

Regular Meeting
of the
Putnam Town Board

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD
FEBRUARY 9, 2017
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

Councilman John LaPointe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present:	Supervisor	John LaPointe
	Councilman	Greg Harris
	Councilman	Kevin Hart
	Councilwoman	Cathie Burke
Absent:	Councilwoman	Shirley Randall

Others present: Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), Wayne Busby (Planning Board, 11 Charter Brook Lane), Charlie Bain Sr. (Resident, 17 Bain Lane), William & Sylvia Duprey (Residents, 2191 Black Point Road), Charles Koehler (Resident, 2214 Black Point Road) John C. Ford (Resident, 2226 Black Point Road)

Resolution # 40

Accept the minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting

On motion of Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilwoman Cathie Burke; Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 41

Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of January, 2017

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

Resolution # 42

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of January, 2017

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 43
Pay bill as audited

On motion of Councilman, Kevin Hart, seconded by Councilwoman Cathie Burke; Resolution unanimously adopted.

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

General Fund	# 30-66	\$71,163.11
Highway Fund	# 13-34	\$20,403.57
Black Point Sewer District	# 2-4	\$17,753.34
Royal Anchorage Sewer District	# 1	\$3,651.43

Correspondence (7:03)

E-mail correspondence from Eugene Frost, resident on Black Point Road, as read aloud by Supervisor LaPointe.

Dear Supervisor LaPoint and Town Board Members,

I have been waiting for well over a month for a valid explanation of this outrageous increase in Sewer charges to the Putnam end of The Ticonderoga sewer district.

It is sadly but one more example of the Town leaders total disregard for the Putnam Residents of Black Point Rd

From the very beginning of this district our town leaders did nothing to secure funds for this project despite how important it was to the Quality of Lake George's water without which the major base of town taxes would be in jeopardy.

Rather than take a leadership role you continued to be disinterested and permitted your aloofness to further burden the lake front property owners of our town

This by contrast did not happen in the Town of Hague where Town leadership pursued and were granted the funding for their sewer project (at the same time as ours was being planned) resulting in very little cost to Hague Lake Front property owners

I think the time has come for our town leadership to address this problem and withdraw immediately any and all unjust increases in this sewer district billing. An increase of any kind should demand ample notice to all parties involved.

Surely an increase of this magnitude should have required at least a six month notice so that those property owners impacted by such increase would be permitted ample time to question the documented reasons behind such an increase

The property owners impacted by this dramatic increase demand that any and all increases be stayed until said property owners are given ample notice to question the documented reasons behind this extraordinary increase in fees . Explanations bantered around to date are confusing at best and woefully inadequate.

I remain

Respectfully yours,

Eugene H Frost
President LCP

Courtesy of the floor (7:06)

