Minutes

Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c

And

Regular Putnam Town Board Meeting

September 10, 2026, 7:00 pm

~ Putnam Town Hall, 14 Putnam Center Road ~ ZOOM

Town Board Members present:	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), Nancy L. Treadway (Putnam Town Clerk), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Paula Wilson (Resident, 15 County Rte. 3), EJ Conzola (NYVT Media), Jeannie Trudeau (Resident, 300 Pulpit Point Road), Mark Barber (Ticonderoga EMS), Renee Kennedy (Ticonderoga EMS), Charles Koehler (Resident, 2214 Black Point Road), Glenn Brownstein (Resident, 2300 Black Point Road), Cee McKenzie (Resident, 526 Gull Bay Road), Dan Tucker (Resident, 104 County Rte. 2 and Chief of the Putnam Volunteer Fire Dept.), Joan Austin (3011 Lake George Avenue, Ticonderoga), Patricia Maletta (Resident, 2044 Lake George Way), Teresa Devlin (Resident, 2520 Indian Point Way)

** 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), Sid and Bonnie Barnhart, Kig27, Thomas' IPad, Gabrielle Gutierrez, Cynthia's IPhone, Candace Hyatt, Peter, IPad, David Strang, Jocelyn McCrae

Supervisor Kerr called to order the Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c at 7:00 pm.

She then asked if anyone in-person or on ZOOM had any comments or questions.

- **Gabrielle Gutierrez** (Zoom)
  - Asked why the Town would need to override the tax cap due to the CHPE revenue.
    - Supervisor Kerr explained that there will not be a tax increase. The tax cap formula requires subtracting the prior year's PILOT payment, and as the Town did not have a PILOT payment in 2026, but will receive one in 2027, it creates the appearance of exceeding the cap. The override is procedural.

- **Teresa Devlin**
  - Asked about the formula used for calculating the PILOT impact.
    - Supervisor Kerr stated the formula is set by the NYS Comptroller, and the Town inputs the required data.
  - Teresa asked for clarification on the calculations.
    - Cee McKenzie commented that she believed that the Town is not far enough into the budget process for exact calculations. She then asked Supervisor Kerr if she received numbers from the County yet to calculate the growth factor. Supervisor Kerr stated she has not received numbers from the County yet.
- **Additional discussions included:**
  - Difference between PILOT and host benefit package (host benefit package does not impact the budget)
  - If the Town does not pass the local law to override the tax cap, the State would place the funds into a reserve account which would restrict its use.
  - CHPE operational status and timing of payments.

Supervisor Kerr asked both in-person attendees and Zoom participants if anyone had additional comments or questions. No other questions or comments were made, and the Public Hearing closed at 7:15PM.

Supervisor Kerr called the Regular Town Board Meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Councilman Mark Karlson led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

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

Resolution #91

Accept the Minutes of the August 13, 2026 Public Hearings and Regular Town Board Meeting

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

Resolution #92

Accept the Financial Reports for the month of August 2026

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

Resolution #93

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

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

Resolution #94

Pay Bills as audited

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

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

General Fund	#190-211	$ 7,964.68
Highway Fund	#90-95	$13,602.66
Parks & Recreation Fund	#1	$ 837.78

Correspondence

No new correspondence.

However, Supervisor Kerr clarified prior correspondence that was included in the Minutes from the August Town Board Meeting:

- A question was addressed at the August meeting with regard to a project in Royal Anchorage, and how the project was approved to move forward when the home is larger than the Association's rules. The clarification is that the question was not meant as a complaint, or an attempt to stop the project.

Courtesy of the Floor

Supervisor Kerr opened Courtesy of the Floor.

Budget Presentation by Mark Barber for the Ticonderoga EMS

- Provided a detailed overview of EMS operations, staffing, budget pressures, and service levels.
- Key talking points:
  - Two ambulances are in service; increasing call volume.
  - Capital improvement fund used for major equipment purchases (cardiac monitors, ambulances).
  - Billing revenue insufficient due to Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement reductions.
  - Proposed 2027 contract amount for the Town of Putnam: **$48,000**.
  - Emphasized improved response times and advanced life support capabilities.
  - Discussion also included staffing, hardship billing, mutual aid, helicopter transport, and long-term sustainability.

Following the presentation, Supervisor Kerr asked in-person attendees and Zoom participants if anyone had additional comments or questions.

