

2022 Budget Public Hearing & Regular Meeting

Of the
Putnam Town Board

October 14th, 2021, 6:30PM ~ Putnam Town Hall ~ Zoom

6:34 PM Public Hearing called to order

Supervisor Wilson called the Public Hearing of the 2022 Town of Putnam Budget to order. Budget Officer John LaPointe reviewed highlights of the budget including the town's assessed value increasing to \$289,964,920 up from 2021's assessed value of \$287,807,239. A machinery fund of \$50,000 has been established, and \$50,000 Capital Fund, some of the money will come from unexpended fund balance. Budget Officer LaPointe reviewed the appropriations and revenues represented in the budget. 2021's per thousand rate was \$.56 cents, 2022's per thousand rate is \$.57 cents for a relatively flat budget. Dave Manchester contributed to the public hearing asking about the increased revenue from the garbage sticker price increase, he also inquired about recycling, as it's not referenced in the budget, stating that if recycling were to be implemented in 2022, it would provide additional expenditures and revenue. Supervisor Wilson agreed that would be the case.

Supervisor Wilson solicited further comments or questions concerning the proposed budget from those in attendance, there were none.

2022 Budget Public Hearing closed at 6:43PM

The Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board for October 2021 opened at 6:45 PM

Councilman Larry Shiell 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 Clerk, P.O. Box 14), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), Doug Thatcher (PVFD Chief, 351 County Route 2), Dave Manchester (Resident, 5177 Sagamore Road),

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), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road) Joe Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chair, 17360 State Route 22), Christine Costello (Resident, 657 County Route 2), Mark Vaughn (Resident, 657 County Route 2)

Resolution # 88

Accept the minutes of the September 9th, 2021, meeting

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

Resolution #89

Accept the Budget Officer's report for the month of September 2021

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

Resolution # 90

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of September 2021

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

Resolution # 91

Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of September 2021

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

Resolution #92

Pay bills as audited

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

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

General Fund	# 258-282	\$10,541.08
Highway Fund	# 98-114	\$66,416.52
Black Point Sewer District	# 13-16	\$119,220.44
Royal Anchorage Sewer District	# 4-5	\$2,159.00
Meadow Knoll	# 3	\$3,160.00

Correspondence (6:50)

Supervisor Wilson read aloud a letter by resident Christine Costello. (See attached)
A second correspondence from resident Paul Garbis. (See attached)

Courtesy of the floor (6:55)

Supervisor Wilson opened the floor to comments or questions, there were none.

Highway report (6:56)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported that the work continues on Schwerdtfeger Road in preparation for paving in late October/ early November. HS Treadway also reported that the zero-turn mower will need repairs before the 2022 mowing season. The mower is experiencing engine problems. The mower is a 2008. A brief discussion on buying vs. repairing took place. HS Treadway will gather pricing information for comparison. HS Treadway gave a brief response to the letter Mr. Garbis wrote. HS Treadway acknowledged that Hutton Square does need repairs and is slated for work in the upcoming years. The cost of repair is hard to gage with inflation on the rise and construction prices being so volatile. HS Treadway also raised the issue of the State funding, CHIPS and Fund NY, possibly not being available in the future and cannot be relied upon for revenue, something to consider while looking at future work plans and funding. Councilman Bain raised the issue of the sink hole forming on County Route 2. Councilman Bain expressed deep concern that someone will be injured, that the problem has existed for a couple of years and continues to get worse. Supervisor Wilson replied that he would address the issue at the County level again.

Planning Board report (7:15)

Planning Board Chair (PBC) Galen Seerup reported that the Planning Board had four public hearings scheduled. One applicant didn't show up for the meeting on time and was rescheduled. PBC Seerup signed three LRCC2's and one LRCC1. PBC Seerup spoke with concern about the James Coffman project and how the runoff will be handled, specifically the runoff from the driveway.

Fire Department report (7:25)

Chief Doug Thatcher reviewed the operations of the Fire Department over the past month. A written report was also submitted. (See attached). Chief Thatcher reported that the new heating system has been installed, with three new zones in areas that have had issues with freezing in the past. Weatherizing of the building will continue. The 98 Suburban has been put up for auction. Supervisor Wilson complimented the FD on their efforts and the comprehensive reports given to the Board and public.

