

Regular Meeting
Of the
Putnam Town Board
December 10th, 2020 at 7p.m. ~ Putnam Town Hall~ZOOM

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilman Charlie Bain 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: David Hayes (Putnam Volunteer Fire Department, Gull Bay) Leslie L. Bain (Resident, Peterson Road). **Present via ZOOM:** Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 14), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), John Breitenbach (Town Attorney, 23 Father Jogues Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883), Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chair, 17360 State Route 22), Allen Moore (Planning Board, 974 County Route 2).

Resolution # 114

Accept the minutes of the November 12th, 2020 Regular Meeting

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

Resolution #115

Accept the Budget Officer's report for the month of November 2020

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

Resolution #116

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month November 2020

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

Resolution #117

Accept the Town Justice's report for the month of November 2020

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

Resolution #118

Pay bill as audited

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

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

General Fund	# 307-337	\$47,662.85
Highway Fund	# 109-121	\$48,165.60

Correspondence (7:08)

Bacheldor - Supervisor Wilson acknowledged correspondence from Laurie and David Bacheldor, in the form of several emails. Supervisor Wilson summarized the contents of the correspondence saying initially the Bacheldor's were opposed to the blasting that was to occur on a property adjacent to their property where construction is taking place. After meeting with the blasting company, and receiving further information about the blasting, the Bacheldor's stated that most of their concerns had been put to rest. (See attached to read full correspondence)

Rudt - An email from Bob Rudt was acknowledged. (Read aloud by Mr. Rudt during Courtesy of the floor.

Courtesy of the floor (7:10)

Bob Rudt addressed the Board by reading his email into record.

“With regard to the minutes of November meeting of the Town Board of Putnam I respectfully request the following changes:

First that the information I provided as the basis of my presentation be included in the minutes. I have attached a copy in PDF format for your convenience.

Second that the list of docks purported to have been presented by me be deleted along with the header entitled list of docks presented by Bob Rudt. They were not part of the meeting and were only forwarded to the Supervisor the day after and should have remained privileged information at least until such time as reviewed by the assessor.

Lastly that the description of what transpired at the meeting provided in Courtesy of the floor be replaced with the following:

Bob Rudt presented data showing the steady increases in the Town budget over the past five years and indicated that it has grown some 11 percent. He then discussed the Total Assessed Value of the Town and pointed out that it has declined over the past seven years which results in the need to constantly raise property taxes. He offered reasons for why this is the case but stated that there are many properties in Town that are simply not on the tax rolls. He mentioned docks and boathouses as an example stating that only half are taxed, and that the other half are not. He further stated he thought this was an unequitable situation.

Thank you.

Bob Rudt”

(See attached documents provided by Mr. Rudt with the email)

Supervisor Wilson thanked Mr. Rudt for the comments and the email.

Mr. Rudt added “I am extremely disappointed, Darrell, in you personally. That you would take an email sent to you, that is clearly sensitive, clearly privileged information, and attribute it to me, and secondly that you would allow Darlene to publish it in a public forum. I’ve already received feedback from people saying who the hell do they think I am to turn them in for their docks to the Assessor”. “This is not a good thing; this does not shed good light on me and my business. I have sufficient information, an audio recording of the meeting, I will have these minutes, I can turn around, I can explain my position, my situation and exonerate myself in essence, I assure you it will not cast good light on you”

Supervisor Wilson replied by asking the Town Attorney, Mr. Breitenbach, if he had an opinion, adding “we may need to explain what is privileged information and not privileged information in a public forum”.

