

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD

**PROPOSED 2018 PRELIMINARY FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING**

6:00 P.M.

WORK SESSION TOWN BOARD MEETING

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Hearing on Fire Department Budget
3. Discussion of Town Budget
4. Addition of Parks and Rec. Personnel
5. Appoint Pat Lennon to Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately and ending on December 31, 2017.

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
2018
PRELIMINARY FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING
6:00 p.m.

WORK SESSION TOWN BOARD MEETING
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017

PRESENT: Supervisor Oliverio
Councilwoman Whetsel
Councilwoman Annabi
Councilman Mackay
Councilman Luongo

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk Sherry Howard
Town Counsel Florence
Finance Director Angelico

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for our armed forces

2018 PRELIMINARY FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Resident, **Patty Villanova** said that the increase seems rather high. How much does the Fire Department have in its reserves? Supervisor Oliverio was unsure and turned to Fire Department Board of Directors Member, Ed McCarthy who said he would find out the answer. Ms. Villanova then said, so you gave the Fire Department a contractual increase of 8.07 % without knowing what they have in their reserves. Supervisor Oliverio said their reserves are for emergencies. Ms. Villanova said that they are socking away all the money they are being given to avoid oversight when they build the new firehouse - including their 2% money. She believes that they do not want to have a referendum. She does not understand how the Town Board can give such a large increase without knowing what they are sitting on. They do have a fund balance the same as the Town does. Supervisor Oliverio said that if they have one (1) emergency that could eat up their reserves. Councilman Luongo said the last vehicle purchased cost them \$800,000.00; and the Department faces emergencies all the time. Supervisor Oliverio said they need the increase for turnout gear (which needs to be replaced every ten years; this is a Federal Mandate), and oxygen tanks etc. - all necessary items for them to be able to do their jobs. In addition, there are many other State Mandates involving the equipment and gear that **MUST** be met. Ms. Villanova would like to see a detailed budget from the Fire Department to see where the money is going.

Councilwoman Annabi said they are a not for profit. Mr. McCarthy said if a truck breaks down and they have to replace it – that’s \$800,000.00 right there. He added that the 2% money has nothing to do with the budget.

He explained that the 2% money comes from Insurance Companies that are not domiciled in the State of New York. They return 2% of the Insurance Fees that they collect on a residence to the local Fire Departments. There is an entire book put out by the State of New York on how you can spend 2% money. It cannot be spent on a new building or new equipment – it is against the law. It is used to encourage the volunteers to stay with such things as parties etc. Ms. Villanova conceded that the 2% money is apart from the budget.

Frank Tansey gave Ms. Villanova the amount of money in each Fire Department account:

Scholarship Fund -	\$5,000.00 (given to H.S. Students)
Cash in the bank -	\$296,693.60
Money Market -	\$73,000.00
2% Money -	\$232,018.97 (this can only be used for the benefit of our members. A report has to be filed every year with the State Comptroller on where the money was spent.)
Capital Imp. Fund -	\$500,598.68 (for new building)
Capital Reserve Fund	\$780,602.63
Shares of AT&T	\$46,000.00 (bequeathed to them)
Truck Fund -	\$346,900.00

\$780,000.00 was just spent on a new rescue truck. They received a discount for being able to pay cash for the truck upfront. The trucks are kept on a 20 year plan and are kept on a schedule. One tanker can cost up to one (1) million dollars.

The above all equals an amount of just about 2 million dollars in assets. Mr. Tansey said when we are talking about the 6-7 million dollars that will be spent on the new building, some of that will be encumbered with our reserves. The amount of money that the Town Board gave us last year and this year will give us enough to finance the new Fire House. When everything gets through the Planning Board they will be able to price a building and get a bond.

Ms. Villanova then asked, “Do you know how much you’ve spent to date on the new building”? To which Mr. Tansey responded that he did not know; but added that in the last two (2) or three (3) years we have had to pay the architect every time he does something for the Planning Board. The Wetlands Inspector and the Engineers also have to be paid - so it was probably a couple of hundred thousand dollars. Mr. McCarthy said that the plans have also been remodified, and building codes have changed - so the changes also cost money. Ms. Villanova said this all sounds like a fait accompli - that no matter what you are going to build the building. Mr. Tansey said eventually we will have to build one as we still need one - things have only gotten worse. The current Firehouse is not up to OSHA, PESH etc. standards and hasn’t been for over a dozen years.

The advantage to getting a new building rather than refurbishing the old one is the Town gets to take it over as soon as we move out. It should solve your space problem as well. Supervisor Oliverio said we don't have the State requirements that the Fire Department has. Mr. McCarthy said that the building was built when everything was a whole lot smaller so the trucks no longer fit through the bay doors.

