

Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD
JANUARY 10, 2019
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	Kevin Hart
	Councilwoman	Shirley Randall
	Councilman	Greg Harris

Members absent:	Councilman	Darrell Wilson
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Others present: 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), Larry Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Charlie Bain (Boat Launch attendant, 17 Bain Lane), Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chair, 17360 State Route 22), Walt Lender (Lake George Association Executive Director)

Resolution #1

Accept the minutes of the December 13, 2018 meeting

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

Resolution #2

Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of December 2018

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

Resolution #3

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of December 2018

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

Resolution #4

Pay bill as audited

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

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

General Fund	# 1-12	\$5,492.59
Highway Fund	# 1-9	\$6,636.23
Black Point Sewer District	# 1-2	\$73,777.66

Correspondence(7:03)

Supervisor LaPointe read an email aloud from Bert Windle written on behalf of the Lake Communities of Putnam (LCP)

Mr. John LaPointe
Putnam Town Supervisor
Putnam Town Board Members

Mr. LaPointe Ladies and Gentlemen of the Town Board, please see to it that the following letter and attachments are read into the January Town Board Meeting under correspondence.

The position the LCP had taken effective the October 2018 Town Board Meeting was that the new Septic Regulations be tabled for one year. Allowing Putnam residents and the Town Board an opportunity review results and paying special attention to financial implications on the home owners that would be selling their camps, in many cases due to the ever increasing costs of maintaining their camps!

Please take time not only to read the new law but the attached news article discussing the numerous changes being made almost immediately! This in our opinion demonstrates the need to move slowly.

Furthermore, as we have witnessed Putnam's inability to enforce numerous existing laws and regulations we challenge the Board to explain how they would control a complicated, expensive and burdensome new law at this time.

We also question the invitation to the Executive Director of the LGA to attend a public meeting with the Putnam Town Board to discuss such an important matter while a vast majority of the residents most likely to be effected are not in residence at this time of year. We request that this proposed meeting be held in July or August when we can attend and participate!!!

We would also point out that donations to the LGA are very heavily weighted by our Lake George waterfront residents and we are c/c Mr. Walt Lender of our concerns with him meeting with the Putnam Town Board concerning this matter with the absence of our membership.

We also noted that under courtesy of the floor a resident questioned the financial impact, caused by the cumulative effect, which so many new laws and regulations are having on our community. We did not see any response in the minutes to this query and wonder if the Board has any response?

So please think over the proposed meeting with Mr. Lender and the possible implication of any news laws within our community!

The LCP

Supervisor LaPointe also stated there was an article attached to the email that was not read aloud, however the article can be seen at:

<https://www.queensbury.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Chapter-137-NEW-CHAPTER-Septic-Inspection-Upon-Property-Transfer-October-15-2018.pdf>

Supervisor LaPointe continued by introducing Walt Lender of the LGA (Lake George Association Executive Director) (7:07)

Mr. Lender began by introducing himself and giving a brief history of the LGA, a non-profit organization established in 1885 whose goal is to preserve water quality in Lake George working in conjunction with regulatory agencies. Mr. Lender distributed brochures about how to maintain an existing septic system (Available at the Town Clerk's office). He continued that his organization was intrigued when Queensbury had passed a law stating that when a property is transferred, a septic system inspection needs to be completed. Mr. Lender stated his organization felt that this presented an opportunity to reach out to other towns around the lake and start a conversation about how to maintain septic systems around the lake, and protect water quality. He continued that Lake George is drinking water for many residents around the lake, as well as communities. The LGA then circulated the language from the Queensbury law to towns surrounding the lake. The gist of the law is that when a property transfers ownership the septic system needs to be brought up to established standards. Mr. Lender continued what the LGA is suggesting is for towns around the lake to take a look at Queensbury's law and other laws with different language and start the conversation about ways of protecting the lake from possible contamination. Protecting the lake is in everyone's interest as the lake drives property values, the economy, and the tax base as well as other interests. Mr. Lender stated that Putnam has roughly 400 residents in the Lake George water shed, about 100 of those are connected to a public sewer system. The remaining 300 have septic systems. All of those residents get drinking water from either the lake or from a well that is in the same water shed as the lake. He continued that Putnam, like most areas around the lake, have specific challenges when it comes to septic systems, for example, tight soils that have a lot of clay. Clay soils do not infiltrate well so septic systems tend to have a shorter functioning life. He also stated the conversation opened in the fall, and should be a long conversation that involves the whole community so everyone would have a chance to weigh in on it. Mr. Lender offered to return in the future to address the lake community. Councilman Harris addressed Mr. Lender commenting on a beaver dam that broke dumping possibly millions of gallons of water into the lake that was contaminated with beaver waste. Councilman Harris felt that the beaver issue should be addressed before the septic systems as he believed that did far more harm. Mr. Lender replied saying that the beaver dam had been inspected but one of the challenges was that it is on private property. Councilman Harris humorously suggested he would support a law that prohibited beaver in the Adirondack Park. Mr. Rudt also commented that the Sagamore Hotel had also spilled three hundred thousand gallons of waste into the lake a few years ago, that's still going past his house in the water. Mr. Lender replied that Bolton Landing fined the Sagamore and both the Town and Bolton and the Sagamore Hotel are working to correct the inadequacies that cause that release initially. Mr. Lender went on to say that it's up to the community to determine how far they'd want the regulations/laws to go. Councilman Harris added that Putnam has a planning board that has been "on top of this" already. Cee McKenzie asked Mr. Lender if the Queensbury legislation pertained just to Lake George or all of the water bodies in Queensbury. Mr. Lender replied it applied to all of the waterfront zones in Queensbury. Ms. McKenzie suggested that this could apply to residents on Lake Champlain also in Putnam. Councilman Hart also added that this proposed law has the potential to protect new investors, from poor septic systems that are not functioning properly, before a sale. Councilman Hart stated that it would likely take more than one conversation with property owners to establish the needs in Putnam. Mr. Lender recognized that septic systems are not the only problem on the lake, but it is an important issue that can impact the health of the lake. Supervisor LaPointe thanked Mr. Lender for his time.

