

Regular Meeting of the Town Board of Putnam, April 8th, 2010

At 7:00PM the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board was opened and began by auditing the bills, Supervisors monthly report and the Town Clerks monthly report. Councilwoman Shirley Randall opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with the following members present:

Present: Supervisor John LaPointe
Councilman Kevin Hart
Councilwoman Cathie Burke
Councilman Greg Harris
Councilwoman Shirley Randall

Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Town Clerk); Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent); Bob Rudt, Cee McKenzie, Chris Navitsky (Lake George Water keeper), Ed Kingsley, Joe Blood, Bill Ball (Code Enforcement Officer), Joanne and John Aiken, Peter Leyh, Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chairman), Marie Faulkner and Joshua Gilo

Absent: Patricia Wilson (Town Clerk)

Resolution #50

ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2010 MEETING

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart the following resolution was ADOPTED; Ayes 3, Nays 0.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the March 2010 meeting be approved.

Resolution #51

ACCEPT THE SUPERVISORS MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2010

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris the resolution was ADOPTED. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Resolution #52

ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERKS MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2010

On motion of Councilman Kevin Hart, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris, the resolution was ADOPTED. Ayes 4, Nays

Resolution #53

PAY AUDITED BILLS

On motion of Councilwoman Shirley Randall, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris, the following resolution was: ADOPTED. Ayes 4, Nays 0

Resolved that the bills be paid on Abstract #4 in the following amounts;

General Account	# 78 - 104	\$8,181.75
Highway Account	# 49 - 70	\$11,716.14
Royal Anchorage	# 1 - 2	\$50,835.16

CORRESPONDANCE

Supervisor LaPointe reports that he received copies of two letters that were sent out by the Putnam Planning Board to Marge LaPointe on Cummings Road and Dean Schneider on Sagamore Road, in reference to illegal trailers on their properties. The Planning Board will seek legal action under the Site Plan Review if these trailers are not removed by April 14th, 2010.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Ed Kingsley of Ferry Road explains that he has documents signed by the other title holders on Ferry Way, that they have no objections to the Town of Putnam re-assuming the road as a town road. (Documents filed with the minutes). Supervisor LaPointe will add the topic to the next agenda.

Robert Rudt of Gull Bay pointed out that in the last two meetings, discussions were held about the possibility of increasing tax exemptions for Veterans and the aged. He has brought with him, some “cold hard facts” that he obtained from the internet and would like to share with the board. He explains that in the Putnam Tax Facts, the town budget is \$1,174,884.00, the TAV (total assessment value of Putnam) is \$141,528,000.00, and the mil rate is \$11.50. His main point is that 27.8% of properties are exempt already. “We have a lot of exemptions already.”

Peter Leyh of Gull Bay reminds Mr. Rudt of a meeting held months ago with Mr. Austin from Glenburnie. A document concerning the taxes that would be taken out of the budget at that time was about \$78,000.00. He states that “at this juncture, a year and a half later, it is probably \$85,000.00.” “If you take that number and compare it to what the CPA that the Lake George Conservancy or Gabriel hired, it was proven wrong.” He states that he “would rather see the Veterans get an increase in their exemption taxes than the Conservancy.” “What have they done for us?” “Absolutely nothing!” He points out that he read an article two days ago in the New

York Post concerning the Land Conservancy of New York and how they have worked with the DEC and taken millions of dollars of taxes out of New York State with an unethical deal in which they received additional money that they shouldn't have received. This information makes him even more suspicious of the Land Conservancy. Mr. Leyh feels that Mr. Rudt's numbers are wrong. He is willing to meet with Mr. Rudt to discuss this matter. Supervisor LaPointe will have the County Officer Bill McCarty look at the numbers.

Chris Navitsky (Lake George Water keeper) is asking the board if there has been any movement toward starting the Storm Water project. Supervisor LaPointe explains that the grant for the project has been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers. They are providing \$65,000.00 for the grant, Putnam will provide \$30,000.00 and Lake George Association will provide \$35,000.00 in in-kind services. It will be \$100,000.00 total for the project which will include Gull Bay, Glenburnie and Black Point. Mr. Navitsky is also questioning an area in Royal Anchorage by the sewer beds where there is still some run-off coming down. He is suggesting that the stretch of road where a lot of the run-off seems to originate, could be taken out and re-vegetated to stop the run-off.

