

Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD
JULY 12, 2018
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 Shirley Randall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

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), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Bert Windle (Lake Communities of Putnam (LCP) Chair, 5211 Sagamore Road), Peter Leyh (Resident, 5560 Evergreen Shores Way), Charles Bain Sr. (Boat launch attendant, resident, 17 Bain Lane), Al Coulter (Resident, 3514 Gull Bay Ridge Way), Bob Coulter (Resident, 3512 Gull Bay Ridge Way), Mike Furdyna (Resident, 3510 Gull Bay Ridge Way), Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chair, 17360 State Route 22)

Resolution # 73

Accept the minutes of the June 14, 2018 meeting

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

Resolution # 74

Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of June, 2018

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

Resolution # 75

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of June, 2018

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

Resolution # 76

Pay bill as audited

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

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

General Fund	# 188-218	\$8,245.11
Highway Fund	# 79-88	\$4,020.27
Black Point Sewer District	# 7-8	\$17,513.47

Correspondence (7:04)

There were several letters of correspondence from the LCP (Lake Communities of Putnam) via email from Bert Windle. The body of the letter was read aloud by Supervisor LaPointe as follows:

Supervisor LaPointe
Town Board Members

Re Trailer regulation?

Trailer regulations do not appear to be any further along than five years ago, I went back and read the Town Board minutes from June ,July, and August of 2016 which time frame included a special meeting specifically for the issue at hand. Other than Bill Balls comment that they were not legal there is little if anything to report in the way of progress. Now in 2018 July I don't believe you will have anything to report to us the citizens of Putnam.

What do I tell our membership when they ask,

- 1- can we put a trailer on site
- 2- can we connect electric to same
- 3- can I connect to an existing septic
- 4- do I have to pay property taxes on this unit
- 5- can we set up a portable potty or an outhouse
- 6- must this house trailer be moved every year 2 years 3 years or more
- 7- Does the assessor take any action at all to protect the interests of the neighbors
- 8- Has the assessor reduced the assessment of the adjoining properties to date

D Windle
Chairman Tax and Assessment Committee
The LCP

Mr. Windle inquired when there would be a resolution to the trailer ordinance. He went on to state the APA will not allow him to build on property he owns, but it seemed he could pull a trailer on the property without consequence, siting several trailers in Putnam that he believed were placed illegally. After a brief discussion Mr. Windle agreed to make a list of the trailers in question for Supervisor LaPointe and the Code Enforcement Officer.

The second letter of correspondence from the LCP via the Chairman pertained to the change in location for the garbage/recycling area in Gull Bay, the letter was read aloud by Supervisor LaPointe as follows:

Mr. John Lapointe Putnam Town Board

I have been contacted by a number of LCP Members that participate in the recycle program requesting the following. That the drop off location at Gull Bay Beach was recently relocated and the new location forces them to stand in the dirt when unloading which on a rainy day is mud. This also forces the recycles to be set in the mud.

Requested solution, either pave the drop off location or move it to a spot that would have pavement or a hard surface. We thank you in advance for your anticipated solution.

The LCP

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway responded he believed the dirt in that area was put there during the spring sweeping of the roads; it will be cleaned, as there is a grassy area there. He also stated the location was moved to accommodate parking at the boat launch as the parking is very limited. An unidentified person also stated he believed the new location was very close to the creek and would like to see some sort of barrier so nothing accidentally goes in the creek, he suggested a small fence. HS Treadway replied he would look into it to see what could be done.

Supervisor LaPointe addressed the third letter from the LCP Chairman Mr. Windle. The letter was not read however, Supervisor LaPointe paraphrased saying there is a drainage ditch on Sagamore Road that was a serious problem. HS Treadway replied that the area the letter addressed needed a new culvert. The culverts have been ordered and the ditch will be mended.

The fourth letter from the LCP via the Chairman Mr. Windle discussed the equalization rate of property assessments. The letter was not read aloud. Mr. Windle stated he believed people are being abused, and have been abused since the reval 6 years ago because there hasn't been a full adjustment.

The fifth and last letter from the LCP Chairman Mr. Windle was regarding the Cummings Park dedication and had a list of suggestions for the dedication. Supervisor LaPointe replied at the next special meeting the suggestions will be discussed, but the event is a dedication.

Courtesy of the floor (7:12)

Galen Seerup Planning Board Chairman presented an issue with a real estate sign at the intersection of Route 22 and Glenburnie. Mr. Seerup stated the sign violates regulations set forth in the Site Plan Review Law which states signs cannot be larger than four square feet, and if they are larger they require a permit. HS Superintendent Treadway said he would contact the owner of the sign again and have a conversation regarding the size of the sign.

