

Solar Public Hearing
&
Regular Meeting
Of the
Putnam Town Board

June 9th, 2022, 6:45PM ~ Putnam Town Hall ~ Zoom

6:15 Public Hearing called to order

Supervisor Wilson opened the Solar Public Hearing by asking if anyone on ZOOM would like to comment, there were none. Supervisor Wilson then turned to the room and asked if there were any comments regarding the proposed Solar Law. Kevin Hart addressed the room first. Mr. Hart questioned the feasibility of the 500' setback for a commercial solar field if a lot is narrow or small. Supervisor Wilson explained that the reasoning behind the 500' setback for commercial solar fields was to minimize the impact on adjacent landowners. Residential use setbacks are less. Mr. Hart asked if the size of a residential field would be determined by the property's usage in the prior 12 months. Supervisor Wilson replied that it was determined by the average use in 12 months, over a period of 5 years, up to 150% of that average use could be produced by the lot owner. Diane Hart asked about fencing, more specifically will a particular type of fencing be required. Supervisor Wilson replied no specific fencing has been discussed to date, the idea is to protect the integrity of the area of a solar farm. Councilman Mallon cautioned that nothing at all has been decided yet, and the purpose of the public hearing is to obtain public opinion for development of the proposed law. Bert Windle commented next addressing his concerns about the aesthetics of commercial solar farms and the undesirable impact they will have on the Putnam community. Supervisor Wilson addressed the comment saying screening is addressed in the current draft. Mr. Windle's second question addressed decommissioning any arrays after their useful life. Supervisor Wilson stated on page 8 at the bottom decommissioning is addressed. Karl Ohly spoke next asking if this proposed law exempted agriculture. Town Attorney John Breitenbach replied that this proposed law does not supersede applicable Agriculture & Markets law. Exactly how this would be applied to farm law was not researched thus far. Mr. Ohly continued stating that he believes the proposed law is over restrictive and overreaches as applied to farm use of solar and solar production on farmland. Mr. Ohly suggested rooftop production restrictions didn't make sense to him. He also expressed that he believed to be more equitable the usage limit should be based on projected use, not historical use. Mr. Ohly addressed solar hot water usage and refining the language in the document or eliminating it altogether. Diane Hart joined the conversation again asserting that her hope is that the Planning Board understands that if a private landowner applies to put a commercial solar farm on Route 22 it will be visible like it or not. Mr. Ohly also addressed the 4000 sq. foot breaking point between residential and commercial solar. He questioned regulating roof top solar at all if the primary goal is to regulate ground based commercial solar panels. A brief discussion about surety bonds and or escrow for decommissioning took place. Supervisor Wilson asked if anyone else would like to be heard, with no response, he asked a second time if anyone else would like to be heard, nothing heard.

Public Hearing closed at 7:10 PM.

Call the Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board to order

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), David Hayes (PVFD President, Resident, 560 Gull Bay Road), Bill Brown (Planning Board Chair, 17 Charter Brook Lane), Bert Windle (Resident, 5211 Sagamore Road), Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Karl Ohly (Resident, 428 County Route 3), Kevin Hart (Resident, 719 Liddle-Harris Road), Diane Hart (Resident, 719 Liddle-Harris Road), Todd Harris (Resident, 629 Liddle-Harris Road)

Present via ZOOM: John Breitenbach (Town Attorney, 23 Father Jogues Place, Ticonderoga NY 12883) Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road) Jim Hock (Planning Board, 213 Cummings Road)

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilwoman Carole Schneider

Resolution #54

Accept the minutes of the May 12, 2022, meeting

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

Resolution #55

Accept the Financial Officer's report for the month of May 2022

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

Resolution #56

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of May 2022

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

Resolution #57

Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of May 2022

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

Resolution #58

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	# 127-156	\$9,616.99
Highway Fund	# 55-66	\$7,519.72

Correspondence

None

Board of Assessment Review

Cecilia McKenzie, Chair of the Board of Assessment Review, reported that the BAR met for Grievance Day on May 24th, 2022. The BAR granted reductions of \$97,400 of total assessed value. The original grievances requested a reduction of \$804,060. The actual reductions represent 0.03% of the Total Taxable Town Value of \$292,931,729. (See attached)

Courtesy of the floor

May Drinkwine-Shiell thanked the Town Clerk for her dedication to the Town despite her own hardship of losing her home to fire, saying “we love you, Darlene” the room carried with applause. The Clerk thanked May and everyone on the Putnam Board and in the community for their generosity, love, prayers, and support during her family’s time of need, saying that her family would literally have nothing if not for the Putnam Board members and community, “thank you does not begin to express the profound gratitude felt by me and my family”.

