

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD

WORK SESSION

6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 01, 2018

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Presentation by Director of Transportation, Vincent Tamagna, concerning the Putnam Valley Bus Shuttle
3. Authorize Supervisor to compose letter in support of 30 day waiver for Brookside application for liquor license.
4. Discussion of upcoming items: cell tower vote, Public Hearing on the Tinker Hill Law, sunset provision for construction project, snow districts, summer camp vote, and food trucks.

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
PREWORK SESSION
6:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 01, 2018

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

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

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

**AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO COMPOSE LETTER IN SUPPORT OF 30 DAY
WAIVER FOR BROOKSIDE GRILL APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE**

Presented by Councilperson Luongo

Supervisor Oliverio seconded for discussion. He said the Brookside Grill will be where Watson's was. The man who wishes to open this new restaurant is applying for a liquor license. Normally there is a 30 day wait-time; but since that establishment has sold liquor so many times in the past, the gentleman and I are requesting a waiver for that 30 day wait period. We hope he is very successful. The Town Board also wishes him good luck.

RESOLUTION # R18-243

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to waive the 30 day waiting period for 21 Oscawana Lake Road, Inc. to obtain a liquor license.

Seconded by Supervisor Oliverio, unanimously carried

DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

1. Cell Tower Vote – Supervisor Oliverio reminded the public that on August 21, 2018 there will be a vote to lease property behind the Highway Garage to Homeland Towers, LLC to erect a cell tower. The vote will take place in the

Putnam Valley Court Room from 12 noon to 8 PM. Absentee forms and ballots are available now in the Town Clerks Office. Councilperson Annabi said the Seniors are concerned that if the cell tower does not pass how does that affect their first alert buttons? Supervisor Oliverio said things would remain the same as they are now. Councilperson Whetsel asked why they could not find another place to put the cell tower. Supervisor Oliverio said they will find another place to put it such as on a private persons property if the Referendum does not pass. Homeland Towers looked into other Town owned properties but none of them met the requirements needed. If the tower winds up on private property, we will have no say in what happens to it. We have a need for it. We will be good stewards of the tower and we will make sure it is maintained and not vandalized. Supervisor Oliverio will be taking off on the day of the vote so nobody feels that he is influencing them; he recommends the rest of the Town Board do the same.

2. Tinker Hill Road Public Hearing and New Local Law – There will be a Public Hearing at 6:00 PM next week on this issue. Councilperson Luongo said we are trying to limit truck traffic on Tinker Hill Road. In the last year there have been two (2) bad accidents that have involved trucks that should have not been on the road. This will be a local law involving trucks that weigh over 10,000 pounds or have more than six (6) wheels. Originally it was to be 6,000 pounds but the Board realized that some SUV's weigh that much. Supervisor Oliverio said that Councilperson Annabi has contacted all the GPS companies and asked them to remove that road from the commercial applications they offer. The first fine for breaking this new law will be \$1,000.00 and then \$2,000.00 for any offense after that. Councilperson Luongo added that some truckers don't use the commercial application because that version has a subscription cost; and the change will not be reflected in the regular version because this law does not effect car traffic. Supervisor Oliverio said if this does pass we will put up a huge sign at both ends of Tinker Hill Road.

PRESENTATION BY DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, VINCENT TAMAGNA, CONCERNING THE PUTNAM VALLEY BUS SHUTTLE

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Director of Transportation Tamagna said he met with Supervisor Oliverio and County Legislator Gouldman about a month ago to discuss how we can get the ridership up. The fact is that we only have three (3) riders who use it regularly. This means we have about 25 rides per month. We need many more people than this. Supervisor Oliverio said some people have claimed they have waited at the station for the shuttle and it has not come. Mr. Tamagna replied that we own the equipment but we do pay an operator. The drivers have manifests and they clock in and out. We did have an issue at the Peekskill Train Station as Metro-North does not allow our buses to stand and wait. They must continuously circle around; as the B Line operates there as well. There is a

