

Minutes of the Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law on Flood Damage Prevention as authorized by the New York State Constitution, Article IX, Section 2, and Environmental Conservation Law, Article 36

and

The Regular Putnam Town Board Meeting held on April 9, 2026, 7:00 pm  
~Putnam Town Hall, 14 Putnam Center Road~ ZOOM

**7:02 pm Public Hearing called to order**

<b>Town Board Members present:</b>	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), Larry Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Kay Greenough (Resident, 427 County Route 3), Jean Trudeau (Resident, 300 Pulpit Point Road), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent), Nancy L. Treadway (Putnam Town Clerk), Glenn Brownstein (Resident, 2300 Black Point Road) Wayne Busby (Resident, 11 Charter Brook Lane), Charles Koehler (Resident, 2214 Black Point Road), Chris Navitsky (Lake George Waterkeeper), Alex Portal (Reporter, The Post-Star), Galen Seerup (Resident, 17360 State Rte. 22), Jocelyn McRae (Resident, 606 Gull Bay Road), Ginger Kunzel (Hague, NY), Donna Wotton (Hague, NY), Seddon Beaty (Hague, NY), Sharon Moore (Resident, 974 Cty. Rte. 2), Art Sheeley (Resident, 13 Firehouse Lane), EJ Conzola (NYVT Media), Diane Hart (Resident, 719 Liddle Harris Rd.), Lani Ohly (Resident, 428 Cty. Rte. 3), Kevin Gilday (Resident, 2234 Black Point Road), Janice Holding (Resident, 2234 Black Point Road), Jim Hock (Resident, 213 Cummings Road), Will Becchina (Resident, 24 Lape Lane), John Pinelli (Resident, 5213 Sagamore Road)

\*\* ZOOM Participants are noted as they appeared on the screen, or if a participant spoke and identified themselves.

**Present via ZOOM:** Eileen Murray, Sally Thurston, iPhone, Patricia Johnson, Cynthia's iPhone, John Campbell, Kristen Rider, Mary Delongis, C. Clark, Cee McKenzie, Nancy Wolf-Fisher, Dr. Ohly, Joe Fisher, Robert Winn (Town Attorney), Candace Hyatt, Bill Brown, Don and Theresa Devlin, iPad, Sid and Bonnie Barnhart, Susan and Ken Soloman, Susan's iPad, LD, David Manchester, Kathleen Coffman, Thomas' iPad, Peg Olsen

Supervisor Kerr opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm, noting that the Regular Town Board meeting would follow immediately afterward. She explained that FEMA has updated statewide flood maps and the Town must adopt the new map in order for residents to remain eligible for flood insurance. Failure to adopt the map would prevent residents—particularly those on Lake George and Lake Champlain—from obtaining flood insurance. Supervisor Kerr then invited public comments.

## Public Comment

- **David Manchester (Zoom):** Asked for background on how the matter came before the Town Board and the implications for residents. Also inquired if it's a pre-existing map.
- **Supervisor Kerr:** Explained FEMA updates the maps periodically, and adoption is required for residents to access flood insurance. They change the map every so many years and the Town of Putnam had very slight changes.
- **Councilman Mark Karlson:** Explained the National Flood Insurance Program determines flood zones nationally; the Town does not choose its designation. If a resident wanted to get flood insurance, they would apply through the Flood Insurance Program as it's not something that runs through the Town.

Supervisor Kerr asked if anyone had additional comments or questions from both in-person attendees and Zoom participants. No other participants commented, and the Public Hearing closed at 7:08 PM.

