

REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
PUTNAM TOWN BOARD

FEBRUARY 11, 2016
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.

7:05 Meeting called to order

Greg Harris 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), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent) Susan Johnson (Town Justice), Cee McKenzie, Bob Rudt, Bill Brown.

Resolution # 40

Accept the minutes of the January 2, 2016 Organizational Meeting & January 14, 2016 Regular meeting
On motion by Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilwoman Cathie Burke; Resolution adopted.
Ayes 5, Nays 0

Resolution # 41

Accept the Supervisor's monthly report for January 2016
On motion by Councilman Kevin Hart, seconded by Councilwoman Shirley Randall; Resolution adopted.
Ayes 5, Nays 0

Resolution # 42

Accept the Town Clerks report for January 2016
On motion by Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilwoman Shirley Randall; Resolution adopted.
Ayes 5, Nays 0

Resolution # 43

Pay bill as audited
On motion by Councilman Kevin Hart, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris; Resolution adopted.
Ayes 5, Nays 0

Resolved the bills on abstract #1 be paid in the following amounts:

General Account	#14- 43	\$63,949.43
Highway Account	#11-30	\$12,462.38

Correspondence

Correspondence will be addressed during the meeting as it pertains to the Highway Department and the Planning Board.

Courtesy of the floor (4minute time limit)

Bill Brown (President and Assistant Chief of the Putnam Volunteer Fire Department).

Mr. Brown inquired about changing the contract with the town. One of the changes discussed is the Fire Department receiving funds in a lump sum in February rather than quarterly payments. The Public Service Committee had discussed the changes at their last meeting. The PS Committee will make the desired changes to the contract by crossing it out, date it and initial the change, and then submit them to the Town for review by the town attorney. Supervisor LaPointe stated a check will be mailed to the treasurer Dennis Johnson at P.O. Box 100, Putnam Station, N.Y. 12861, in the next few weeks. A change in the amount of the check was also discussed briefly. Supervisor LaPointe explained there was a refund to a taxpayer that came from the General Fund and the Fire Department Fund. The Fire Department will receive 102% of the funds they received last year.

Councilman Hart questioned Mr. Brown as to the status of the new heating system in the fire house. Mr. Brown stated it was working, but it was not “the prettiest installation” however it was functioning well with consistent heat all the way through the building.

Councilwoman Randall expressed her disappointment in the appearance in the heating pipes draping in front of the trophy case. Councilman Hart raised the point it was part of the agreement with the installer that the pipe coverings would be installed by the fire department and that the installer was not under any obligation to do the finishing work. Mr. Brown stated they would be working on the aesthetic completion when they get the funds. The main objective, with the available funds, was to obtain a reliable heating source for the building. Susan Johnson commented that the aesthetic fixes would need to be done in warmer weather so as not to interrupt the water system and the heat in the building during the winter months. She also stated that time and money was also an issue. Bill Brown said they’re trying to work a deal with the Department of Corrections in an attempt to get a working crew “here” from spring through September, but they need money for materials.

Cee McKenzie stated she was disappointed she was the only one who showed up at the Public Service Committee meeting at the fire house the previous week. She expressed a desire for ongoing communications between the Town, Fire Department and the community, not just when something breaks down. She stated she feels it’s beneficial to Putnam residents and the town to ensure the survival of the Fire Department, to protect the town. She would like to see the Department receive assistance in planning so they can meet requirements, which are ever changing, in the future.

Supervisor LaPointe offered a section of the Town Board meeting every month for the Fire Department to bring forward the status, current events and issues being faced by the Department.

Bill Brown stated the department needs to raise between \$20,000.00 and \$25,000.00 every year. The Department is exploring alternate ways to raise money and use it effectively. He said the Committee discussed getting help for budget planning. The Fire Department would like to be able to build contingency funds for unforeseen costs and capital projects. He expressed a desire to keep the Public Service Committee going to help resolve things that “come up”. He asserted that regulations have changed drastically in the last 18 years and that the Fire Department has no choice but to comply with new regulations imposed on them by the state as they come up.

Councilman Hart said he will try to attend the Public Service Committee meetings. It was an oversight that he missed this month’s meeting. Supervisor LaPointe suggested a quarterly meeting be set up. Bill Brown said the next Public Service Committee meeting is already set for the second Monday in March at 7pm.

