

Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

January 8, 2026 7PM ~ Putnam Town Hall ~ Zoom

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilwoman Carole Schneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present:	Supervisor	Darlene Kerr
	Councilwoman	Carole Schneider
	Councilman	Rick Bezio
	Councilman	Mark Karlson
	Councilman	Charles Bain, Sr.

Others present: May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Kay Greenough (Resident, 427 County Route 3), Dave Hayes (PVFD, 560 Gull Bay Road), Jean Trudeau (Resident, Pulpit Point Road), Larry Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent), Jim Kloiber (Resident, 2198 Black Point Road)

Present via ZOOM: Cee McKenzie (Budget Officer, Gull Bay), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Karl Ohly (Resident, 428 County Route 3), Maryjane Dedrick (2nd Deputy Town Clerk), Ed Conzola (Sentinel-Times), Mary Delongis (Resident, 293 Lake Road), Corey Granger (Resident, 139 Craig Road), Cynthia Floor (Resident, 293 Lake Road)

Resolution #1

Accept the minutes of December 11, 2025, Regular meeting

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

Resolution #2

Accept the Financial reports for the month of December 2025

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

Resolution #3

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of December 2025

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

Resolution #4

Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of December 2025

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

Resolution #5

Pay bills as audited

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

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

General Fund	# 1-10	\$34,892.98
Highway Fund	# 1-6	\$ 7,876.20
Black Point Sewer District	# 1	\$22,454.28

Correspondence

Letter from the Putnam Volunteer Fire Department asking for clarification on the stated 3.7% tax increase on the current Town and County tax bill for the Putnam Fire Department. Supervisor Kerr stated that the correct amount that was budgeted for was a 2% increase, and when she spoke with Washington County they said the extra represented a County payback. However, further information was unknown at that time, and the PVFD is encouraged to contact the County directly to get further clarification. Supervisor Kerr gave David Hayes a copy of the actual tax warrant that shows exactly what is collected for the Town of Putnam, and any additional tax collected would go to the County.

Courtesy of the Floor

May Drinkwine-Shiel asked for an update from the November Board Meeting about when the Town would be creating its own Facebook page. Supervisor Darlene Kerr stated that currently there has been no action as the priority for the new year is getting the Town Clerk's Office situated along with other priorities. Mary Delongis also agreed that a Town Facebook page would be a good idea. Supervisor Kerr also agrees that it would be helpful but reiterated that there are other priorities at this time.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway commented that it has been a busy winter, but everything has been going well. He then gave an update on paving for the year, which should take place around May or June. On the paving list are Liddle Harris Road, Bain Lane, Charter Brook Road and possibly some of the mountain if funds are available. The Town can apply for funds which should be received within this same year, unlike last year. Other than paving there are no large projects planned. Councilman Charlie Bain, Sr. inquired about the culvert near his house, and HS Treadway mentioned that they are hoping to widen that area. Councilman Mark Karlson then asked if there have been any major equipment issues. HS Treadway mentioned only a little bit of work on the roadside tractor, but other than that the trucks are in good shape so far and they are just keeping up with regular maintenance. Supervisor Darlene Kerr inquired about the heating fuel oil situation with the new company that has the state contract. HS Treadway explained that it was not working out well with the new company, Buell Fuels, and the highway barn came close to running out of fuel. In an emergency he called Champlain Coal and they delivered the same day. The owner of Champlain Coal said that they will try to match the state contract price or be close to it if the Town of Putnam wanted to change to their company. The Board agreed that as they are in town frequently and have great customer service, the Town should make the switch.

Resolution #6

Authorize the Highway Superintendent to buy heating oil from an alternate source

On motion of Supervisor Darlene Kerr, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Planning Board Report

Supervisor Kerr stated there is no Planning Board Report as the meeting is next week

Fire Department report

David Hayes went over some high points that were noted in the PVFD quarterly report that was handed out. There are currently sixteen members in the department, with at least one to two members taking training each quarter. This quarter two members attended training in Keene. There will be five members out of the sixteen that will be EMTS. He also commented that there were nine calls this quarter. The PVFD has retained a grant writing firm from Texas to write a 2025 FEMA AFG grant, and they have written successful grants for the department in the past. The hope is to replace some of the extrication equipment and obtain inflatable bags that can lift vehicles. Also in the report there was information on New York State grants for fire house renovations and purchasing major equipment. The deadline is the end of February, and the department is trying to get an application together.