### **7:08 pm Regular Town Board Meeting called to order by Supervisor Kerr**

Councilman Mark Karlson led the Pledge of Allegiance

### **Roll Call**

**Town Board Members Present:** Councilman Charles Bain, Sr.  
Councilman Mark Karlson  
Councilman Rick Bezio  
Councilwoman Carole Schneider  
Supervisor Darlene Kerr

### **Resolution #31**

#### **Accept the Minutes of the March 12, 2026 Public Hearing on the Proposed Six-month Moratorium on Commercial Battery Storage Facilities & Regular Town Board Meeting**

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

### **Resolution #32**

#### **Accept the Financial Reports for the month of March 2026**

On motion of Councilman Charles Bain, Sr.; seconded by Councilman Rick Bezio; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

### **Resolution #33**

#### **Accept the Town Clerk's Report for the month of March 2026**

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

**Resolution #34**

**Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of March 2026**

On motion of Councilman Charles Bain, Sr., Seconded by Councilman Mark Karlson; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution #35**

**Pay Bills as audited**

On motion of Councilman Rick Bezio, Seconded by Councilman Mark Karlson; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

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

General Fund	#60-71	\$ 12,420.00
Highway Fund	#31-36	\$ 8,423.82
Royal Anchorage Sewer District	#2	\$ 33,415.64
Black Point Sewer District	#3	\$ 22,454.28

**Correspondence**

Supervisor Kerr stated that a letter from Nancy Wolf-Fisher was received and included in each board member's packet; it will be attached to the minutes.

**Courtesy of the Floor**

**Nancy Wolf Fisher**

- Read her letter that was submitted to the Town Board. She had extensive comments regarding the Town Board's actions to abolish the Planning Board and repeal the Site Plan Review Law, citing concerns about transparency, environmental impacts, and legal requirements for adopting local laws. Requested Courtesy of the Floor be reopened after Board discussions.

**Jim Hock**

- Asked whether further discussion on the Planning Board would occur. Expressed concerns about lack of public awareness, questioned motives for abolishing the Planning Board, and disputed claims of inconsistent treatment by the Planning Board.

**Councilman Rick Bezio**

- Explained his position, stating many towns people felt the Planning Board treated applicants inconsistently and that he was elected to represent all residents. Commented that he sees a lot of towns people and they have voiced their concerns over how the Planning Board treats some people.

### Diane Hart

- Argued the Planning Board provides essential checks and balances; criticized lack of public notice and communication.

### Chris Navitsky

- Objected to the draft negative declaration; stated repealing the Site Plan Review Law removes critical environmental protections.

### Wayne Busby

- Strongly supported retaining the Planning Board; questioned Town Board qualifications to assume its duties.

### Kevin Gilday

- Questioned recruitment efforts; suggested broader outreach.

### Janice Holding

- Noted volunteers had come forward; suggested reducing Planning Board size. Also commented to post more information on the website.

### Cee McKenzie

- Encouraged fixing, not abolishing, the Site Plan Review Law.

### David Manchester

- Commented that the Town Board should keep in mind that it represents all constituents, not just a select group that may or may not have voted for them. Believes that it's incorrect to have said that a Planning Board Member needs to be a registered voter. Stated that an elected official must be a registered voter and a resident of the community, but a member appointed by an elected official does not have to be and urged that it be looked into. Robert Winn, Town Attorney, responded that he never said that they had to be a registered voter, but they do have to be a resident of the Town of Putnam.

### Bill Becchina

- Believes the Planning Board is helpful by working with property owners and developers to make a project work.

### Art Sheeley

- Would like to see issues resolved and reduce the size of the board to 5 instead of 7 as staffing it seems to be a concern.

### Ken Soloman

- Believes the Planning Board is beneficial to have for review, and that this process has brought out a number of people with comments and concerns. Was surprised to hear that it's been difficult to find people to fill seats on the board.

### Kristin Rider

- Commented there's a lot of really good information being provided and the main message is that most people are not in favor of disbanding the Planning Board. Understands the frustration over trying to find people to be on the board; encourages more outreach.

### Gaylen Seerup

- Commented that the Planning Board has always done their best to be fair and to uphold the Site Plan Review Law.

### Lani Ohly

- Offered to serve on the Planning Board; described concerns about agricultural rights and development pressures. She has a degree in Environmental Health Sciences and would like to protect the right to farm in Putnam, and believes the Planning Board can still be useful with the right people on it.

