

**PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Departmental Reports
2. Presentation of 2019 Audits
3. Supervisor's Comments
4. Legislative Reports
5. School Report
6. Declaration of SEQR findings
7. Set Public Hearings for August 5, 2020

Districts:

8. Authorization to go out to bid for Aquatic Weed Harvester Service
9. Parks and Recreation
  - a. Refunds
10. Authorize Supervisor to sign Broker Services Agreement with Spain Agency
11. Building and Zoning:
  - A. Daily Fee Report for May 2020
12. Approval of minutes
13. Audit of monthly bills
14. Budget Transfers and Amendments

Discussions: Wake boats on Lake Oscawana  
Air BNB's

**PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Oliverio  
Councilman Luongo  
Councilwoman Annabi  
Councilman Smith  
Councilwoman Whetsel

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Clerk Sherry Howard  
Town Counsel Robert Lusardi

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

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

Councilwoman Annabi said the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center is having their Farmer's Market on Fridays from 3 PM to 6 PM through August 18<sup>th</sup>. Please check their website for additional information.

Supervisor Oliverio said please remember that Mill Street is closed going toward Route 6, or coming from Route 6, and will not be open again until Labor Day. The work on the overpass by Roaring Brook is going very quickly, it is amazing how much they have gotten done.

**COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT**

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

County Legislator Gouldman reported the following:

1. It has been a very interesting last few months - I hope that everyone is staying safe.
2. The Mill Street Bridge is closed and will hopefully be open by September 4<sup>th</sup>. This will be an inconvenience but the bridge is in bad shape and must be done. Please plan accordingly, there have been several times where people have driven down the road and had to turn around in Mill Ponds.

The County put up many signs to look for the detour. County Legislator Gouldman watched the situation and then realized the GPS is still sending people to Mill Street. On Monday he informed Google Maps, Waze and Garmin that the bridge is closed and hopefully this will be less of a problem.

3. Planned improvements on Peekskill Hollow Road, Oregon Corners and the bridge near Peekskill Hollow Turnpike will be delayed due to the current situation. This work will now begin in September.
4. County Legislator Gouldman thanked Councilwoman Whetsel for informing him that the markings at Oregon Corners needed some improvement. The County Highway Department went down there and repainted the markings.
5. Putnam County is offering a free Rabies Vaccine Clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets on Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Veteran's Memorial Park located at 201 Gypsy Trail Road in Carmel. Councilwoman Annabi asked if there is a possibility of us having a clinic like this here in Putnam Valley. County Legislator will look into this.
6. Putnam Valley is blessed with an abundance of natural bodies of water. Please take advantage of it; but take the necessary precautions to be safe.
7. We can't predict the future but the Covid numbers are coming down. We can't get complacent, we must keep on social distancing, wear your mask, and wash your hands. If you are not feeling well please stay home. We will all get through this together.
8. County Legislator Gouldman thanked the residents who have called him with their concerns. If there is a problem he can help with he is happy to do so. Please call him as his door is always open - 845-808-1020

Councilman Smith said that Westchester County has testing locations where you do not have to necessarily be showing immediate symptoms. This virus does not always show symptoms. Is there any possibility that Putnam can get a hopefully free testing site for residents who may have the virus or who may have been exposed? County Legislator Gouldman said from the beginning Putnam County has requested the State develop a testing site here. The Health Department has received some tests from the State - but they have not delivered an adequate amount. The Urgent Care in Jefferson Valley does offer the testing for free.

