

**PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD**  
**PREWORK SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2021**  
**5:00 PM**

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor's Comments

**PREWORK SESSION AGENDA**

1. Authorize Supervisor to sign the CCA contract.
2. Authorize Supervisor to sign Comcast Contract
3. Resolved to pass the Political Signage Law
4. Noise Ordinance
5. Audit of Monthly Bills

**PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD**  
**PREWORK SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2021**  
**5:00 PM**

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

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

**ABSENT:** Councilwoman Annabi

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for Armed Forces.

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS**

Supervisor Oliverio said we just went through a nor'easter which was tough but kudos to our Highway Department and the County Highway Department. Highway Larry and his Assistant Joe as well as Crew Chief Ray and all the crew did an outstanding job. It's a point of pride, over 40 hours of continuous service clearing our roads.

Attorney Lusardi explained the need for the Town to declare Lead Agency for the new laws being passed. He said the Town Board needs to close the section of the Public Hearing for accepting written comments. He went on and said with that section about to be closed, the Public Hearing is coming to an end, the Town Board needs to do two (2) things before it votes on the law. One (1) is to declare yourself Lead Agency. We sent out Lead Agency notices well over 30 days ago and the Town Clerk has said that there have been no objections. We just need a Resolution for you to act as Lead Agency. The next order of business is for the Town to issue a negative declaration (or a positive declaration if you so deem). The Town Planner has prepared a draft negative declaration which he recommends to the Board. Attorney Lusardi recommends it as well because neither of them sees any negative environmental impacts with the laws you are looking at passing. After doing those two (2) things you can vote on the laws. The Comcast Contract does not need to be part of the negative declaration because it is only a contract.

Supervisor Oliverio said we will vote on the Noise Ordinance tonight but we are going to change it from its present version. It will most likely get a no vote tonight. We are preparing a shorter more comprehensive noise ordinance. We will have to have another Public Hearing on it. We really needed to do some major changes, we would like it done before the spring.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

**RESOLUTION #R21-27**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board amend the agenda to **ADD** the following:

1A – Declare Lead Agency.

1B – Issuance of either a Negative or Positive Declaration

1C – Authorize the Supervisor to sign the CCA Enabling Law

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried

**DECLARATION OF LEAD AGENCY**

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

**RESOLUTION #R21-28**

**RESOLVED** That the Town of Putnam Valley declare itself as the Lead Agency for the CCA Local Law and the Political Signage Law.

**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

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the applicable standards of SEQRA 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley concludes that it is the appropriate agency to serve as Lead Agency for the coordinated environmental review of the proposed Unlisted Action; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 Planning 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.

Seconded by Councilman Smith

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Oliverio	YEA
Councilman Luongo	YEA
Councilwoman Whetsel	YEA
Councilman Smith	YEA
Councilwoman Annabi	ABSENT

By a vote of 4 YEA'S the Resolution is carried.

**ISSUANCE OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said our Planner did not see any negative environmental impacts for any of the proposed laws. Town Attorney Lusardi agreed with Supervisor Oliverio and said now would be the time that the Town Board would do an environmental review of the proposed actions. The Town Planner and Attorney Lusardi agree that there are no significant environmental impacts that arise from the proposed statutes. The Sign Law just limits the size of the signs and the time frame you can have them up. The CCA law just authorizes the Town to participate in the program, it is not mandatory.

Town Attorney read the Negative Declaration as follows:

**State Environmental Quality Review  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance**

**Date:** February 3, 2021

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The Town of Putnam Valley Town Board has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant environmental impact and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

**Name of Action:** An amendment of Chapter 165 -53 of the Code of the Town of Putnam Valley entitled; "Temporary Signs" and the addition of a new Chapter 166 in the Code of the Town of Putnam Valley entitled; "Community Choice Aggregation (Energy) Program".

**SEQRA Status:**  X  Type 1

Unlisted

**Conditioned Negative Declaration:**   Yes

X  No

**Description of Action:**

Generally, the proposed revisions are intended to provide the following:

- Standards for the installation and removal of temporary political signs.
- Adoption of the Community Choice Aggregation (Energy) program in order promote energy conservation in a cost-effective manner to the residents of Putnam Valley and in part meet the requirements to be designated as a Clean Energy Community by NYSERDA.