manager that handles the traffic there. This loop only takes a couple of minutes or so. If you feel the bus has missed you please call Dispatch at 845-878-7433 and let them know. We have radio communication with the bus at all times. If there is a problem with the dispatcher or a driver please call Mr. Tamagna at 845-878-3480. Mr. Tamagna said they are coming up with ideas to promote the shuttle service such as putting the word out on the sign by the library and having a short advertising campaign shown at the movie theatre prior to the movie. Councilperson Annabi said there may be five (5) riders in Lake Peekskill who cannot get to the Park. Mr. Tamagna said if you can prove that to me I will consider making that a stop. He then said because there is such low ridership they have removed the first run in the morning because no one was getting on at this time at all. They are now four (4) runs instead of (5) which cut the cost a little. Now they can work the route with one (1) bus and thus were able to spread the buses out a little more. By using one (1) bus instead of two (2), about \$100,000.00 as saved. If we need to tweak the schedule again – we will do it. The new schedule is out and is advertised. Councilperson Annabi asked if there can be a shuttle run that picks you up a little later at the station? Mr. Tamagna said we can tailor the bus to the needs of the community. We are as flexible as we can be; we need to build this. Please email him at Vincent.tamagna@putnamcountyny.gov. This will be an ongoing discussion and I will be back to speak to you again. Councilperson Luongo said there are always growing pains. Mr. Tamagna will be looking to see if people are getting off at the other stops so changes can be made.

DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING EVENTS (continued, see above)

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

3. Sunset Provision for Construction Project – this would be a limit on how many times an individual can renew a permit to build. We have people in town working on their home year after year. There are a couple of ways to go about this. One would be to increase the charge every time a person renews their permit; or we could say after three (3) that's it; or if something is being done (prove they are doing some work), but they could not complete it due to hardship that could be taken into account. So many things can change in the code over the years that something should be done. Attorney Florence said that circumstances change over time in a neighborhood, or they change in the standard by which we construct. The way to have a good faith is that we should have an inspection before a renewal is granted in the condition of the premises. If there has been no change it would mitigate against a renewal. You want to be able to not use the building permit as a shield against changes in the code and in the neighborhood area. For example, if someone asks to build a barn and the area is vacant; five (5) years later there could be houses all around and a neighbor with a swimming pool located very close to where the barn would have been. This should make the original building permit obsolete. It is the Town's responsibility to check what

circumstances have changed in the time the Town issued the original building permit. Supervisor Oliverio said if this was to occur then our residents would have to apply all over again with the new codes having to be met. Councilperson Whetsel asked if a person paid for a permit they didn't use and it had to be renewed do they get their money back? Attorney Florence said they would lose the money. The permit fee covers Municipal time to pay for the person doing the inspections. We are also trying to discourage asking for forgiveness after a project is done. Supervisor Oliverio said things are not getting done, and likes the idea of justifying the renewal. Attorney Florence said this should be a local law and Councilperson Luongo said we owe it to the rest of the residents to take a look and hear their comments and ideas. Councilperson Annabi mentioned all the vacant buildings at Oregon Corners. She asked if there something we can do to not allow those building to be kept vacant for such a long period of time? Councilperson Mackay said all of those buildings have passed inspection and the owners can keep them empty as long as they'd like. Attorney Florence said there is a one (1) very remote opportunity. When someone does or does not do something with their property, there is a concept in the law which uses the term "nuisance" - which is a legal conclusion. The vacant buildings are having an adverse impact on the immediate neighborhood by deliberately leaving the property in an abandoned state. It is a very difficult case to win but it might be something we can pay attention to.

