

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING

6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING:

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Discussion regarding Cold War Veterans Exemption
3. Resolution and proposed Consent Order and Judgement for review and approval by the Supervisor and Town Board re: Kissinger and Kaplan v. Town of Putnam Valley, et. al.
4. Resolution and proposed Consent Order and Judgement for review and approval by the Supervisor and Town Board re: Beals v. Town of Putnam Valley, et. al.
5. Authorize Supervisor to sign agreement with PERMA.
6. Discussion re: the Board Members' interest in having the Leberge Group make a presentation to the Board during a work session.

PUTNAM VALLEY
TOWN BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING

To amend local law to extend the application deadline for the Senior Citizens Exemption –RPTL section 467, Subdivisions 8 and 8A

6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018

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

Also Present: Sherry Howard, Town Clerk
Absent: William Florence, Town Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for our armed forces.

PUBLIC HEARING to amend local law to extend the application deadline for the Senior Citizens Exemption –RPTL section 467, Subdivisions 8 and 8A

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio moved to open the Public Hearing at 6:00 pm.

Supervisor Oliverio explained that this exemption would be an addition to the Senior Citizens Tax Exemption which allows late payment for any reason whatsoever -which is a nightmare. We do allow late payments if there is an illness or a death in the family. This would take it a step beyond. There should be a reasonable cause. Our Assessor does a wonderful job reminding our senior's when things are due so there is no real reason for adding these additional deadline extensions.

Councilwoman Annabi said Subdivision 8 extends the application deadline for any cause; and 8A authorizes the late filing and renewal for a good cause. Supervisor Oliverio asked who would define what a good cause is. Councilman MacKay said you are opening the Assessor up to a nightmare and possible litigation. Supervisor Oliverio said death or illness is covered under Section 5 which is already on our books. Councilwoman Annabi asked for a clarification – Are we going to add 8 or 8A? Supervisor Oliverio said we are not. Section 5 which we do already have on our books covers illness and death which should be enough. We will have an official vote next week to state publically through a resolution that we do not support this.

Supervisor Oliverio asked for any public comment.

As there was no other public comment, Supervisor Oliverio moved to close the Public Hearing at 6:06 PM.

It was seconded by Councilwoman Annabi and was unanimously carried.

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
WORK SESSION
6:08 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, January 10, 2018

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

Also Present: Sherry Howard, Town Clerk
Maria Angelico, Finance Director
William Florence, Town Attorney

DISCUSSION REGARDING COLD WAR VETERANS EXEMPTION

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said we recently made the Cold War Veteran's exemption for all time. It used to have a ten (10) year limit and it no longer has that limit. This exemption would raise the rates above what they are right now. If we did this it would be a reduction for the veterans; but it would also be an addition on our other citizens that may not be veterans. Of course we do want to honor our veterans but we have to be fiscally responsible to all our citizens. The Comptrollers Office sent out a memo urging all Municipalities to be frugal as they move forward this year because of the uncertainty of the reduction in the SALT deductions and how it will impact our taxes and the ability of people to pay. Please think about this and we will set a Public Hearing on it for next week. The Assessor will give you the exact wording on it in your mailbox. Councilman MacKay said if we don't act on this will what we have stay the same? Supervisor Oliverio said yes. This exemption would cover anyone who served in the military outside of war time. I am not sure if this is the right thing to do. We have to think about this.

Resolution and proposed Consent Order and Judgement for review and approval by the Supervisor and Town Board re: Kissinger and Kaplan v. Town of Putnam Valley, et. al.

Presented by Councilman Luongo

RESOLUTION #R18-65

RESOLVED that the Town Board and the Supervisor authorize VandeWater & VandeWater, LLP, Kyle W. Barnett, Esq. of counsel enter into a Consent Judgement and Order, settling the tax certiorari proceedings brought about by Robert J. Kissinger, Iris Kaplan, and Leonard Kaplan against the Town of Putnam Valley for the tax year 2017 and to sign such other and further papers as are necessary to effectuate the settlement.

Councilman Luongo said the assessment for 2017 is \$230,000.00; the reduced assessment is \$140,000.00. This makes the amount of the reduction \$90,000.00. Supervisor Oliverio said that it will be cheaper for the Town to settle this than to pay the attorney fees to fight it. Councilman Luongo said that the Town would fight this alone with no help from the School District; so we would bear the brunt of the cost to litigate this.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried.

