

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
WORK SESSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021
5:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance
Supervisor's Comments

TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
MEETING AGENDA

1. Discussion 2022 Budget
2. 2021 Wildwood Knolls Facilities Revenue Reports
3. Roaring Brook Lake Tree Purchase

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
WORK SESSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021
5:00 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk Sherry Howard
Town Counsel Robert Lusardi

Supervisor Oliverio opened the Town Board Meeting at 5:00 PM and welcomed everyone to the Work Session Meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for our military forces around the world.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

RESOLUTION #21-242

RESOLVED that the Town Board **ADD** the following item to the agenda

1 Appoint District Clerk 90 day provisional.

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION ON 2022 BUDGET

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

The Preliminary Budget has been presented to everyone and copies have been made available to the community. The budget can also be found on the Town's website. The budget as it is right now with all items covered would be at an increase to the taxpayer of 1.98% - this is with use of our ARPA funds which came from the Federal Government. We are under the 2% CAP imposed by the State of New York. Even though Inflation is running 6% year to year New York State says the CAP needs to remain at 2%. This number includes the contractual settlements for the CSEA and tentative settlement of our Manager's Contract.

Supervisor Oliverio said we are going to use about \$100,000.00 of the ARPA money to update our very outdated software so it doesn't impact taxes. We are also going to use this money to repair the Lake Peekskill Dam which we are required to remediate. We are also going to use this money to make up for lost revenue during the covid quarantine. We lost almost \$400,000.00 between the Building Department permits, Court fees and Parks and Recreation fees. We have not yet received the final amount of mortgage tax money we are going to be getting from the County. This is going to be a windfall due to the massive movement up north from the cities and more suburban areas. Supervisor Oliverio believes that that the little amount we are borrowing from the Fund Balance won't even be needed because the Mortgage Tax will replenish this. Supervisor Oliverio said this is one (1) of the better budgets we have put together.

Supervisor Oliverio said he has given the Library a 5% increase because they did not receive anything last year. Councilwoman Annabi inquired as to what they requested. Supervisor Oliverio said they had asked for 8%. The Ambulance Corp got a 3% increase and the Fire Department has a five (5) year contract which was signed last year so that is already settled. Ms. Angelico said in regards to the Fire Department, (as this has come to her attention through their bills), their insurance has increased over the last two (2) years so we may need to bump up their Fund Balance. Supervisor Oliverio said let's hold that in abeyance until they request it. We can always adjust for that later.

Supervisor Oliverio said next week is the Public Hearing on the Budget at 6:00 PM.

Councilman Smith said he is very happy that they are coming in under the tax CAP.

Supervisor Oliverio thanked Ms. Angelico for all of her hard work and knowledge.

APPOINT DISTRICT SENIOR CLERK PROVISIONALLY

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

RESOLUTION #21-N/A (see below)

RESOLVED that the Town Board appoint Karen Kroboth to the position of Senior District Clerk in a 90 day provisional basis. She will be moved permanently when she takes and passes the Senior Clerk test when it is given. Salary will be at Step 1 of the CSEA Senior Clerk Salary Schedule which is \$45,897.00. Ms. Kroboth has been designated a Senior Clerk in the County since February 1, 2021, but has been paid as a Clerk. Ms. Kroboth will receive retroactive pay to compensate.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, for discussion.

Councilwoman Annabi said she understands that Ms. Kroboth took over for Judy Travis when she left at the end of January of 2021. If she took the clerk exam this year we should find out the date before we give her retroactive pay. Supervisor Oliverio said we can hold this in abeyance until next week so we can find out when she took the test.

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

RESOLUTION #21-243

RESOLVED that the Town Board table the provisional appointment of the District Clerk (see above) until the Regular Town Board Meeting of October 20, 2022. It will be the first item on the Agenda after the Public Hearing.

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried

2021 WILDWOOD KNOLLS FACILITIES REVENUE REPORT

Presented by Councilman Luongo

RESOLUTION #21-244

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accept the 2021 year end Wildwood Knolls Facilities Revenue Report: 10 families @ \$200.00 per family = \$2,000.00

Please note: Nine families chose not to use this facility in 2021, so we collected \$1,800.00 less than the \$3,800.00 Wildwood Knolls Facilities Warrant originally presented to the Town Board.