Mike Furdyna addressed the board next. Mr. Furdyna asked about drainage ditches along the road in Gull Bay. HS Treadway responded Randy Rath was consulted and concrete catch pans will be the first phase of the project. The pans will be purchased in the coming weeks and installed near the Casino to the south end of the beach. Mr. Furdyna asked about further up the road. HS Treadway replied, that area would need to be ditched and he wanted to contact land owners before that work began. Mr. Furdyna went on to ask how to control the boats going in and out of the boat launch, he stated it appears to have heavy use this year, and asked if people using the launch were verified as Putnam residents. Supervisor LaPointe answered saying people are verified, and those who are not known to the launch attendants are asked where they are staying or renting.

Bob Coulter went next asking about the new lines Spectrum is putting up. He asked if the old telephone lines would be removed, as he felt the lines are aesthetically not pleasing. Supervisor LaPointe replied that the lines are owned by two different companies and likely would not be removed as both companies provide their own service. He went on to say that Spectrum hasn't been forthcoming with their plans, also Spectrum is renting space on the poles.

Bert Windle spoke next about the Emmi/Kolman assessment reduction discussed at the previous month's meeting. Mr. Windle stated he felt the explanation given as to why the reduction was given was not adequate and asked for clarification. A discussion ensued about various reductions for other parcels. Mr. Windle stated his grievance was denied based on inadequate information. Mr. Windle asked what is considered adequate proof to lower an assessment. Mr. Windle went on to state the reductions he's referencing were major reductions whereas he was seeking a small reduction of \$20,000. Mr. Windle also stated considering the small reduction he is seeking he cannot justify hiring an appraisal firm to appraise his property. He also stated his assessment is three times the amount he paid for the parcel. Cee McKenzie Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review (BAR) joined the discussion explaining the Emmi/Kolman parcel was recently purchased. That purchase price was well below the assessment value justifying the reduction, Mr. Windle's property did not have a recent sale, and that his property was purchased close to a decade ago. Ms. McKenzie said the BAR does not go back further than the previous year when considering a purchase or sale of a property. Mr. Windle wrapped up saying when the property was purchased he did not have the contingencies the local and state government and the APA has placed on the property, in his opinion, devaluing the property because he can't do anything with it. Mr. Windle finished by saying that government is burdensome.

Peter Leyh addressed the Board revisiting the topic of a questionnaire asking residents what they'd like to see done at the new park, the ball field and the Gull Bay Beach. Supervisor LaPointe replied that the survey hasn't been done yet. Mr. Leyh asserted that it was important to know what residents want. The second issue Mr. Leyh addressed is the parking at Gull Bay, has there been any discussion about what to do there. He suggested a culvert where the stream is so the parking can go over the stream. Supervisor LaPointe replied there was a discussion about using the town's lot on the other side of the stream, but a culvert wasn't discussed at that time. Mr. Leyh stated there is room on Sagamore Road that might be appropriate for parking. He stated at busy times people are parked along the road creating a dangerous situation. The third issue Mr. Leyh addressed is people parking on State Route 22 in front of the ball park when there are games at the field. Supervisor LaPointe answered that the Town Clerk will now advise people reserving the park to park in the field parking, that parking on Route 22 is not allowed. If people continue to park on Route 22 the police will be contacted and people will be ticketed. Mr. Leyh asked if there is any cost to the town to have a trooper there while an event is going on. Supervisor LaPointe answered he thought not, if they can come up here. Mr. Leyh asserted even if it costs the town it's worth it.

Highway report (7:35)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported the dirt road have been brought up to par. The roadside mowing has been completed; the second round will begin August 15th. HS Treadway also reported the lattice on the new board walk has been completed. He went on to report the garbage and recycling has doubled, keeping the crew busy. The Whitehall transfer station used to be open on Tuesday, however now they are not, so it takes another half day to complete the recycling. HS Treadway said the dredging has gained approval from the APA (Adirondack Park Agency), the permit will come in the following week, and the work will be done after Labor Day. Cee McKenzie commented that whoever was doing the roadside mowing was doing an excellent job showing concern for the safety of residents by turning off the mower when residents walked by and not restarting until the residents were a safe distance from the mower. Galen Seerup asked about catching the water coming off from Gabriel's property and

sending it in a different direction. HS Treadway said the culverts mentioned earlier would be used to fix that area also.

Al Coulter from Gull Bay asked what could be done about the grass at the Casino, as it's not being tended to. Supervisor LaPointe said it was private property and jokingly added Mr. Coulter could go mow it if he wanted to, Mr. Coulter replied he will and bill the town.