Specifically, the proposed revisions involve:

- Revision of Chapter 165-53 of the Town Code (Zoning) entitled; "Temporary Signs".
- Creation of a new Chapter 166 of the Town Code entitled; Community Choice Aggregation Program.

The overall effect of the proposed code revisions will be:

- To provide greater clarity regarding the use, installation, and removal of temporary political signs throughout the town.
- Implement a solar energy program in which the town will be included as part of an aggregate of communities obtaining solar power at a reduced rate to town residents. Adoption fulfills one of the requirements to be designated as a Clean Energy Community by NYSERDA and makes available certain grant opportunities for energy improvements and policies.

**Location:** Town of Putnam Valley, Putnam County, New York.

**Reasons Supporting This Determination:** The Town Board has compared the proposed action with the Criteria for Determining Significance in 6 NYCRR 617.7 (c), specifically:

1. The proposed action will not result in a substantial adverse change in the existing air quality, ground or surface water quality or quantity, traffic or noise levels, or a substantial increase in solid waste production.

*There are no proposed changes to any of the existing environmental regulations or thresholds in which proposed actions require applicable permits and therefore existing air quality, ground and surface water quality or quantity, noise levels, or solid waste production is not negatively impacted.*

2. The proposed action will not result in the removal or destruction of large quantities of natural vegetation or fauna; substantial interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species; impact a significant habitat area; result in substantial adverse impacts on a threatened or endangered species of animal or plant, or the habitat of such species; and will not result in other significant adverse impacts to natural resources.

*There is no proposed land disturbance associated with the proposed action. All existing town environmental ordinance permitting thresholds shall remain the same.*

3. The proposed action will not result in the impairment of the environmental characteristics of a Critical Environmental Area as designated pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.14(g).

*There are no designated Critical Environmental Areas within or directly adjoining the Town of Putnam Valley.*

4. The proposed action will not result in a material conflict with the Town's officially approved or adopted plans or goals.

*The proposed changes continue to the Town Code continue to support the applicable goals of the comprehensive plan found on page 7 of the Section 3 "Vision and Goals" of the current comprehensive plan with respect to the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation, and the use of renewable energy in the town. Additionally, Section 3, "Vision and Goals" articulates the following: "Retain the scenic, meandering, rural character of roadways that traverse Putnam Valley".*

*Pages 56-57 Section 4 ("Plan Recommendations") of the Town Comprehensive Plan contain specific tasks to be considered in promoting the use of alternate energy sources and energy efficiency within the Town. Additionally, Page 60 of Section 4 contains specific recommendations regarding transportation, visual quality, and the preservation of scenic resources.*

5. The proposed action will not result in the impairment of the character or quality of important historical, archaeological, architectural, aesthetic resources, or the existing character of the community or neighborhood.
6. The proposed action will not create a hazard to human health and safety as all applicable health and safety regulations will be followed.
7. The proposed action will not create a substantial change in the use, or intensity of use, of land including agricultural, open space or recreational resources, or in its capacity to support existing uses.
8. The proposed action will not encourage or attract a large number of people to a place or place for more than a few days, compared to the number of people who would come to such place absent the action.
9. The proposed action will not create a material demand for other actions that would result in one of the above consequences.
10. The proposed action will not result in changes in two or more elements of the environment, no one of which has a significant impact on the environment, but when considered together result in a substantial adverse impact on the environment.
11. When analyzed with two or more related actions, the proposed action will not have a significant impact on the environment and when considered cumulatively, will not meet one or more of the criteria under 6 NYCRR 617.7(c).

12. The Town Board has considered reasonably related long-term, short-term, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, including other simultaneous or subsequent actions.

**For further information contact:**

Sherry Howard, Town Clerk  
Town of Putnam Valley Town Hall  
265 Oscawana Lake Road  
Putnam Valley, New York 10579

**This notice is being filed with:**

Town of Putnam Valley Town Board  
Town of Putnam Valley Town Hall  
265 Oscawana Lake Road  
Putnam Valley, New York 10579

**RESOLUTION # R21-29**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to accept an issuance of a negative declaration as there is no negative impact to the environment.

Seconded by Councilman Smith

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Oliverio	YEA
Councilman Luongo	YEA
Councilwoman Whetsel	YEA
Councilman Smith	YEA
Councilwoman Annabi	ABSENT

By a vote of 4 YEA'S the Resolution is carried.



**AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE CCA ENABLING LAW**

Presented by Councilman Luongo

**RESOLUTION # R21-30**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign the Community Choice Aggregation Enabling Law which is Local Law #1 of 2021. This Enabling Law will allow the Town to establish a CCA program in Putnam Valley.

**WHEREAS**, the Resolution, as set forth below, has been submitted to the Town Board to adopt Local Law number 1-2021(a copy of which is annexed hereto) to establish a Community Choice Aggregation (Energy) Program in the Town of Putnam Valley, and

**WHEREAS** a copy of the Proposed Local Law 1-2021 in the final form was delivered to the desk of each of the Town Board Members at least ten (10) days prior to the date hereof; and

**WHEREAS**, a Public Hearing was duly noticed and held on January 6, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the verbal portion of the Public Hearing was conducted and closed on January 6, 2021; and written public comment period was held open on January 6, 2021 until 3:00 on February 3, 2021, and written comments having been obtained during that period, and considered by the Board, and the Public Hearing was closed; and

**WHEREAS**, a Long Form Environmental Assessment was completed and reviewed by the Town Board in connection with the proposed resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, a negative declaration was issued by the Town Board as annexed hereto;

**WHEREAS**, the Proposed Local Law 1-2021 pursuant to GML 239-m was provided to the Putnam County Planning Department on January 10, 2020, and no objection having been raised to the proposed Local Law by the Putnam County Planning Department; and

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Local Law number 1-2021 be and hereby is enacted.

Seconded by Councilman Smith

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Oliverio	YEA
Councilman Luongo	YEA
Councilwoman Whetsel	YEA
Councilman Smith	YEA
Councilwoman Annabi	ABSENT

By a vote of 4 YEA'S the Resolution is carried.

**Councilman Luongo said we are not joining the program with this Law, we are just enabling the Town to be educated about what this is and what it can do for us. You will hear the information from people who do this for a living and not from the Town Board Members.**

**Letters and emails received re: the CCA are as follows:**

To whom it may concern,

I sincerely hope the town board finds it advantageous to engage in the community's education regarding the Community Choice Aggregation. Education would benefit many who are stuck in the current opt-out system that NYSEG has.

I hope informed decisions can prevail over misinformation and marketing, but we need the town approved education to do that.

Thank you

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Respectfully,

F. Cole Caulfield III

[FCcaulfield@gmail.com](mailto:FCcaulfield@gmail.com)

20 spruce st.

Lake Peekskill NY

Dear Sam, Louie, Jackie, Ralph and Wendy,  
I'm writing to express my support for exploring the Community Choice Aggregation program. I fully support giving residents a choice but I also heard concerns that choice was being taken away by this plan. As I understand it, residents would all be enrolled in the program but could opt out at any time with no penalty. If this is the case, I don't see any reason not to proceed provided all residents that want to opt out of the program have the ability to do so. Is there any way to ensure that residents understand this and understand how to opt out - that it is simple, easy and fast?  
Thank you for your work and be well.  
Lynne Bernstein

Good morning. I am writing to express my support for joining CCA. This seems like a common sense means of addressing climate change, and I am very happy that the board is considering the proposal.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Bobrowitz  
270 Lake Shore Road  
Putnam Valley

To the board,

Despite some early and very vocal opposition, I hope the board will continue to gather information on possibly joining CCA. Who can be against gathering more facts so that better, more informed decisions can at least be considered? CCA may turn out to be a common sense means of addressing climate change. Or not. But let's at least look at the evidence before we decide. I am pleased that the board is considering the proposal. Thank you.

Tim Harper  
270 Lake Shore Rd  
Putnam Valley NY 10579

Putnam Valley Town Board- I support the CCA program - renewable energy is critical in these times. Yes - individual community members can make use of these sources, but it would be very supportive if the community moved towards renewable energy.

Thank you  
Guy Cohen  
18 Kenneth Drive  
Putnam Valley, NY

Hello, Sherry. Scott and I would both like to indicate our interest in the town further pursuing a CCA program for its residents. As long time PV educators, residents and supporters of our environment and sustainability, we're always interested in ways we can support green energy, and we support any initiatives that combat the effects of climate change. Please share our interest and support with the PV Town Board members.  
Hope all is well with you, and that you and your family are managing to stay healthy and safe.