### May Drinkwine Shiel and Ginger Kuntzal

- May inquired about a Facebook account for the Town. After a brief discussion, it was suggested to update the Town's website and include an informational page to address some of the concerns from residents about meeting dates etc. Ginger suggested having an opt-in email distribution list to keep residents updated, which is what they do in the Town of Hague. Supervisor Kerr commented that Town of Putnam does already have an email distribution list.

### Glenn Brownstein

- Read a letter from the Black Point Road Civic Association opposing the repeal of the Site Plan Review Law and the abolishment of the Planning Board. The letter is attached to the Minutes.

### Additional speakers:

Candace Hyatt, Jocelyn McCrae, Don Devlin – All expressed concerns about liability to the Town, environmental protection, transparency, and the need for a functioning Planning Board. Robert Winn, Town Attorney, commented that he doesn't think there's any liability at all to the Town Board if there isn't a Planning Board, and gave an example of the Town of Dresden which doesn't have a Planning Board and there hasn't been any issues.

Supervisor Kerr closed the courtesy of the floor at 8:35 PM.

### **Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor Kerr gave updates on her meetings at the County.

- County budget pressures and expected tax increases - The county is still struggling with the budget. The driving factors are health insurance and unfunded mandates from New York State. The State keeps mandating things and then they put it on the counties to pay for them. So we are probably going to see a substantial increase in our taxes again this year because we just can't keep up with the mandates. Also, health insurance for the County is going to increase another 17% this year .
- Homelessness Statistics - Washington County is the third in New York State for homeless people. We are only behind New York City and Sullivan County. In the past year, our homeless population has increased by 30%. It went from 545 to 698. Saratoga County increased their beds by 150. Warren County increased their beds by 85. Washington County actually decreased their beds but that was because of the awesome staff down there and they dedicated a lot of hard work and time into finding these folks permanent homes.
- Fire danger and burn ban – There's a red flag warning, meaning it's a critical fire time right now. So we're going to remind everybody that there is still a burning ban in effect until May 14th. With the high winds and the dry leftover growth from last year, it's a very high fire risk.
- Sheriff's annual report - The Washington County Sheriff's annual report was released this month, and the Town of Putnam there were only three arrests out of the 731 that took place in the county last year.
- Local nonprofit "No Empty Bowls" – The program is based out of Granville, out of someone's home, and they are a nonprofit that provides pet food and supplies for people who can't afford it, especially the elderly. They cover Warren and Washington County and they will sometimes do pet flea collars, things like that if they can with donations, but they are nonprofit and they run mostly off donations. [www.noemptybowls.org](http://www.noemptybowls.org) and you can make donations on their site, or if you know someone that actually may need this help, you can go on the site and fill out the form.
- Lifeguard and BAR vacancies- Town of Putnam is currently seeking 2 lifeguards for July 1st through Labor Day, and we are still seeking one Board of Assessment Review individual.
- Feral cat concerns - I've had several complaints from residents around town about cats. I don't know if anyone else is experiencing that issue. There are neighbors complaining that there are feral cats running around and have caused problems. I think it's an issue that our board is going to have to look at. Rabies is a concern.
- Sales of *Memories of Putnam Station New York* book - Eileen Greeley, Town Historian, has written the book and she did a fabulous job. It's a wonderful book. It's a pictorial history for the most part, and we have sold 125 books to the sum of \$6250. A donation for the publishing of the book was made, so all of the money made on sales will come back to the Town. They are \$50. (Copies of the book were circulated among the attendees)

## **Highway Report**

Highway Superintendent Gary Treadway reported on a few items that will require board approval.

- Old garbage truck – It was put on Auctions International for two weeks and it came back at \$4,650. The Board would have to accept that bid or could make a reasonable counter. Highway Superintendent Treadway thought it was going to bring a little more, possibly around \$6,000-\$10,000 but it really wasn't a sought-after item.

