Minutes
Regular Putnam Town Board Meeting
October 8, 2026, 7:00 pm
~ Putnam Town Hall, 14 Putnam Center Road ~ ZOOM

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

Others present: May Drinkwine Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Nancy L. Treadway (Putnam Town Clerk), Cecilia McKenzie (Resident, 526 Gull Bay Road), David Hayes (Resident, 560 Gull Bay Road)

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

Present via ZOOM: Rob Winn (Town Attorney), Kig27, IPad, Candace Hyatt, Jocelyn McCrae

Supervisor Darlene Kerr called the Regular Town Board Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Supervisor Kerr led the Pledge of Allegiance

Resolution #102
Accept the Minutes of the September 10, 2026 Public Hearing and Regular Town Board Meeting with correction.

- The Town Clerk explained the correction. It was a clerical error of not specifically noting on Resolution #99 that Councilman Mark Karlson was an Aye, and Councilman Charles Bain, Sr. was and Aye for voting.

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

Resolution #103
Accept the Financial Reports for the month of September 2026
On motion of Councilman Rick Bezio; seconded by Councilman Charles Bain, Sr., all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #104

Accept the Town Clerk's Report for the month of September 2026

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

Resolution #105

Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of September 2026

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

Resolution #106

Pay Bills as audited

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

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

General Fund	#212 - #232	$10,226.29
Highway Fund	#96 - #106	$12,143.00
Royal Anchorage Sewer District	#4 - #5	$25,872.75
Black Point Sewer District	#7	$22,674.42

Correspondence

No new correspondence.

Courtesy of the Floor

No comments or questions.

Highway Department Report

Supervisor Kerr reported that the Town had previously approved the purchase of security cameras for Cummings Park, with installation originally planned for the next season. However, recent incidents at the park have accelerated the need for additional security measures.

Security Concerns:

- Highway Department employees recently discovered several large commercial-sized nitrous oxide canisters at the park. Supervisor Kerr commented that these types of canisters are known to be used as inhalants.
- Concerns were expressed regarding illegal activity occurring at the park after dark and the potential for serious injury, overdose, or other dangerous situations.

- Supervisor Kerr stated that there is evidence of ongoing misuse of the park and emphasized the importance of implementing security measures as soon as possible.
- Discussion occurred regarding temporarily closing the park gate overnight until security cameras can be installed. Board members agreed that the park should remain open during daylight hours for public use, but supported closing the gate after dark as a temporary safety measure until the camera installation is completed.

Garbage Disposal Update

- Supervisor Kerr reported that the Town recently opened an account with ACE Carting.
- The Town is currently paying $98 per ton for waste disposal. ACE Carting's rate will be $130 per ton. However, despite the increased disposal cost, the travel distance for the Town truck will be less than the current route. So, it's anticipated that transportation savings may help offset the increased disposal fee.

Planning

Supervisor Kerr stated that prior to the meeting, while conducting the audit of bills, the Board reviewed the following projects:

Stephanie Wagoner, Trustee - The SAW 2001 Trust - Retaining wall/slope stabilization and construction of a walkway (2198 Black Point Road Parcel ID# 1.18-1-21). All required application materials had been submitted, along with neighbor notifications, and no issues were identified.

Resolution #107

To approve Stephanie Wagoner's retaining wall/slope stabilization and construction of a walkway project

On motion of Supervisor Darlene Kerr, seconded by Councilman Mark Karlson; all in favor.

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Jon Hurttua – Porch roof replacement and replacement of several windows (3087 Lake George Way Parcel ID# 7.8-1-21) All required application materials had been submitted, along with neighbor notifications, and no issues were identified.

Resolution #108

To approve Jon Hurttua's porch roof replacement and window replacement project

On motion of Councilman Mark Karlson, seconded by Councilman Charles Bain, Sr.; all in favor.

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Fire Department Report

David Hayes gave the quarterly report for the fire department. Attached to the minutes is the report.

Old Business

Supervisor Kerr commented that the proposed 2027 preliminary budget includes the following significant increases:

- Increased insurance costs.
- Ticonderoga EMS contract increase.
- Around a 40% increase in garbage disposal costs.

In order to set a public hearing for the 2027 preliminary budget, Supervisor Kerr asked for a motion to accept the preliminary budget.

Resolution #109

To accept the 2027 Preliminary Budget

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

New Business

To set a date for a public hearing on the 2027 preliminary budget.

Resolution #110

To set a Public Hearing for the 2027 Preliminary Budget for November 12, 2026 at 7:00 pm

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

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Kerr reported that the primary focus of Washington County during the past month has been the annual budget process.

County Budget Concerns

- Washington County is experiencing increased costs as well, and Supervisor Kerr stated that the County budget growth is attributable to unfunded State mandates.
- Supervisor Kerr proposed casting a protest vote against the County budget as a means of objecting to unfunded mandates imposed by New York State. Board members agreed that local governments should not be required to fund State mandates without having revenue sources and expressed support for Supervisor Kerr's proposed protest vote.

Town website

Supervisor Kerr explained that she has personally administered and maintained the Town's website for around 15 to 17 years. However, because she now serves as Town Supervisor, she commented that it's a conflict of interest and would like to request that the website be transferred directly to the Town.

Resolution #111

To authorize the Town to assume responsibility for maintaining and operating the website, including associated fees

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

Supervisor Kerr announced at 7:32 pm that the Board would enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation. No action will be taken during the Executive Session.