## **PRESENTATION OF 2019 AUDIT**

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

- Supervisor Oliverio introduced Chris Kopf, a Partner from our audit firm O'Connor Davies. He started his presentation and 2019 financial results by saying that the Town Board will be pleased with the results of the Town's 2019 financial audit. On the first page of the audit report that he read at the podium he explained that they gave their "unmodified opinion", which is also known as a "clean opinion" and it is the highest level of assurance that they can give to a client. There is a change because now you must show what tax money has been collected. In what is now called "The Agency Fund", we have put in all of the tax money you have collected. This is the County money.
- Mr. Kopf next spoke about our Primary Operating Fund, which is the General Fund. He said you began the year with \$2.6 million in cash, and you ended the year with about 2.75 million, and your Fund Balance at the end of the year was 2.25 million. Supervisor Oliverio said we did borrow from the Fund Balance this year to keep the taxes down to a reasonable level, so you will see that next year. Mr. Kopf said your fund balance this year will also be negatively affected by the Corona Virus.
- Mr. Kopf continued and said on page 57 at the bottom you will see the figure of \$126,630.00. In a perfect world that's what you anticipated using of your surplus to balance the 2019 budget. This was made up of two (2) figures - the \$60,000.00 you used to level off the taxes, and \$66,000.00 which is known as "encumbrances" which are Purchase Orders for things ordered at the end of the year, not received yet, and paid for the next year. In addition your actual revenue exceeded your actual expenses by \$193,000.00, so you had a very good year. You did earn some interest money last year, the interest rates were higher than they are now. In addition, you did lose some penalty money as far as property taxes are concerned because many people paid on time. Your licensing and inspection lines came in over your anticipated budget by about \$77,000.00. Your fines and forfeitures, which are your court fees, were down a little.
- Your mortgage tax came in at around \$50,000.00 over budget. Supervisor Oliverio said that was surprising but he feels that because of the mass exodus out of the City due to Covid, houses here are selling quickly.
- As far as Health Insurance is concerned, you never know what NYSHIP is going to charge. The estimate for last year was 7-8% so you budgeted for that and the actual number came in at 2-3% so you saved about \$250,000.00 here. You won't know again what the amount will be for next year as they will not be releasing the numbers until after your 2021 budget is in.

- On page 64 is your Highway Fund. What you will see is that you did burn through a little cash here. You started out the year with \$485,000.00 and ended with about \$218,000.00. During the year the Town Board did modify the budget and you put extra money into the snow removal lines and the repair lines and transferred a little into capital for a small project. Supervisor Oliverio said we had to buy a couple of larger equipment items which we were able to buy on State Bid. Mr. Kopf said, the good news again is when you modified the budget you anticipated using about \$161,000.00 of that surplus, but you ended up the year only using \$9,000.00, so again you were able to put \$152,000.00 back into your Fund Balance.
- On pages 35 – 36 (long term debts) - you started the year with \$1 million 65 in BANS. You paid down \$130,000.00 during the course of the year (which is good) – but you did add 1.9 million in long term debt when you purchased the camp. The only other items that you have in long term debt are a couple of leases for a total of \$13,000.00.
- You do have a LOSAP line that you fund, you have to have money in that line as there is always the potential that you may have to pay out those individuals.
- Then there is the line for potential future cost of health insurance which is a huge number of 18 million dollars but nothing to worry about. Supervisor Oliverio reiterated that yes it is a huge number but we are not in debt for that, which is a long range projected item. There is just a projection that only concerns retirees.
- On page 49 there is a summary of the Fund Balance. The Highway Fund still has \$500,000.00 in it, and the General Fund has 2.2 million. The lines for the various Special Districts has surpluses of three (3) million dollars, and your Special Purpose Fund has \$440,000.00 in it. In addition, your Capital Project Fund shows a deficit of \$930,000.00, but that is covered by your Bond Anticipation Notes.
- Mr. Kopf thanked Ms. Angelico, for taking care of the Town and being fiscally responsible to the community. Supervisor Oliverio seconded that.

### **SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS**

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said he hoped everyone noticed the banners at Oregon and Adams Corners. Town Hall is still operating with the Covid-19 restrictions, meaning everything is being done by appointment only. You can find all of our employee's phone numbers on our webpage, Putnamvalley.com. Please call ahead and set up an appointment, we are at full staff. Please ring the bell at the side door when you get here and you will be buzzed in.

Our Public Hearings will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> by zoom. Our videographer, Tony Arrien, will be setting everything up.

Thanks to our Emergency Services for trying to bring cheer to everyone during this pandemic. Councilman Smith is also duly impressed with what has been done.

### **SCHOOL REPORT**

Presented by Councilman Smith

Councilman Smith said the School District put on three (3) graduation ceremonies to honor the social distancing regulations. On July 31<sup>st</sup> the School Districts has to submit their reopening plan to the State. Our School District has set up a committee, with additional subcommittees, to deal with all of the issues surrounding school re-openings. The Governor has released guidance but the New York Board of Regents has not done so yet. Supervisor Oliverio said what they are looking at now is grades from K-2 attending school every day, this is the age group that is the most difficult to do remote learning with. Grades 3-4 would attend every other day. Middle School, which is grades 5-8, would also be every other day. These plans are only tentative as of now because we have to make sure everyone will be safe. Right now for the High School it looks like the school would be divided into sections and the students would only attend one (1) day a week. On Friday they would have "office meetings", this would be for students who are having trouble in a particular subject who could talk to their teacher remotely – or could go into school and meet with a Guidance Counselor. This situation will be the hardest on High School Students. Right now this information is just conjecture. There are so many things to think about such as the busing, the age and health of our teachers and aides also which have to be considered. These are real questions and have been tough discussions to have.