Bob Rudt commented he liked the Fire Department representatives attending council meetings and reporting on various happenings, issues, and occurrences concerning the Fire Department and the Putnam community.

7:25 Floor Closed

Highway Department Report

Gary Treadway, Highway Superintendent, reported everything is going well, the stock piles are holding up, salts down, the equipment needed a few minor repairs. This year has been a money saver due to the lack of weather events thus far. The new truck is still not ready; he is hoping the truck will be ready sometime in the next two weeks. The salt monitoring equipment is on the trucks and it’s working well, but he hasn’t heard from Chris Navitsky (Lake George Water Keeper) who was supposed to contact him when the salt program was up and running. Councilman Harris stated with it being an abnormal weather year, they were not going to get reliable data. Gary Treadway added they’re waiting to hear from Chris Navitsky and he’ll report back when he gets more information.

Bob Rudt asked Gary Treadway about a hole the Highway Department filled on Gull Bay Road by the logging road. Gary Treadway commented it had been fixed, Bob Rudt said that the planning board had told the operation owner not to let run off go straight to the road, which they did, then the operation owner tried a minimal repair by placing hay bales there to re-route the water which didn’t work. Mr. Rudt expressed concern that now the town is fixing it at the taxpayers’ expense, again. Supervisor LaPointe said he’d contact the operator to make him aware there was damage to the road, and the town will need to be reimbursed for the damages. Gary Treadway commented they needed to put a ditch across the logging road to prevent further damage.

Planning Board Report

Bob Rudt reported that there was one person at the planning board meeting inquiring about building a small camp on Link Way. This person attended the planning board meeting to gather information, and showed his plans to the board trying to figure out where to put wells and septic. That was all from the planning board meeting this month.

Supervisor LaPointe brought forward a correspondence from Washington County Planning Board concerning the “Exemption of Matters of Local Concern from County Planning Board Review Agreement’. In the past, the Washington County Planning Board has entered into exemption agreements with local boards to streamline the referral of local projects to the County under GML 239-1 and m. These agreements exempt certain projects deemed to have no inter-municipal impact from the referral to

the County Planning Board. These agreements are structured to last for three years, and the current round of exemptions have expired. Supervisor LaPointe gave a copy of the agreement to Mr. Rudt for the planning board to look over in their next meeting and decide what they'd like to do with it.

Old Business

Cummings Park. Supervisor LaPointe said he met the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation in Albany. Supervisor LaPointe had a conversation with the Commissioner about railroad crossing at the Cummings Park taking an unreasonable period of time to install. The Commissioner got Supervisor LaPointe in contact with a representative (Ron) to assist in resolving the difficulties with the railroad, getting the crossing built and operational. The representative has been in communications with the Town attorney Mr. Breitenbach and has reviewed the court order to the railroad. The representative is expected to contact Mr. Breitenbach with a possible solution but has not as of this meeting. Supervisor LaPointe feels this is a step in the right direction for completion of Cummings Park.

Glenburnie Lawsuit. The Glenburnie Club is suing Thomas Eliopoulos. They would like particular property owned by Mr. Eliopoulos to be taxed as lots rather than as a private forest. Mr. Breitenbach met with the judge and answered the Towns portion of the complaint.

Shared Service Agreement for Emergency Assistance. Supervisor LaPointe presented correspondence from the New York State Department of Transportation to Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent). NYSDOT is proposing the establishment of a shared service agreement between the town and NYSDOT as a means of ensuring that we are prepared to share assistance for a one year term during which it would apply. This allows NYSDOT to provide emergency assistance to the municipalities in the absence of a Governor's Emergency Declaration. For services or materials that are valued at less than \$10,000, NYS Comptroller rules allow NYSDOT to "trade" services under a simple one page agreement. Gary Treadway will look it over and decide what he'd like to do with it.

Rabies Clinic has been scheduled for March 26, 2016 from 8am to 9am at the Putnam Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

Motion made by Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart;
Meeting closed at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

John LaPointe _____ Supervisor

Greg Harris _____ Councilman

Shirley Randall _____ Councilwoman

Cathie Burke _____ Councilwoman

Kevin Hart _____ Councilman