Mr. Breitenbach replied he was not aware of the entirety of the circumstances. Mr. Breitenbach said he would read the emails to see if he can come up with an answer that will satisfy the legality of this dispute. He continued it seems like a dispute without merit if the information was presented publicly in some form, if that information was bolstered by supplemental information, “my gut tells me it’s sort of a moot issue”. Supervisor Wilson thanked Mr. Breitenbach and said that the information would be supplied to him for his analysis. Supervisor Wilson continued saying that nothing is confidential unless it’s confidential by law. Confidential by law is usually personnel information which is covered by HIPAA laws (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996). Supervisor Wilson continued saying “any information we do have is in fact public information, the Assessor did have the information already and the follow up email with the information was simply providing the content of the comment regarding the list of boathouses and docks” Supervisor Wilson apologized that Mr. Rudt believed this was done maliciously, we simply documented the conversation and that once information reaches a public official it is public information, unless there is a bylaw reason not to render it to the record. Supervisor Wilson stated “I disagree with your assessment that you lay that at my feet. You made the comments, you referenced the information, then the information then in fact became public. I’m sorry that there was some confusion or misunderstanding” Supervisor Wilson continued saying if you want to make a presentation to the Board, you provide that information to the Town Clerk in advance so it can be part of the agenda then we can make sure we don’t run into this problem again. Cee McKenzie stated that she had supplied the list of docks to the Assessor, and would like the heading changed on the list, “it should not be attributed to Bob”. Supervisor Wilson replied “we’ve got the recording”, Ms. McKenzie replied “I got your point, that is my request”.

The Town Clerk asked to be heard. Supervisor Wilson accepted. Town Clerk Darlene Kerr read a statement into the record.

“I will accept Mr. Rudt’s entry into the December minutes and place it into record, however I feel compelled to reply.

Specifically, I would like to address Mr. Rudt’s statements and accusations in an email he sent to me. In the email Mr. Rudt stated that I “grossly misrepresented” what was said, and in a separate email Mr. Rudt stated that what was recorded in the minutes was “completely false”. Furthermore, Mr. Rudt asserted that the list of docks in the minutes, that was prepared by his wife, was given in “confidence” even though Mr. Rudt did discuss the list during his presentation, on record, at the meeting while being recorded.

I disagree with Mr. Rudt’s assertion the dock list was “in confidence”. Nothing is, nor should be, secret regarding Town business with the exception of personnel records and discussions. I emailed Mr. Rudt and the Board the recording for clarity, so we all could recollect accurately what was said at the meeting and recorded.

I create minutes from a recording, and notes. I’m certain what was reported in the minutes was in fact said during the meeting and as such was captured in the minutes. I will not change, nor will I withdraw any portion of November’s minutes. The correct procedure for corrections is to make the correction at the

following month's meeting, as was done here this evening. I will continue to follow minutes protocol as set forth by New York State and the Open Meetings Laws.

I am deeply offended as both a conscientious record keeper and as an individual who was accused indirectly of being a liar, and worse, that I was accused as someone who would falsify a public record. I reject that implication and I resent it.

For complete transparency I have trimmed the recording to the *Courtesy of the floor* portion of the meeting and I will make the recording available as part of December's minutes.

Thank you"

Supervisor Wilson thanked the Clerk for her comments then asked if anyone else would like to exercise Courtesy of the floor. None responded.

Highway report (7:17)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported the crew has been healthy and things are going well. HS Treadway praised his crew for practicing all the necessary precautions to stay healthy inside and outside of work, saying "they're doing a great job there". HS Treadway continued, the sand pile has been hauled, the equipment is in good condition and ready for the season. The crew continues to ditch problem areas on various roads for better drainage. HS Treadway indicated he is still working with the County to set up a date to train on the mobile salt brine unit. HS Treadway asked if anyone had any questions.

Supervisor Wilson revisited a discussion from the previous month about water and bathroom operation dates for the parks. Supervisor Wilson asked if the Board had any input. Councilman Bain replied he would like to see the dates set as opening May 1 and closing November 1 of each year. Councilman Mallon expressed he was concerned about access for the bird watchers. Councilman Bain replied that the parks are still accessible, but the bathrooms will be closed, and the water turned off.

Resolution #119

Set water and bathroom access open and close dates at the Putnam parks to May 1- November 1 of each year.

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

The parks will still be accessible before and after the dates, however people reserving the park will have to supply their own porta potties if reserving outside of the open dates or in the event of an early freeze.