### **DECLARATION OF SEQRA FINDINGS AND LEAD AGENCY**

Presented by Councilperson Luongo

#### **RESOLUTION #R20-212**

**RESOLVED** that over the last 34 days having received no comments of opposition to the Town of Putnam Valley Town Board being the Lead Agency for the proposed zoning code changes and related regulation/law changes; the Town of Putnam Valley Town Board hereby proclaims itself as the Lead Agency in those proposed changes.

Seconded by Supervisor Oliverio

**DECLARATION OF LEAD AGENCY  
TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD  
PUTNAM VALLEY, NEW YORK  
TOWN CODE: CHAPTER 165: ZONING AMENDMENTS  
CHAPTER 161: TREE CUTTING AMENDMENTS  
CHAPTER 120: VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC AMENDMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Putnam Valley Town Board has reviewed Chapter 165 of the Town of Putnam Valley Town Code entitled, "Zoning", Chapter 161 of the Town of Putnam Valley Town Code entitled; "Tree Cutting", and Chapter 120 of the Town of Putnam Valley Town Code entitled "Vehicles and traffic; (the revisions) and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board finds that the revisions to these chapters are in order to provide clarification to code; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed revisions of the Town Code constitute the proposed action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has reviewed a long-form environmental assessment form; and  
**WHEREAS** the proposed action has been determined to be a TYPE I Action pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) 6 NYCRR Part 617; and the Town Board will be conducting a coordinated review; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 10, 2020, the Town Board declared its intent to serve as Lead Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, after 30 days of mailing the Lead Agency Agreement, no Involved Agency objected to the Town Board acting as Lead Agency

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley hereby declares itself Lead Agency for the coordinated SEQRA evaluation of the proposed action.

Voting in Favor

Voting Against

Hon. Louie Luongo	AYE
Hon. Ralph Smith	AYE
Hon. Jacqueline Annabi	AYE
Hon. Wendy Whetsel	AYE
Hon. Supervisor Oliverio	AYE

**MOTION CARRIED WITH FIVE AYES AND 0 NAYS**

**SET PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR AUGUST 5, 2020**

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

**RESOLUTION #R20-213**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board set Public Hearings on Zoning Changes, Large Scale Solar Energy Moratorium, Controlled Substance Restrictions and PVVFD 5 year contract for August 5, 2020 at 5:00 PM. These Public Hearings will be held via "zoom", instructions can be found in the PCN&R and on our website.

Supervisor Oliverio said each Public Hearing will be held one right after the other, and then we will move into our Special Pre-Work Session Meeting. Councilman Luongo said after this meeting tonight is over, you can email your comments to the Town Board up until the Public Hearings.

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried

**GO OUT TO BID FOR THE AQUATIC WEED HARVESTER**

Presented by Councilwoman Whetsel

**RESOLUTION #R20-214**

**RESOLVED** that the Putnam Valley Town Board authorize the District Clerk to go out to bid for an Aquatic Weed Harvester for Lake Oscawana.

Seconded by Supervisor Oliverio for discussion.

Supervisor Oliverio said though we are passing this tonight we are not moving ahead until we get more information. Councilwoman Annabi said the harvester we have had for the last 15 years cannot be repaired. When we did the bid package only one (1) bidder came in, and his technique is considered dredging, which none of the members of LOMAC wanted and also requires a DEC permit. The next step is to go out to bid for a new harvester based on the specs they will be receiving shortly. Councilman Luongo asked if it would be beneficial to have carp put into the water. Councilwoman Annabi said yes, they are looking into that as well. Supervisor Oliverio said in order to have the carp the DEC wants to know the acreage covered by the weeds. Councilwoman Annabi said they are doing that now and once they have that information it will be given to the DEC. Councilman Luongo said now that the harvester is gone we will really see how well the carp work. Supervisor Oliverio said carp eat a lot when they are small but then just eat to maintain when they get bigger. Councilwoman Annabi said the carp also don't eat milfoil which is abundant in the lake. She said that's why they need both the carp and the harvester. LOMAC is also looking into other solutions such as chemicals and mats (which is placed on the bottom of the lake). Councilman Luongo said mats have been used with great success in other places.

The Resolution carried with 5 ayes and 0 nays.



