

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

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD  
OCTOBER 12, 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.

**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 (LCP Tax Committee Chair, 5209 Sagamore Road), Wayne Busby (Planning Board, 11 Charter Brook Lane), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Larry Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Charlie Bain (Resident, 17 Bain Lane), Bonnie Maiolo (Resident, 211 County Route 3), David Smalley (Resident, 542 Gull Bay Road), Peter Leyh (Resident, 5560 Evergreen Shores Way), Leslie Bain (Resident, 371 Peterson Road)

## **PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2018 BUDGET** (7:03)

Supervisor LaPointe opened the public hearing of the 2018 projected budget by stating the 2018 budget will have a 1.009% increase. The increase will go from \$3.07 per thousand to \$3.10 per thousand. The Highway contract is still in negotiations, there is no final number at this time. Bert Windle spoke first asking on page 3 what the definition of "contractual services" is. Supervisor LaPointe responded contractual services could be conferences that Town Officials attend for training, also miscellaneous expenses related to various offices. It can also cover heating, lighting, and general expenses of various departments of the town. Mr. Windle also asked about the codes before each item. Mr. LaPointe explained the codes are accounting codes set forth by the State. Mr. Windle went on to ask what the Assessor does to justify his income, and what his responsibilities are. Supervisor LaPointe replied the Assessor does the same thing the previous Assessor did, He reviews the tax rolls; He assesses new properties and new additions to existing properties. Mr. Windle contested that he felt the Town Assessor is not going out and reviewing properties. He gave examples of properties that have had improvements, however when Mr. Windle checked with the County there has been no new assessment of the property. Mr. Windle inquired about the Attorney line, and if that number covered that planning board as well as other issues. Supervisor LaPointe stated the Town hired outside attorneys for specialized cases like taxes, but that line amount does cover the planning board and everyday operations. Mr. Windle questioned town official's salaries and how they are determined and applied. Supervisor LaPointe explained the various responsibilities that belonged to each item. Mr. Windle also questioned what the "contingent" line is. Supervisor LaPointe responded that a contingency fund covers unexpected expenses not itemed in the budget. Mr. Windle asked in the animal control what "other" meant. Supervisor LaPointe replied that covers the Wild Animal Control Officer. Mr. Windle continued to page 7 examining boards. Supervisor

LaPointe replied that covers the Board of Assessment Review. Mr. Windle went on to “veteran services”; Supervisor LaPointe responded that was for flags on the graves. Mr. Windle also questioned the aging line, Supervisor LaPointe explained that Town pays for various field trips the seniors may take for example to breakfast once a year to Rathbun’s Sugar House and other luncheon events throughout the year. Mr. Windle jumped to page 11 and questioned the “Youth Program”, it was explained that covers the life guards and boat launch attendants, as well as the supervisor that oversees them. Mr. Windle continued to page 12 “Home and Community Services” he inquired if the “Planning” was the Planning Board, Supervisor LaPointe replied it is. Mr. Windle moved to “Refuse and Garbage” and asked if the Town was paying additional money above what the sticker sales are. Supervisor LaPointe replied yes. Mr. Windle moved to page 13 “Employee Benefits” he asked about the retirement and State retirement lines, asking how many employees are. Supervisor LaPointe replied 2, the Town Clerk and the Highway Superintendent, and that those numbers come from a State formula. Also, those figures are included in the fringe benefit percentage, not in addition to the fringe percentage. Mr. Windle moved to the next question “what is a debt service?” Supervisor LaPointe replied the Town Barn, Royal Anchorage, however on the revenue page there is a line for income on Royal Anchorage, they pay their own expenses. Mr. Windle moved on to “Sale of Cemetery Lots”, Mr. Windle complimented the Town’s care of the local cemeteries. Supervisor LaPointe responded with a reminder that lot prices would increase to \$400 in January up from \$200. Mr. Windle continued to “fines and forfeitures” asking if someone “skipped bale” on us. Supervisor LaPointe responded that was the Town’s portion of the money collected by the court, the State collected the remaining portion of the fines collected. Mr. Windle went on to state he had received email communications from Black Point residents who stated the documentation they had received, in the form of bank statements, from the Supervisor’s Clerk satisfied their questions about the increase in their sewer bills and also satisfied an error made in a report done by the Supervisor’s Clerk. He went on to say that he was well as others were looking to the Town Board to control spending to keep taxes steady. Mr. Windle thanked the Board in closing. Supervisor LaPointe asked if anyone else had comments or questions about the proposed budget. Bob Rudt spoke saying he noticed no monies were put aside for the opening of Cummings Park. Supervisor LaPointe replied that the opening would come from contingency funds when the time came. Mr. Windle spoke again asking about the lawsuits that had been successful in lowering assessments on particular properties; he wondered if those refunds would have an impact on this year’s budget. Mr. LaPointe replied that would come in 2019’s budget, he went on to explain that the refund will be paid by the County, then the Town will be assessed the amount. Supervisor LaPointe asked if there were any other questions or comments on the budget, there were none.