Ms. Villanova inquired, "How can you bond"? Mr. Tansey said that as a tax exempt organization under IRS code we are allowed to borrow in the tax exempt market. The interest rate in the tax exempt market is down some. We are hoping to get through the Planning Board by the beginning of next year; we will probably be ready to go out to bond by the middle of next year. We have a bond writer and we are using the same Bond Council the Town uses. There is also a lawyer to handle the rest of the stuff. We need Planning Board and Zoning Board approval to go ahead. Then we can bid and will sell our bonds. Supervisor Oliverio said that this has nothing to do with the Town – they are a private organization. Mr. Tansey stated that we are still the second cheapest department in Putnam County and we cover 47 square miles. A discussion took place as to what it would cost to replace the volunteer Fire Department with a paid Fire Department. Ms. Villanova thanked the Board for entertaining her questions.

There were no other questions from the public.

Supervisor Oliverio moved to close the Public Hearing at 6:30 PM.

Seconded by Councilman MacKay, unanimously carried.

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WORK SESSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017

PRESENT: Supervisor Oliverio
Councilwoman Whetsel
Councilwoman Annabi
Councilman Mackay
Councilman Luongo

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk Sherry Howard
Town Counsel Florence
Finance Director Angelico

Supervisor Oliverio opened the Town Board Meeting at 6:31 p.m.

DISCUSSION OF TOWN'S 2018 TOWN/DISTRICTS BUDGET

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said the Town Board has had the Budget for a little over a week now. We are at 1.74% which is below the tax cap. Supervisor Oliverio asked Ms. Angelico to explain how we came down from 1.95% to the 1.74%. Ms. Angelico said, she, Councilwoman Whetsel and Supervisor Oliverio looked at the Special Legal Expenses for the Assessor's office which is additional cases we may have, this is line item number #1355.410 located on page four (4) of the budget. There was a request by the Assessor to raise the amount from \$20,000.00 in 2017 to \$40,000.00 for 2018. After their discussion - it was brought down to \$10,000.00. The reason for this being that this line is unpredictable and many of the cases that this money is covering have already been resolved or will soon be resolved in 2017. The thinking is that \$10,000.00 should be enough to cover what may come up in 2018; and if not the Fund Balance has more than enough to cover any unexpected expense. Supervisor Oliverio said, why charge the public for money that we may not use, if we need it we will pull it from the "piggy bank" for that one time expense.

Ms. Angelico said that also on page 4, is a second legal line item # 1420.400, and that is more Town based. This also covers unexpected and not predictable legal issues and must stay at least \$20,000.00 in order to cover Gordon Fine and other contractual arrangements. We feel comfortable bringing it down to \$30,000.00 so with that and a slight bump back for our Media Department this puts us at a new level at 1.77%.

Councilman Luongo asked why would we be lowering line item #1420.400 to \$30,000.00 when we have already gone over what was budgeted for this year? Ms. Angelico explained that those issues are not expected to be repeated. Supervisor Oliverio said even if it is - we have a huge fund balance and the Auditors said we should try to reduce that on one-time expenses. That way we don't raise taxes this year and we don't affect the tax rate next year by using a false revenue source.

Councilwoman Whetsel said that our State Declared Tax Cap is 1.8% this year and we will be under that. The Town Board discussed whether or not to take Town Day out of the budget and make it a one-time expense. It was decided it was better to leave it in.

Supervisor Oliverio said the budget as it stands now keeps us whole and under the tax cap. This is only the beginning though. Please take a look at it and see what else you can find. Look for things that are a one-time expense that can be removed.

Councilwoman Annabi asked what the \$600.00 expense for other animals is? Supervisor Oliverio said that it is used to spay/neuter feral cats. There was a discussion as to whether that is still going on. Supervisor Oliverio said that there is indeed a group that is still doing this for the cats. Ms. Angelico said that she just got a letter from them and it costs \$50.00 per cat for the spay/neuter.

Councilman Luongo mentioned the yearly maintenance contract for the Town Clock is zeroed out. Supervisor Oliverio said that was done in order to make it a one-time expense. This line can be found on page 10. The Board reminded Supervisor Oliverio that a yearly contract was just recently signed. Supervisor Oliverio said that the contract was for 2017. Do you want to sign another one? It's a minimal expense. Ms. Angelico will check with Ms. Manno.

Councilman Luongo asked Ms. Angelico if she could show dollars as well as/or instead of percentages? Ms. Angelico said she will do the best that she can; but her report writer is not always cooperative. She does understand that seeing percentage numbers is not always useful. She may have to give out a spread sheet instead.