Old Business

Supervisor Darlene Kerr commented that the Planning Board is currently running on a deficit and would not be functional if someone had to recuse themselves. Councilman Mark Carlson confirmed that there are currently four members. Councilwoman Carole Schneider stated that the Town should rescind the Site Plan Review Law and get rid of the Planning Board. Councilman Rick Bezio and Councilman Charlie Bain, Sr. both agreed that the Town does not need the Planning Board as there are other agencies in place for oversight. Councilman Bain, Sr. also commented that maybe one person could be hired to assist people with questions and to point them in the right direction for what paperwork is needed or what agency to contact. Councilman Carlson voiced his concerns about if there wasn't a process in place how it would affect property owners, specifically those that live along the lake. He then gave an example of how the Planning Board assisted two neighbors to come to a resolution which he feels is due to the town having a good process in place. Councilman Bain, Sr. commented that throughout the years there have been a lot of issues with the Planning Board that has caused upset among residents. Cee McKenzie then commented that if there was a dissolution of the Planning Board there would be more issues that would come to the Town Board instead. Supervisor Kerr suggested that if there was one person hired to assist residents that would help. The new hire would act as a facilitator and point people in the right direction.

Resolution #7

Rescind the Site Plan Review Law

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Rick Bezio

Roll Call

Supervisor	Darlene Kerr	Yes
Councilwoman	Carole Schneider	Yes
Councilman	Rick Bezio	Yes
Councilman	Mark Carlson	No
Councilman	Charles Bain, Sr.	Yes

Passed by majority vote and a Public Hearing will be held next month prior to the Regular Town Board Meeting on February 12, 2026. The Site Plan Review law would need to be rescinded first, and then a resolution would be needed to develop parameters for a new position with a job description and rate of pay.

Councilman Carlson inquired what the Planning Board should do at this point. Supervisor Kerr stated that while there is still the Site Plan Review Law in place, the Planning Board should continue as usual. Councilman Bain, Sr. asked Councilman Carlson if there are a lot of projects

currently under review, to which Councilman Karlson said that there are still a good number of ongoing projects. Supervisor Kerr stated the Planning Board should hold their next meeting to address the ongoing projects and the residents that are waiting. Councilman Karlson asked if he could create an agenda for the Planning Board's next meeting to keep the projects moving which the Board agreed would be helpful.

New Business

Supervisor Kerr asked the Board what they would like to accomplish this year. Once the CHPE funding is settled, continued discussions will be needed about what to use the funds for, such as improving on what the Town already has, like the boat launch, ballpark and possibly updates on the Town Hall. She expressed the importance of keeping the current Town Hall as it's the character of the town and it would be a shame to abandon it. The upstairs of the Town Hall was closed as there are no fire exits and it's not handicap accessible. Updating what the Town already has seems to be the ideal instead of building new things as then there would be additional maintenance costs and upkeep on top of what the Town already has. Councilman Karlson suggested that possibly a survey could be mailed out to town residents to get a sense of what everyone is looking for. Councilman Bain, Sr. mentioned that gathering ideas and estimates could be helpful, but the Town would need to be sure the money was received first before starting any projects. Currently the funds are expected in 2027, but it does depend on when the line is fully operational. Cee McKenzie commented that the Town could layer numbers into the 2027 budget to see how it would be impacted. HS Treadway and Supervisor Kerr both suggested that it might be beneficial to have a financial advisor that could assist in the process.

Resolution #8 (8:13pm)

Adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Supervisor Darlene Kerr, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

The Public Hearing to consider the repeal of the Site Plan Review Law, and the Regular Town Board Meeting are scheduled for February 12, 2026, at 7PM at the Putnam Town Hall and ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Treadway
Putnam Town Clerk

Darlene Kerr _____ Supervisor

Carole Schneider _____ Councilwoman

Rick Bezio _____ Councilman

Mark Karlson _____ Councilman

Charles Bain Sr. _____ Councilman