4. Snow Districts – Supervisor Oliverio believes the only way to pursue assistance on these private roads is to create a snow district where everyone is taxed to pay for snow removal. Highway Supervisor Cobb said none of the private roads are 100% there - some are very close. He agrees that creating snow districts is the way to go. Councilman Mackay lives in one (1) of these areas and agrees with Mr. Cobb. He said it's what is fair. This is at least a working alternative. These districts need to get a petition signed with ½ plus one (1) of the residents signing the petition. Councilman Luongo is also in the same situation and he will see what his neighbors want to do. Attorney Florence said we need a hold harmless agreement from the Districts. Supervisor Oliverio said this would be sent out to bid like we do everything else; this way the Town will be able to collect the money from these Districts as a tax.
5. Summer Camp Vote – Supervisor Oliverio said there will be a vote on Election Day, November 6th on purchasing the 161 acres known as the Hill Camp which is located off of Peekskill Hollow Road. You will find this proposition item on the back of the ballot. The idea of the camp is simple we were offered a terrific price on this property which is 1.9 million. We will be asking for 2.1 million to handle any immediate repairs. There will be no tax impact on our residents. Any major work that needs to be done will not be done until at least a couple of years into the ownership of the camp. If we don't purchase this we will have to renew our lease in two (2) years and the Archdiocese already told us that the \$75,000.00 we are paying now will go up to at least \$95,000.00 or maybe even \$100,000.00

a summer and at that point the camp will be losing a lot of money and may not be sustainable. If you have any questions please contact Parks and Recreation Director Frank DiMarco and please watch the video we have on our website and Channel 20. Councilperson Whetsel said if the Archdiocese sells to someone else we could have a whole lot of houses up there. Supervisor Oliverio said for now we are just purchasing a camp; there may be some future use for the property but for now it is just a camp. Councilperson Annabi said there is a lot of future potential for that property.

6. Food Trucks – Supervisor Oliverio said he spoke to two (2) different business owners in Town that sell food. Their point was that they pay high taxes on their store, but a food truck will pay nothing. So there will be competition for food sales and the food truck will not be paying taxes on their spot so this is not fair. Supervisor Oliverio, Councilperson Luongo and Councilperson Mackay agree with the store owners and are opposed to allowing food trucks in Putnam Valley. The brick and mortar stores must be protected as they are paying taxes. Food trucks should be allowed to do events such as the Sunset Series and Town Day. Councilperson Annabi said her objection to having food trucks is that the people that go to food trucks are a different clientele than someone who will go to a brick and mortar store. She added that at Town Day she does not duplicate the food so everyone can do well. She carefully checks each vendor so there is little to no overlap, so she must check any food truck coming in that day to see what they are selling. Supervisor Oliverio said at this time he does not wish to go ahead with the food truck issue. He asked for a consensus – Councilperson Mackay, Councilperson Luongo and Councilperson Whetsel agreed. Councilperson Annabi said she was open because she believes that people who frequent food trucks are not the same patrons who go to brick and mortar stores. Councilperson Mackay said the stores that are here also hire local kids. Councilperson Annabi stated that she knew the policy in Putnam County is that you have to be a veteran or the spouse of a veteran to have a food truck; but she was unaware there were no permit fees. Attorney Florence said they can't even pay a tax on food unless you charge the restaurants as well. Veterans are part of a protected class that get certain breaks for serving our country.

Councilwoman Annabi said the District Budget Meetings begin on Saturday August 18th, at 9AM and the final budget meeting will be held on September 8th. She then spoke about Town Day. If you require electricity please let us know we as we only have a few poles left. This year there is no parade and you must park at the Elementary School for safety reasons. There will be two (2) shuttles for you to take or you can walk. The park is only open to vendors and people with handicap parking stickers. If you want to volunteer for Town Day please call 914-486-9030, or email at Annabi@pvtb.com . We have some great music, great food, bouncy houses, and lots of vendors. See you at 2:00 sharp.

Supervisor Oliverio reminded everyone that there will be a Public Hearing next week on the local law involving Tinker Hill Road.

Supervisor Oliverio moved to go into Executive Session at 7:22 PM to discuss a on a contractual matter involving the Teamsters Union. No further business will be conducted after the Executive Session.

Seconded by Councilperson Annabi, unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Howard
Town Clerk
8/07/2018