A discussion followed between Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chairman), Bill Ball (Code Enforcement Officer), Supervisor LaPointe and Councilman Hart, and it was decided that Supervisor LaPointe and Mr. Ball will go to the site and make a decision on what may be done.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Treadway reports that the roads have been swept and the cemeteries have been cleaned up and are ready to mow. There was a wash-out that was fixed in Black Point. He explains that he spoke to Ken Leskin from Peckham about having the paving done in Black Point by Memorial Day. He reports that "it is still on tract." Peckham

PLANNING BOARD

None

OLD BUSINESS

Park Progress

Supervisor LaPointe presented a copy of an application that was submitted to the Law Judge and to the Town Board for their review. The Judge will set a date for a hearing to be held on the Forgette property railway crossing.

Ferry Road

Supervisor LaPointe reports that there was a meeting between himself, a councilman, the Town Attorney, and Highway Superintendent Treadway. It was decided that if anything was to be done about the town re-instating the Ferry Road, they would like to see some things addressed. Supervisor LaPointe points out that "first off, we want a public right away, right down to the water." Also the board wants "in writing", a signed agreement that the road would be used by the public. Councilman Hart explains that "we are looking to give the taxpayers some return on

their investment.” Supervisor LaPointe has talked to the DOT and he agreed that they would feel more comfortable if the town takes over the road. There would be arms, bells and whistles installed at the crossing. Supervisor LaPointe’s only concern is that he doesn’t want to jeopardize the Park project.

Town of Putnam Property Tax Exemptions

Supervisor LaPointe will get some new numbers from the Comptrollers office before any decision is made. He points out that the increase wouldn’t take effect until the next tax roll. He won’t pursue it if the board decides that it might be to much now because of the economy.

NEW BUSINESS

Hazardous Mitigation Plan

Supervisor LaPointe presented a Hazardous Mitigation Plan, prepared by Washington County, to the Town Board for their review and then decide if they want to adopt a resolution.

Elected Officials Time Sheets

Supervisor LaPointe reports that he received a letter from the retirement system, explaining that the elected officials in the state retirement plan have to track their time for three months. (Jan., Feb., Mar.)

Resolution #54

ELECTED OFFICIALS TIME SHEETS

On motion of Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilwoman Burke, the following resolution was ADOPTED. Ayes 4, Nays 0

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Putnam, accepts the Time Sheets for the months of January, February and March, at 160 hours per month for Supervisor John LaPointe and Highway Superintendant Gary Treadway.

LifeGuards

Supervisor LaPointe reports that there will be four Lifeguards this summer. They will be trained to use the defibrillator.

Resolution #55

PUBLIC HEARING – FERRY ROAD

On motion of Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilwoman Burke, the following resolution was ADOPTED. Ayes 5, Nays 0

RESOLVED that a Public Hearing will be held on May 13th at 7:00PM at the Putnam Town Hall to discuss the proposed re-instatement of the Ferry Road as a town road.

Resolution #56

ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Harris, seconded by Councilwoman Burke, the following resolution was ADOPTED. Ayes 5, Nays 0

RESOLVED that this Board move into Executive Session to discuss matters with the Code Enforcement Officer and the Planning Board Chairman. Time 8:10PM

Resolution #57

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Harris, seconded by Councilman Hart, the following resolution was ADOPTED. Ayes 5, Nays 0

RESOLVED that the Executive Session be closed and this board returns to it's regular meeting. Time 9:10PM

On motion of Councilwoman Cathie Burke, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris to Adjourn the regular meeting at 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted, _____ Patricia Wilson, Town Clerk

John LaPointe _____ Supervisor

Greg Harris _____ Councilman

Shirley Randall _____ Councilwoman

Cathie Burke _____ Councilwoman

Kevin Hart _____ Councilman