Best Regards,  
Deb and Scott Sperling  
615 Oscawana Lake Rd  
Putnam Valley, NY. 10579

We support a CCA program for Putnam Valley. It will benefit our town and provide a healthier environment..

Dominick and Eileen LoPuzzo

I strongly support the CCA program. I believe in science and endorse a local effort to do what we can to preserve our planet for us and future generations

Ula Swenson  
66 Lake Shore Road

Sent from Xfinity Connect App

To The Putnam Valley Town Board Members:

We have been made aware that the town is considering looking into joining a CCA program. From what little research we have done about it, we have been unable to see a downside to joining the program. We need to be forward looking, not backward, especially on a matter that will be important to the towns financial well being as well the long term health of our community members.

From what we have heard, the board is only currently investigating the potential pros and cons of entering into an agreement, not actually joining.

There should never be a time that we do not seek out knowledge! It may be in the best interest of the town to join or it may not. The only way to be sure, is to seek out and understand all of the information, and use the evidence to make an educated decision.

We are asking you to do your due diligence, and communicate all of the information about the CCA program with the members of your town.

Thank you for your commitment to doing your very best for Putnam Valley.

Sincerely,

Keenan and Amy Deegan

Sent from my iPhone

Hello,

My name is Alice Armao & I live in Putnam Valley.

Without going on with it, I would simply like to say that

I support a CCA program in Putnam Valley.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to read my hope for our future

and the future of all the children that are depending on us to 'do the right thing.'

Alice Armao  
56 Lake Shore Road  
PV, NY 10579

Dear Town Board,

I am writing to support the town's participation in Community Choice Aggregation. This is an excellent way for Putnam Valley citizens to access affordable green energy, promote a clean and healthy environment in our town and our state, and help New York State achieve its goals in combatting climate change.

Thank you.  
Marilyn Power

Ina Cholst  
370 Lake Shore Road  
Putnam Valley, NY 10579

January 28, 2021

To Supervisor Oliverio and the Putnam Valley Town Board,

I am writing to express my support for Putnam Valley to proceed with further study, education, and community outreach for the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. The CCA is likely to provide savings for the homeowners of Putnam Valley and also help to combat climate change.

By joining together as a town, we can negotiate better electric power prices, and better consumer protections, than each of us would be able to negotiate on our own. For those individuals who prefer not to join, opting out is not hard, and it can be done at any time, without any penalty.

Towns that have chosen CCA membership have found that it resulted in lower energy bills and savings for their citizens. For example, in Westchester, 110,000+ homes and small businesses saved more than \$17 million in the first two years of the program.

In addition, towns that choose to participate in CCA programs may also become eligible to apply for NY State grants for local Climate Smart infrastructure (for example: solar panels for municipal buildings, electric cars for town fleets, and electric car chargers for public spaces). Of course, there is no guarantee for lower homeowner electric bills, for state grants for the Town, or even that we will be able to combat climate change quickly enough to make a difference. But the downsides are minimal. "Win/win/win" should be the name of the program.

Putnam Valley should seize the opportunity to fight climate change, for ourselves, for our kids, and for their kids. We have an opportunity to do our bit-- we should do it. Because that is the kind of community we are.

Sincerely,

Ina Cholst  
370 Lake Shore Road  
Putnam Valley, NY 10579

Good afternoon,  
I am writing to express my support for the CCA. Thanks very much!  
Elizabeth Broas

Sent from my iPhone

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Please forward to the Town board members that I, Kate Wetherhead, support a CCA program for Putnam Valley. Climate change is an issue that must be given serious and immediate (and ongoing) attention, and program offers many benefits in addition to off-setting the disastrous consequences of greenhouse emissions. Thank you,  
Kate Wetherhead

Dear Sherry,  
I totally support, and endorse the CCA program.  
Kindly pass my wishes on to the TownBoard.  
Many thanks,  
Jeffrey Poznick  
66 Lake Shore Road

To: Sherry Howard, Putnam Valley Town Clerk; Putnam Valley Town Board Members

Dear Members of the Town Board:

I support a CCA program, and for the people of Putnam Valley to have a choice to be a part of programs that combat climate change.

Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Fitzpatrick

22 Quail Ridge Road  
Putnam Valley

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Please advise the PV town Board that the France family is in support of PV joining a CCA.

Voters:

Dorothy, Rich, Sofia, Sam and Richard Sr.

Future voter: Terosa France

Dear Members of the PV Town Board  
Please vote in favor of the CCA program.  
Lisa Spittal

Hi Sherry,

My name is Beth Guiffre and I reside at 178 Church Rd. I enthusiastically support anything that helps with combating climate change and a CCA sounds like a great way to do it. I would even pay more for it (though it looks like may reduce our bills instead!)

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely, Beth Guiffre

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Hello Again,

I know I sent a brief message a few days ago asking the town to support the efforts of the CCA. I wanted to add that I am confused by the idea that the town would consider objecting to rather than supporting the sharing of information with town residents. Whether or not you as individuals believe in the value of green energy, the decision to explore these options should be made by informed taxpayers. So please support the CCA's efforts to provide the community with education so that we can all make informed decisions.

Lisa Spittal

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**AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR COMCAST CONTRACT**

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

**RESOLUTION #R21-31**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign the Comcast Contract for the Roaring Brook Lake Community for their cable service.

Seconded by Councilwoman Whetsel, unanimously carried.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Oliverio	YEA
Councilman Luongo	YEA
Councilwoman Whetsel	YEA
Councilman Smith	YEA
Councilwoman Annabi	ABSENT

By a vote of 4 YEA'S the Resolution is carried.

**RESOLVED TO PASS THE POLITICAL SIGNAGE LAW**

Presented by Councilwoman Whetsel

**RESOLUTION #R21-32**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board pass the amendment to the Political Signage Law. This is law #2 of 2021 and amends Town Code 165-53 A (2) and A (3) which will now state the following:

"A (2) Such things shall be installed no sooner than 45 days before the voting begins and shall be removed no later than 5 days after the voting is concluded.

A (3) Signs shall not exceed 16 Square Feet in area"

A new section A (5) is hereby added stating as follows:

"A violation of Town Zoning Code Section 165-53 A shall be punishable by a fine of \$100.00 per day for each day that a sign remains in place in violation of the Section. Such violation and fine shall be imposed and levied upon the committee to elect the candidate whose name is placed upon the sign and the person who installed the sign

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Oliverio	YEA
Councilman Luongo	YEA
Councilwoman Whetsel	YEA
Councilman Smith	YEA
Councilwoman Annabi	ABSENT

By a vote of 4 YEA'S the Resolution is carried.

**NOISE ORDINANCE**

Presented by Councilman Smith

Councilman Smith said we are going to vote on this knowing we are going to revisit it. Supervisor Oliverio said since we did a negative declaration on it and had a Public Hearing – I don't want to throw it away. It is unacceptable in its present form and we have another one (1) in the works that will be more presentable.

**RESOLUTION # R21-33**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board amend Chapter 82 of the Town Code, "Noise Ordinance" as has been put forth.

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Oliverio	NAY
Councilman Luongo	NAY
Councilwoman Whetsel	NAY
Councilman Smith	NAY
Councilwoman Annabi	ABSENT

By a vote of 4 NAY'S the Resolution is not approved.

Letters and emails received re: the amendment to the Noise Ordinance are as follows:

Members of the Putnam Valley Town Board.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

It is my understanding we are discussing an **addition** to the noise ordinance already on the books - to add a dB cap (similar to neighboring districts) to the existing town code in order to enforce excessive, unreasonable, unreasonably loud, disturbing, unnecessary, annoying and offensive noises during the day which are a detriment to the enjoyment of property, keeping in mind the current wording "Not intended to discourage enjoyment of reasonable activities".

The moments of quiet bliss in my home have been fleeting since my husband and I moved up here in '99. We could not predict that the 3 apartment house next-door would turnover from 4 respectful quiet adults (all of whom knew my now deceased husband) to a total of 11 occupants now (an increase of 2 just yesterday) of 5 adults and 6 young adults/kids...  
Times change.....

I am extremely sensitive to external noise and will be the first to admit it. I can be distracted very easily. To combat the disruptive increase around me, I have purchased noise canceling headphones, I play a soft babbling brook of white noise to drown it out, I shift and do something else knowing the noise will end, eventually. I'm not happy I have to do these things but I need to stay sane.