**Resolution #88**

**Close of the public hearing on 2018’s budget**

On motion of Supervisor LaPointe, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; Resolution unanimously adopted.

**7:28 Regular meeting called to order**

Councilwoman Cathie Burke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

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

**Resolution # 89**

**Accept the minutes of the September 14, 2017 meeting**

On motion of Councilman Kevin Hart, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris; Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution # 90**

**Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of September, 2017**

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

**Resolution # 91**

**Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of September, 2017**

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

**Resolution # 92**

**Pay bill as audited**

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

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

General Fund	# 330-366	\$15,999.01
Highway Fund	# 139-148	\$7,438.72
Black Point Sewer District	# 13-14	\$18,519.98
Royal Anchorage Sewer District	# 3-4	\$12,090.64

**Correspondence** (7:30)

**Letters of interest for the Board of Assessment Review**

Supervisor LaPointe reported he received two letters of interest for the BAR opening, Nancy Wolf-Fisher and Martha Atwood have both expressed interest. Supervisor LaPointe will set up interviews for later in the month. Councilman Greg Harris asked if there was a packet of information available, which explained responsibilities, to give to potential members of the BAR. Cee McKenzie the BAR Chair spoke saying she could get information together for potential candidates. She has materials that are handed out during training.

**Letter from Dr. Mack**

Supervisor LaPointe reported receiving a letter from veterinarian Dr. James Mack stating he no longer wished to board dogs for the Town of Putnam. Alternatives will be sought. It is unclear if Dr. Mack will continue to do the rabies clinics or not.

**Letter from Rev. Irving Cummings**

Supervisor LaPointe read a letter received from the Rev. Irving Cummings addressing domestic animals at large in Putnam. (Letter attached)

**Courtesy of the floor** (7:33)

Bonnie Maiolo spoke asking what has been done with the roaming animals since the last meeting. She relayed an incident, the Sunday past, in which she was out walking on County Route 3. Mrs. Maiolo stated she was approached by loose dogs even though she was walking on the opposite side of the road in which the dogs lived. She stated the dogs barked and growled at her. She stated she takes offense at the

dogs being allowed to harass passersby on a public road. Supervisor LaPointe replied he would have the Dog Control Officer address that household in regards to the loose dogs. The Supervisor also stated the Dog Control Officer has already visited the address in question once; however he'll visit again and issue appearance tickets if necessary.

May Drinkwine-Shiell spoke next also asking what is being done about the animals at large in Putnam. She stated since the last meeting that 3 times she has also encountered the same dogs that Mrs. Maiolo spoke about. She also stated her neighbor's dogs and chickens have also been in and across the road 7 times. Mrs. Drinkwine-Shiell continued that a turkey on Lower Road was also encountered as she drove, also, chickens Lake Road caused a near accident as she tried to avoid striking them with her vehicle. She inquired as to whether or not the Dog Control Officer has begun a dog census and if not when that would be done. Supervisor LaPointe replied that he has spoken with the Dog Control Officer Steve Peters Jr. and steps are being taken. Supervisor LaPointe also stated he spoke with Mrs. Ohly about licensing their dogs and containing both the dogs and chickens to their own property.

David Smalley (7:47) spoke next stating he was attending to "continue complaining about my neighbor's development of their property". Mr. Smalley continued with an update to the Board showing them a map and diagrams of his neighbor's property. He also presented 3 pictures, 2 showing a clear cutting that goes to the water, another picture showed lumber on the ground by the shore. Mr. Smalley stated he was also sending the same package being presented to the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) along with additional information. Supervisor LaPointe asked if Mr. Smalley has gone to any courts with this matter. Mr. Smalley replied he and his wife have tried, however the courts require that all other reasonable avenues of resolution be exhausted before proceeding legally. Bert Windle joined the conversation asking if the property owners had broken any Town Laws or ordinances. Mr. Smalley replied in November of last year the Planning Board had denied them a proposed site plan. Mr. Smalley asserts they are proceeding with the same development plan that was denied approval by the Planning Board. Mr. Smalley asserted that the Town's code enforcement officer should enforce the Planning Board's denial of site plan and the continued development. Bob Rudt stated it's frustrating to the Planning Board to unanimously deny a site plan only to have the land owner defy the decision and do it anyway. In turn the Planning Board hands the case to the Code Enforcement Officer and no enforcement is done. Supervisor LaPointe stated he would contact the Code Enforcement Officer and the Town attorney about the situation.

