

**Regular Meeting**  
**Of the**  
**Putnam Town Board**

January 11, 2024, 7PM ~ Putnam Town Hall ~ Zoom

**7:00 Meeting called to order**

Councilman Larry Shiell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

**Members present:** Supervisor Darrell Wilson  
Councilwoman Carole Schneider  
Councilwoman Kayla Bennett  
Councilman Larry Shiell  
Councilman Charles Bain

**Others present:** Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 14), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane, Bill Brown (Planning Board Chair, 17 Charter Brook Lane), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Kay Greenough (Resident, 427 County Route 3), Chris Mallon (Resident, 575 Liddle-Harris Road), Dave Hayes (Putnam Volunteer Fire Dept., 560 Gull Bay Road), Mark Karlson (Planning Board Member, 2388 Black Point Way), Leslie Bain (Resident, 371 Peterson Road).

**Present via ZOOM:** Robert Winn (Town Attorney, 13 North Street Granville, NY 12832), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, Budget Officer, 526 Gull Bay Rd), Karl Ohly (Resident, 428 County Route 3)

**Resolution #1**

**Accept the minutes of the December 2023 Regular meeting**

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilwoman Kayla Bennett; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution #2**

**Accept the minutes of the 2023 End of Year meeting & 2024 Organizational meeting**

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilwoman Kayla Bennett, all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution #3**

**Accept the Financial reports for the month of December 2023**

On motion of Councilwoman Kayla Bennett, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution #4**

**Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of December 2023**

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

**Resolution #5**

**Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of December 2023**

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor.  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution #6**

**Pay bills as audited**

On motion of Councilman Larry Shiell, seconded by Councilwoman Kayla Bennett; all in favor.  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

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

General Fund	# 1-7	\$3,898.02
Highway Fund	# 1-7	\$10,988.85
Black Point Sewer District	#1	\$21,123.14

**Correspondence**

Dave Manchester -regarding the town hall and fire false alarms. (See attached)

Sarah Brancatella – Association of Towns, Regarding Even Year Legislation (See attached)

**Courtesy of the floor**

Cynthia Floor addressed the Board first. Ms. Floor gave an update on the payment status of money owed to her from the contractors of the CHPE project. United Civil has paid her for her car repair, however TDI still owes her “several thousand dollars” as of this date.

**Highway Report** (7:09)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported that Cummings Park erosion will be assessed by various agencies and professionals including Washington County Water & Soil, Army Corp of Engineers, a Civil Engineer, the Highway Superintendent, and various Board members, the Tuesday following the board meeting. HS Treadway also indicated he has been working with Beth Gillis on preparation for applying for possible grants and funding. HS Treadway revisited the topic of a new mower; the current cost is \$24,101.18. The mower was discussed last year and is in the budget. HS Treadway will order the mower this year.

**Resolution #7**

**Authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase a side mower**

On motion of Supervisor Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor.  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Planning Board Report**

Chairman Bill Brown reported that the Planning Board had two projects on their agenda the evening before. The first is located at 76 Gull Bay, a garage for storage. The second was Mr. Agree from Black Point Road who was asked to appear via ZOOM to the Planning Board for an unpermitted build. Chairman Brown presented the Board with a proposed change to the Site Plan application permitting the Planning Board to enter a property, with notice, to inspect to be sure the Site Plan Review submitted is being followed. Councilwoman Carole Schneider expressed she felt residents should be asked before entering a property and not forced to sign an agreement. Town Attorney Winn opined that when someone is asking for site plan approval, they are basically consenting to disclosure of what’s going on, on their property. Attorney Winn also stated he thought it should be done on an appointment basis with notice to

the property owner. No action was taken it will be addressed again at next month's meeting. Councilwoman Schneider expressed concern that a Compliance Officer could possibly be over utilized. Chairman Brown advised that Mark Karlson will act as his deputy in 2024.

**Fire Department report (7:19)**

Fire Department member Dave Hayes presented the Board with the fire department's 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report for 2023. (See Attached)

**Old Business**

Supervisor Wilson re-introduced the Employee Handbook currently being developed, and the policies it will contain. Each month the Board will adopt new policies to be included in the handbook.