Planning Board report (7:25)

Planning Board Chair Galen Seerup reported the Planning Board had met the evening prior. The first order of business on their agenda was two public hearings, one for the Tiroga Beach area, the second for Peterson Road. The Chair reported that the room the Planning Board met in was kept at a total of 10 people to follow safety guidelines for social distancing. During the regular meeting Mr. Mersereau's plans in Black Point were approved, Mr. Velez's house on Peterson Road was also approved. An opening discussion on a helipad and a hanger proposed to be built on property owned by Chris Kneepers located at 836 Gull Bay Road took place. Mr. Kneepers still has a "long way to go" on his application to the Planning Board. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) nor the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) have rendered a decision yet on the helipad/hanger proposed project. Another item before the Planning Board was Jon Herttua who had placed a shed on his property. Mr. Herttua appeared 'after the fact' to the Planning Board. Mr. Herttua had been in violation for over a year. He received approval to place his shed 5 feet from the property line, with a permit. Supervisor Wilson thanked Chairman Seerup for his report and asked if there were any questions for the Chairman. There were none. Supervisor Wilson brought forward that the Planning Board would be welcoming a new member in January. Chairman Seerup acknowledged there would be a new member also saying that Allen Moore, the departing member, will be missed. The Chairman also said the Planning Board had thanked Mr. Moore for his years of service the

evening before at their meeting. Chairman Seerup also stated that he will need a Vice-Chairman, as Mr. Moore served in that role as well.

Supervisor Wilson replied that he had reached out to Jim Hock and inquired whether he would accept an appointment as Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Hock indicated he would but cautioned that he travels for two months during the year and that should be taken into consideration with that appointment. Supervisor Wilson asked Chairman Seerup if he thought that would cause difficulties. Chairman Seerup replied he did not think so.

Resolution #120

Appoint Jim Hock as Vice-Chairman of the Putnam Planning Board

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

Supervisor Wilson thanked Mr. Moore publicly for his years of insightful service on the Planning Board. A discussion about the open seat on the Planning Board and the two applicants, Christopher Edwards and Mark Karlson, took place. The skills and background of each well qualified applicant were reviewed and discussed. It was determined both are excellent candidates however, Mr. Edwards was available immediately to serve, where Mr. Karlson is expected to retire and live here full time in the near future. The hope is that Mr. Karlson will maintain his interest in the Planning Board for future vacancies.

Resolution #121

Appoint Christopher Edwards to the Planning Board for a 7-year term, January 1, 2021-December 31, 2027

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

Supervisor Wilson addressed Chris Edwards who was on ZOOM, congratulating him on his appointment. Mr. Edwards was advised he could appear to the Town Clerk to be sworn in at his convenience.

Chairman Seerup addressed Supervisor Wilson stating that the Planning Board was still unclear about whether they would be getting a Code Enforcement Officer.

Town Attorney John Breitenbach welcomed Mr. Edwards to the Planning Board.

Fire Department report (7:42)

Councilman Larry Shiell reported the Fire Department held their annual officer elections then, handed the conversation over to Dave Hayes a Fire Department member in attendance. Mr. Hayes indicated he was not in attendance of the FD meeting because he was at a firefighting class in Argyle that evening. His understanding is that Doug Thatcher was elected Chief. Mr. Hayes will take the role as President in March; however, he will need to meet the FD Bylaw requirement of being a member of one year before taking an officer's position. Mr. Hayes relayed that Mike Wallace will serve as President until Mr. Hayes has met the one-year requirement in March. Mr. Wallace is working with Mr. Hayes toward the transition. Supervisor Wilson advised the Board that the 2021 contract has been sent to the Fire Department's attorney. The 2021 contract indicates that the full contracted amount will be paid no later than March 1st and also includes a requirement of quarterly financial reports to the Town Board.

Councilwoman Schneider asked Mr. Hayes if the Fire Department had bought a new fire truck. Mr. Hayes replied no. The Department is doing the research for a new fire truck. Mr. Hayes advised that the FD has interviewed 4 vendors, the lowest priced truck that meets their needs is around \$400,000. The FD would pay the annual payment on the truck, but the lending institution requires that the Town guarantee the loan. Mr. Hayes expects the FD will be approaching the Town Board in the near future to ask for the loan guarantee. The truck takes about fifteen months between the order time and actual delivery.