Highway Report (7:23)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported that he has just returned from Highway School a New York State annual training for Highway Superintendents. HS Treadway conveyed that he always learns a great deal at the annual event, along with networking with other superintendents. He went on to report that the crew has been busy with spring mowing and trimming. The Gradall is still being repaired. Renting equipment may be an option if the Gradall is going to take much longer for repair as the paving season is short. Councilman Shiell said he and HS Treadway had discussed the feasibility of renting the equipment in the future rather than owning. HS Treadway will explore that possibility for the future. The Hutton Square project has been put on hold until equipment for the job can be secured. HS Treadway reminded everyone that the White Goods Pickup will be July 13th & 14th.

Planning Board Report (7:28)

Planning Board Chair Bill Brown reported that There were three public hearings: Jodie Scott, James Coyle, and Carly Pinkowski. Jodie Scott’s proposal was approved, James Coyle’s project was approved, and Carly Pinkowski’s proposal was approved. Rita and Bruce Armstrong previously approved for a garage with a workshop and storage have since installed a septic, added a studio apartment on the 2nd floor of the garage and a bathroom and kitchen. The Armstrongs will also be adding a deck to facilitate egress for Code Enforcement. Neighbors will be notified due to the change in use. The new checklist to accompany the Site Plan Review process has been published on the Town website and will be distributed to applicants. The Planning Board members received copies of the proposed Solar Law for their review, the PB will discuss the proposed Solar Law at their July meeting. A property on Lake George Way South has been stripped of vegetation. The APA was contacted by Art Sheeley, the APA said they would look into it. Chairman Brown will follow up on this. Signs in Putnam was discussed. the SPR states that signs advertising the sale or rental of the premises be upon which the sign is located. Chairman Brown is creating a checklist for the proposed Solar Law.

Fire Department Report

Dave Hayes Putnam Volunteer Fire Department President reported that the Department had 10 calls in May. One was a motor vehicle accident in Dresden, a single engine plane crash, one fire in Dresden involving logging equipment, a fire in Ticonderoga, a fire on Route 22, one false alarm, 3 EMS and a grass fire. The Fire Department’s annual barbeque has been set for Saturday, July 23rd. The FD has learned that the arrival of the firetruck they ordered in the summer of 2021 is again delayed until October of 2023. The bank that was financing the truck wants to re-write the loan as many of the dates in the loan contract are obsolete now. The FD has identified 22 areas of repair at the firehouse that they have a plan to address. This is part of the long-term plan to make the building more efficient.

Old business

Budget Officer- Supervisor Wilson introduced the topic of budget officer by reiterating pervious discussion within the Board.

Resolution #59

Appoint Cecelia McKenzie as Budget Officer for the Town of Putnam

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

Roll Call:

Supervisor Wilson	Yes
Councilman Mallon	Yes

Councilwoman Schneider Yes
Councilman Shiell Yes
Councilman Bain Yes

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Supervisor Wilson updated the Board on the progress that the new Accounts Clerk has made, saying she is putting a lot of work into bringing the books current.

New Business (7:45)

None

Resolution #60

Move to Executive Session for a personnel discussion

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

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #61

Move to leave executive session

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

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #62

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Councilman Charlie Bain, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor.

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM

Next meeting July 14th, 2022, at 7PM

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson _____ Supervisor

Christopher Mallon _____ Councilman

Carole Schneider _____ Councilwoman

Larry Shiell _____ Councilman

Charles Bain Sr. _____ Councilman