**Resolution #8**

**Adopt the following policies on, Civil Service Department, Falsification of Employment Application, and Employee Evaluations**

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

Cemetery Regulations- Supervisor Wilson reviewed the proposed cemetery regulations and specifications for stone placement in the cemetery. Supervisor Wilson suggested depending on the company placing the stones there are contradictory specifications. It was suggested that the specification is "per industry standard" rather than giving an engineering diagram for placement in the regulations. Attorney Winn suggested that the regulations state clearly what happens to a plot with the death of the owner. Additional clarifications items suggested by Attorney Winn are clarification on resale of a plot, clarification of disinterment laws in New York, and clarification on expected courtesy of funerals and also a reiteration of how to handle clippings and waste when cleaning a plot by individuals.

**New Business**

The Town Clerk has completed a Record of Activity (ROA) for the state retirement system. The ROA will need to be accepted by the Board before it can be submitted to the state.

**Resolution #9**

**Accept the Town Clerk's Record of Activity**

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

**Resolution #10 (8:03)**

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

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilwoman Kayla Bennett; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Next meeting is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7PM at the Putnam Town Hall and ZOOM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr  
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor

Christopher Mallon \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman

Carole Schneider \_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman

Larry Shiell \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman

Charles Bain Sr. \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman

**Putnam Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC)**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023 Report to the Putnam Town Board**  
**January 11, 2024**  
**Presented by D. Hayes, PVFC Secretary**

**Staffing and Training**

There are currently 10 members in the Putnam Volunteer Fire Co.. Seven members are Interior Firefighters, two are Exterior Firefighters, and one has completed the fire police course. Two members are certified EMT's and all members have current CPR certifications. Company members are expected to regularly refresh and update their skills through weekly drills and formal coursework led by NYS certified instructors. During 2023 members of the fire company took the following courses:

*Conference on Legal Issues Facing Fire Departments* --- Scott Cook, Sue Tucker, Dan Tucker

*Basic Exterior Fire Operations* --- James Gijanto

*Interior Fire Operations* --- Chris Grill, Gavin Tucker

*Cancer Reduction and Firefighter Decontamination* --- Mike Wallace, James Gijanto, Gavin Tucker, Sue Tucker, and Dan Tucker

*Rescue Technician Basic Training* --- Dan Tucker, Gavin Tucker

**Emergency Responses**

During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter the PVFC received fifteen 911 calls resulting in 73 calls for all of 2023. This can be compared with 102 calls in 2022 and an average of 72 calls/year for 2017-23. Our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter calls were as follows:

EMS --- 10

Smoke in a house --- 1

Motor Vehicle Accidents in Putnam --- 1

Water Rescue in Gull Bay --- 1

Fire alarm activations in Putnam (but no fire) --- 1

Standby at the Ticonderoga Fire station --- 1

To provide historical context a table is included as an appendix to this report summarizing the number and types of 911 callouts the fire company has received since 2017.

**Budget Forecast, Expenditures, and Overall Financial Condition of the Company**

We have enclosed as an appendix the current version of our 2024 budget (revenues and forecasted expenditures). The balance in our operating budget account at the end of December was \$16,576.40, which must last until March 1, 2024 when we receive next year's contractual payment from the Town for emergency services. Monies set aside in previous years to put in our truck replacement fund are now directed to making loan payments of \$34,666.11

on our new fire engine. We are currently carrying two truck loans with total annual payments of \$65,096.59, or 39% of our total budget. Final loan payments are in 2028 and 2039.

Other significant changes in our 2024 budget forecast relative to 2023 are an increase of \$1,000 for propane, a reduction of \$5,000 in anticipated expenses for turnout gear, a reduction of \$8,000 for unplanned truck repairs, a reduction of \$5,000 in grant writing expenses, and an increase of \$6,000 to replace truck tires.

Our 2024 budget forecast is balanced with a \$20,000 end-of-calendar-year surplus to carry us through the first two months of 2025.

