

Regular Meeting
Of the
Putnam Town Board
July 9, 2020 at 7p.m. - Putnam Town Hall

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilman Christopher Mallon 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). **Present via ZOOM:** Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), John Breitenbach (Town Attorney, 23 Father Jogues Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883), Sue Tucker (Putnam Volunteer Fire Department, Resident, 104 County Route 2), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Dave Manchester (Resident, 5177 Sagamore Road), Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chair, 17360 State Route 22), Christine Costello (Resident, 657 County Route 2), Allen Moore (Planning Board, 974 County Route 2), Karl Ohly (Resident, 428 County Route 3)
Guest: Josh Bagnato (Vice President, Project Development Transmission Developers, Inc.)

Correction for June's minutes

In June's minutes, from the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) land classification discussion, the minutes incorrectly identified the 42-acre APA building requirement as a "Rural" APA classification. The correct classification for the 42-acre requirement is "Resource Management".

Resolution # 72

Accept the minutes of the June 11th, 2020 meeting, with correction

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

Resolution #73

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

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

Resolution # 74

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of June 2020

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

Resolution # 75

Pay bills 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	# 167-199	\$6,336.54
Highway Fund	# 58-67	\$12,198.14

Guest (7:07)

Josh Bagnato, Vice President, Project Development Transmission Developers, Inc. joined the meeting via ZOOM. Mr. Bagnato addressed the progress of the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE), (CHPE is a proposed 333-mile, high voltage direct current underwater and underground transmission line bringing low cost renewable energy from the U.S. – Canada border to New York City).

Mr. Bagnato began his update saying the last he was in front of the Town Board was in March of 2018. Mr. Bagnato recapped their plan to exit Lake Champlain onto County Route 3, to Lake Road, to Route 22 heading south, a proposed amendment to their original plan to stay in Lake Champlain. In March of 2018, the Town gave support to the proposed change in CHPE’s plan to amend the original approved route for the cable. In December of 2019 CHPE applied to the State to amend their approved route, they are currently waiting for a decision from the State. Mr. Bagnato mentioned a new law in New York, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) he continued saying a law in New York City had also been passed requiring large buildings to reduce emissions starting 2024. Mr. Bagnato expressed that these two laws make their product more valuable. Also, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo endorsed their project as an infrastructure stimulus project and New York State Energy Research & Development (NYSERDA) released a paper supporting, and emphasizing, the benefits of moving to renewable power into New York City. Mr. Bagnato addressed an issue with a property that abutted the projected route for the cable explaining there were questions about the ownership of County Route 3 and Lake Road. Mr. Bagnato stated that CPHE’s attorney gathered conclusive documents proving the ownership of the roads. County Route 3 is owned by Washington County and Lake Road is owned by the Town of Putnam. Town Attorney John Breitenbach asked Mr. Bagnato to send him copies of the documents, Mr. Bagnato agreed. Mr. Bagnato reminded the audience that this is a big project that has been in the planning stages for years, he cautioned that Putnam would not see any construction for a few years, perhaps 2022. Councilman Larry Shiell asked if the power line is going to be under the pavement? Mr. Bagnato replied typically they do not like putting it under the pavement, ideally it would be put off to the side of the road. He did not know what side of the road it would be in Putnam. Further study is needed, plans will be constructed from the information gathered. The Town will be consulted about the placement in Putnam, then the plans will be submitted to the State. Supervisor Wilson asked if there were any other questions, there were none. Supervisor Wilson thanked Mr. Bagnato for attending the meeting and updating everyone.

Correspondence (7:20)

Supervisor Wilson conveyed that there was one correspondence, the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets. A Dog Control Officer Inspection Report, from an inspection completed June 25, 2020 was read aloud by Supervisor Wilson. The report indicated Putnam’s Dog Control Officer’s equipment and procedures are satisfactory to the State.

Courtesy of the floor (7:24)

Christine Costello addressed the Board. Ms. Costello expressed concern about the night use of Cummings Park by fishermen. Ms. Costello stated she frequents the location, often to find garbage and debris on the shore of Lake Champlain by the Cummings Park small craft launch, saying “it’s turning into a dump and a fire pit”. Supervisor Wilson replied that the town crew has been cleaning the area. Highway Superintendent Gary Treadway responded also saying that the area has been cleaned up just the fire pit remains in the area. Ms. Costello expressed that she would like the park to be locked at night, saying “its not just for people who want to trash it”. Supervisor Wilson thanked Ms. Costello for her input and attentiveness to the park. He advised that some signage would be put up and the park is continually cleaned, adding there are no plans at this time to lock the park at night. Ms. Costello expressed she thought that it is a mistake to not regulate the hours of access, and appreciated the Board taking her comments into consideration.

