

Regular Meeting
Of the
Putnam Town Board
January 14, 2021 at 7p.m. ~ Putnam Town Hall ~ ZOOM

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilwoman Carole Schneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present:	Supervisor	Darrell Wilson
	Councilman	Christopher Mallon
	Councilman	Larry Shiell
	Councilwoman	Carole Schneider
	Councilman	Charles Bain

Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Town Clerk), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent), David Hayes (Putnam Volunteer Fire Department, Gull Bay), Doug Thatcher (Putnam Volunteer Fire Department Chief) **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), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), John Campbell (Resident, 5269 Sagamore Road)

Resolution # 1

Accept the minutes of the December 10, 2020 Regular Meeting

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

Resolution #2

Accept the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting November 17th, 2020

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

Resolution #3

Accept the minutes of the Public Hearing/End of Year/2021 Organizational Meeting, December 30th, 2020

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

Resolution #4

Accept the Town Clerk's Report for December 2020

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

Resolution # 5

Accept the Town Justice report for December 2020

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

Resolution #6

Pay bills as audited

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

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

General Fund	# 1-6	\$3,684.17
Highway Fund	# 1-10	\$12,816.41

Correspondence (7:05)

Correction to December minutes: Supervisor Wilson acknowledged and email from Nancy Wolf-Fisher. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher was not reflected in the minutes as being in attendance in December's minutes, however Mrs. Wolf-Fisher was in attendance via ZOOM.

Supervisor Wilson also acknowledged correspondence from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding recycling in Putnam. Supervisor Wilson advised he would be meeting with the DEC to discuss options for recycling.

Supervisor Wilson acknowledged an appeal to a FOIL request by Karl and Lani Ohly.

Courtesy of the floor (7:06)

NONE

Highway report (7:07)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported the stockpile and salt usage has been low so far this winter because of the mild temperatures. Training on the salt brine unit has not taken place yet. Warren and Washington Counties have encountered freezing issues with the unit and are working on a solution to that problem. Putnam still has enough brine for approximately 3-4 storms. Supervisor Wilson asked what the plan for the water source is when the brine making unit becomes available. HS Treadway replied that in coordination with Washington County it would be done in Whitehall as they have a municipal water source. HS Treadway suggested the possibility of the Putnam Volunteer Fire Department as a water source. Fire Chief Doug Thatcher replied this had been mentioned to him. Chief Thatcher also communicated that the FD would be able to supply water. Chief Thatcher and HS Treadway will coordinate the effort. Supervisor Wilson and HS Treadway thanked Chief Thatcher. Supervisor Wilson advised HS Treadway that he had communications with the owner of the land by the beach and had obtained permission to remove the dead and dying trees. As the discussion progressed it was determined that a professional tree service might be needed because of the arduous locations of the trees.

Resolution #7

Authorize Highway Superintendent to get proposals and outsource tree removal on Gull Bay

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

Planning Board report (7:16)

The Planning Board did not have a January meeting.

Fire Department report (7:17)

Councilman Larry Shiell introduced the Fire Chief Doug Thatcher to the Board. Councilman Shiell praised the Fire Department on moving quickly to sign a contract on time, before the start of the year. Saying he was happy that has happened. Chief Thatcher added that the FD is also happy about the contract. Chief Thatcher addressed the Board about language that was used regarding the FD in a past meeting, like “ambushed”, “extortion”. Chief Thatcher stated he believed they were harsh words, that is wasn’t extortion or an ambush, but more of a snowballed situation with the past administration. Chief Thatcher expressed that the FD is trying to be open with the Town and have been meeting with the Town for the past few years. Chief Thatcher expressed his desire to work with the Town going forward and be transparent. Chief Thatcher continued addressing the department’s need for a new truck. The Price of the truck they are looking at is around \$400,000 (four hundred thousand). The new truck will replace a 33-year-old truck. The target purchase year is 2023. Chief Thatcher also clarified that the FD would like to use the Town’s tax-exempt status on the purchase, however that would in no way make the Town liable if the FD were to default on the loan. Chief Thatcher thought perhaps the department could sell the truck in the private market, but the truck will never be a fire truck again due to its age. Councilman Mallon asked how much the annual payment would be. Chief Thatcher replied \$32,000 (thirty-two thousand) annually. Councilman Bain asked when the other truck will be paid off. Chief Thatcher replied 2028. Chief Thatcher also advised that purchasing a new truck requires a fourteen to sixteen (14-16) month lead time on a purchase. He also expressed that it was time sensitive as the pricing will increase in March. Councilman Bain asked if the 5 (five) years that the Department is carrying two truck loans will be manageable for the Department. David Hayes from the FD joined the conversation in response to Councilman Bain saying he had worked out budgets to 2028, and he felt the FD could handle it, that there is a smaller loan of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) that will be paid off in 2022, and a loan from the Town will be paid off in 2023. Once the two debts are retired the Department will have an increase of \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars) in their annual budget. That coupled with the increase from the Town, and the 2% increase each year, Mr. Hayes believed the budget was sustainable. Councilman Mallon asked if the big truck was still needed with the purchase of the new truck. Chief Thatcher replied “yes” explaining that Putnam does not have a municipal water district, so the FD must haul all of their water, saying the big truck is essential to doing their job efficiently. Chief Thatcher extended an invitation to anyone who would like to go to the firehouse and look around, ask questions, and become more familiar with the FD and equipment. Town Attorney John Breitenbach asked Chief Thatcher if he could get documents regarding the tax-exemption agreement, or any other documents the Town might need to sign, so that they can be reviewed. Chief Thatcher agreed to get those documents to Mr. Breitenbach. Supervisor Wilson thanked Chief Thatcher; Chief Thatcher thanked Supervisor Wilson in turn.