Old business (7:30)

Cemetery Regulations- a reminder to the Board to review and consider the currently proposed regulations for Putnam's cemeteries, and any changes they may be considering.

Granger Excavating will be finishing up work on headstones in Meadow Knoll Cemetery for the season. A brief conversation took place, everyone is very happy with the work completed in Meadow Knoll.

Solar Review- Supervisor Wilson asked the Board to review the materials given to them in anticipation of moving forward with the Solar Regulations for Putnam. Supervisor Wilson advised the Board that there are communities to the south that are currently working through solar issues. Presently their focus is on decommissioning costs, how to assess and retain money for decommissioning, and how to enforce decommissioning possibly decades later.

Dave Manchester joined the discussion offering an anecdote about a situation in his home state where the State usurped a town's law with a state mandate. Mr. Manchester suggested that the Board investigate what the State is planning to do so as not to do unnecessary or repetitive work.

2022 Budget-

Resolution #93

Adopt the Preliminary Budget for 2022

On motion of Councilman Larry Shiell, seconded by Councilman Chris Mallon.

Roll Call

Christopher Mallon	Yes
Carole Schneider	Yes
Larry Shiell	Yes
Charles Bain Sr.	Yes
Darrell Wilson	Yes

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Nuisance properties- Councilman Bain asked if any progress had been made with a particular property, as he noticed that nothing has been done at a specific address. The status will be checked on.

ZOOM Meetings- A discussion about using ZOOM at Planning Board meetings took place. The Town Clerk will attend the next Planning Board Meeting to help run ZOOM.

Ballot Proposals- Supervisor Wilson advised of the five proposals on the November 2nd Ballot. Information explaining the Proposals is available online on the Town website, and at Town Hall in printed form.

Bob Rudt asked the Board to consider cannabis sales and on-site use permits, and the window for opting out of sales in Putnam.

Supervisor Wilson acknowledged the passing of long-time resident Kent Nichols earlier in the evening.

Resolution #94

Move to Executive Session

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

Executive Session – Personnel – No action taken

Resolution #95

Leave Executive Session and adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

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

Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned at 8:40 PM

Next meeting November 11th, 7 PM at Putnam Town Hall & 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)
3rd Quarter 2021 Report to the Putnam Town Board
October 14, 2021
Presented by D. Hayes, PVFC President

Staffing and Recent Training

There are currently 15 active members in the Putnam Volunteer Fire Co.. Seven members are Firefighter II certified, five have completed the basic introductory firefighting course (Basic Exterior Fire Operations, or BEFO) but not Interior Fire Operations (IFO), which would make them FF I certified, one new member is currently enrolled in BEFO, and two have not taken any firefighting courses. 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 formal coursework, most of it provided by NYS certified instructors. Since the Fall of 2020 current and recent past officers have been taking a NYS certified officer training course, which they completed in August.

Emergency Responses and Drills

During the 3rd quarter the PVFC responded to seventeen 911 calls. Seven were EMS calls, three were for fires in Putnam, two were for fires in Ticonderoga, one was a false alarm, one was for a downed power line, one was for a motor vehicle accident, one was to standby in the Putnam fire station (because of a motor vehicle accident in Dresden), and one was to standby at the Ticonderoga fire station. To provide historical context a table summarizing the number and types of 911 callouts we've responded to since 2017 is included as an appendix to this report.

In addition, during the most recent quarter members attended thirteen weekly drills to practice skills, check trucks and gear, and attend our monthly business meetings. A list of our 2021 drills is included with this report.

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

The PVFC's 2021 annual operating revenue is \$162,600, all of it derived from the Town of Putnam through a fire tax on property owners. In addition, \$28,042.49 was carried forward from the 2020 operating budget to cover expenses during January and February 2021 because the fire company doesn't receive its fire tax funds until March 1st. Likewise, it is important that we end 2021 with approximately \$25,000 remaining in our operating budget account to cover expenses for January and February 2022. Therefore, we effectively have \$165,642.49 to cover all our expenses during 2021 ($162,600 + \$28,042.49 - \$25,000$).