### **Condition of the Fire Trucks**

The PVFC has five fire trucks: two engine/pumpers and one water tanker for fighting fires and responding to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous incidents, one SUV (a Chevrolet Tahoe) for EMS calls, and one truck to take members and their gear to rescue scenes, including water and ice rescues. The latter truck was purchased from another fire company using funds donated by Putnam Town residents. During 2023, also using fundraising funds, we purchased a 20-foot boat to use in water rescues and were given, at no cost, a hovercraft from the North Queensbury Fire District to use with ice rescues.

All our trucks undergo regular servicing and NYS inspections. Our newest pumper arrived this past summer and replaced a truck that was 32 years old. It is short and has 4-wheel drive making it particularly suitable for reaching houses on narrow and unpaved roads, such as are found in the Gull Bay and Glenburnie areas. It carries 1200 gallons of water, compared with 500 gallons on the truck it replaced. Our next newest pumper is 10 years old, and our tanker is 21 years old. Our fire trucks collectively carry 5,000 gallons of water, which is needed because the Town does not have fire hydrants.

### **Condition of other Equipment**

Our other emergency response equipment is in good shape. There is a need for annual inspections and replacement of hoses and air-packs, inspections of ladders and fire extinguishers, and calibration checks of air monitors. We are up-to-date on all of these and the future costs of doing these are built into each year's budget forecast.

### **Condition of the Fire Station Building and Grounds**

The fire station has many maintenance needs but none of them are emergencies. All the basic systems, heating, septic, electrical, and water, are functioning properly. The maintenance concerns pertain to poor insulation, poor condition of the interior paint, broken plumbing fixtures, and the poor condition of the interior walls. During both 2023 and 2024 we have set aside \$10,000 in our budget for building maintenance. With these funds, and more, in 2023 we hired a contractor to paint the walls in the main truck bay and we installed a 26 KW standby generator for the firehouse. The latter allowed the firehouse to serve as a warming site during a recent all-day planned power outage. In general, we would like the firehouse to serve as a place of refuge in case of a Town emergency.

### **Communications to the Community**

Our annual newsletter was mailed to all Putnam property owners during July.

### **External Grant Applications**

In August we received word that our \$24,000 FEMA-AFG grant was approved. It will be used to purchase an extractor (washer) and dryer for our turnout gear. This was our second attempt to obtain AFG funding for this equipment after having been turned down in 2021. Also, in late 2023, we received notification that our application to DEC for a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for assorted equipment (adaptors, Siamese clapper valve, 1" nozzle) and 200' of 2 1/2" attack hose was approved. Finally, in early 2024 an application for a \$35,000 grant from the Firehouse Subs Foundation was submitted. If awarded these funds would be used to make modifications to two of our firefighting trucks that would accelerate how fast we can deploy water at the scene of a fire.

### **Fundraising Efforts**

Our annual Chicken BBQ in July was the only fundraising effort during 2023. However, our annual newsletter to the Putnam community elicited over \$10,000 in donations to the fire company, for which we are very grateful.

### PVFC Incident Statistics

Prepared by D. Hayes --- Last Updated on 01/10/2024

Type of Incident	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% of Responses Since 2017
EMS	31	22	30	35	29	47	31	44.4
False & Cancelled Alarms	8	10	8	5	5	7	10	10.5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	5	4	2	5	12	8	8.1
Water Rescues	1		2	2	1	4	5	3.0
Ice Rescues	2			1		2	0	1.0
Other Rescues (hiking, snowmobiling, etc.)				1		0	0	0.2
Standbys at Ti Fire Station	4	9	8	5	10	2	2	7.9
Standbys at Putnam Fire Station					1	1	1	0.6
Standbys at Dresden Fire Station				1		0	0	0.2
Standbys at Whitehall Fire Station				1		0	0	0.2
Fires in Putnam		6	5	4	5	5	3	5.5
Fires in Ticonderoga	1	6	3	2	6	10	4	6.3
Fires in Dresden	1	1	1			3	1	1.4
Smoke	1	2		2	1	0	4	2.0
CO Alarms	1		1			1	0	0.6
Service calls (water in cellar, tree on road)	2		3			0	1	1.2
Hazardous Situations (Elec., Chem.)	1	2		1		0	0	0.8
Power Lines Down	1	1	2	5	10	7	2	5.5
Lightning strikes		1				0	0	0.2
Other		1				1	1	0.6
	<b>CHECK THE % SUMMATION</b>							<b>100.0</b>
<b>TOTAL # OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>507</b>







