

Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD
AUGUST 8, 2019
7P.M. PUTNAM TOWN HALL

The meeting opened with the auditing of bills, the Supervisor's monthly report and the Town Clerk's monthly report.

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilman Greg Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present:	Supervisor	John LaPointe
	Councilman	Darrell Wilson
	Councilman	Kevin Hart
	Councilwoman	Shirley Randall
	Councilman	Greg Harris

Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 14) Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), Charlie Bain Sr. (Boat launch attendant, 17 Bain Lane), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Coulter (Resident, 3512 Gull Bay Ridge Way), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Joe Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Mike Furdyna (Resident, 3510 Ridge Way Gull Bay), Jodi Frasier (Resident, 123 Hutton Square Road, Putnam Volunteer Fire Department), Dan Tucker (Resident, 35 County Route 2. Putnam Volunteer Fire Department)

Resolution # 56

Accept the minutes of the July 11, 2019 meeting

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

Resolution #57

Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of July 2019

On motion of Councilwoman Shirley Randall, seconded by Councilman Darrell Wilson; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 58

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of July 2019

On motion of Councilman Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 59

Pay bill as audited

On motion of Councilman Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

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

General Fund	# 221-254	\$17,835.15
Highway Fund	# 91-100	\$7,474.51

Correspondence (7:03)

Supervisor LaPointe read an E-mail from Bert Windle regarding the minutes of July. The E-mail read as follows:

To the Town Board,

My statement doesn't read the way I intended it, reference the proposed new septic regulations. It was an open statement not written, but to clarify my message please accept the following.

I am opposed to the new and additional regulations on individual septic systems. I am opposed as I do not want to see another level of government being involved with the sale of an existing home. I believe there are regulations on the books covering a failed system, I believe 99% of residents selling or buying a property are represented by a professional real estate agent who I believe would advise of the need for a properly operating system. I also believe this can be handled adequately without government involvement and costs would be far less when controlled in this manner.

Bert Windle

A second E-mail, from Nancy Wolf-Fisher, was also read aloud. The Email read as follows:

Darrell,

Do you have any data for June and/or July for the cost of the recycling?

Would the Town of Putnam consider having a collection site at the Highway building one day a week - manned by one person and then take the recycling to Ticonderoga if something could be worked out with the Town of Ticonderoga? Certainly that would be less man power/money than the current system of 4 men using all of their time on Tuesdays to do the recycling.

If the collect costs were cut (currently 4 men/ 2 trucks/ 40 miles one way in each truck to Kingston cut down to one worker/one truck and only to Ticonderoga), then the money currently being spent for 4 workers all day on Tuesday could be used to pay Ticonderoga to take our recyclables.

Nancy Wolf-Fisher

Supervisor LaPointe replied he had contacted Ticonderoga's Town Clerk. What he learned is that Ticonderoga is currently still collecting recyclables at no charge, and will accept recyclables from individuals from Putnam at their collection site on Vineyard Road in Ticonderoga. Supervisor LaPointe also explained that the Town does not hire extra workers for recycling; it is done by a regular town crew that works a 40 hour week.

Courtesy of the floor (7:05)

Resident Bob Coulter addressed the Board about the Gull Bay Casino property and its lack of maintenance. Mr. Coulter stated that last year the property remained unkempt as well. Mr. Coulter asked if there was anything the town could do about the property such as clean the property up and then bill the owner. Supervisor LaPointe replied that wasn't possible as the Town is not prepared to execute that type of situation. Supervisor LaPointe continued that he would be speaking with the owner on another issue in the coming days and he would mention the condition of the property.

Highway report (7:07)

Highway Superintendent Gary Treadway was not at the meeting, Supervisor LaPointe advised that HS Treadway would give a full report at September's meeting. Charlie Bain Sr. stated he'd like to thank the town crew for their work at the boat launch, that the launch is "much better".

Planning Board report (7:08)

No report. The monthly meeting will take place August 14th. Bob Rudt did report that Washington County Code Enforcement has been in Putnam to issue a stop work order on a project.