A spreadsheet showing the 2021 budget forecast is enclosed, together with expenditures through the end of September. Expenditures to the end of September are \$128,109.27. This includes a debt service payment of \$10,000 to the Town of Putnam (for a loan to carry out two major renovations to the firehouse a few years ago), another \$10,014.20 loan payment for our 2017 utility truck, and a \$30,430.48 loan payment for the purchase of a new fire truck in 2013.

As of the end of the 3rd quarter, the PVFC has spent 77% of its budget for the year $[(\$128,109.27/(\$190,642.49 - \$25,000.00)) \times 100\%]$.

There remains \$37,533.22 in our operating budget for the remaining three months of 2021. Although this seems more than sufficient to cover expenses there are still some major outstanding financial obligations that need to be covered. These are:

1. Replacement of two truck bay doors: The cost of the doors (\$9,395) has been paid but we anticipate a bill of approximately \$5,000 for work by an independent contractor to enlarge the door openings;
2. Replacement of the firehouse furnace: Our furnace unexpectedly failed in May and is currently being replaced, with some upgrades, by Polunci Heating and Plumbing (from Queensbury, NY). We have made an initial payment of \$9,000 and an additional \$10,000 is due at the end of the project.
3. Truck repairs: During our annual truck inspections this summer a number of repairs were identified whose cost is beyond the funds budgeted this year for unplanned truck repairs (\$8,100). We expect the additional costs beyond what we have already paid to be in the range of \$10K - \$15K.

Subtracting these known additional 2021 expenses (\$5,000 + \$10,000 + \$10K (or \$15K)) from \$37,533 leaves approximately \$7,533 - \$12,533 for other expenses during the remaining three months of 2021. If this is not manageable out of our operating budget, we will cover the shortfall from our fundraising account.

Condition of the Fire Trucks

Since our last quarterly report we have decided, as a cost-cutting measure, to retire the older of our pickup trucks and begin using our newer pickup truck for EMS calls. Thus, the 2017 Ford F-350 will switch from being solely a utility truck to becoming both a First-Responder (EMS) and a utility truck. The truck being retired is 23 years old and was in need of repairs.

With this change the PVFC now has four fire trucks: two engine/pumpers and one water tanker for fighting fires and responding to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous incidents, and one pickup truck for EMS calls and to take members and their gear to rescue scenes. All undergo regular servicing and NYS inspections. Our engine/pumpers are 30 and 8 years old, our tanker is 19 years old, and our pickup truck is 4 years old. One of the engine/tankers 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. However, it is 30 years old and is in need of replacing, which with the recent increase in our budget we are now able to do. We expect the replacement truck to be delivered in mid-2022. The \$400,000 loan for this purchase will be amortized over 15 years at an annual interest rate of 2.74% with an annual premium of \$34,666.11 starting on July 1, 2023. \$20,000 of the premium will be offset by retiring two loans, one from the Town and the other for the purchase of our 2017 EMS/utility truck. The remainder will be covered from the operating budget.

Condition of other Equipment

Our other emergency response equipment is in good shape. There is a need for periodic 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 things are built into each year's budget forecast.

Condition of the Fire Station Building and Grounds

During the 2020-21 heating season (July 1st - June 30th) we spent \$3,851.85 on propane to heat the firehouse. We have started a program to better insulate the firehouse so as to reduce this cost. So far, we have sealed several obvious sources of heat loss through openings in the ceiling and around the doors in the main truck bay. We ordered two new truck bay doors at a cost of \$10,000, which have arrived and been installed. These are designed to provide better insulation than the previous doors as well as increase the height of each door by 24 inches, which better accommodates modern fire trucks.

In early May the firehouse furnace unexpectedly failed and it cannot be repaired. We sought bids from four contractors for a replacement furnace and selected Polunci Heating and Cooling (from Queensbury, NY) to do the job. The quoted price is \$19K, which includes a new furnace that is 50% bigger than the old one, as well as several upgrades. Unfortunately, our entire building maintenance budget had already been allocated to replacing two of the truck bay doors, leaving nothing for a new furnace. We discussed above how we will cover this unanticipated expense.