# TOWN OF PUTNAM PLANNING BOARD

## Site Plan Review Application

1. Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Applicants Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Property Location:  
Deed Reference: Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.  
Tax Map Number: Section \_\_\_\_\_, Block \_\_\_\_\_, Lot \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Is the subject lot within 500 feet of a county or State Right of Way, Park, Municipal Boundary or a Watershed that drains into any County or State Facility that requires review by the County Planning Board (General Municipal Law 239 [m]) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

5. Adirondack Park Agency Land Use Classification [ ] Hamlet; [ ] Moderate Intensity (1.28 acres); [ ] Low Intensity (3.2 acres); [ ] Rural Use (8.53 acres); [ ] Resource Mgmt (42.66 acres).

6. Current Use of Property: [ ] Vacant; [ ] Residence; [ ] Business; [ ] Other

7. Proposed Use/Development: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Total Site Area: \_\_\_\_\_ square feet, or \_\_\_\_\_ acres.

9. Anticipated Construction Schedule: Start: \_\_\_\_\_ Complete: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Other approvals/permits:  
[ ] Adirondack Park Agency, Permit # \_\_\_\_\_.  
[ ] Lake George Park Commission, Permit # \_\_\_\_\_.

NYS Dept. of Health, Permit # \_\_\_\_\_.

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Permit # \_\_\_\_\_.

Other \_\_\_\_\_.

11. Character of Surrounding Lands: (ie, residential, agricultural, wooded, wetlands, etc.)

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12. Site Plan Drawing: Please provide a site plan drawing showing the details of the existing lot and the proposed development and/or use. The site plan drawing must include at a minimum the following:

- a) Title of drawing, including the name of the property owner, person responsible for preparing the drawing, date of the drawing and any revisions;
- b) North arrow and scale;
- c) All property boundaries. If it is not practicable to include all property boundaries, show the area to be developed and include an inset showing the property boundaries;
- d) All existing water courses, including streams, ponds, lakes, wetlands, drainage ways etc;
- e) The location of all existing structures including exterior dimensions. Each structure should be labeled to indicate its use;
- f) Location of all proposed development/uses including exterior dimensions;
- g) Location, design, and dimensions of all existing driveways and parking areas;
- h) Pedestrian access;
- i) Location and use of all outdoor storage;
- j) Location and design of existing and or proposed wastewater treatment facilities;
- k) Location, type and design of any existing or proposed storm water mgmt. facility;
- l) Location and design of all fresh water supply systems (wells);
- m) Means of access for emergency vehicles;
- n) Location, size, design and type of all proposed signs;
- o) Location and design of all proposed buffer areas, including all existing vegetative cover;
- p) Location, type and design of all existing and proposed outdoor lighting;
- q) Landscaping, grading and drainage plan showing existing and proposed contours;
- r) Any other elements of the proposal necessary for consideration by the Putnam Planning Board.

13. Surrounding Properties: Please provide the Names and mailing addresses for all properties that touch your property, so that adjoining neighbors can be notified of your proposal project. This information can be found in the office of the Town Clerk or Washington County Real Property Office.

14. Keep all vehicles and construction material on the property involved, so as to minimize the disturbance for neighbors and by not blocking thorough fares.

By signing this application you provide approval for the Planning Board Members to come look at your property with prior notice.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

Approved by Putnam Planning Board:

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Signature

Planning Board meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Putnam Town Hall. All proposals must be submitted to the clerk 10 days before the meeting to get on the monthly agenda. If you need to contact the clerk, Paula Wilson please call days at #518-984-0005. I'm also available evening and weekends at #518-547-8356.