David Manchester addressed the Board next relaying his thoughts on the cost analysis for recycling. Mr. Manchester asked the Town to consider a drop off site at the town garage where people could drop recycling off, with a seasonal schedule adjustment of once a month drop off during the off season, and twice a month during the summer season, open four hours each time, with one person staffing. Mr. Manchester asserted that this presents an “ample opportunity” to continue service at a reduced cost. Supervisor Wilson thanked Mr. Manchester for his comments.

Highway report (7:29)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported that the first roadside mowing for the summer season has been completed on both County and Town roads. The second pass will begin after August 15, 2020. HS Treadway continued with an update on paving. Pulpit Point and Backus Road will be paved, work should begin around the end of July, with a total cost of around \$147,000. HS Treadway brought up B Lane for consideration saying it has become “pretty rough”, and that for an additional \$10,000 B Lane could also be skimmed while they are paving in that area. Supervisor Wilson replied he was unsure if the Highway contingency funds should be used because we are unsure of what the weather will be, however he agreed it made sense to do the work while the equipment was in the area. Supervisor Wilson will consult the Budget Officer. HS Treadway also reported that the long-awaited box for the new truck has arrived from Canada and he expects to have the truck sometime around the end of July. HS Treadway continued his report moving onto the white goods pick up. Although several people had signed up for pick up, it appeared that a private entity had collected the items the night prior, leaving nothing for the Town to collect. HS Treadway stated he felt this is still a worth while program for the residents. The last item HS Treadway presented was a possible contribution for the purchase of a shared mobile salt brine making unit. Dave Wick (Executive Director of the Lake George Park Commission) has reached out to towns around Lake George to secure contributions for the purchase of a mobile brine mixing unit. The brine has been used on roads for the past few years. The purpose of the brine is to reduce the amount of road salt being used in the Lake George water shed. The brine is a pre-treatment that is sprayed on the road prior to a freezing precipitation event. It works by forming a barrier thus preventing snow and ice from adhering to the road’s surface making it easier to clear efficiently. All indicators say that the brine is effective. In an email distributed to the Board Mr. Wick said, “We have been working together to identify the best means to get salt brine at each highway department around the watershed. The best and most cost-effective solution is to make the brine locally, with salt from each town’s salt pile. To do so, we need a brine making unit that is industrial grade and mobile, so it can be moved around the watershed. This unit exists and costs approximately \$100,000. If funding is received, Warren County DPW has offered to procure, own and maintain the brine maker, and allow its use throughout the highway departments in the Lake George watershed and in Washington County. We have identified a leftover new unit which is being held for us right now, and the county would purchase that unit (or similar) through the regular procurement process”. They are asking for a contribution of \$5,000 to get in on the share. HS Treadway explained currently we have a 300-gallon tank, the new tandem truck will have a 300-gallon tank capacity also. HS Treadway estimated we will use around 1200 gallons at \$.40 per gallon, which equates to around \$4800. If the Town decides to participate there is the one-time contribution of \$5,000

with a cost of around \$.10 a gallon for the product, this translates into significant savings long term. Supervisor Wilson joined saying the math suggests that the contribution will pay for itself with the second filling of the Town tank.

Resolution #76

Contribute \$5,000 to the Lake George Park Commission for a share in a mobile brine making unit

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

Planning Board report (7:40)

Galen Seerup the Planning Board Chair reported that the Planning Board had their meeting at Cummings Park in July. The first project in front of the Planning Board this month was Peggy Ives' subdivision. Mrs. Ives' representative attended the meeting, the subdivision still needs a public hearing before completion. The second project was for solar panels on a resident's roof. There will be no increase in the footprint of the current building, the Planning Board approved the plans. Chairman Seerup also reported that the Planning Board discussed enforcement of the Site Plan Review. The Planning Board's recommendation to the Town Board is to hire an enforcement officer who will enforce all of Putnam's local laws. The Planning Board also discussed correspondence letters to non-compliant applicants. The Planning Board voted to have the Town Attorney compose those letters. John Breitenbach the town attorney replied to Chairman Seerup saying he would draft the letters however, the Planning Board technically does not have the authority to order documents, the directive should come from the Town Board. A brief discussion about letters, enforcement and potential solutions followed.