Councilwoman Schneider asked if the proposed truck would fit down all of Putnam's roads. Mr. Hayes indicated that it would, and that the truck is four-wheel drive. Councilwoman Schneider then asked what would happen to the old truck. Mr. Hayes thought that it was too old for trade in but stated that there is a market for used firetrucks and it would likely be sold. Councilman Bain asked Mr. Hayes how small fire companies like Dresden and Hague keep up with the equipment. When compared to Putnam's FD Dresden's funding is "way low" Councilman Bain pointed out. Mr. Hayes indicated that Dresden has the lowest funding in Washington County. Mr. Hayes cautioned that there are many ways to compare funding based on assessed value, population, coverage area, services provided etc. "you have to be careful how you look at the numbers". Councilman Bain replied, "you still have to show the need". Councilman Mallon indicated he would get the information to Councilman Bain, and Councilwoman Schneider provided to him by Mr. Hayes. The Clerk said she would print the email containing Mr. Hayes' comparison information and get it to Councilman Bain and Councilwoman Schneider. Councilman Mallon expressed his appreciation for the work Mr. Hayes has done to help evaluate the FD needs. Supervisor Wilson and the Board also thanked Mr. Hayes for his hard work. Supervisor Wilson reiterated it is the Town's responsibility to assess the needs of the Town. He expressed that we have a baseline now, going forward we need to keep an open mind, evaluate, and keep a dialogue open with the FD. Councilman Shiell offered additional information saying that every time mutual aid is called the FD is liable for any damage or injury that may occur to the called-out department during their response in Putnam.

Old business (8:23)

Real Property Tax Law 487- Supervisor Wilson revisited the Town opting out of RPTL487 exemption for certain energy systems. Opting out means that Putnam will not give certain energy applications a tax exemption. Putnam will need to adopt a local law opting out of the tax exemption. A public hearing date was set for Wednesday, December 30th, 2020 at 5PM.

New business (8:25)

End of Year & Organizational meeting- The End of Year meeting will take place immediately following the public hearing on Wednesday, December 30th, 2020, followed by the Organizational meeting for 2021 at the Putnam Town Hall for the Board, via ZOOM for observers.

Dog Control Law update- Supervisor Wilson reviewed the current dog law recognizing that it has not been updated for over three decades. Copies of the current law will be supplied to the board. The original law was adopted in 1988.

Municipal Dog Shelter- The shelter that the Town of Putnam is currently contracted with has declined a contract renewal. Putnam will be seeking an alternate State approved shelter for seized dogs.

Proposal from Hauge Deputy Town Supervisor- There is a renewed emphasis on the water quality in Lake George. Part of the discussion is access to Lake George through State launches. The State has a tendency to leave their launches unlock and unmanned. The Town of Putnam has been asked to participate with other towns in asking the State to keep their launches staffed longer, to control lake access. This will raise costs; each town bordering Lake George has been asked to contribute money to pay for the additional costs to the State to man their launches. Recreation Supervisor Mary Jane Dedrick joined the conversation saying she was told at the beginning of the program that the launch should be locked April 1 and can be unlocked November 1 of each year, with the understanding that the water temperature was too low for a boat to introduce invasive species during that time frame. Supervisor Wilson asked the Board if they wanted to contribute to the State to help staff their launches, the Board declined. Supervisor Wilson stated we can support the effort to protect the lake, and not provide funds to the State to support their launches. Councilman Bain asked if Walt Lender (Executive Director of the Lake George Association, LGA) could attend a meeting, the Clerk suggested asking Chris Navitsky (Lake George Water Keeper, Fund for Lake George) also. Supervisor Wilson indicated he would contact both gentlemen and invite them to the

January meeting. The Board decided they would support the efforts to protect the lake but would not subsidize the State launches.