Peter Leyh (7:59) spoke next saying that the prior week there was a salt seminar hosted by the Fund for Lake George in Ticonderoga. He continued saying the Supervisor and the Highway Superintendent were both registered to attend, however neither attended. Supervisor LaPointe stated he had personal appointments to attend, and Highway Superintendent Treadway was paving with a paving contractor on that date. Mr. Leyh felt that when the Supervisor and the Superintendent cannot attend an even such as that, one of the board members should attend in their place. Mr. Leyh stressed his feelings about the importance of the issues discussed at the meetings and the information exchanged there. Mr. Leyh then changed topics to the Gull Bay Beach. He asked if there was a grant to fix the beach and how much it was, as he had heard there was a substantial amount. Supervisor LaPointe replied there was no grant that the money was to come from the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board, there is no set amount at this time; however any monies that do come will be for Gull Bay Beach reconstruction and a track hoe. Mr. Leyh presented the prior months minutes (September) that stated the money was a grant and asked that the minutes of this month (October) show a correction as the Town Clerks minutes from the previous month stated the money was a grant. Mr. Leyh then stated if anything is going to be done with the beach there needs to be a plan. Supervisor LaPointe replied it is being worked on.

Bert Windle (8:08) spoke stating last month he had asked for a draft of the proposal that was being worked on for a trailer ordinance. A brief discussion took place and it was determined that it was still in the attorney's hands.

Wayne Busby (8:09) gave a very brief monthly plea for blacktop on Peterson Road.

**Highway Report** (8:09)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Treadway reported the crew has finished working on Pulpit Point Road. They ditched, replaced culverts, cut brush and paved 1 mile. A heavy shim was done on Liddle-Harris Road where it was left off two years ago, from Gull Bay in. The cost was approximately \$150,000 for the two roads. Superintendent Treadway also reported he got a few more businesses interested in giving estimates on the replacing the heating system at the town shed, but those estimates have not arrived yet. HS Treadway said the crew would be heading to Cummings Park in the coming weeks to work on storm water alleviation plans.

**Planning Board Report** (8:12)

Bob Rudt reported the Planning Board had only one person on the agenda. James Glendening who purchased 300 acres located on Gull Bay Road, was approved to construct a driveway, RV pad, and dock.

**Old Business** (8:14)

Supervisor LaPointe reported union negotiations continue for the Highway crew contract. An Executive session will take place after the main meeting.

**New Business** (8:15)

**Resolution #93**

**Adopt the proposed 2018 budget**

On motion of Councilman Kevin Hart, seconded by Councilwoman Cathie Burke; all in favor, resolution unanimously adopted.

**Champlain Park Future**

A committee is being formed to discuss and plan the future development of the Cummings Park. The committee currently consists of Greg Harris, Kevin Hart and John LaPointe. A discussion ensued; Wayne Busby stated a bird watcher said there were 56 species of birds observed there. Councilman Greg Harris stated he'd like a year to sit back and see what the uses for the park will be by residents then develop the park from the information obtained in that year. Bert Windle inquired as to whether or not the Town had insurance coverage on the park (s). Supervisor LaPointe replied "we have coverage".

**Enter Executive Session** (8:33)

**Executive session to discuss Union contract for Highway Department crew**

**Resolution #94** (9:06)

**Leave executive session and close monthly meeting**

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Supervisor John LaPointe; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Meeting closed at 9:06 P.M.**

Next regular meeting is November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr  
Putnam Town Clerk

**October 2017 Regular meeting minutes.**

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

Cathie Burke \_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman

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

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

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

Glendale Farms  
Putnam Station, New York 12861

OCTOBER 10, 2017

TO: PUTNAM TOWN BOARD

RE: CORRESPONDANCE

I AM WRITING IN SUPPORT OF MAY DIRLIKWINE'S STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 17 REGARDING LOOSE ANIMALS IMPEDING TRAFFIC ON TOWN ROADS.

ANIMALS WHICH ARE ALLOWED TO ROAM FREE ARE A NUISANCE AND SHOULD BE CONFINED TO THEIR OWNER'S PROPERTY. THEY CAN BE THE CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS WHEN A DRIVER SEEKS TO AVOID THEM.

I URGE THE BOARD TO TAKE THIS ISSUE SERIOUSLY. THIS MINUTES OF THE FIRST TOWN MEETING, IN 1803, CONTAIN PROHIBITIONS AGAINST LOOSE ANIMALS. WHY IS IT THAT AFTER 214 YEARS, THIS IS STILL A PROBLEM?

SINCERELY,

REV. IRVING CUMMINGS



# David Smalley Pictures

10/12/17



10

10/12/17

11



10/12/2017

IMG\_5218.JPG



clear cut road way / path  
adjacent to stream bed  
8'-10' wide from parking area  
to lakeshore

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/150046770c530747?project=1>

12

12