Communications to the Community

During the 1st quarter we sent our annual newsletter to all property owners in Putnam. Contained within the newsletter was an offer to provide high-visibility house number signs to residents at a cost of \$12 each. We received 50 such requests. Only 8 signs remain to be distributed.

External Grant Applications

In January we submitted a request for \$35,500 from FEMA through their AFG program for four sets of turnout (firefighting) gear for our firefighters (a single set costs approximately \$3,500!) and a specialized extractor(washer) plus dryer to wash and dry our gear. Structure fires almost always generate high concentrations of smoke that include toxic chemicals created when modern building materials burn. We should hear anytime whether our application has been funded.

Fundraising Efforts

We undertook two very successful fundraising activities this year. The first of these was our regular appeal made through our annual newsletter, which yielded a little over \$10,000 in gifts. The second was our annual Chicken BBQ at the firehouse, which took place on July 24th and yielded approximately \$5,000 after expenses. These funds are applied to company services not covered by our contract with the Town, such as maintaining a water and ice rescue capability, and to cover unanticipated emergency expenses. This year we may have to use some of our fundraising monies to cover expenses arising from the replacement of the firehouse furnace as well as the unusually large number of expensive truck repairs.

2021 PVFC Drill Schedule	
Prepared by D. Hayes --- Last Updated on 09/29/2021	
Date	Drill
01/05/21	Truck checks
01/12/21	Business meeting
01/19/21	Ice surface rescue gear check
01/26/21	CPR refresher
02/02/21	Cancelled due to weather
02/09/21	Cancelled due to a callout at the same time
02/16/21	Business meeting
02/23/21	Dry hydrant flushing
03/02/21	Business meeting
03/09/21	Truck checks
03/16/21	SCBA training
03/23/21	Forestry gear check
3/30/21/	EMS supplies inventory
04/06/21	Business meeting
04/13/21	Traffic control and use of radios
04/20/21	Tour of TI EMS facility
04/27/21	Hose deployment
05/04/21	Business meeting
05/11/21	Truck checks
05/18/21	Driving, radios & scene safety
05/25/21	CANCELLED
06/01/21	Business meeting
06/08/21	Truck checks
06/15/21	Reroute wiring over main bay doors
06/22/21	Response pre-planning in Gull Bay
06/29/21	Class A uniform inventory
07/06/21	Business meeting
07/13/21	Fire pre-planning for Link Way houses
07/20/21	Preparations for the Annual BBQ
07/27/21	Annual firefighter physicals
08/03/21	Business meeting
08/10/21	Reload equipment onto Truck 432
08/17/21	Skills practice
08/24/21	Practice triple-layer hose loading
08/31/21	Hose racking
09/07/21	Business meeting
09/14/21	Truck checks
09/21/21	Practice drafting water from LG and flushed hydrants
09/28/21	Cancelled due to a mix-up

Letter from Christine Costello/read aloud by Supervisor Wilson

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I have emailed you over the past two years regarding the issues below. I thought it was time to put them together in a letter with suggestions that can be presented to the Town Council and the Park and Recreations Department for consideration. I know that the Board is now considering future options for the park, so perhaps this letter is timely. I hope that a discussion can follow that includes the interests of all of us, park users' fisherman, boaters, walkers, birders, celebrators, and neighbors alike.

What is now the Bob and Betty Cummings Park was initially proposed to neighbors as a non-motorized small craft launch. I remember receiving the letter notifying me of the proposal many years ago. It has since grown into a landscaped public park with day and evening events and a road leading to the lake. As I own a summer home just up the road from the property, I have been walking through these fields and down to the lake on a narrow path (now the gravel road) for over 35 years. While I recognized that change happens, and that the Town's citizens benefit from having public access to this beautiful site overlooking Lake Champlain, I question whether the impacts of the development on both the environment and the Park's neighbors have been fully considered. I've asked for a copy of the grant proposal approved by the State so that I can better understand the actual park plan as I didn't receive any further notices about it after the initial one mentioned above. I have not yet received a copy of the grant proposal unfortunately without the proposal I do not know if my assumptions about its use are accurate. However, I would like to point out the number of persistent issues listed below.