PARKS & RECREATION- PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ ADJUSTMENTS

Presented by Councilman Luongo

RESOLUTION # R17-305

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approve the following additions/changes to personnel:

1. Diane O'Rourke, Rec. Ass't., for Magma Program @ \$20.00 per hour.
2. Jennifer Zimmerman, Rec. Ass't., for Magma Program @ \$20.00 per hour.
3. Dimitrios Tomais, PV Children's Center, @ \$10.00 per hour.

Seconded by Councilman MacKay, unanimously carried.

APPOINT PAT LENNON TO ZBA EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2017.

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

RESOLUTION #R17-306

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to appoint Pat Lennon as Ad Hoc Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to end on 12/31/17.

Seconded by Councilman Mackay, unanimously carried.

AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

RESOLUTION #R17-307

RESOLVED, that the Town Board add the following amendments to the agenda:

ADD:

- #6 – Authorize additional expenses for roof repair.
- #7 – A quick introductory discussion about Croft's Corners.

Seconded by Councilman MacKay, unanimously carried

AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL ROOF REPAIR

Presented by Councilwoman Whetsel

RESOLUTION #R17-308

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to make two (2) Change Work Orders for the Town Hall roof repair, they are as follows:

1. Replace 13 sheets of plywood @ \$600.00 per sheet as specified in the bid document.
Total \$780.00.
2. Installed 32' linear fascia behind gutter on back of Town Hall building, old fascia was rotted.
Total \$320.00
Total Expense - \$1,100.00

Seconded for discussion by Councilman Luongo. Supervisor Oliverio said that when they were doing the roof, they found much rotted wood and mold which was not anticipated. Councilman Luongo asked about the original bid in which we had an addendum specifically for plywood. Supervisor Oliverio said this is in addition to the original plywood. We had to cover the whole back of the building as it was covered with moss and much rot. Now it doesn't leak, the people we hired were very thorough.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried

DISCUSSION ABOUT CROFTS CORNERS

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said that when he was on the Town Board in 1992 Crofts Corners was designated as a combined Commercial/Residential plot. He would like to bring back that designation. The reason for this is the house has been ripped down and the plot is available for sale. Supervisor Oliverio would like to see something put there besides a house. Right now it is designated as just residential. A small bagel shop or bakery would be great but the only way that can happen is to look at the code. It was once grandfathered as Commercial/Residential but this was changed in 1997. Adams Corners, Tompkins Corners, and Oregon Corners are all commercial. Councilman MacKay asked how the people that live around there will feel about this? Supervisor Oliverio said we would have to have a Public Hearing that's for sure. Councilman Luongo added that we have open spaces in the other commercially zoned areas, why should we make another one? Supervisor Oliverio said they would still have to fulfill the Planning and Zoning ordinances.

That house was so old there was not a septic or well on the property. Councilwoman Whetsel said it might be a good idea to do a survey to see what the residents might want there.

Councilman MacKay said, there are a bunch of empty stores at Oregon Corners and now what? Supervisor Oliverio said the gentleman that owns the property spent a lot of money so he could put something there. Councilman Luongo said it is something to look at and you can't say no without the facts.

Supervisor Oliverio spoke to the Sheriff's Department and they are going to make some suggestions about some security measures for Town Hall. Councilman MacKay checked with Peekskill PD, and they said there is no security in the Peekskill City Hall. Occasionally an officer will do a walk through. Supervisor Oliverio said the Sheriff's Department said that there is not a single Town Hall that he knows of that has security; but 15 years ago school districts did not have security guards either. Councilman MacKay does not want to say "the sky is falling". Councilman Luongo said he does not want to wait until something happens. Councilwoman Annabi says that it is expensive and the Sheriff's Department is right across the parking lot. She added that nothing happened at Town Hall – there was no situation – a resident was just unhappy about something.

Supervisor Oliverio gave a shout out to the 5th graders he met with today. You are a great group of young people.

Councilman Luongo said this Saturday at 11:00 AM there is the Halloween Parade at Town Park.

On Sunday at the Fire House Open House from 12 PM – 4 PM come see our volunteers and equipment. There will be refreshments. On October 28th there is a Halloween Party Fundraiser at the Fire House; there will be dinner and dancing from 7- midnight, \$35.00 per head. Please call me at 845-528-9148, please leave a message.

Councilwoman Annabi said on Sunday the Putnam Valley Historical Society is honoring the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center between 12 - 2 PM at Watsons.

Supervisor Oliverio said that on October 17th the School District is doing a pot luck dinner/concert to raise money for the Puerto Rican, Florida and Texas hurricane victims.

Councilman Luongo said also on October 17th the Fire Department is holding a blood drive. The country is in dire need of blood. If you can please come down we need you - refreshments will be served there also.

Supervisor Oliverio motioned to close the meeting at 7:00 PM

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Howard
Town Clerk 10-18-17