Resolution #122 (8:40)

Adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Next meeting Wednesday December 30th at 5PM
Next regular meeting, Thursday January 14th, at 7PM

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson _____ Supervisor

Christopher Mallon _____ Councilman

Larry Shiell _____ Councilman

Carole Schneider _____ Councilwoman

Charles Bain _____ Councilman

Submitted by Bob Rudt at November's 2020 Town Board meeting

Town Budget

Putnam Town Budget

Year	Budget Amount	\$ Increase Year over Year	% Increase Year over Year	Cumulative Increase (2017-2021)
2017 (Adopted)	\$ 957,300			
2018 (Adopted)	\$ 980,040	\$ 22,740	2.32%	2.38%
2019 (Adopted)	\$ 993,288	\$ 13,248	1.33%	3.76%
2020 (Adopted)	\$ 1,023,109	\$ 29,821	2.91%	6.87%
2021 (Proposed)	\$ 1,063,394	\$ 40,285	3.79%	11.08%

Source: Town of Putnam Website

BAR Adjustments

Year	Grand Total Taxable Town	% Change Previous Year	\$ Change Previous Year	# of Grievances / Stipulations	BAR Adjustments		Non-BAR Adjustments	
					BAR Adjustments	Non-BAR Adjustments		
2012	\$ 135,329,144	52.82%	\$ 151,492,219	65 / 39	\$ (13,068,761)	\$ (983,678)		
2013	\$ 286,821,363	-0.45%	\$ (1,283,369)	17 / 0	\$ (299,691)	\$ 561,720		
2014	\$ 285,537,994	-0.15%	\$ (420,080)	19 / 1	\$ (981,800)	\$ 1,186,536		
2015	\$ 285,117,914	0.15%	\$ 415,936	25 / 1	\$ (770,600)	\$ 1,571,755		
2016	\$ 285,533,850	0.33%	\$ 932,755	25 / 2	\$ (639,000)	\$ (939,162)		
2017	\$ 286,466,605	-0.49%	\$ (1,406,062)	15 / 0	\$ (466,900)	\$ 2,699,999		
2018	\$ 285,060,543	0.85%	\$ 2,434,975	13 / 1	\$ (265,024)	\$ (1,027,408)		
2019	\$ 287,495,518	-0.40%	\$ (1,149,508)	7 / 0	\$ (122,100)			
2020	\$ 286,346,010							

	Previous Value	Reassess Value	\$ Change	2020 TAV
Adirondack Camp (2018)	2,624,783	1,900,000	(724,783)	2,250,000 construction
Emmi (2018)	330,000	140,000	(190,000)	140,000
Kolman (2018)	350,000	260,000	(90,000)	430,000 construction
Hild (2016)	816,000	751,000	(65,000)	751,000

Sources: Washington County Real Property Website
BAR Chairman Record

Town TAV

Year	Grand Total Taxable Town	% Change Previous Year	\$ Change Previous Year	Cumulative Change (2013-2020)
2012	\$ 135,329,144		\$ 151,492,219	
2013	\$ 286,821,363	52.82%	\$ (1,283,369)	-0.45%
2014	\$ 285,537,994	-0.45%	\$ (420,080)	-0.59%
2015	\$ 285,117,914	-0.15%	\$ 415,936	-0.45%
2016	\$ 285,533,850	0.15%	\$ 932,755	-0.12%
2017	\$ 286,466,605	0.33%	\$ (1,406,062)	-0.61%
2018	\$ 285,060,543	-0.49%	\$ 2,434,975	0.24%
2019	\$ 287,495,518	0.85%	\$ (1,149,508)	-0.17%
2020	\$ 286,346,010	-0.40%		

Sources: Washington County Real Property Website

November 12, 2020 Putnam Town Board Meeting
Courtesy of the floor
Transcript
(Recording available upon request)

*Courtesy of the floor opened

Bob Rudt: Yeah at the budget meeting last month I made some comments about the budget and in particular about the Town's total assessed value. Ah, I did a little further investigation and came up with some numbers to support some of the things I said, and I'd like to share them with you if I can.

Cee McKenzie: Darrell I guess there's no screen sharing from anybody in the audience.

Bob Rudt: I have something to share if you can see it.

Cee McKenzie: It's disabled.

Bob Rudt: Do you have a screen you can look at?

Supervisor Wilson: No, but I can share it to all if you email it to me.

Cee McKenzie: Alright, hold on just a moment please.

Bob Rudt: Let's see how this technology works.

Supervisor Wilson: We can, yeah.

Bob Rudt: You can handle Excel right Darrell?

Supervisor Wilson: Yep

Bob Rudt: OK

Supervisor Wilson: I do have the Washington County Real Property tax evaluation of the Town if that's something

Bob Rudt: Well I have it here on a year by year basis with some analysis.

