

Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD
MARCH 9, 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

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), Wayne Busby (Planning Board, 11 Charter Brook Lane), Susan Johnson (Town Justice, 17019 State Route 22), Paula Wilson (Planning Board Clerk, 15 County Rte. 3), Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chair, 17360 State Rte. 22), Kim Seerup (Resident, 17360 State Rte. 22)

Resolution # 45

Accept the minutes of the February 9, 2017 meeting

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

Resolution # 46

Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of February 9, 2017

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

Resolution # 47

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of February 9, 2017

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

Resolution # 48
Pay bill 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	# 67-102	\$103,204.78
Highway Fund	# 35-54	\$10,886.50
Black Point Sewer District	# 5-6	\$14,482.73

Correspondence (7:04)

E-mail correspondence from Nancy Wolf-Fisher:

Putnam Town Board
10 Putnam Center Road
Putnam Station, NY 12861

Dear Supervisor LaPointe and Town Board Members,

I have been reading the Putnam Town Board minutes recently and am writing regarding my concerns regarding the chairperson appointment of the Planning Board as mention in the January 2017 and the February 2017 meeting minutes.

I have been attending Planning Board meetings on and off for the last 5 years and have never seen anything but professional conduct by those on the Planning Board.

In addition, I believe the current chairperson is highly qualified for the position of chairperson. On numerous occasions, I have observed Mr. Seerup raise insightful points and demonstrate extensive knowledge of topical and timely issues of which others on the Planning Board appeared unaware.

For example, I know it was stated at one meeting that Mr. Seerup had attended training regarding the SEQR form and how it was to be included. I do not believe other members of the Planning Board have had extensive training on the various forms that are needed for each site plan review.

Mr. Seerup meticulously follows and objectively applies LGPC and APA guidelines to all proposed structures and properties in Putnam.

Mr. Seerup brings a deeply personal commitment to the overall well-being of Putnam and its residents by routinely demonstrating concern for local problems and potential impacts of recommendations made by the Planning Board that may not be sufficiently addressed by LGPC or APA.

In closing, I feel that having someone who is not a real estate agent, a developer, or a builder as the chairperson is in the best interest of the town.

Sincerely,
Nancy J. Wolf-Fisher

Courtesy of the floor (7:07)

Wayne Busby asked for pavement to be put in the budget next year for Peterson Road.

Susan Johnson gave the Firehouse report for February, 2017. Susan reported the fire department put in 76 man hours in February. The department answered 4 calls, a scene where two individuals went through the ice, on snowmobiles, on Lake Champlain. A call for stand by for Ticonderoga fire department, another call for EMS to a suicide, and another to a roll-over vehicle accident. Susan also reported the fire department would be attending diving classes in Moriah, for water recovery training. Councilman Kevin Hart asked if the firehouse had a generator for emergency situations, such as the firehouse being used as a shelter. Sue responded the firehouse is not suitable as a shelter under New York State Law because it does not have showers, she also stated they do not have the room for showers. Susan went on to say the trucks do have generators that can be used in a no power situation, but they wouldn't run the entire building.

Town Justice Susan Johnson went on to give the court report. She reported in January she had 5 hours of court, 5 hours of paperwork, fines and surcharges collected totaled \$1454.00. The month of January there was no District Attorney due to inclement weather. February, there was only one court session; Justice Johnson was on vacation on the week of the first scheduled session. The Assistant District Attorney and Public Defender did attend the second scheduled session. Justice Johnson reported 7 hours of court work, 7.5 hours of paper work and \$1219.00 in fines and surcharges were collected. At the magistrates meeting they were notified that the Washington County Sheriff's Department has obtained approval from New York State Department of Corrections for a holding cell at the Washington County Jail. They now have the ability to hold defendants until morning for arraignment. Justices will no longer be called during evening and night hours for arraignments. Also, it was reported from the Office of Court Administration that the SEI program used by some courts in New York State will be purchased by the State. There will no longer be a charge to the Town for the use of the program, a savings of around \$1200.00 a year. Justice Johnson reported that the total receipts for 2016 were \$25,238.00 of which the town received \$11,501.00. Justice Johnson added she's like to get signs for the town hall/ court at both ends of Putnam Center Road to assist people in finding the court/town hall.