Old business (7:35)

Dog Law Update- Supervisor Wilson explained that the current dog law was adopted in 1988 and requires some updating, particularly in the penalty structure. The Town of Fort Ann updated their dog law in 2019. Their law can be used as a model to work from in updating Putnam’s Dog Law, bringing it up to modern standards. The Board is going to review current laws and review a draft with options of changes if they feel it necessary. If the Board should choose to change the law a draft will need to be available to the public by March so a public hearing can be set for May.

Annual Court Audit Resolution- Each year the Unified Court System of New York requires that Town Boards audit the court records, and that that audit be entered into the Board’s minutes. Putnam Town Court provides monthly records to the Board for audit.

Resolution #8

Audit of Town Justice records 2020

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

Solar amendment to the Site Plan Review- Supervisor Wilson revisited the topic of solar in Putnam, both residential and commercial applications. Supervisor Wilson mentioned Fort Edward's solar law as a model to refer to. Supervisor Wilson indicated he would like for the Board and Planning Board to address solar in the Site Plan Review. Supervisor Wilson also touched on the topic of moratoriums and how they are used. Councilman Bain asked if the Planning Board has had many applications to install solar equipment. Bob Rudt indicated the Planning Board has had one in the past, on Route 22, Sid and Bonnie Barnhart, however the infrastructure couldn't support the project, so the preliminary discussions were abandoned. Mr. Rudt indicated he knew about 3 residential applications in Putnam. He indicated that the Site Plan Review does lightly address solar with 1 megawatt being the cut off between residential and commercial applications. He continued that the Site Plan Review as passed does allow residential solar applications. Supervisor Wilson asked Mr. Rudt if the Planning Board would like more structure to the Site Plan Review regarding solar or if they'd like to continue with the "wide lane" they have. Mr. Rudt indicated that the questions the Planning Board asks an applicant with a solar application are not specifically written into the Site Plan Review Law. The one application approved by the Planning Board was an "easy" one where no one could see the panels, he pointed out that a more complicated application that might impact view of a neighbor or the public are not precluded currently. Town Attorney John Breitenbach suggested researching other agencies like, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and the State to gauge what regulations are already in place in Putnam, then build from there on a law or regulations for Putnam. Councilman Shiell agreed with Attorney Breitenbach adding he'd like to help the Planning Board with clarifying the guidelines for residential installations.

New business (8:08)

Office equipment needs- Supervisor Wilson revisited the discussion about office purchases. Since the discussion last month other needs have risen. Primarily the need for workspace and record storage at the Town Hall. The Town Clerk also addressed the conversation relaying that the current printer/copier/fax in the Clerk's office is 18 years old and replacement parts are no longer available, the machine is periodically malfunctioning indicating it will need replacement soon.

Resolution #9

Approve purchase of office furniture and authorize the Town Clerk to obtain quotes for a replacement copier/fax/printer/scan.

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

Health Emergency Plan- The State is requiring public employers to have a Health Emergency Plan in place by April of 2021. Supervisor Wilson has put one together using templates supplied by NYMIR (New York State Insurance Reciprocal) for the Board to review. A draft needs to be submitted to the Union before February 1, 2021. Supervisor Wilson indicated a discussion would be on the Agenda in February.

Councilman Bain asked if anyone was working with the Budget Officer so that when he retires the Town will know "what's going on". Supervisor Wilson replied that he was working with the Budget Officer.

Councilwoman Schneider asked about the status of Slic, an internet service provider building out in Putnam. Supervisor Wilson said he had attempted to contact Slic, however he has not had a response to date. Councilman Shiell advised he had spoken by phone with them on 3 separate occasions trying to contact Kevin Lynch. Councilman Shiell indicated he also has not received any return calls from Mr. Lynch. Councilman Shiell advised he did speak with a lady at Slic who relayed the biggest problem for

Slic installation in Putnam currently is that National Grid has not released their poles to Slick. Chief Thatcher joined the conversations saying he had spoken with Tony Macy from Crown Point who is sub-contracted to Slic for installation of the wire. Mr. Macy indicated their delay is due to the Department of Transportation (DOT). DOT has not issued permits yet.

Resolution # 10

Adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM

Next regular meeting, February 11, 2021 at 7PM via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson _____ Supervisor
Christopher Mallon _____ Councilman
Larry Shieff _____ Councilman
Carole Schneider _____ Councilwoman
Charles Bain Sr. _____ Councilman