### **Resolution #36**

#### **To authorize the Highway Superintendent to accept the bid on the 2003 Garbage Truck**

On motion of Councilman Mark Karlson, Seconded by Supervisor Darlene Kerr; Councilwoman Carole Schneider opposed. Resolution passed by majority.

- Contract with Washington County to do the roadside mowing - The Town has done it for about 20 years, and they did up the price to \$500 a line mile and there's roughly 10 1/2 miles of mowing that's done. Councilman Charles Bain, Sr. inquired how much does it actually cost the Town to do it. Highway Superintendent Treadway mentioned it might cost a couple hundred dollars in fuel and time, but the main thing is we are going across their roads anyways and mowing all the roads at the same time makes the Town look nice rather than waiting for the County to do it at different times.

### **Resolution #37**

#### **To authorize the Highway Superintendent to sign the contract with Washington County for roadside mowing**

On motion of Councilman Charles Bain, Sr., Seconded by Councilman Mark Karlson; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

- Overhead doors at the Highway Barn – There are six doors and every three to four years we get some preventative maintenance done on those, for safety being number one, but also to find any problems before they become big problems. The building was built in 2005, so it is over 20 years old. We haven't done it in about three years. This is brought to the Board for approval as it would be a general fund expense because it's the building so it's not out of the highway fund. Councilman Mark Karlson inquired what the cost would be. Highway Superintendent Treadway mentioned he was hoping to have gotten an email earlier in the day with an estimate, but he didn't. A rough estimate might be around \$1,000 because they come from Glens Falls so they get mileage as well. The cost would be for preventative maintenance, but if they find a problem they should fix it while they are on site.

### **Resolution #38**

#### **To authorize the Highway Superintendent to schedule preventative maintenance on the overhead doors at the Highway Barn**

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

- Maintenance on the oil/water separator at the Highway Barn - Outside of the Highway Barn is around a 1000 gallon holding tank that holds fluids from the drains. Every three to four years it should be serviced and may cost around \$4,000 to \$5,000. However, it is something that the DEC could regulate if they came to the building, so there should be something on file that the Town is maintaining they system and that it's working properly. There are very few companies that do this type of work. There's one in Glens Falls and one in Schenectady. As far as getting three bids, the Highway Superintendent knows it's not over \$10,000, but it will be a sizeable bill.

### **Resolution #39**

#### **To authorize the Highway Superintendent to schedule maintenance on the oil/water separator at the Highway Barn**

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, Seconded by Councilman Charles Bain, Sr.; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

### **Planning Board Report**

No Report.

### **Fire Department Report**

Attached to the Minutes.

### **Old Business**

- Flood Damage Prevention Proposed Local Law - Town Attorney Robert Winn advised delaying adoption until DEC completes its review. Another Public Hearing isn't necessary, and it will be tabled until June.
- Site Plan Review and Planning Board discussion - Councilman Charles Bain, Sr. commented that he still thinks it should be tabled to have even more time to think about it. Councilman Mark Karlson also believes it makes sense based on all of the discussions that have taken place. Gaylen Seerup inquired if it could be a five-person board. Councilman Rick Bezio commented that the discussion on the Site Plan Review should be tabled as he believes it's separate from the Planning Board. Councilwoman Carole Schneider inquired if the Planning Board is still in place. Town Attorney Robert Winn responded that the Planning Board is still in effect until the law is filed with the State of New York, and as it hasn't been filed with the State of New York the Planning Board is still in effect. Wayne Busby inquired what should happen with documentation from residents that are working on a project, and if they can turn their plans into the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk, Nancy Treadway, confirmed that would be fine and she will contact Wayne whenever there are questions or paperwork submitted. Galen Seerup then inquired if the Town Board would you want to make Wayne the Acting Chairman of Planning Board. Supervisor Kerr would like to table the issue until at least next month, but in the meantime asked if the Board would like to appointment Wayne as the Acting Chairman.