Fire Department report (8:02)

Cee McKenzie reported a meeting with the Fire Department took place the week prior. At the meeting, the year to date budget was reviewed, and a discussion about where the FD expects to be financially at the end of 2020. 2021's budget was also reviewed. Ms. McKenzie stated that there were unexpected expenses this year such as a truck repair that will put the fire department around \$12,000 to \$14,000 short at the close of this budget year, providing no other unplanned expenses arise during the remainder of 2020. Supervisor Wilson stated he asked the Fire Department's President for a formal submission with a cover letter with the amount the Fire Department is requesting for 2021's budget. The requested amount is \$151,000 up from the \$122,000 in 2020's budget. Supervisor Wilson explained that going above the 2% contractual bylaw increase requires a public referendum to allow voters to voice their opinion. The referendum must have 60% majority vote to pass. Supervisor Wilson expressed that the 27% increase for the Fire Department two years ago received attention from the New York State Comptroller. He continued that he was not saying the Fire Department didn't need the funds, however if the Town is going to tax the residents to give those funds to the Fire Department, "they [voters] need to decide that, not us". A brief discussion about the frustration and the challenges of working under a budget, and the hard choices budgets present took place. Supervisor Wilson cautioned that the only thing the Board can control is a 2% increase, an increase any larger must be presented to voters and the voters will decide. If the referendum does not pass the Fire Department will receive the standard contractual 2%. Cee McKenzie joined the conversation saying the requested increase is 24% which translates into a 10% increase per thousand on the Fire Department line on resident's tax bills. Supervisor Wilson moved the discussion to this year's budget advising that there had been a repair on truck 431 the utility truck. The cost of repair was \$10,000. The Fire Department has informally asked the Town to assist with that repair financially. Councilman Chris Mallon asked if the FD could pay that bill now, then wait until the end of the year to gauge potential need. Supervisor Wilson asked Sue Tucker, the FD Treasurer, if that would be acceptable. Mrs. Tucker replied that would be fine, that arrangement had been previously discussed. Mrs. Tucker expressed the concern of the FD is that in December they will have bills they cannot pay, and they will begin another year with a deficit. The Board recommended that the FD pay for the repair, then the Town will seek out funding to help them bridge the gap if needed, however, there is no commitment from the

Town to pay any possible deficit at the end of the year. Karl Ohly joined the conversation stating that Dresden had a fund raiser recently, then asked if Putnam FD could have a fund raiser. Sue Tucker replied to Mr. Ohly indicating the FD is currently working on a fund raiser, however the fundraising money is not meant for operating costs it is meant to go toward the Fire Department, the bills are not paid through fund raising. She continued someone has offered to buy chickens for a barbeque, so the FD is looking into doing a “drive thru” chicken barbeque.

Old business (8:22)

Re-appointment to the Board of Assessment Review (BAR). Supervisor Wilson relayed that Mr. Sam Smith’s term on the BAR would expire on September 30, 2020. Mr. Smith has agreed to serve another term if the Board so desires.

Resolution #77

Re-appoint Sam Smith to the Board of Assessment Review for a five-year term expiring 9/30/2025

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

Recycling update Town Attorney John Breitenbach addressed the Board stating he revisited his research, on the Local Law from 1992 and the enabling legislation. After reviewing the opinion given by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Mr. Breitenbach still asserted he does not agree with the Department of Environmental Conservation’s interpretation of the recycling laws. The laws referenced, he believes, puts the onus on the generators of waste materials, not the municipality. Mr. Breitenbach opined that the municipality has no obligation to curb-side collection of recyclables. A formal letter response to the DEC has been mailed to Kevin Wood, Region 5 Materials Management Engineer for the New York State Department of Conservation. Supervisor Wilson addressed Mr. Manchester’s suggestion earlier in the meeting saying that the Board would look at that again. He continued, “the Town is not saying we don’t want to recycle, what we’re saying is we are prioritizing use of our labor force and Highway Department for public safety”, he continued over the last few years the labor force was being diverted to recycling tasks two days a week, losing valuable time for road work. We have a crew of 4 who maintain roads, pick up trash, maintain cemeteries and parks in Putnam. Supervisor Wilson raised another issue, where to get rid of the recycling. Companies are no longer buying recyclable materials drying up the marketability. The reality is most recyclable items are ending up in landfills and burn plants or being stock piled because there is no market for them. Nancy Wolf-Fisher joined the discussion commenting the minutes from last month stated that the prior supervisor had contact with the Kevin Wood at the DEC. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher reported that Kevin Wood asserted to her that there has never been any contact from the Town and that the original letter requested a reply from the Town by January 15, 2019. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher stated she believes the only reason the Town is getting back to the DEC now is because she brought it up. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher also asserted that the Town had made no effort to have the DEC assist in continuing recycling saying “that’s their [DEC] job”. The Town Clerk asked to be heard, stating that the former Supervisor did contact Jessie Sangster at DEC several times, each time on speaker phone in the Clerk’s office, the Clerk is certain the DEC was contacted by phone. The Clerk continued that early in the events of the Town’s recycling issue, the DEC was contacted by email at the urging of Mrs. Wolf-Fisher in regards to getting assistance with continued recycling, one email was received back stating there was funding for start up programs but nothing for established programs, that was the last communication from the DEC regarding assistance for Putnam’s recycling program, over a year ago.