- **Charles Koehler**
    - Raised concerns about a large home that is being built on 2334 Black Point Road, and asked about the approval process and why neighbors were not notified.
    - Supervisor Kerr explained:
        - Project was approved by LGPC, APA, and County Code Enforcement.
        - Tree removal is overseen by the APA.
        - Acknowledged oversight regarding neighbor notification but that the outcome would have been the same as the land owner had all of the permits in place.
        - The Town of Putnam now has an updated Site Plan Review Law in place that will address these types of concerns, as well as the Local Law for Environmental Protections of Hillsides and Shoreline Areas.

Supervisor Kerr asked if anyone else had comments or questions from both in-person attendees and Zoom participants. No other questions or comments were made, and courtesy of the floor was closed.

Highway Department Report

In Highway Superintendent Treadway's absence, Supervisor Kerr reported that the 2017 pickup truck sold at auction for $3,550 (higher than expected).

Supervisor Kerr also commented that the Hudson Falls trash plant will be closing in December.

Planning

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

- **John & Jean Buhac (30x40 Storage Barn) 5556 Evergreen Shores**
    - Site Plan Review Application complete and approvals from LGPC and APA are in order.
    - Neighbor notification required.

Resolution #95

Move the project to the October 8, 2026 Town Board Meeting for approval, pending responses from neighbor notifications

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

All other applications listed on the meeting agenda are incomplete; no action taken.

Fire Department Report

Dan Tucker reported:

- 12 calls in August (up from 7 in July).
- Medical/drowning emergency response to Glenburnie highlighted; coordinated CPR resulted in successful resuscitation.
- Annual barbecue fundraiser raised around $6,400.
- The fire department used money from fundraising efforts to have the parking lot marked with an "H" to be used for a helicopter landing zone in emergencies.

Old Business

Proposed Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c

No further discussion.

Resolution #96

To approve the Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-c

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

New Business

To set a date for a budget workshop.

Resolution #97

To set the date of September 21, 2026 at 6:30 pm for a Budget Workshop

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

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

Resolution #98

To set the date of October 8, 2026, for a Public Hearing on the 2027 Budget

On motion of Supervisor Darlene Kerr, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Supervisor Kerr stated that Angela Brown is up for reappointment to the BAR (Board of Assessment Review) and then asked Cee McKenzie if she was aware if Angela would like to be reappointed. Cee responded that she believed that she would like to be, but that would need to be confirmed. Supervisor Kerr then asked if anyone would like to make a motion to reappoint Angela.

Resolution #99

To reappoint Angela Brown to a five-year term on the BAR, pending her acceptance

On motion of Councilman Mark Karlson, seconded by Councilman Charles Bain, Sr.
Supervisor Kerr then asked if there was any discussion, and if all were in favor or any were opposed.
Supervisor Kerr - Aye
Councilwoman Carole Schneider – Nay
Councilman Rick Bezio - Nay
Resolution passed by majority vote.

Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Supervisor Kerr read the resolution for the Town of Putnam to adopt pertaining to the 2026 Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan (Resolution attached).

Resolution #100

To adopt the 2026 Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan

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

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Kerr reported:

- Scam alert: Fraudulent National Grid emails are circulating; residents advised not to click on links.
- School year reminder: Children are along roadsides as early as 6:00 AM waiting for the bus; drivers urged to use caution.

Prior to adjournment, Councilwoman Carole Schneider requested a moment of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11.

- Moment observed.

Supervisor Kerr adjourned the meeting at 8:53 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2026, at 7 pm at the Putnam Town Hall and by ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy L. Treadway
Putnam Town Clerk

Darlene Kerr _____ Supervisor

Carole Schneider _____ Councilwoman

Rick Bezio _____ Councilman

Charles Bain, Sr. _____Councilman

Mark Karlson _____ Councilman

Town of Putnam, New York

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PUTNAM ADOPTING THE 2026 WASHINGTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS the Putnam Town Board recognizes the threat that hazards pose to people and property within the Town of Putnam; and

WHEREAS the Town of Putnam has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as 2026 Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS 2026 Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the Town of Putnam from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS adoption by the Putnam Town Board demonstrates their commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2026 Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF PUTNAM, NEW YORK, THAT:

Section 1. In accordance with Robert's Rules and Orders, the Putnam Town Board adopts the 2026 Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan, approved by the community, may be edited or amended after submission for review, but will not require the community to re-adopt any further iterations. This only applies to this specific plan and does not absolve the community from updating the plan in 5 years.

ADOPTED by a vote of ___ in favor and ___ against, and ___ abstaining, this 10 day of September 2026.

By: _____

(print name)

ATTEST: By: _____

(print name)

APPROVED AS TO FORM: By: _____

(print name)