**Resolution #40**

**To appoint Wayne Busby as the Acting Chairman of the Planning Board**

On motion of Supervisor Darlene Kerr, Seconded by Councilman Charles Bain, Sr.; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

- Review of SEQRA for the Proposed Local Law #3 for Environmental Protection of Hillsides and Shoreline areas. This proposed Local Law concerns the regulation of blasting and excavating activities in hillside and shoreline areas. This is an unlisted action under SEQRA as it involves the adoption of the Local Law. The Town Board will act as lead agency for the purpose of the SEQRA review.

**Resolution #41**

**To approve the Town Board to act as lead agency for the purpose of the SEQRA review**

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

- Supervisor Kerr then went through the SEQRA forms. Following the review, Councilman Mark Karlson commented that he is in favor of adopting the negative declaration, but the draft from the Town Attorney had a couple of technical errors in it that should be fixed before the Board can officially adopt it. In the draft resolution, in the fourth “whereas” paragraph it references the other law about abolishing the Planning Board, so that should refer to Law #3, not to law #2, and the same technical correction needs to be made to the last “whereas” paragraph, so it refers to the law we're actually reviewing. So once those things are corrected, we could adopt it. The Town Attorney did say that as it is just the SEQRA resolution and not the proposed local law, the Board could proceed to vote.

**Resolution #42**

**To approve the SEQRA Resolution as drafted with the noted two corrections**

Councilman Mark Karlson made a motion to approve the resolution as drafted with the two corrections so that they refer correctly to this proposed Local Law #3, Seconded by Supervisor Darlene Kerr; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

**New Business**

None.

Supervisor Darlene Kerr adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm.

The Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law #3 for Environmental Protection of Hillsides and Shoreline Areas and the Regular Town Board Meeting will take place on May 14, 2026, at 7:00 pm at the Putnam Town Hall and ZOOM.

I sent in correspondence last week regarding my ongoing concerns and questions surrounding the Town Board's actions in abolishing the Putnam Planning Board, but the actions of the Town Board in the last two days demands further comment.

The astonishing lack of respect by the Town Board regarding the tax payers of Putnam is appalling. The Town Board continues to ignore the majority opinion. The Town Board members who voted to abolish the Putnam Planning Board continue to ignore multiple requests by multiple people to give an explanation or reason for their actions shows an unwillingness to be accountable for their actions.

The Town Board's newest action is beyond comprehension. To state, on the record, at the February meeting "*Councilwoman Schneider withdrew her prior motion from the January 8, 2026 Town Board meeting that included eliminating the Planning Board and the Site Plan Review Law, and instead made a motion to keep the Site Plan Review Law but dissolve the Planning Board, transferring its responsibilities to the Town Board*". And then, on the record of the March meeting, "*Resolution #26 to move the vote on Local Law #1 to the Town Board Meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026*". Yet now, without any prior notice other than posting Proposed Law # 2 to the Town website sometime late Monday April 6, 2026, the Town Board is once again proposing rescinding the Site Plan Review Law in addition to abolishing the Planning Board. In doing so, totally disregarding the obvious requirement of a new Public Hearing by New York laws and regulations outlined in "Adopting Local Laws in New York State". The Town Board's actions are indefensible and illustrate a blatant disregard for the people's concerns.

In addition, with the posting of Proposed Law #2 a SEQR has been attached to that proposal that dares to say "no, or small impact may occur" regarding the following:

#2 Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?

#3 Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?

#8 Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or **aesthetic** resources?

#9 Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g. wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?

#10 Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems.

ALL of these should absolutely be marked "moderate to large impact may occur" if the Site Plan Review Law, which oversees Stormwater Management (when not covered by LGPC) and which also oversees blasting, is being considered for repeal.

In addition, the agenda has under 'Old Business' "Review of SEQRA for the proposed Local Law for Environmental Protection of Hillsides and Shoreline Areas". Why would you repeal the Site Plan Review Law, which already addresses this issue to turn around and propose a new law? Especially since this new law restricts **ONLY** shoreline of Lake George & Lake Champlain and the Site Plan Review law protects the entire town.