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried

ROARING BROOK LAKE TREE PURCHASE

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

RESOLUTION #21-245

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approve the purchase of five (5) spruce trees for Roaring Brook Lake Children's Beach. The cost is \$3,400.00, which includes delivery and planting. This purchase was discussed at the District Budget Meeting in September 2021. The funds will come from the RBL District Budget.

Councilwoman Annabi asked if there was some controversy with these trees. Supervisor Oliverio said the original trees they got were too small because they wanted the trees for a sound barrier. They were more like bushes. They exchanged the bushes for what they wanted for a minimal additional cost.

Supervisor Oliverio thanked James Brazee for putting up the new Christmas tree at his car area at Oregon Corners. It looks good and it will be really festive.

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION FROM COMMUNITY SOLAR

Presented by Councilman Smith

Councilman Smith showed the \$100.00 gift card you get in the mail when you join the Community Solar Program the Town is offering. You can join this program on the Town's Website. You will get 10% off of your NYSE&G bill with no solar panels placed on your home. The Town has already gotten \$9,000.00 in donations from Ampion. The Town has also gotten a \$5,000.00 NYSE&G grant for running this program. The Climate Smart Task Force has been talking about what to do with the funds. Another aspect of Community Solar that will be discussed with the Town Board is that the Town as a Municipality uses electricity, so maybe we can join and save money as a Town. To that end we have a Representative from Ampion here to discuss this with us.

Councilman Smith introduced Corinna Ricard-Farzen our Representative from Ampion. Ms. Ricard-Farzen said she is here to discuss enrolling the Town's Municipal accounts in the same programs that a resident can join. The only difference would be that the Town would have a slightly longer cancellation period if it dropped out of the program. Residential accounts require a 90 day notice and for larger accounts like this they require a six (6) month notice. The Town can save 10% on each of its utility bills – which comes out to a savings of about \$4,400.00 for the year. Councilwoman Whetsel said we received a grant to put solar panels on the Town Hall over ten (10) years ago. We had matching funds from DASNY, we were going to put them near the Parks and Rec. Building. We are still waiting to see if we can make it happen, the installation project is small and we have had no bidders.

She asked if this would interfere with the Town using Community Solar. Ms. Ricard-Farzen said whatever the solar array ends up covering would not be eligible to be in Community Solar because it's a New York State rule – it has to be one (1) or the other. You can participate until the grant comes through – when the grant does come through NYSE&G would bounce back that account.

Councilman Smith said the Town has many accounts and many meters. Ms. Ricard-Farzen has gone through them all and found most can be covered by Ampion. Some are too small to participate. Councilman Smith thanked Corinna for all of her time. Supervisor Oliverio said the Town Board now has working knowledge of all of this information and will discuss it. He knows there is a time limit to join this program and told Ms. Ricard-Farzen that they need about a month. Ms. Ricard-Farzen said that should be fine, and she has already sent a copy of the agreement so it can be reviewed.

Councilwoman Annabi said the next two (2) weekends are going to be very busy. This Saturday from 8:45 to 11:45 there is bulk drop-off at the Town Hall. The Town Hall Building will also be open if anyone would like to use the Medication Drop-off box.

Councilwoman Annabi said on Sunday the Historical Society is holding their Annual Meeting at the Town Park at 1:00 PM. There will be a speaker discussing Freedom Land USA.

Councilwoman Annabi announced that on October 23rd there will be a Harvest Festival at the Town Park with a Halloween Costume Parade, arts and crafts and a hay ride from 11AM to 1 PM. There is another Harvest Festival at the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center on the same day from 12PM to 4PM.

Supervisor Oliverio moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the Manager's Contract and personnel issues. No new business will be conducted afterward.

Councilman Luongo seconded the motion, unanimously carried

Supervisor Oliverio closed the meeting at 5:26 PM.

Councilwoman Annabi seconded the motion, unanimously carried

Respectfully Submitted



Sherry Howard
Town Clerk
09-20-2021