Small craft launch it is my understanding that this launch was proposed and approved for non-motorized craft such as canoes, kayaks, rowboats, and small sail craft such as a sunfish. There is a municipal launch for motorboats in Ticonderoga that is easily accessible. Unfortunately, the launch road has been reengineered over time which allows larger motorized craft to be driven to the shore and launched.

Initially there was a barrier of large rocks that made it difficult for truck to get to the clay shore, which have now been removed. I know of one incident where a truck launching a motorboat had to be towed out. There are often unsightly tire marks all along the beach. The steep road which runs directly to the beach is also causing significant run off into the lake. I'm not sure it meets DEC regulations. Fires using dead trees that have not been cut into logs but burned at one end are being made. This must be a fire hazard particularly in the drought conditions we've been experiencing over the past few years.

Additionally, garbage mostly fishing bait packaging and beer cans is left on the beach and thrown into the firepit. I pick up trash weekly. There's no signage specifying the permitted use of the launch or the park in general other than small "no littering fines imposed" sign on the side of the road which is clearly being ignored. I find this odd as there obviously has been an investment in labeling the three small roads on the park than there is detailed regulation signage at both Glenburnie and Gull Bay access. Perhaps not as significant to most personal concern is the permanent destruction of the wildflowers that grow in the wetland which is now part of the road and the fact that the gravel road is so noisy underfoot that wildlife is scared off before the birdwatchers can see them. The Town is recently permitted rental of the park for weddings and other celebrations but unfortunately the park neighbors, the partying, fireworks, and music goes on until late at night. The lake acts as a giant amplifier and on many weekends the music is disturbingly loud interfering with our own activities, sleep, and peace of mind until well past midnight. There are also fairly frequent noises of sports vehicles speeding up and down the park road, loud music from car radios and partiers at night. Suggestions: create a list of regulations for the park and post clear detailed signage similar to that at other Putnam town parks and beaches at locations in the park that are noticeable to all users. Block the bottom of the boat launch road to prevent trucks with trailers from backing onto the beach. Set a noise ordinance for quiet after 9pm and respect for those living near the park. Apprise those renting the park for events that this is the rule. Close and gate the park at dusk when not being used for events, there are other areas where fishermen can launch their boats for night fishing. Additionally, unsupervised nighttime drinking parties can lead to injury and death. Evening closing for Gull Bay and Glenburnie are enforced. Putnam is a remarkable place this side of route 22 have remained pristine because of it's agricultural use since the Town's inception. Now that it's changing, I sincerely

hope we can work together to find ways for all of us to benefit from new uses of land while preserving its beauty and wilderness.

With best regards,
Christine Costello

Letter from Paul Garbis/read aloud by Supervisor Wilson

My family has owned residences in Putnam Station off Hutton Square Road for 55 plus years at 110 Old Garbis Lane and 24 Holmes Lane. We consider Putnam home and spend as much time up there as possible. I'm writing you regarding Holmes Lane it is in severe disrepair as it has had little or no work done to it in many years, actually never in my memory. The blacktop is horribly cracked and disintegrating to the point I've had to put down gravel at my own expense each year for the past 15 years to prevent major erosion problems and to keep it safe for the many cars that ignore the dead-end sign trying to get to Lake Champlain. Every spring I bring more gravel in trying to keep it passable and safe. My mother is approaching 90 years old and although my father passed, she continues to summer in her house on Holmes Lane. All year she looks forward to coming back to Putnam. Although she is in great shape and very mobile, the condition of the road is causing my family grave concerns as she has stumbled on the broken-up macadam while going to get the mail or walking the dog many times. She's very determined to keep moving that's probably why she thrives. We need your help to make sure nothing happens to her or anyone else because of the condition of the road. None of us needs the liability the disrepair has caused as such I'm asking you to consider the repaving of Holmes Lane on the calendar of road projects needing priority attention. In my memory of the many years of paying taxes in Putnam we've never asked the Town for anything. I'm hoping you can give this fair consideration. Thank you in advance to your attention to this matter. My contact information is above in the event there are any questions in the meantime. I await your reply.