I respectfully request that Courtesy of the Floor be reopened after "Old Business- Discussion on the Site Plan Review and Planning Board.

Nancy Wolf-Fisher

4/2/2026

Putnam Town Board Members,

At this time, there are several unanswered questions and concerns regarding the proposed plan of abolishing the Putnam Planning Board.

First, although several people asked for clarification/an explanation during the February Public Hearing as to why certain members of the Town Board felt abolishing the Putnam Planning Board and rescinding the Site Plan Review Law was the right thing to do, not one Town Board member has explained or given a reason for this action. As a matter of fact, I reached out to one Town Board member to ask their reasons (reached out by phone, text, and email) and literally got no response to my request. Citizens asked for a reason and have been given none.

Second, although Attorney Winn and the Town Board addressed one of my concerns regarding improper procedures (the absence of a SEQRA), 2 others have not yet been addressed. I contacted Attorney Winn with documentation regarding New York State Adopting Local Laws regulations, and again, I have heard nothing. So, I will once again address those concerns, seeing as how the Town Board seems to think ignoring a concern will make it go away.

Concern #1: The proposed law has still not been posted. According to the New York State Department of State Committee on Open Government:  
*However, § 103(e) of the OML requires that "[a]gency records available pursuant to [FOIL], as well as any proposed resolution, law, rule, regulation, policy or any amendment thereto, that is scheduled to be the subject of discussion by a public body during an open meeting" be made available to the public either by request or, **when the body maintains a routinely updated website and utilizes a high speed internet connection, by posting the records to the website "to the extent practicable at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting[.]"** In our view, if or when any such proposed resolution or law is scheduled to be discussed at an open portion of a meeting (i.e. not during executive session), it should be available to the public as described above.*

So, although Attorney Winn suggested and stated during the March 12, 2026, meeting that "requirement that final law be available to the Board for at least 7 days prior to adoption" was one reason for postponing the vote until April, that does NOT address the Open Meeting Regulation of posting the proposed law on the Town website.

Concern #2: I provided Attorney Winn in my email on March 25, 2026, two references from the New York State Department of State. One, a Power Point from the NYSAC Training for County Officials, and the second, a PDF of Adopting Local Laws in New York State. Both clearly state "*The municipal attorney may be required to amend or redraft the proposed law based on the input from local residents at the public hearing. If so, the procedure will start over at Step II and follow the same time frame as the original draft.*" Step II-IV includes having another public hearing. Considering the February minutes state "*Councilwoman Schneider withdrew her prior motion from the January 8, 2026 Town Board meeting that included eliminating the Planning Board and the Site Plan Review Law, and **instead** made a motion to keep the Site Plan Review Law but dissolve the Planning Board, transferring its responsibilities to the Town Board*" it is clear the 'proposed law' was amended and therefore, according to New York State regulations needs to go through the whole process again.

Please address these concerns before any vote on the proposed law to abolish the Putnam Planning Board.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Wolf-Fisher  
5183 Sagamore Road  
Putnam Station, NY 12861

Attached to email: NYSAC Training Power Point and PDF Adopting Local Laws in New York State.

On Wed, Apr 8, 2026 at 1:36 PM Ellen Birch <eja45@verizon.net> wrote:

I sent the following to the town of Putnam on behalf of the Civic Association:

Dear Town Supervisor Kerr and Members of the Putnam Town Board,

I represent the Black Point Road Civic Association. Many of our residents live in your jurisdiction.

I am writing to respectfully urge you not to pass Local Law No. 2 of 2026, which would repeal Local Law No. 1 of 2020 (Site Plan Review Law), abolish the Planning Board of the Town of Putnam and transfer Planning Board powers and duties to the Town Board.

Thoughtful site plan review helps address issues such as storm water runoff, erosion, tree removal and septic system management, all factors that directly affect property values (which translate into tax revenue), shoreline stability and the Lake's famously clear water.