Planning Board report (7:40)

Bob Rudt reported the Planning Board meeting took place the prior evening. There were three projects on the agenda. The first was the Tim Johnson/Marta Kolman property, they would like to build a house on a road that may or may not be an official road in Royal Anchorage. The plan would close the road which will eliminate a turnaround in Royal Anchorage effectively make all roads there dead ends. The Planning Boards concern is if emergency vehicles will have access. The second property discussed is the Janicelli property, a log style home on Warrick Road near the Adirondack Camp. They have obtained permits and permission from the outside agencies. That project was accepted and a public hearing is scheduled. The third project discussed was the Devlin property that was successful in getting an APA variance and they also have a storm water permit. Mr. Rudt went on to give a personal opinion saying there was a point in time when the pendulum swung on the planning board and the planning board was helping people. He now feels the pendulum has swung in the other direction. He stated all three projects had outside agencies approvals yet it took two and a half hours while the Planning Board "grilled these people". Mr. Rudt stated he felt it shouldn't have taken that long and it shouldn't be that hard for people. Supervisor LaPointe asked what Mr. Rudt felt was the solution. Mr. Rudt replied "we need to redefine the objectives of the Planning Board" to keep projects on track rather than derail them. Mr. Rudt stated the storm water stuff is getting crazy, with people blasting and pumping rainwater uphill so it can run back down, and blasting areas to plant bushes. He asked "where is the ecological sense in that?" He stated they need some common sense. Councilman Harris commented what we are looking for is common sense, and don't make people do more than they have to do, the Planning Board should be helping people. He stated his biggest problem with the Planning Board is that things are made harder than they have to be. Councilman Harris commented "We should be helping our residents".

Old business (7:45)

Park Dedication: Supervisor LaPointe reported there was a special meeting where the dedication was discussed. The dedication will take place on the 11th of August. A program for the dedication is being set up. Invitations were sent to distinguished guests, and a general invitation to the public was published on the town page on Facebook. Park rules were also discussed at the meeting. Councilman Wilson read the rules aloud:

- Park is open from dawn to dusk daily
 - Alcohol is prohibited
 - Pets must be leashed
 - Pet waste must be picked up
 - NO glass containers
 - NO motorized vehicles on the grass
 - NO dumping. Carry in carry out. Take your garbage when you leave
 - Grills must be cleaned after use, and waste put in approved containers
 - NO discharge of fire arms on park grounds
 - NO excessive noise
 - Children under 12 must be supervised by a responsible person
 - NO profane/obscene language/gestures
 - NO overnight parking or camping. Vehicles will be towed
-

Councilman Wilson continued that the standard agreement was also discussed. When the pavilion is reserved people will be asked to make a two hundred (\$200) dollar refundable deposit. After the event if the park is properly cleaned and garbage removed the deposit will be refunded. A special meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 30 at 5p.m. at the Putnam Town Hall was scheduled.

Supervisor LaPointe addressed the board about naming the pavilion in honor of Jim King, a locally born man whose extensive life achievements included serving in the Marine Corps as captain in Okinawa and Vietnam, senior marine instructor at the Naval Justice School in Newport, R.I., Judge Advocate to the Fleet Marine Force, he was promoted to brigadier general and became the corps' highest ranking JAG officer as the director of the Judge Advocate Division, headed the Tort Unit-Claims Bureau in the Office of the Attorney General. In 1984, he became an adjunct professor at Albany Law School, elected State Assembly (109th A.D.), he served as ranking minority member of the Assembly Codes Committee, served as a judicial hearing officer and was appointed as hearing officer for the NYS Retirement System, served on the NYS Commission on Public Authority Reform, the Temporary Commission on Lobbying (member and chair), and the State Commission on Public Integrity, the Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association awarded Judge King its prestigious Hon. James R. Duane Award, given to individuals who have demonstrated "a deep personal commitment to the preservation and understanding of our legal heritage", he received the Lifetime Achievement in Public Service Award from the Government Law Center at Albany Law School, and served as a board member of the PARC Committee in Plattsburgh.

Resolution #77

Dedicate the Cummings Park Pavilion in honor of James King

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

Supervisor LaPointe covered a list of dignitaries whom he invited to the park dedication.

Putnam Volunteer Fire Department report (7:55)

Cee McKenzie reported that she and Councilman Hart attended the monthly meeting with the fire company. In the meeting they reviewed the budgets from the past few years. Recommendations were made going forward. The fire company will be ready to present the anticipated budget for 2019 to the board in August. Ms. McKenzie reported the fire company is making progress. Councilman Wilson joined stating the company is facing regulatory requirements that are driving costs up. The new budget is allowing a deeper look into what the fire company will need in the future. Bert Windle suggested inviting a state official to the budget presentation so they can better understand the fire departments financial difficulties.

Resolution #78 (8:04)

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

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

Regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Next meeting: August 9th, 2018 at 7P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

July 12th, 2018 Minutes

John LaPointe _____ Supervisor

Darrell Wilson _____ Councilman

Kevin Hart _____ Councilman

Shirley Randall _____ Councilwoman

Greg Harris _____ Councilman