John Ford of Black Point Road, Mr. Ford addressed Supervisor LaPointe and thanked him for the information that was posted, about the Black Point Sewer District, to the town website the month prior. He continued, for sewer use, the Ticonderoga charge for Ticonderoga residents has been the same as the charge for Black Point residents, this year Ticonderoga residents are being charged \$118.00 and Black Point residents are being charged \$175.00 a quarter. Mr. Ford asked why the increase happened, since Ticonderoga was paying the same this year. Supervisor LaPointe responded, the last three years fund balance was used to reduce Putnam's share of the taxes. When the project was completed there was a fund balance of \$177,150.00 from the bonding money. The money was refunded to the people in the district by reducing their portion of the bill over a period of three (3) years. \$82,000 was refunded one year by reducing residents expenses, \$37,000 was used another year and last year \$59,841.00. In 2016 the revenue was \$157,923.00 district members paid \$98,082.00 and the district checkbook used \$59,841.00. Mr. Ford stated in 2015 \$13,487.00 was left after payment, but in 2016 the balance shows \$3012.00 he questioned as to why there was difference. Supervisor LaPointe stated he'd have to check with his clerk, he also said there will be a meeting with the Ticonderoga Supervisor, the Ticonderoga sewer clerk, Putnam's sewer clerk and Supervisor LaPointe. Mr. Ford then brought the amortization schedule into the discussion, he said in 2016 "we paid" \$88,238.66 to the Facilities Corporation, in 2017 "we paid" a little less \$87,514.00, he asked since less was being paid why the EFC (Environmental Facilities Corporation) debt charge was "tremendously higher than it's ever been" on the tax bill. He voiced that he wondered if there were any errors there. Supervisor LaPointe said, the schedule Mr. Ford was looking at was provided by EFC, that the interest rates change, and it was a 30 year bond. Mr. Ford asked if there was a bill from Ticonderoga and EFC. Supervisor LaPointe responded Ticonderoga sends a quarterly bill and EFC sends a statement of what's being paid in interest and principle, he also added the interest is paid twice a year. Mr. Ford asked for copies of the bills from both EFC and Ticonderoga. Councilman Harris joined the discussion saying Mr. Ford had a point, a "heads up" about the increase would have been appropriate and it wouldn't have caused so much "heartburn". Supervisor LaPointe agreed, but also explained the previous sewer clerk suffered a serious health issue and the current clerk was new. Councilman Hart pulled January's bill from Ticonderoga that was in the audited bill pile. A copy was made for Mr. Ford and other copies were distributed to those in attendance. Bill Duprey of Black Point asked if the residents of Black Point should anticipate fluctuations in the bill annually or if this was going to be a "one time thing". Supervisor LaPointe answered that this was an extraordinary problem and he didn't anticipate it happening again.

Wayne Busby of Peterson Road asked about getting black top on Peterson Road. He went on to say when the days warm up, "your truck will be nothing but mud". HS Treadway responded that he has looked into Peterson Road; he said the hills that are constant problems would be the place to start. The project would be broken up into sections, rather than doing the entire road at one time. Supervisor LaPointe added that it was not in the budget for 2017. Councilman Harris contributed saying "in years gone by people didn't want it". HS Treadway said he'd look into it.

Mr. Ford revisited the Black Point Sewer District discussion asking if he could get the number of people paying into the Black Point Sewer District; the number of people who have single/double pumps. Supervisor LaPointe responded he thought there were 3 or 4 double pumps, but wasn't sure exactly how many single pumps there are. Councilman Hart also added there must be a master list to which Supervisor LaPointe said there is a master list for billing, his clerk would have it. Sylvia Duprey asked if this was going to be a onetime additional payment. Supervisor LaPointe responded that it's expected that the bill will change, likely not as much as it did this year, however this year's bill is closer to the actual charges now that the surplus funds have been exhausted. Supervisor LaPointe acknowledged that the current situation wasn't explained properly, and he understood their (Black Point residents) dismay. He went on to explain how Hague and Ticonderoga's districts are different from the Black Point District in terms of available funding, or State aid, to help the district. In an income study, areas with residents making higher

incomes results in the district being classified as a wealthy district even though not all of the residents are in a higher income bracket.

Highway Report (7:31)

Highway Superintendent Gary Treadway reported everything in the department is running well. Firewood is getting slim but he feels there is enough to get through the cold season. The new pick up is running well and is working well for maintaining smaller areas, it's quicker and "saving me a lot of time". HS Treadway reported the new truck is more efficient at spreading salt and sand and as a result it's saving material.