But there are some sounds that I and others can't get away from.  
Sound waves so powerful they rattle the windows and the vibration can be felt in every room in the house.  
It comes across the lake from an entitled neighbor blaring his music with the bass cranked to full for all to hear.  
It comes from the disrespectful kid who parks in front of your house and blares his car stereo 'because he can'.  
And, because I no longer have encounters with the new renters next-door because of the pushback, vindictiveness, and ugly encounters I've had with them (before calling the sheriff), it comes from illegal fireworks and gunfire.

I therefore am in favor of **adding** anything that will help with enforcement..

There was a time of common courtesy, when neighbors would immediately remedy a situation if informed it was disruptive or disturbing.  
Times change...

a quiet thank you,  
Jane Kauffman  
79 Lake Drive  
LKPK

February 2, 2021

To the Town Board,

Respectfully, I am writing to encourage the Town Board to defer passing a new noise ordinance until further study can be carried out. The proposed decibel levels for daytime (8am - 6 pm) of 70 dB(A)'s and nighttime (6pm - 8am) for 55 dB(A)'s are reasonable and in keeping with community norms.

However, a limit of 110 dB at the property line for property maintenance equipment (leaf blowers, chain saws, etc) is very high, is not adequate protection for hearing loss, especially (though not only) in the lake communities, and poses a health risk to the residents of Putnam Valley. In my opinion, the proposed law should not be passed as it stands now. Further study is needed.

1. Hearing loss is related to both the loudness (decibels) and the duration of the sound. According to the NIH (National Institute of Health) "*Scientists recommend no more than 15 minutes of unprotected exposure to sounds that are 100 decibels. In addition, regular exposure to sounds at 110 decibels for more than one minute risks permanent hearing loss.*" (see attached FAQ sheet from the NIH)
2. Homes in lake communities have an additional issue with the transmission of noise. Across water, noise does not diminish with distance in normal predictable ways, as it does over land. In fact, because of a "megaphone effect," noise from a chain saw or leaf blower may be louder when perceived from across the lake, than it is at the owner's property line. Thus, high statutory limits for noise "at the property line," and without a limit of duration will not provide hearing loss protection, especially (though not only) in the lake communities.

Attached are also noise guidelines from the state of Minnesota ("Land of Lakes"). The Minnesota guidelines are notable in that they do take into account duration as well as loudness of noise. Minnesota accepts noise levels for residential areas at 65/55 dBA and, interestingly, for industrial areas (commercial, agricultural, forestry, amusement parks) at 75/80 dBA)\*. This should give some indication of how loud 110 decibels is. The decibel scale is logarithmic, not linear. Thus 110 decibels is not twice as loud as 55 decibels- **110 decibels is more than 100,000 times as loud as 55 decibels.** (Compared to 55 decibels, 65 is 10 times louder, 75 is 100 times louder, 85 is 1,000 times louder, 95 is 10,000 times louder, and 105 decibels is 100,000 times louder than 55 decibels)

Thank you for your time and attention. I am not opposed to amending the noise ordinances. Noise is increasingly identified as a pollutant and a health hazard. However, I believe the proposed law needs further study.

Ina Cholst  
370 Lake Shore Road  
Putnam Valley, NY

\*The Minnesota limits for a residential location are L10 = 65 dBA and L50 = 60 dBA during the daytime and L10 = 55 dBA and L50 = 50 dBA during the nighttime (Minn. R. 7030.0040). This means that during the one-hour period of monitoring, daytime noise levels cannot exceed 65 dBA for more than 10 percent of the time or 60 dBA more than 50 percent of the time.

**AUDIT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Presented by Councilman Luongo

**RESOLUTION #R21-34**

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

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

Seconded by Councilwoman Whetsel, unanimously carried.

Councilman Luongo asked about two (2) employees who had asked for medical leave. One is back to work and the other is not. Supervisor Oliverio said they would discuss this in Executive Session as it is a personnel issue.

Supervisor Oliverio moved to go into an Executive meeting to discuss a legal, a contractual and a personnel issue. No business will be done afterward.

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried.

Supervisor Oliverio moved to close the Town Board meeting at 5:22 PM.

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted



Sherry Howard  
Town Clerk  
02-05-2021