Paula Wilson  
Planning Board Clerk  
15 County Route 3  
Putnam Station, NY 12861

**TOWN OF PUTNAM PLANNING BOARD**  
**Subdivision Application**

1. Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Applicants Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agent Designation Form needed Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Property Location:  
Deed Reference: Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.  
Tax Map Number: Section \_\_\_\_\_, Block \_\_\_\_\_, Lot \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Adirondack Park Agency Land Use Classification [ ] Hamlet; [ ] Moderate Intensity (1.28 acres); [ ] Low Intensity (3.2 acres); [ ] Rural Use (8.53 acres); [ ] Resource Mgmt. (42.66 acres).

5. Number of Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Lots \_\_\_\_\_

6. Existing Easements or Other Restrictions on Property:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Other approvals/permits:

- [ ] Adirondack Park Agency, Permit # \_\_\_\_\_.
- [ ] Lake George Park Commission, Permit # \_\_\_\_\_.
- [ ] NYS Dept. of Health, Permit # \_\_\_\_\_.
- [ ] NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Permit # \_\_\_\_\_.
- [ ] Other \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Surrounding Properties: Please provide the Names and mailing addresses for all properties that touch your property, so that adjoining neighbors can be notified of your proposal project. This information can be found in the office of the Town Clerk or Washington County Real Property website [www.washingtoncounty.ny.gov](http://www.washingtoncounty.ny.gov) – Image Mate

*The undersigned hereby request approval by the Putnam Planning Board of the above-itemized subdivision and, as a condition of this application and covenants and agrees to adhere to all conditions established by the Board. The applicant also agrees that the ultimate deeds or conveyances of any portion or all of the subdivided property shall contain reference to the approved subdivision map used as a basis for the property description. The undersigned further so covenants and agrees to comply with the provisions of subsequent respect to the subdivision, mapping, filing, conveyance, recording and development of this subdivision, or portions thereof, and with applicable sections of the New York State Real Property Law.*

*By signing this application you provide approval for the Planning Board Members to come look at your property with prior notice.*

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

Approved by Putnam Planning Board:

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Signature

Planning Board meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Putnam Town Hall. All proposals must be submitted to the clerk 10 days before the meeting to get on the monthly agenda. If you need to contact the clerk, Paula Wilson please call days at #518-984-0005. I'm also available evening and weekends at #518-547-8356.

Paula Wilson  
Planning Board Clerk  
15 County Route 3  
Putnam Station, NY 12861

# PUTNAM PLANNING BOARD

## Steps for Subdivision Approval

All information, applications, Sketch plans, Preliminary & Final Plat are to be submitted to the Planning Board Clerk Ten (10) days prior to the Regular Planning Board Meeting.

### MINOR

Step 1. Pre-Application

- a) Submit application
- b) Submit sketch plan (4 copies)
- c) Submit Proof of legal interest (deed)
- d) Submit Letters of jurisdictional determination / APA, LGPC, Health Dept. etc.
- e) Sub divider (or representative to attend all meetings)

**ACTION:** *Classification of sketch plan (Minor or Major) within 30 days*

Step 2. Application

- a) 5 copies of plat
- b) Fee \$50
- c) Topographical map
- d) Septic Approval
- e) Location of water source and septic system
- f) Sub divider (or representative to attend all meetings)

**ACTION:** *Accept application and set Public Hearing date*

Step 3. Sub divider to attend Public Hearing

**ACTION:** *Within 45 Days Approve, Modify, or Disapprove*

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### MAJOR

Step 1. Same as Minor Step 1

**ACTION:** *Classification of sketch Plan as Major*

Step 2. Preliminary plat

- a) 5 copies of plat
- b) Fee \$100 + \$25 per lot
- c) Sub divider to attend all meetings

**ACTION:** *Within 45 days (may be extended by mutual consent) hold Public Hearing*

Step 3. Public Hearing

- a) Sub divider to attend hearing

**ACTION:** *Within 45 days Conditional Approval, with or without modifications, or Disapproval.*

**Conditional approval:** *specific changes, extent or required improvements, amounts of bonds. Forward copy to Town Board.*



Step 4. Final plat

- b) 3 copies (1 on Mylar)
- c) Fee \$100 per family unit
- d) Endorsement from State and county Agencies