Garbage cost analysis

Supervisor Wilson addressed the garbage cost analysis, saying the bottom line is that in 2019 the Town of Putnam tax payers subsidized \$22,123.00 for the garbage program, the Board questions if that is fair since some residents chose to use private companies for their garbage. The topic of raising the cost of garbage stickers was discussed, and if the price were to be raised how much would be appropriate to cover costs.

Councilman Bain asked what percentage of residents use the Town's garbage collection. HS Treadway replied a few years ago it was recorded how many stops were made, he said he would retrieve those numbers. HS Treadway also raised the fact that the garbage truck is a 2003 and will eventually need to be replaced and will need more repairs as it ages. He also stated that with the heavy volume of garbage in the summer the current truck does not have the capacity needed and the crew is using two trucks to take garbage to the burn plant. Supervisor Wilson asked everyone to think about the issue for further discussion at a later date.

APA Classification/Putnam Land Development Plan

Supervisor Wilson began the discussion with a brief history of the Putnam Land Development Plan. The Plan was drafted in 1989 but was never enacted by the Town. Councilman Chris Mallon stated he thought the plan would have more detail, but it could be used as a starting point for some areas. He conveyed he felt a well thought out plan was necessary prior to approaching the Adirondack Park Agency, and that it is not unreasonable, in buildable areas in Putnam, for families to want future generations to be able to build on the homestead. Councilman Charlie Bain asked if a representative from the APA could attend a meeting as a guest for informational purposes. Town Attorney John Breitenbach also contributed saying the APA has a statutory process, identifying specific areas where it is believed a change is needed, coupled with that the APA will want to see a comprehensive plan by the Town. Mr. Breitenbach indicated he could put a package together for the Board, to give initial direction to the process. Karl Ohly commented, farmers can build worker/family housing on their property.

Cummings Park Fee

Supervisor Wilson revisited a discussion from the prior meeting about possibly charging a fee for the reserved use of Cummings Park. The Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee Charlie Bain is recruiting volunteers to serve on his committee. The committee will work on plans to develop or improve Putnam's parks and recreation areas.

New business (8:56)

None

The Town Clerk reported she had attended a Zoom meeting organized by the Fund for Lake George. During that meeting it was announced that the Fund for Lake George has partnered with two banks that will give residents in the Lake George watershed no and low interest loans for the purpose of septic repair/replacement. Glens Falls National and Trust will handle residents on the northern end of Lake George. It was reported during that meeting that two thirds of homeowners surveyed said their septic was outdated or the condition of their septic was unknown.

Boat Launch Maryjane Dedrick urged everyone to visit the boat launch to see the flowers, Charlie Bain, Henry and Debbie Sears planted them, Debbie Sears, Sherry Kuhl and Ken Kuhl are helping maintain them. Supervisor Wilson thanked everyone who contributed to the launch and beach improvements this year. Maryjane also mentioned the new lifeguard chairs built by the Highway Department and how nice they are, the lifeguards are pleased with them.

Direct Deposit

Councilman Larry Shiell asked about the status of direct deposit for the Town employees. Supervisor Wilson replied the process is in motion, progress has been made, and direct deposit should be functional in the very near future.

Resolution #78

Adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

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

Meeting Closed at 9:08 P.M.

The next regular meeting is August 13, 2020 at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson _____ Supervisor

Christopher Mallon _____ Councilman

Larry Shiell _____ Councilman

Charlies Bain Sr. _____ Councilman