**PARKS AND RECREATION REFUNDS**

Presented by Councilman Smith

**RESOLUTION #R20-215**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board approve the following Parks and Recreation refunds:

Daniel Delgado 9 Woodleigh Road Putnam Valley, NY 10579	\$500.00 LPCC Deposit Cancellation
Yadira Fuchillo 91 Traverse Road Lake Peekskill, NY 10537	\$650.00 LPCC Deposit and Rental Fee – Cancelled

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried.

**AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN BROKER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN AGENCY**

Presented by Councilman Luongo

**RESOLUTION #R20-216**

**RESOLVED** that the Putnam Valley Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign the Broker Services Agreement with the Spain Agency for services rendered concerning the Workers' Compensation Insurance for the Putnam Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The cost for this service is \$547.00 and has been included and has been included in the 2020 budget. The policy is through the New York State Insurance Fund.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT- JUNE 2020**

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

**RESOLUTION #R20-217**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board accept the Building Department daily fee report and summary for the month of June 2020, for filing with the Town Clerk.

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried.

**ACCEPT TOWN BOARD MINUTES**

Presented by Councilwoman Whetsel

**RESOLUTION #R20-218**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to approve the minutes from the June 10th, June 17<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Town Board Meetings.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried

**AUDIT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Presented by Councilman Smith

**RESOLUTION #R20-219**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board approve the following bills, after audit, being paid:

<b><u>VOUCHER NUMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNTS</u></b>
N/A	N/A

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AMENDMENTS**

Presented by Councilman Luongo

**RESOLUTION #R20-220**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board approve the following budget transfers:

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried.

### **DISCUSSION ON WAKE BOATS ON LAKE OSCAWANA**

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said he and Councilwoman Annabi have received many complaints about wake boats on Lake Oscawana. These boats produce really big waves and are destructive to docks, shorelines, and endanger the lives of people who are swimming. These boats go very fast and our Board needs to investigate the options of either passing restrictions or banning them altogether. Councilwoman Annabi said that we had no buoys in Lake Oscawana before but they will be there tomorrow, so it may slow them down. There is a five (5) mile an hour speed limit in the wake zones.

Supervisor Oliverio said two (2) mallards have been killed by these boats.

Councilwoman Annabi said killing these birds is a Federal Offense. She added if you are on these wake boats please stay toward the middle of the water, watch out for property, swimmers and animals. Councilwoman Annabi said LOCA which is the Lake Oscawana Property Owners Association should have a say in what happens with these boats. Councilman Smith says he does see many of them on the lake and most are in the middle of the water. Councilman Luongo said how about if we put a section on the website with the lake rules so everyone can see them. Supervisor Oliverio thinks they may already be there, but we should check and put them on if they are not. It should also be put on the LOMAC page. Councilwoman Annabi said no matter what, if you are on the lake please wear your vest.

### **DISCUSSION ON AIR BNB'S**

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said this is becoming a large problem in our community. The Airbnb has raised its ugly head again because of the virus. Everyone wants to get out of the City and many are coming here. People are making a fortune and we have no control. Supervisor Oliverio is getting a lot of complaints and does not want to see our Town become a place for transients. He would like to see them banned but the residents themselves will have a strong voice in this. We can't just let this lie. Councilwoman Whetsel said her problem is that we don't know how long this virus will be around and what is transmitting it, and we have no idea with these Airbnb's where these people are coming from and if they are bringing the virus with them. Until this virus is over, because there is no safety by keeping them open, there is no way to monitor them. Supervisor Oliverio said you just can't ban them without doing due diligence and additionally a SEQRA is required which takes time to do. Councilwoman Whetsel said maybe the people who are renting them should contribute 10% of what they are making so we can hire someone to monitor these Airbnb's. Supervisor Oliverio said this is an issue that needs careful examining. We could have the person who is renting be present in the home at the time of the rental. Councilwoman Annabi countered with her feeling that the person who rents only needs to be a resident of Putnam Valley. It would keep people who are not primary residents from renting their homes as Airbnb's.

This way the owner is vested in the Town. She does not want to ban them. Councilman Luongo is concerned that they are overstepping, there is a lot to discuss. Councilman Smith said there are many things on the internet from other Towns who have dealt with this already. We could look and see what other people have done.

Supervisor Oliverio moved to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 6:07 PM.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherry Howard', with a vertical line extending downwards from the start of the signature.

Sherry Howard  
Town Clerk  
07-27-2020