***ACTION: Hold Public Hearing within 30 days – Within 45 days Approve, Conditional Approval or Disapprove***

Paula Wilson  
Planning Board Clerk  
15 County Route 3  
Putnam Station, NY 12861  
#518-984-0005 Mon – Fri (8 am to 4:30 pm)  
#518-547-8356 home nights and weekends

***\*This is not intended to replace the Putnam Subdivision Regulations, which contain ALL needed information for subdivision application and approval.***

December 12, 2023  
5177 Sagamore Road  
Putnam Station, NY 12861

Mr. Darren Wilson, Supervisor  
Town of Putnam  
14 Putnam Center Road  
Putnam Station, NY 12861

Dear Mr. Wilson:

A couple of suggestions for your consideration:

**Town Hall:**

When I attended a Town Board meeting this summer, the physical limitations of the existing Town Hall were discussed by the Board. At that time, I made the suggestion that Putnam consider utilizing the revenue-stream from the Utility Line Installation to acquire property and build a new Town Hall that would better serve the community. I suggested that a location along Route 22 would be ideal. Board members noted that a combination with the Fire Dept. would not be feasible.

In October, while purchasing garbage tickets from Darlene Kerr, I learned that she has purchased an existing home in Putnam and will not be building a new house on her property on Route 22. It is my observation that the Kerr property would be that IDEAL location for a new Town Hall. I urge the Town Board to give serious consideration to this concept.

**Fire False Alarms:**

Another topic that arose at that same summer Town Board Meeting was the cost of responding to false fire/security alarms. The discussion focused on Black Point Road, where Ticonderoga FD has to respond, regardless of whether the property may well be within the borders of Putnam Station. I noted that in many communities, property owners are held liable for the cost of responses to false alarms. (Often, a single event in a calendar year is "without charge", but subsequent false alarms involve a fine being levied against the applicable property owner.) In fact, I confirmed with our local Fire Protection District that this is, in fact, their policy – a "free" false alarm, followed by progressive fines (starting at \$100 and going up for subsequent false alarms). This encourages property owners to properly maintain their alarm systems and puts the financial burden on those who are causing the problems, not on the entire tax base.

Again, I encourage Putnam to evaluate whether or not this type of fine-system would have merit.

We are back in IL for the winter, but will return to Putnam again in May!

Thanks for your consideration of these 2 suggestions.

Sincerely,  
David Manchester  
(708) 710-7689



[Dmanchester@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Dmanchester@sbcglobal.net)



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## Even Year Election Legislation Adopted

1 message

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Sarah Brancatella <sbrancatella@nytowns.org>  
To: Sarah Brancatella <sbrancatella@nytowns.org>

Fri, Dec 22, 2023 at 6:39 PM

This evening, Governor Hochul signed legislation that changes election years for most town and county positions from odd to even years to coincide with national and statewide elections. **Please note this law does not impact the term of office for anyone elected in November 2023.** Below is an FAQ on the law.

### What does S3505B/A4282B do?

Among other things, it changes election years for town positions, except for town justices, and various county positions from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years. The reasoning behind the switch is to increase voter turnout in local elections.

### Why switch election years?

The stated purpose of the law is to increase voter turnout in local elections. Some towns already have elections in even years and therefore this bill will not impact them.

### How will the switch to even years take place?

As stated, if you were elected in 2023, you will serve your full term. In order to transition to even years, there will also be town elections in 2025 and 2027; however, one year will be taken off the term of office, for one time only. For example, if you have a two-year term of office and ran in 2023, you will serve your full two years. If you choose to run again after completing your term, there will be an election in 2025 but it will be for a one-year term, and you will have to run for re-election in 2026. If you have a four-year term of office and ran in 2023, you will serve your full four years, and if you decide to run for reelection, you will run at the 2027 election; however, it will only be for a three-year term. Then, in 2030, the term of office will return to four years.

### Why aren't all local elections / all positions changed to even years?

Some positions, like town justices and county judges, have constitutional provisions that come into play and there would need to be an amendment to the New York State Constitution to switch those elections to even years. A constitutional amendment would also be required for city elections, and therefore they are not included in the legislation. Finally, villages are not included as they have a different election cycle and conduct elections themselves.

Sarah B. Brancatella  
Legislative Director and Counsel