Highway Report (7:19)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported that the roads were posted with weight limits that will remain up until the ground thaws and dries. He also reported that the notice went in the paper. HS Treadway reported the crew has been working around the building cleaning up inside and out and working on firewood. HS Treadway was confident the crew would be able to get an early start on sweeping the roads. Supervisor LaPointe asked how long the roads will be posted for. HS Treadway responded usually around 4 weeks; however this year's unusual weather patterns may change that. He went on to report the heating system is working well, and they still have wood for this year. Councilman Greg Harris inquired about the Right to Farm Life signs. HS Treadway said he contacted the state crew about the signs, they said they had picked up the signs last summer. HS Treadway let them know we'd like them back. The signs are being refurbished and then they'll be returned. Supervisor LaPointe asked if HS Treadway was going to have someone look over the new Gradall to make sure it was in proper working order. HS Treadway said he has an appointment scheduled for next Friday. Councilman Harris asked if there have been any problems with it. HS Treadway said they did have a minor problem with the hydraulics that they can't fix; Vantage Equipment out of Albany will be coming to look at it.

Planning Board (7:24)

Bob Rudt reported the planning board had two public hearings. The first was for Michael Kisel on Oliver Way. Mr. Rudt reported Mr. Kisel is still working with Adirondack Park Agency and the Lake George

Park Commission. The planning board and Mr. Kisel mutually agreed to adjourn the public hearing until he can get the matters with the APA and the LGPC in good standing. The second public hearing was for Brian Bolon, who is building a single family home on Link Way. Mr. Bolon's project was approved during the regular meeting. Mr. Rudt went on to report that Philip Mandolare wants to build a single family home on Rochelle Way off from Glenburnie Road. Mr. Mandolare made basic inquiries about what he needs to do to build. The fourth matter was the Chris Edwards run-in shed on his property on Cummings Road. Mr. Edwards was not present so the Planning Board did not move forward on that application.

Old Business (7:26)

Christine Shawn tax suit. Supervisor LaPointe reported a decision was handed down by the Judge in this matter. The original assessed value \$2,624,783.00, Petitioner's assessment per appraisal \$1,260,000.00, the Court's determination of assessment \$2,003,462.00, a reduction of \$621,321.00 The Town will have to refund \$6,300.00, plus interest at 2% for each year from the date of payment of taxes, to the land owner. **Councilman Hart** asked how long the court's assessment was good for, Supervisor LaPointe responded 3 years. Councilman Hart also asked if that was where a new building was going up. Supervisor LaPointe replied yes and that the current structure going up has yet to be assessed. **Wayne Busby** contributed by saying they put in two buildings. **Galen Seerup** joined the discussion saying; they put up a garage, an addition on the dining hall and updated another building in the past two years.

Planning Board Chair Supervisor LaPointe said he had contacted Allen Moore who indicated he would have an interest in serving the Planning Board as Chairman. Supervisor LaPointe asked the Town Board members what they were looking for in the Chair. **Councilman Greg Harris** replied "I'm looking for a more user friendly board" and he indicated he would support Allen in hopes that the planning board would be easier for the people of Putnam.

Motion made (7:30)

Councilman Harris made a motion to appoint Allen Moore as Planning Board Chair, Councilman Hart seconded the motion. Councilwoman Shirley Randall said she wasn't aware Allen was interested. (No vote cast), Councilwoman Cathie Burke said she did not support the change (no).

