

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

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD  
OCTOBER 13, 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.

## **7:00 Meeting called to order**

Councilman Kevin Hart 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

**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), Bob & Sandy Coulter (Residents, 3512 Gull Bay Ridge Way), William McCarty (Sole Assessor, 224 County Route 62, Cambridge, NY 12816)

## **Resolution # 85**

### **Accept the minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting**

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

## **Resolution # 86**

### **Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of September, 2016**

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

## **Resolution # 87**

### **Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of September, 2016**

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

**Resolution # 88**

**Pay bill as audited**

On motion of Councilwoman Shirley Randall, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; Resolution unanimously adopted.

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

General Fund	# 294-333	\$20,866.30
Highway Fund	# 143-158	\$10,215.68
Black Point Sewer District	# 7	\$69,738.33
Royal Anchorage Sewer District	# 3-4	\$12,465.64
Cumming Park	# 3-4	\$1,064.30

**Correspondence** (7:08)

Email from Aimee K. Furdyna as read aloud by Supervisor LaPointe.

“Dear Ms. Kerr, Attached is information regarding the use of personal flotation devices, life jackets, on public bathing beaches that I received from the Department of Health DOH. I’d appreciate it if you would ensure that all of the town board members receive this information. I reached out to the DOH after an incident this summer wherein my neighbors were told by the beach lifeguard, and her supervisor, that children are not allowed to wear life jackets on the beach, that it is the law. I am an attorney and policy writer, and I find it troubling when someone holds out that a rule is the law when that is not in fact the case. I understand that a town may set its own rules and policies, as the DOH email indicates. However, such rules must be properly promulgated and published, available for comment, and posted at the site. I couldn’t find any such rule published on the town website, and it is not included in the rules posted at the beach. I can only conclude, then, that it is not official town policy. I appreciate the board taking up this matter and reviewing this email and the attached materials. Thank you, Aimee Furdyna.”

Supervisor LaPointe continued he has given each board member a copy of the correspondence and it will be reviewed. He went on to say “it” isn’t a law the lifeguard did tell people it is a law, but it’s a policy of the town, that was an error on the part of the lifeguard.

**Invited guest William McCarty Putnam’s Sole Assessor** (7:09)

Assessor McCarty was invited to attend the meeting to answer questions raised at the previous month’s meeting about Mr. McCarty’s duties as assessor. After a brief introduction of Mr. McCarty the floor was opened for questions. Bert Windle posed the first question. Mr. Windle stated at the last meeting he had asked to see a copy of Mr. McCarty’s contract with the town. He came to understand that there isn’t one. Supervisor LaPointe interjected that Mr. McCarty is a town employee. Mr. Windle went on to say he’s trying to find a list of duties that Mr. McCarty covers as the assessor, and asked, when and how Mr. McCarty was accessible to residents. Mr. McCarty responded that he’s available anytime by phone, and added he does make site visits; also, he comes 3 to 4 times a year to do field work. Mr. Windle went on to say he’s the Chairman of the Tax Committee for the LCP (Lake Communities of Putnam) and that many of the residents that he represents are “snow birds”. Mr. Windle expressed concern that grievance day is in late May, which means summer residents have to try to come back early to make it to the meeting. Mr. Windle went on to ask if some provision could be made, for seasonal residents, for Mr. McCarty to visit their property and discuss their particular properties. Mr. McCarty responded that he didn’t think it was always necessary to visit a property, Mr. Windle agreed. Mr. Windle went on to state that the previous assessor had been here for 28 years and had walked every property in town at some time during the 28 years, then a new computerized assessing came where, “the guy flew” past the properties in a vehicle, he then assessed properties not knowing where the property lines were. Mr. Windle went on to say he had

contacted Mr. McCarty about the previous assessments believing they were wrong. Mr. McCarty's response was that the method used was an acceptable practice in assessing. Mr. Windle said it left some concern that the "tax payer was not being treated properly". Mr. Windle stated that some people are over paying "dramatically". Mr. Windle then explained he wanted to see Mr. McCarty's contract to see if the assessor had an obligation to review assessments or if he only need to act on complaints. Mr. McCarty responded by saying the assessment role is deemed accurate unless someone questions it and proves it to be inaccurate. Mr. McCarty also said that if people have issues they can contact him, he'll review it and make a change or not based on the findings. Mr. McCarty pointed out there is a process to go through for review with the board of review (BAR) and then the courts if necessary. Mr. Windle asked if there is a written job description any place. Mr. McCarty responded there is a brochure put out by the state. Mr. Windle said he had read it, but it didn't give a job description. Bob Rudt (Planning Board) asked Mr. McCarty for a rough idea of how many new houses or construction sites there are currently active in town. Mr. McCarty said there are 3 or 4 new homes and some construction completion. Mr. McCarty also said he gets the planning board minutes every month that he reviews. Mr. Windle re-entered the conversation saying he'd been asked many times from the membership how, during the reval, each individual's increase or reduction was arrived at. Mr. Windle stated through research, no justification could be found for the discrepancies as to why some people got a 1% reduction while others got up to a 32% reduction. He asserted that it creates the "conceptual position of the taxpayer there's something phony going on".