Resolution #112

To approve the Town Board to enter into Executive Session at 7:32 pm

On motion of Supervisor Darlene Kerr, seconded by Councilman Rick Bezio; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

The Town Board entered Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.
No actions were taken.

Resolution #113

To approve the conclusion of the Executive Session and the adjournment of the regular Town Board Meeting at 8:04 pm

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

The next regular Town Board meeting, and Public Hearing on the 2027 Preliminary Budget, will be held on November 12, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy L. Treadway
Putnam Town Clerk

Darlene Kerr _____ Supervisor

Carole Schneider _____ Councilwoman

Rick Bezio _____ Councilman

Charles Bain, Sr. _____ Councilman

Mark Karlson _____ Councilman

Putnam Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC)
3rd Quarter 2026 Report to the Putnam Town Board
October 8, 2026
Prepared by D. Hayes, PVFC Secretary

Staffing and Training

There are currently 18 active members in the Putnam Volunteer Fire Co.. Nine members serve as Interior Firefighters, six are Exterior Firefighters, one serves as fire police, one is our first responder (EMT) Captain, and one is a certified master diver. Two of these members are currently away at college, where they also serve in their college's fire department. Three members are certified EMT's and three more are in training to become EMT's. All fire company members have current CPR certifications. Company members are expected to regularly refresh and update their skills through weekly drills and formal coursework led by NYS certified instructors. This quarter's most significant training event was a 4-day course on fighting structure fires taught by the firm Firefighter Training LLC of Greenwich, NY.

Emergency Responses

During the 3rd quarter the PVFC received ***twenty-five*** 911 calls of the following types, for a total of **69** so far this year:

EMS calls in Putnam --- 9
Rescue calls --- 3 (seaplane overturned in Blairs Bay, a farm accident, a boating accident on Lake George)
Boat fire in Gull Bay --- 1
Structure Fires --- 1 (a residential fire in Whitehall)
Electrical power lines down in Putnam --- 2
Standbys at the Putnam Fire Station --- 6 (all water rescue calls)
False or cancelled alarms --- 3 (residential fire alarm activations)

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 September the balance in our operating account was $49,466.88, which must last the fire company until March 1, 2027 when we receive our fire tax funds for 2027. 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.

During the 2nd and 3rd quarters we made several repairs/upgrades to our 13 year-old engine/pumper (432). To the pumps we added an air-prime unit to make drafting water out of Lake George or a pond quicker to initiate. We replaced the water dump at the rear of the truck, which had become unusable because of rust. And we repaired the cab's A/C unit, which was not working. The invoiced cost of this work was $26,345. The amount budgeted in 2026 for truck maintenance is only $7,000, which means that most of the cost of this maintenance work was covered from other parts of our budget or from fundraising funds.

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. Our heating, septic, and electrical systems are functioning properly, as is our standby generator. However, our water supply line froze last winter and was in need of repositioning and replacement. While doing this we decided to carry out other needed improvements to the fire station's plumbing, all of which has now been completed.

The firehouse parking lot, which was resurfaced last fall, was seal-coated this quarter. Lines were also painted to designate a new helicopter landing zone and parking spots for cars. The landing zone designation is important because the LifeNet medical helicopter service has

started using the firehouse parking lot as a landing zone to pick up people needing quick transport to regional hospitals.

Other issues with the firehouse are doors that do not seal well and insulation in the walls that is marginal, both of which add to our heating costs during the cold months ($6,338 last season). 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.

Communications to the Community

Each year we send a newsletter to all Putnam property owners describing our activities during the preceding 12 months. Our 2026 newsletter was mailed out in August to almost 700 Putnam property owners.

External Grant Applications

In May we submitted a grant application to FEMA requesting $143,000 to purchase portable radios for firefighters to carry at the scene of emergencies. These will replace several older models that either are not working at all or are incompatible with the new radio frequencies that Washington County has announced they will be switching over to in the coming years. And in June we submitted a second grant application to FEMA requesting $62,783 for a new sign to replace our current deteriorating one alongside NYS Rt. 22. The new sign will allow more complete and timely announcements from the fire company to the Putnam community. We have not received any word so far on the outcome of our application for new radios but we were notified in September that we were awarded $45,000 from FEMA for a new roadside sign.

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 donations. The other fundraiser, our annual Chicken BBQ, netted approximately $5,000 after expenses this year. 300 tickets were available, which is limited by the size of our grill, and all were sold.

PVFC Incident Statistics

Prepared by D. Hayes --- Last Updated on 10/06/2026

Type of Incident	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Thru Sept.
EMS	31	22	30	35	29	47	31	41	47	26
False & Cancelled Alarms	8	10	8	5	5	7	10	7	9	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	5	4	2	5	12	8	4	5	2
Water Rescues	1		2	2	1	4	5	4	8	2
Ice Rescues	2			1		2	0		2	1
Other Rescues (hiking, snowmobiling, etc.)				1		0	0			2
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	10
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	2
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	3
Fires in Crown Point								1	1	
Smoke	1	2		2	1	0	4	3		
Fire or CO Alarm Activated	1		1			1	0		2	5
Service calls (water in cellar, tree on road)	2		3			0	1			2
Hazardous Situations (Elec., Chem.)	1	2		1		0	0			1
Power Lines Down	1	1	2	5	10	7	2	6	8	7
Lightning strikes		1				0	0			
Other		1				1	1			
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES	**59**	**66**	**67**	**67**	**73**	**102**	**73**	**90**	**92**	**69**