Bob Rudt asked to be heard, he was recognized by **Supervisor LaPointe**. Mr. Rudt went on to ask when maple syrup season was over, then pointed out that Mr. Moore wouldn't be available to the Planning Board during syrup season leaving the board without a chair during that time. **Paula Wilson** the Planning Board Clerk joined the discussion saying she felt the Town Board may have gotten misinformation about an individual who was before the Planning Board two meetings prior. She said she had recently spoken with the individual and inquired as to how he felt about his interaction with the Planning Board. She reported he was not "at all upset", was in favor of the Planning Board and the purpose it serves. **Councilman Hart** responded saying the Planning Board has a very difficult job to do, some of the decisions will not please everyone, but some of the decisions that they do make need to be checked out with the Code Enforcement Officer, Bill Ball, then if there is a problem, the Planning Board should go to the town attorney to see if he feels the Planning Board's decision can be supported. Paula Wilson indicated there was new information from the New York State Planning Federation, Washington County Planning Department as well as the Town attorney, that was given to the Town Clerk and that the board needed to see it. She also asked that the board consider thinking about "it" before taking a vote. **Galen Seerup** joined the discussion saying he attends all of the training, and when this question came to light about agricultural structures with the Code Enforcement Officer, Bill Ball, he sought clarification. Mr. Seerup asked several entities, the NYS Planning Federation, Washington County Planning Department, and the Town attorney, the same question, does the planning board cover agricultural structures or not? He went on to say what Bill Ball brought the Town Board was section 306 of Ag & Markets; there is also 304 and 305. 306 deals with how a grieved farmer brings it to the Ag & Market board in Albany to

resolve problems or issues a farmer may feel he's/she's having with the a planning board. Mr. Seerup continued Article 25 of Ag & Markets covers this, the law states the site plan cannot be overly burdensome, and if the farmer believes he has been overburdened he can petition Ag & Markets who would then make a decision. Mr. Seerup went on to say that Putnam's site plan is not burdensome, you come with a proposal, the planning board looks at it, make sure the neighbors are ok with it, "and it goes". It also serves as an opportunity for the planning board to be clear on what the structure's purpose and use will be. A discussion about specific structures in Putnam and how they were re-purposed after Planning Board approval took place. Mr. Seerup stated the Planning Board operates under the Town's current laws. Councilman Hart responded that things needed to be "fine-tuned" so that the rules and regulations are administered the same way every time. Bob Rudt gave input indicating all of the other governing entities reference the local law by saying "yes you have the right to farm, in accordance with local law". Making the local law the document you go to. Councilman Hart replied our "document" may not be followed, and it may need to be fine-tuned. He pointed out a building that was recently put up that's now lying on the ground. Paula Wilson replied that's the code enforcement officer's responsibility. Wayne Busby also stated when people are building we have to make sure that minimal standards are met so that the structure is not imposing on the neighbor's property and that the structure is built in a safe manner. He said, "We like farmers, but if you're going to build something it needs to be done right". Discussion(s) about several properties in Putnam took place (to many people speaking at once to record fluently) Supervisor LaPointe brought the room back on topic. The Town Clerk (I) asked to speak, the Clerk (I) was recognized by Supervisor LaPointe. The Clerk (I) addressed the Town Board and acknowledged that there were two emails received during the week, referenced earlier by Paula Wilson, that the Town Board had not seen nor had the opportunity to read.

Motion to withdraw made (8:15)

Council made a motion to withdraw his previous motion to appoint Allen Moore the Planning Board Chair; Councilman Hart seconded the motion, all in favor.

Resolution #49

Motion to appoint Allen Moore Planning Board Chair is withdrawn.

Councilman Harris reiterated he wants a more user friendly Planning Board. Councilman Hart asked the Planning Board members to think about what recommendations they would have to make the regulations in place more uniform. Supervisor LaPointe planned a joint meeting between the Town Board and the Planning Board to discuss the issues at hand. Supervisor LaPointe also stated he'd ask John Breitenbach (Town Attorney), Bob Murray (Shelter Planning & Development Inc.), and Bill Ball (Code Enforcement Officer) to attend the meeting. A joint meeting was scheduled for Monday March 27, 2017, 7p.m. at the Putnam Town Hall.

Rabies Clinic

A rabies clinic is scheduled for Saturday March 11, 2017 at 8a.m., early registration begins at 7:15 a.m.

New Business (8:20)

Applications will be taken for Gull Bay Beach lifeguards for the 2017 summer season. An ad will be run in the Sun (Ti Times).

Resolution # 50 (8:25)

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 8:25 p.m.

Next regular meeting is April 13, 2017, 7p.m. at Putnam Town Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

John LaPointe _____ Supervisor

Cathie Burke _____ Councilwoman

Kevin Hart _____ Councilman

Shirley Randall _____ Councilwoman

Greg Harris _____ Councilman