Putnam Volunteer Fire Department report (7:08)

Town Councilman Darrell Wilson reported a meeting with the fire department took place on August 5th. The agenda at that meeting was the 2020 budget for the fire department. The items discussed at that meeting are as follows; Review of 2019 expenditures to date, adjusted 2020 budget based on actual expenses for 2019. There is a 2% increase in funds for the 2020 budget. 2019 un-forecasted expenses are now incorporated into the 2020 budget. No truck tires are needed in 2020. The department is pursuing a grant for radios to convert to high band; however, the radios are still on a budget line for 2020 in case a grant is not successful. 2020 budget accounts for medical kits and membership increase. 2020 budget does not include provisions for a truck replacement plan. Councilman Wilson reviewed the proposed budget for 2020. Jodi Frasier reported the chicken barbeque netted \$3500. The FD has a tournament at the ball field in Putnam August 10th, and also for the first time will be working at the Washington County Fair covering the diesel 4X4 pulls on August 21st. The FD will be voting in the coming week on whether or not they'll cover Bucket's Bog. The Bog event will take place August 17th on Route 22 on the Rafferty property. There was a brief discussion about insurance and liability, Supervisor LaPointe will contact Mr. Rafferty for a copy of his insurance certificate for the event.

Old business (7:25)

Preliminary 2020 budget workshop has been scheduled for August 27th at 6 P.M. Planning Board/Town Board Site Plan review workshop is September 19 at 6:30. Both meetings will take place at the Town Hall. Councilman Kevin Hart raised the issue, on Black Point there is a white pickup truck parking in the travel lane of the road. There seems to be ample parking on the property to pull off the road. Supervisor LaPointe replied he would check into the situation and try to resolve the issue. Councilman Hart also advised the board that garbage is being left behind by fishermen at Cummings Park. Supervisor LaPointe responded that issue would be investigated and if it continues the offending party will be un-invited from the park.

New business (7:27)

Supervisor LaPointe re-visited the recycling issue stating that Putnam residents can take their recyclables to the Vineyard Road collection point free of charge. The Town Clerk also reported that she spoke with the collection site on Vineyard Road and the Essex landfill & recycling site where the items go after they're collected in Ticonderoga. The Clerk was advised that Essex County uses a broker for their

recycling and gave the Clerk the broker's phone number, (which is now out of order). Nancy Wolf-Fisher commented she had already spoken with the broker some weeks earlier and was told that Essex Counties contract runs out next year, what will happen after that is undetermined. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher continued, asking about the discontinuation of service after all the years "and now it's just going to get cut off?" Supervisor LaPointe replied "yes, that is correct", she continued by asking what will be done with the money used to recycle. Supervisor LaPointe explained that there were no "extra" funds for the service that it came from the Highway budget, no additional people were hired for the service, and the crew works a 40 hour week regardless of job assignments. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher continued stating that the Town either has money that was spent for that, or there is extra worker time that is not being used. Councilman Harris joined the conversation stating "that is the problem" that recycling has taken so much time from the 4 man crew that it makes it impossible for them to do "their own job, maintain roads". Councilman Harris continued that when the difficulty began with the recycling the board decided to take that "off their backs" so that they could get their jobs done, it's in the interest of the safety of the community, "as far as saving us any money, it's not going to". Councilman Hart also spoke explaining "you budget 4 days a week, two of those days are tied up with garbage and recycling, so they only have two days left for highway, you cut the highway workforce in half". Supervisor LaPointe reiterated that there is a place for residents to take their recyclables free of charge in Ticonderoga. Councilman Harris said we had a good run but it's over, Councilman Hart agreed. Councilwoman Shirley Randall joined stating that recycling can be taken to the Whitehall transfer station for a fee or to Ticonderoga for free. Supervisor LaPointe recapped the places available to residents to take recyclables if they are so inclined. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher stated that the decision to cease recycling was made without any input from the community. Councilman Wilson joined the conversation saying he didn't believe it was without input. There was discussion at the town board meeting. He stated it came to some hard choices between being able to provide the basic services the resident's need, like maintaining safe roads with ditches and culverts, but the Highway Department is spending half of their work week with recycling and garbage. A hard choice had to be made when the difficulty arose in the County with recycling. He asserted that the Town Board did not relish making this tough choice. Councilman Wilson reviewed again the current choices for recycling, residents can take recycling to Ticonderoga or Whitehall, and he also stated he would be taking his own recycling to one of those locations. Councilman Hart added that there are also private contractors who come through town who will give you a containers and pick up for a fee.

Resolution #60

Adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Supervisor Lapointe, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

The next regular meeting is September 12th at 7 P.M.

2020 Preliminary Budget Workshop is August 27th at 6 P.M.

Town Board/Planning Board Site Plan Review Workshop September 19th at 6:30 P.M.

August 8, 2019 meeting minutes

John LaPointe _____ Supervisor

Darrell Wilson _____ Councilman

Kevin Hart _____ Councilman

Shirley Randall _____ Councilwoman

Greg Harris _____ Councilman