Supervisor Wilson: OK

Bob Rudt: That I think will be helpful.

Supervisor Wilson: Did you send it to the supervisor dot Wilson?

Cee McKenzie & Bob Rudt simultaneously: Yep

Bob Rudt: That's where it's gone.

Cee McKenzie: You should have it momentarily; and it's coming from me.

(Silence, 31 seconds)

Bob Rudt: Sorry about the delay. I would have emailed earlier but I realized that it probably would have only gotten half the audience.

Supervisor Wilson: Alright, just give me a second I'll bring it up.

Bob Rudt: OK

(Silence, 13 seconds)

Supervisor Wilson: OK we're sharing.

Bob Rudt: You got it? Can everybody see that?

Councilman Shiehl: We can go ahead.

Bob Rudt: OK, well this is kinda just to set the stage. This is the Putnam Town Budget taken from Putnam Town website for the last five years, and it shows we've been able to grow our budget. Our budget has gone from nine fifty-seven in two thousand and seventeen and its incremented up, year by year, to the point where we're now at one oh six three, and that represents each year, ya know anywhere from twenty thirteen, forty thousand dollars increase each year, those things are understandable. Down here we have our ambulance and fire company. The increase over the previous year, ya know it looks modest, 2 percent, 1 percent, 3 percent, 4 percent but those percents add up. It's a cumulative increase, but now in 4 years we've now had an increase of our budget of eleven percent, and that's pretty significant particularly to people who are on fixed incomes. So this kinda just, ya know, we understand where the money is going, but we have a million dollar budget and we've gotta fund it, and that all comes from the Town's total assessed value. The next line Darrell.

Cee McKenzie: Next tab.

Bob Rudt: Next tab on the bottom. Down T.A.V. do you see that? Yep. So here this is data taken from the Washington County website, and it starts with the re-val back in two thousand thirteen. Based on two thousand and twelve numbers, and it shows that our grand total for our Town of Putnam was a total of two hundred and eighty-six million dollars. Even Warren Buffet couldn't buy that. Maybe he could. Anyway, in two thousand and fourteen our total assessed value went down by four point five percent. In fifteen it went down. The next year went up slightly, the next year up, the following year down a half a percent, up close to one percent, and down point four percent. All of these red numbers represents declines in our total assessed value of the

Town. Make the analogy (inaudible).....take your 401K for those of you that have it, or your stock portfolio, or your savings, and basically our savings are less now than they were in two thousand and fourteen. We've got, our town is worth less that it was in two thousand and thirteen. It shows these are the changes we lost basically our stock portfolio here, we lost over a million dollars in fourteen. We lost half a million in fifteen, we made a little money in sixteen and seventeen, but we lost again big in eighteen, made money in nineteen

Supervisor Wilson: Bob if I could, ya know it's normally a couple of minutes for courtesy of the floor. I'm thanking you for doing this, your point please Sir, I'm trying to get to other pieces here and allow other people time to comment.

Bob Rudt: I didn't catch much of that Darrell

Cee McKenzie: You're kinda garbled a little bit Darrell.

Bob Rudt: I didn't get the comment.

Cee McKenzie: He's pushing you on

Bob Rudt: My point is all of these red numbers represent losses to our stock portfolio.

Supervisor Wilson: We understand that.

Bob Rudt: Can you go to the next slide?

Cee McKenzie: Next tab

Bob Rudt: Next tab, this is the last one I assure you. Ya know you ask what's a loss? Our losses come from, first four columns are the same as previous graph, previous chart. This one shows the re-val cost us money, OK, we had a lot of grievances and stipulations and those are shown here and all of those adjustments that the B.A.R. made the first year of thirteen million and then now we're down to the B.A.R. giving back, conceding a hundred and twenty-two thousand. Those are basically losses to our stock portfolio. There are adjustments that are not due to the B.A.R. and those are shown here. And here the positive numbers are the result of what the Assessor does. The Assessor adds to our portfolio, those are gains to our portfolio. Whereas the B.A.R. represents losses to our portfolio. So what's the answer, if you're going to have a larger larger town budget you've gotta do something to maintain and increase your total assessed value. You can do that one of two ways, by tightening up on the B.A.R. which has already been done and by increasing your assessed value. Now some of these numbers over here the Assessors been working adding stuff but he gets hit with lawsuits, article seventy eights that like from Adirondack Camp, Emmi and Kolman and Hild that take all of his efforts and turn those gains into losses. We've got to either fight those lawsuits so that we don't have those losses or work harder,

and this is the key, work harder to get gains. To capture the value that's been added to our town. There's a lot of stuff in town that has not been put on the tax rolls.