Planning Board Report (7:33)

Bob Rudt the Planning Board met February 8th. The Mike Kisel site plan was scheduled for a public hearing; however Mr. Kisel is having difficulties getting through all of the questions raised by the Lake George Park Commission. As reported last month, Mr. Kisel had 27 items to address with the LGPC. Mr. Kisel has hired a new architect and engineer. By mutual agreement the hearing has been extended until next month. There was also a public hearing on the subdivision on Black Point road, with the Lake George Land Conservancy. Mr. Rudt corrected a misstatement entered into last month's Town Board meeting minutes, saying the previously described 2 acre lot out of a 15 acre lot, in the subdivision, is actually closer to a one-half acre out of about 11 acres. Supervisor LaPointe asked if all of that area is unbuildable; Mr. Rudt said no, that the forward portion the half acre lot that fronts the road has a camp on it. The land behind it is unbuildable, because it will be in the process of being subdivided, and land locked from Black Point Road, the Planning Board is requiring it be merged with an adjacent lot. Mr. Rudt reported there was one other item brought to the Planning Board during their regular meeting. Mr. Chris Edwards, who purchased the stone house at the end of Cummings Road, wants to build a run in shed to replace one. There was a discussion about farm buildings, and jurisdiction. Wayne Busby entered the conversations saying the jurisdiction issue is currently in the process of being clarified. Supervisor LaPointe asked why, if the code enforcement officer, who's trained by the State of New York to interpret the law of the State, said it's a farm building, why would the Planning Board argue his answer? Mr. Busby responded acknowledging Mr. Ball (Code Enforcement Officer) did say it was a farm structure, however the question the Planning Board wasn't clear on is the fact machinery will be stored in the structure. He went on to say the New York State Planning Federation is being asked to clarify how this building will be classified, a farm structure or not, and that will set the precedence for questions on this type of structure in Putnam in the future. Councilman Harris joined the discussion saying Putnam has historically been an agricultural community, he feels if someone comes into Putnam and wants to put that much effort and time into agriculture in this day and age, "I'm thinkin' help the guy out, because farmers are far and few between, nobody wants to do all that work anymore". Councilman Harris went on to say if anyone wants to come and work at agriculture in Putnam he's for it. He added he doesn't want to see anyone have a hard time with the planning board. Councilman Hart asked why question the Code Enforcement Officer? Supervisor LaPointe reiterated that the Code Enforcement Officer is trained to enforce the codes, he has the credentials, and the planning board doesn't. Mr. Rudt went on to say there was one more issue before the Planning Board. Brian Bolon on Link Way is going to build a new camp on a vacant lot. He approached the planning board with extensive documentation for storm water. He has approvals from the Park Commission, and the APA. The builder is going to be Wayne Busby of the planning board, Mr. Busby did recuse himself.

Old Business (7:55)

Black Point Sewer District Supervisor LaPointe reiterated a meeting is planned for himself, his clerk, the Ticonderoga Supervisor and the Ticonderoga Sewer district Clerk to discuss the billing.

New Business (7:56)

Planning Board Chair A discussion about how to handle the Planning Board Chair. A chairman has not been appointed yet this year because the Town Board is still undecided on time limits and what avenues to travel with the chair appointment. **Councilman Hart** joined saying his particular opinion was that they're all very knowledgeable, in a given situation there may be 1, 2, perhaps 3 people that cannot serve as Chair because of conflicting interests. He said the Chairman now has done a good job, but he thinks there are a lot of capable people on the board who deserve a shot at the Chair, be it a one year, two year term, or whatever is determined by the board. **Councilman Harris** asked if anyone would be interested in the job. **Supervisor LaPointe** suggested a meeting with the Planning Board for a discussion. After a brief discussion it was decided a joint meeting with the Planning Board would be scheduled for Monday February 27th, 2017 at 7pm at the Putnam Town Hall. The Town Clerk will notify the Planning Board Clerk of the meeting time and date.

Rabies Clinic has been scheduled for Saturday March 11th, 2017, 8am-9am. The clinic is free to the cats and dogs of Putnam residents.

Resolution #44 (8:10)

Adjourn regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board.

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; Resolution unanimously adopted.

Meeting closed at 8:10pm

Next meeting is March 9, 2017 at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

John LaPointe _____ Supervisor
Cathie Burke _____ Councilwoman
Kevin Hart _____ Councilman
Shirley Randall _____ Councilman
Greg Harris _____ Councilwoman