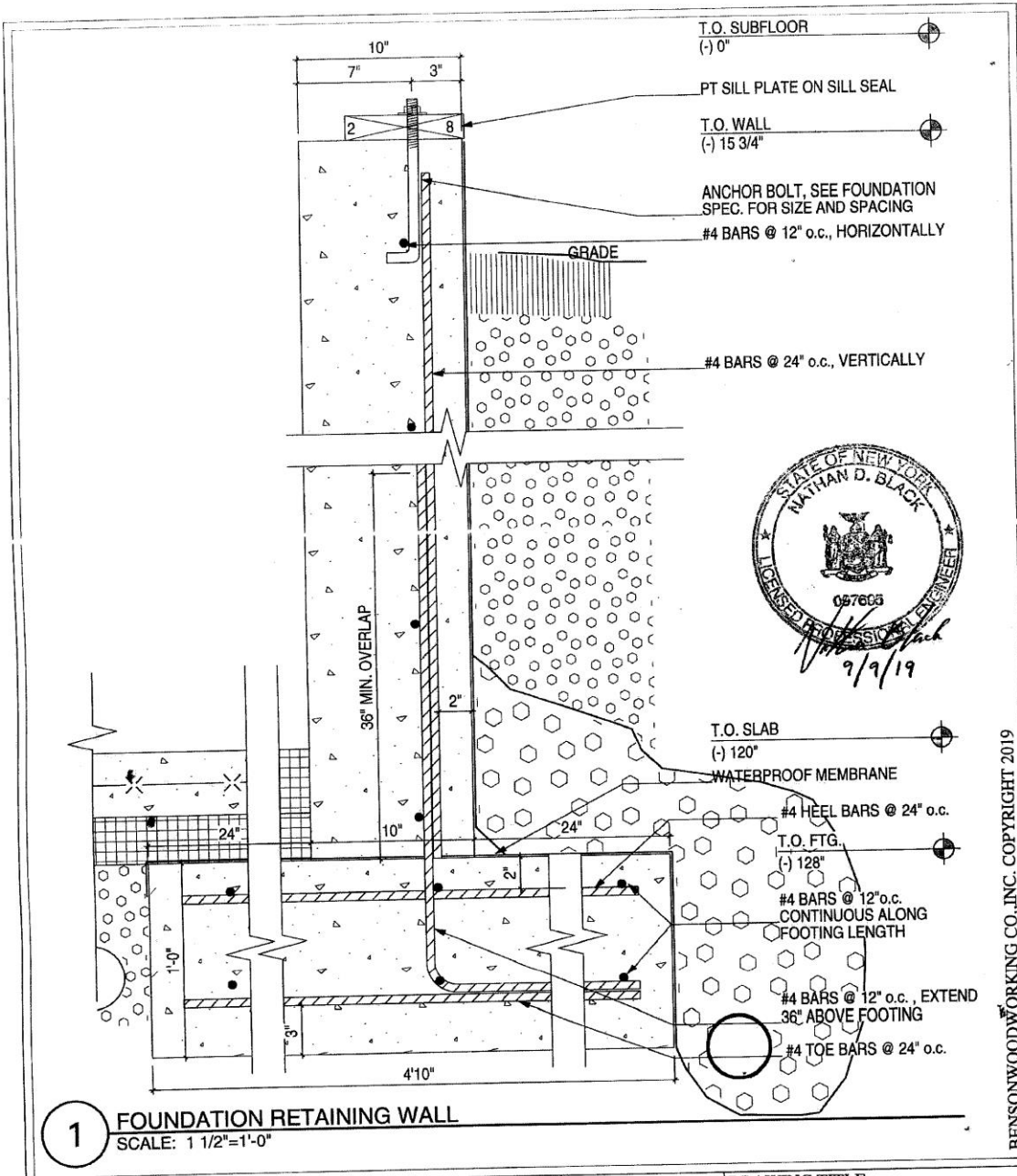
John LaPointe \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor

Darrell Wilson \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman


Kevin Hart \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman

Shirley Randall \_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman

Greg Harris \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman



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