Cee McKenzie: I think some of that Darrell comes to making sure the Planning Board is actually, and Code Enforcement are getting those changes whether it's a simple building permit or whether it's a new dock added to a property, those actually get to the Assessor so that he can add those.

Bob Rudt: Those gains are a joint effort between the Planning Board, the Assessor and the Code Enforcement Officer, and this again highlights the need for a Code Enforcement Officer.

Supervisor Wilson: We have a Code Enforcement Officer. Danielle is the one that links us to the County and the permits for that assessed value that's what we have, that's how that works. All of those permits that goes toward what you are talking about go through Danielle and the County.

Cee McKenzie: Excuse me but the dock situation does not go through Danielle, so we need to make sure that the Planning Board is getting those changes into Bill McCarty. And that's (inaudible)... or through our Planning Board if they become aware of it, but those do not go through Danielle.

Supervisor Wilson: That's one example the docks. You're absolutely right, Lake George Park Commission controls that.

Bob Rudt: A comment on docks. Cee has actually done an analysis of docks. There are roughly one hundred and eighty docks and boathouses in Putnam. Only ninety of those are assessed. The other ninety, many of them are in the same bay of those that are assessed, are unassessed, and some of these boathouses have values in excess of a quarter of a million dollars. We're missing ninety docks and boathouses and that's something that isn't even equitable. Half of the docks are taxed and half of them aren't. So, they should all be taxed or all not be taxed, but if we went out and picked up the other ninety, we get our total assessed value up. We'd turn these red numbers black. We would be able to have a budget we can support without raising the (inaudible) on taxpayers.

Cee McKenzie: And those numbers have been provided to Bill. I've given him my analysis work so he can take that under consideration for addition.

Town Clerk: Did he get a list of the docks also?

Supervisor Wilson: You mean he has the list of docks from you?

Cee McKenzie: Yes, he has that analysis work.

Supervisor Wilson: Oh, thank you, that's very helpful.

Bob Rudt: I mean if each dock is a thousand dollars, we'd have ninety grand right there.

Supervisor Wilson: Yeah, absolutely.

Bob Rudt: Some of them, I know one that's two hundred and fifty thousand I know another one that's probably twice that. One is taxed, one is not. There's a lot of money on the table, or on the floor that should be up on the table.

Supervisor Wilson: In the water, sounds like. That's good. This is info we kinda knew we were trending up and down on what we're missing on assessed value, and you found something. Good. Appreciate it that's what we need. Cee if you could send that to me as well? I can follow up with Bill. We can see what we can do to help ourselves out next year.

Cee McKenzie: OK, I will send you the correspondence I sent to Bill and his responses back.

Supervisor Wilson: Thank you.

Cee McKenzie: OK

Bob Rudt: OK, thank you for your time.

Supervisor Wilson: Appreciate that. Good presentation. Thank you.

*Courtesy of the floor closed

Courtesy of the floor quote from November's minutes

“Bob Rudt addressed the Board first. Mr. Rudt produced research his wife completed on assessments pertaining to specific properties in Putnam. Mr. Rudt asserted that properties located along Lake George have docks that have gone un-assessed or under-assessed, saying there are currently 90 docks that are untaxed in Putnam. A list of docks has been forwarded to the Assessor. Mr. Rudt asserted the Town budget, over the course of four years, has had a cumulative increase of 11% (eleven percent) while the Town value decreased. Mr. Rudt asserted “there's a lot of stuff in town that is not on the tax rolls”. Mr. Rudt felt that better communications were needed between departments in Putnam such as the Planning Board, Code Enforcement and the Assessor.”