Courtesy of the floor (7:25)

None

Highway report (7:25)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported the stock pile is doing well that there is plenty of sand. The brine system is up and working, some calibration was done with the equipment in the past week. HS Treadway also attended a workshop on how to run and calibrate the equipment. HS Treadway stated he has been out with the equipment to give a test run everything seems to be working well and as it should. He said when the next storm is predicted he'll complete a pre-treat in water shed areas of Lake George. HS Treadway reported that there is six thousand gallons brine that should complete ten treatments before more needs to be ordered. He continued the truck has a three hundred gallon tank that requires filling 2 or 3 times for a full treatment in the water shed areas. Supervisor LaPointe added that in the future it could be used to tread every road. HS Treadway explained that the current information indicates that salt usage could be reduced by approximately 25% with the use of brine treatments.

Planning Board report (7:31)

Galen Seerup Planning Board Chair (PBC) reported Mr. DellaRatta who is trying to develop a lot in Royal Anchorage attended the meeting. Mr. DellaRatta still has a few items to complete; also the Planning Board is waiting for a letter from the APA (Adirondack Park Agency). Mr. DellaRatta no longer plans to move the sewer line as reported at last month's meeting. Also at this month's meeting a property on Gull Bay Road formerly owned by Fat Bag LLC, transferred ownership to Manual Horta and Rebecca Pomares, and are applying for a 3 lot subdivision. PBC Seerup reported that the rattle snake report was received from the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) and it stated no significant impact is expected on the rattle snakes in that area due to the building of homes on the 3 parcels as long the homes are not built on the "rattle snake trails". The last issue PBC Seerup reported is located on Glenburnie. A letter from Washington County suggested that there had possibly been an illegal subdivision. After the contacting the owners, Eric and Christine Goodness and Turnpike Mtn. Sports, the owners attorney explained that the lots were legal, previously existed, and are just now being utilized as lots for the purpose of selling one of the lots. PBC Seerup explained that the owners have combined the three lots for tax shelter purposes, however now they sold one lot and kept two. The Planning Board had a long discussion about this practice. All of the lots are accepted by the APA as lots but are being taxed as one lot with one parcel number instead of individual lots with individual parcel numbers, as they should. PBC Seerup asserted that this essentially gives the taxpayer(s) whom own the lots an unfair advantage and strips the Town and School of monies due to them in taxes, in turn, this burdens other taxpayers. He stated that if this is a legal subdivision (divided in 1907) as the owner's attorney stated in a letter, then the lots should be taxed as individual lots with individual parcel numbers. PBC Seerup asked the board to look into the issue with the Assessor and the County. Bob Rudt, also on the Planning Board, added that there is a much bigger subdivision known as the "K" lots that are being taxed as private forest. Both men asserted that this is fairly common practice in Putnam; the Planning Board feels it's inappropriate and would like the Town to look into the practice and correct the situation, if appropriate. PBC Seerup moved to the issue of solar panels saying he spoke to the APA, Doug Miller specifically. He discovered there is one commercial solar unit in the park in Warrensburg, it was permitted, but it only powers the building it's in. The company who wants to build a solar farm in Putnam is also looking to build in West Port, and Moriah. PBC Seerup stated that the APA is not sure what they want to do as of this time, it changes day by day. The APA has no official regulations in place at this time. Councilman Harris and Councilman Hart agreed that more needs to be researched, as well as a hearing to get input from Putnam residents.

Fire report (7:55)

Councilman Kevin Hart reported that he, Councilman Wilson and Cee McKenzie met with the fire department and reviewed the 2019 contract. There was language in the contract that the fire company wanted to review with their attorney. The fire department did not want to go with a four payment plan, but instead they will agree to a two payment plan. Cee McKenzie added that the multiple year option for the contract was also discussed and the fire company was agreeable to this providing language was added to adjust the amount of payment at budget time could be adjusted. A multi-year contract will be addressed in the 2020.

Old business (7:59)

The annual report was presented to the Board for review.

New business (8:00)

Rabies clinic is to be scheduled, tentatively in March, further details to come.

Supervisor LaPointe asked for a resolution to reactivate an account, which currently has a dime in it, with NYCLASS. This account will pay significantly more interest than the town is currently getting.

Resolution #5

Enter an agreement with NYCLASS

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

A transfer of funds was missed at the end of year meeting. Supervisor LaPointe addressed the Board to get the funds transferred.

Resolution #6

Transfer \$23,343 in the Highway Fund from 5142.1 to 5142.4

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

Councilman Kevin Hart stated he read in the paper that lifeguard training will be taking place in Moriah in the coming weeks. Supervisor LaPointe replied that we will check with Mary Jane to see who's coming back this year.

Resolution #7

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On Motion of Supervisor LaPointe, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris; all in favor
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

Next regular meeting: February 14th, at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

John LaPointe _____	Supervisor
Darrell Wilson _____	Councilman
Kevin Hart _____	Councilman
Shirley Randall _____	Councilman
Greg Harris _____	Councilman