Resolution and proposed Consent Order and Judgement for review and approval by the Supervisor and Town Board re: Beals V. Town of Putnam Valley, et. al.

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

RESOLUTION #R18-66

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley does hereby authorize the settlement of the tax review proceeding instituted by Allen and Michael Beals, for the tax assessment roll of 2017 for 174 Canopus Hollow Road (61.-1-30) as shown on the attached Consent Order and Judgement: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley does hereby authorize Sam Oliverio Jr., Supervisor, Kyle Barnett, Esq. of VandeWater & VandeWater, LLP and Sheryl Luongo, Town Assessor to sign such papers as are necessary to effectuate said settlement.

Councilwoman Annabi said the assessment for 2017 is \$1,323,000.00; the reduced assessment is \$1,210,000.00. This makes the amount of the reduction \$113,000.00.

Supervisor Oliverio said that this settlement is the same principle as the last one. It is much more cost effective for the Town to settle than to pay the fee to litigate it. Mr. Beals is a lawyer who would represent himself so he would bear no cost.

Seconded by Councilwoman Whetsel

Councilman MacKay voted Nay. So by a vote of 4 to 1 the Resolution passes.

AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN WITH PERMA

Presented by Councilwoman Whetsel

RESOLUTION #R18-67

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign the Worker's Compensation & Employers Liability Program Agreement. This agreement stipulates the terms the Town agrees to for PERMA to provide a Worker's Compensation Policy for all Town Employees. The Town further agrees to appoint Susan L. Manno as Safety Coordinator and authorizes the mandatory safety training provided by PERMA as per terms of the agreement.

Supervisor Oliverio said this is pending our Attorney's approval.

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

RESOLUTION # R18-68

RESOLVED that the Supervisor add #5A to the agenda:

ADD – Resolution to authorize the Town of Putnam Valley to participate in the NY State Archives' Local Government Records Management Improvement shared services grant proposal with the County of Putnam.

Seconded by Councilman MacKay unanimously carried.

AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES' LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT SHARED SERVICES GRANT PROPOSAL WITH THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM

Presented by Councilman MacKay

RESOLUTION #R18-69

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Town of Putnam Valley hereby authorizes the Town of Putnam Valley to participate in the New York State Archives' Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Shared Services Grant Proposal with the County of Putnam.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to work with the County of Putnam and participate in any meetings, and/or workshops pursuant to this grant application. The projected cost to our Municipality for 2018 is zero; and for 2019 and beyond will not exceed the annual licensing fee for needed software; and this will be a minimal charge.

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION RE: THE BOARD MEMBERS' INTEREST IN HAVING THE LABERGE GROUP MAKE A PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD DURING A WORK SESSION

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said that we had a request by Councilwoman Whetsel to have the LaBerge Group come in and speak to us during a Work Session Meeting about possible plans for Oregon Corners - there would be no charge for the presentation. Councilwoman Whetsel said they would just be presenting their scope of services and what things could be achieved. It would be great to get some ideas. The County has many plans for Oregon Corners one of them being putting in a turning lane. There is always something we can learn and then we can decide if we can benefit from their work and maybe apply for grants. Supervisor Oliverio said he has no problem with this since it will not cost anything. He added that the LaBerge group are not new to us; they have appeared before us three (3) times in the past. He said that until the County definitively tells us what they are doing at Oregon Corners to do anything down there would be jumping the gun. Maybe there is a way we can incorporate with the County. Councilman Luongo said we can't get an answer out of the County. The County's plans are outdated and not workable for us. The Town Board had a lengthy discussion about this subject. Supervisor Oliverio decided that it will not hurt for the LaBerge Group to come out and speak to us at the second or third meeting in February.

If they present something to us we can use it for ammunition when dealing with the County. Councilwoman Annabi would like them to come after County Executive O'Dell comes to speak to us in February.

Councilwoman Annabi read a message from Highway Superintendent Larry Cobb. She said please don't throw your snow in the middle of the roadway. It is dangerous and illegal. We have had multiple accidents due to this. Throw your snow on your lawn. In addition, if your mailbox does get damaged during a snowstorm – the Highway Department is not responsible. Remove your mailbox if you are able to. Supervisor Oliverio said that is a State law.

Councilman Luongo reminded everyone to take the time and clean all the snow off of your car. It is very important. It can be dangerous for everybody.

Supervisor Oliverio moved to go into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. No new business or action will be addressed after the Executive Session. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Seconded by Councilman Mackay, unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Howard
Town Clerk
1/12/2018