We are concerned that eliminating the Planning Board would leave many projects without meaningful review with the proper oversight. Eliminating Site Plan Review Law would also get rid of necessary guidelines for determining environmental and community impacts of new land use projects.

If there are concerns with the current process, we respectfully encourage the Town Board to consider targeted improvements, such as refining the Site Plan Review Law or adjusting Planning Board structure, rather than eliminating local oversight altogether.

Our association has many retired professionals that would be happy to assist in the refinement of any local law.

We recognize that You have a responsibility to balance town economics and town regulations, but equally we recognize that repealing this particular law could inflict irreversible damage and ultimately lead to a decline in property value and tax revenue.

Thank you for your time and consideration with respect to this concern.

Very Truly Yours

Jeff Birch

President - Black Point Road Civic Association

**Putnam Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC)**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2026 Report to the Putnam Town Board**  
**April 9, 2026**  
**Prepared by D. Hayes, PVFC Secretary**

**Staffing and Training**

There are currently 16 active members in the Putnam Volunteer Fire Co.. Eight members serve as Interior Firefighters, five are Exterior Firefighters, one serves as fire police, one is our first responder (EMT) Captain, and one is a certified master diver. Five members are certified EMT's and all members have current CPR certifications. Company members are expected to regularly refresh and update their skills through weekly drills and formal coursework led by certified instructors. During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter two of our members completed EMT training, bringing the total number of EMT's in the fire company to five. Two new members are just starting the 13-week Basic Exterior Fire Operations course. Also during this quarter we hosted a very successful joint ice rescue training drill in Gull Bay with the Ticonderoga Fire Department.

**Emergency Responses**

During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter the PVFC received twenty-four 911 calls of the following types:

EMS calls in Putnam --- 10  
Fires in Putnam --- 1 (a chimney fire)  
Fires in Ticonderoga --- 2  
Smoke detector activations --- 2  
Electrical power lines down in Putnam --- 2  
Standbys at the Ticonderoga Fire Station --- 2  
Standbys at the Putnam Fire Station --- 1  
Motor Vehicle Accidents --- 2 (one in Putnam and one in Dresden)  
Ice/water rescue calls --- 2

To provide historical context a table is included as an appendix to this report showing the number and variety of emergency calls the fire company has received since 2017.

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

As of the end of March the balance in our operating budget account was \$144,366.07 which must last the fire company until March 1, 2027 when we receive our fire tax funds for the next year. We are currently carrying two truck loans with total annual payments of \$64,378.33, or 38 % of our total budget. Our two truck loans will be paid off in 2028 and 2039.

Over the last 5 years, from 2021 to 2026, the fire company's budget has increased from \$162,600 to \$171,852, which is equivalent to a 1.1% compounded annual increase over the same period. Our budget is directed towards covering daily operational expenses, truck loans,

and basic building maintenance. Since the budget is not sufficient to completely cover these expenses we supplement it with fundraising and grants.

### **Condition of the Fire Trucks**

The PVFC has five fire trucks: two engine/pumpers and one water tanker for fighting fires and responding to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous incidents, one SUV (a Chevrolet Tahoe) for EMS calls, and one truck to take members and their gear to rescue scenes, including water and ice rescues. This rescue truck was purchased used from another fire company with funds generously donated by Putnam town residents. During 2023, also using donated funds, we purchased a 19-foot boat to use for water rescues, and were given, at no cost, a hovercraft from the North Queensbury Fire District to use for ice rescues.

All our trucks undergo regular servicing and NYS inspections. Our newest pumper is three years old and replaced a truck that was 32 years old. It 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. It carries 1250 gallons of water, compared with 500 gallons on the truck it replaced. Our next newest pumper is 13 years old, and our tanker is 24 years old. Our fire trucks collectively carry 5,000 gallons of water, which is needed because the Town does not have fire hydrants. Note that a **single** small diameter (1 3/4 ") fire hose flows at the rate of 160 gallons/minute, sufficient for just 31 minutes of operation at a fire. Therefore, an important task at any major fire is to use our tanker and one of our engine/pumpers to ferry water from Lake George or a nearby pond to the scene of the fire. Our newest engine/pumper, which can operate several hoses simultaneously, stays at the scene of the fire to provide fire suppression.