#### **Courtesy of the floor** (7:23) (4 minute time limit)

Mr. Busby inquired if there are any plans in the future to blacktop portions of Peterson Road. Highway Superintendent Treadway responded it has been discussed in the past because the dirt road is high maintenance. Mr. Busby said he knows every year Peterson takes a lot of work, and thought some of the hills on the road would benefit from blacktop to stop them from washing out in the spring. He suggested it be thought about in the future and that it could be done "little by little". Supervisor LaPointe added "we can take a look at it" Mr. Busby said he believed there would be more activity on the road after the towers go in. Councilman Hart added to the discussion saying that Schwerdtfeger Road was the same way; it was done a little at a time as "we could afford it". Supervisor LaPointe asked Highway Superintendent Gary Treadway to take a look at it and present his findings to the board. HS Treadway agreed to do this. Bob Rudt asked if the savings from the lack of snow last year could be used for some of the paving. Councilman Hart replied it had already been "eaten up" fixing Lake Road. He went on to say there wasn't a good base on Lake Road and it needed to be fixed.

#### **Highway Report** (7:29)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported the crew worked with Dresden for a day to shoulder parts of Lake Road. The crew also patched some potholes. They've also been working at the park. The equipment is running well. Supervisor LaPointe asked if they were ready for the first snow storm. HS Treadway said they were ready. Councilman Hart asked how the new truck was working. HS Treadway said it was running and working great. Bob Rudt asked if anything was going to be done with the salt program this year. HS Treadway said there was a Salt Summit on October 24. 8:30-3 at the conference center at Ft. William Henry.

#### **Planning Board Report** (7:32)

Bob Rudt reported there were four items at the planning board meeting the previous evening. The first, Mrs. Leonforte is putting in a garage on her property on Liddle/Harris road, which was approved. The second was the subdivision of the Michalowski property. There are two parcels Mr. Michalowski owns, one being 600 acres, the second being 100 acres. The goal of Mr. Michalowski is to cut the parcels into two more equal parcels with no development plan. The APA (Adirondack Park Agency) has given approval. There will be a public hearing next month. The Third was the Gleisner/Earl project in Gull Bay. The lot, for the last thirty years, has been deemed unbuildable. They now want to build on it. They have

approval from the APA (Adirondack Park Agency). The plan is to build a 9'x11' building. There will be no septic system. There is a stream running through the property that years ago was classified AA (drinking water stream). Another issue before the board is Marta Kolman, who has placed a trailer within 15 feet of the lake. Ms. Kolman argued that the old building was 15 feet from the lake and her deed says she can place the trailer there. The Planning Board asked Ms. Kolman to produce the deed. The last item was a letter from a law firm stating there has been a judgement; the Whites have a right of way of 14 feet. Another law firm has been brought in to challenge that decision. There will be a workshop November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Putnam Town Hall to discuss issues surrounding the White subdivision. The Town attorney will be in attendance.

### **Sealed Bids for Highway Department Truck Opened**

Two bids were received. The first of the two was from Ross Chevrolet, the second from Wheatly Chevy. Ross Chevrolet's bid meets specs as listed. Bid is for \$32,570.00  
Wheatly Chevy's bid does not meet specs. The bid included no dollar amount. The dollar amount space on the bid sheet was left blank.

### **Old Business** (8:10)

Park Progress Supervisor LaPointe reported that the town crew has nearly completed the road to the lake; it should be completed by next week. The road and parking area to the pavilion will be next. Councilman Hart asked if the road would be wide enough to accommodate the fire trucks. HS Treadway responded it would be wide enough. HS Treadway said the new/used Gradall did a nice job. Mr. Busby asked what the opening date is. Supervisor LaPointe responded it's open now to anyone who would like to go down. Councilman Harris added a grand opening will be planned for next summer.

### **New Business** (8:17)

Tentative Budget is done and available for review. Copies are available at the Town Clerk's office during business hours, and will be available on the town website. A public hearing will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Supervisor LaPointe reported the budget percentage is flat this year.

Planning Board Appointment interviews were done September 12, 2016. The seat will go to Wayne Busby.

### **Resolution # 89**

#### **Appoint Wayne Busby to the Planning Board**

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

Planning Board Vacancy Supervisor LaPointe announced a second planning board seat will open in December, as Janet Mallon does not wish to be reappointed to the seat. An ad will be placed in the paper in November.

Board of Assessment Review Vacancy Supervisor LaPointe announced a seat on the BAR is vacant, Jodi Bruce does not wish to be reappointed. The new appointee's term will run until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. An ad will be placed in the paper.

### **Resolution # 90**

#### **Accept Ross Chevrolet's bid for truck**

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

Councilman Kevin Hart announced he is selling raffle tickets for a Mossberg Patriot Rifle, Caliber 308, wood stock, bolt action, with a scope and case. Winner will have a choice of the rifle or \$350. Winner must complete NY Safe Act forms to take possession of the gun.

The proceeds will benefit William (Bill) Hunsdon who lost part of his leg in an ATV accident. The funds will help cover medical costs incurred by Bill and his family. Drawing will be held November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Contact Kevin Hart (518) 547-8359.

**Motion to adjourn** (8:28)

On motion of Council woman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart;  
Meeting closed at 8:28 pm.

Next meeting is November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr  
Putnam Town Clerk

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

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

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

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

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