### **Condition of other Equipment**

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

### **Condition of the Fire Station Building and Grounds**

The fire station has many maintenance needs but none of them are critical. All the basic systems, heating, septic, electrical, water, and standby generator are functioning properly. Our doors do not seal well and the insulation in the building is marginal, both of which add to our heating costs during the cold months. We also could use additional space for our turnout gear and the new washer and dryer, which for health reasons should be in their own room but are currently located in the main truck bay where they are exposed to exhaust from our trucks. During the second half of 2024 and first half of 2025, using our fundraising monies, we made substantial upgrades to the firehouse's electrical system. During Fall 2025 the firehouse parking lot was completely resurfaced by the same contractor that resurfaced NYS 22 upon completion of the Quebec-NYC power line project. There was done at no cost to the fire company.

### **Communications to the Community**

Each year we send a newsletter to all Putnam property owners describing our activities during the preceding 12 months. Our 2025 newsletter was mailed out in late September.

### **External Grant Applications**

We will be applying for a FEMA AFG grant during the next round, which is expected to be announced soon. We have already contracted with Vickers Consulting Services in Texas to write the grant for us and have submitted updated information about the fire company to them. They have written several successful AFG grants for us in the past (2015, 2016, 2022, 2023). This grant will focus on replacing 20 of our portable radios with those that will be compatible with the new dispatch system Washington County will be installing soon.

We have also contracted with Vickers to write a grant application to the Firehouse Subs Foundation for 3 new airbags at a cost of \$13,979.70 to replace our current ones which are out of date and no longer functional. These are used to lift vehicles to extricate occupants after an accident.

Finally, we would like to be able to apply for grants through the NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. To qualify, we must first be registered as a non-profit with the NYS Attorney General's Charities Bureau and by the Statewide Financial System (SFS). We just completed the first of these registrations and are now working on the second.

### **Fundraising Efforts**

We normally have two fundraisers each year. Our annual newsletter to the Putnam community, which contains a fundraising appeal, typically yields \$10,000 - \$12,000 in responses. Our other fundraiser, a summer Chicken BBQ, usually nets \$2,000 - \$5,000 after expenses.

### PVFC Incident Statistics

Prepared by D. Hayes — Last Updated on 04/06/2026

Type of Incident	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Thru March
EMS	31	22	30	35	29	47	31	41	47	10
False & Cancelled Alarms	8	10	8	5	5	7	10	7	9	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	5	4	2	5	12	8	4	5	2
Water Rescues	1		2	2	1	4	5	4	8	1
Ice Rescues	2			1		2	0		2	1
Other Rescues (hiking, snowmobiling, etc.)				1		0	0			
Standbys at Ti Fire Station	4	9	8	5	10	2	2	5	3	2
Standbys at Putnam Fire Station					1	1	1	4	1	1
Standbys at Dresden Fire Station				1		0	0			
Standbys at Whitehall Fire Station				1		0	0	1		
Fires in Putnam		6	5	4	5	5	3	7	2	1
Fires in Ticonderoga	1	6	3	2	6	10	4	6	2	2
Fires in Dresden or Whitehall	1	1	1			3	1	1	2	
Fires in Crown Point								1	1	
Smoke	1	2		2	1	0	4	3		
Fire or CO Alarm Activated	1		1			1	0		2	2
Service calls (water in cellar, tree on road)	2		3			0	1			
Hazardous Situations (Elec., Chem.)	1	2		1		0	0			
Power Lines Down	1	1	2	5	10	7	2	6	8	2
Lightning strikes		1				0	0			
Other		1				1	1			
<b>TOTAL # OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>24</b>