

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021
6:00 PM

1. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022 TOWN/HIGHWAY/DISTRICT BUDGET

TOWN BOARD MEETING AGENDA

1. Resolve to Compensate the District Clerk
2. Supervisor's Comments
3. Departmental Reports
4. Legislative Report
5. School Report
6. Possible Acceptance of Manager's Contract
7. Discussion of Budget
8. Approve Van DeWater & Van DeWater Contract
9. Wildwood Knolls Sign.
10. Parks and Recreation – Personnel
11. Parks and Recreation – Refunds
12. Request to go to bid for Highway Materials
13. Building Daily Fee Report
14. Appointment of Zoning Board Member
15. Approval of Minutes
16. Audit of Monthly Bills
17. Public Comment

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021
6:00 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk Sherry Howard
Town Counsel Robert Lusardi

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for our troops throughout the world.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022 TOWN/HIGHWAY/DISTRICT BUDGET

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said this is the public's chance to share their opinions - everyone will have three (3) minutes to speak.

There was no Public Comment so Supervisor Oliverio closed the Public Hearing; but left the written public comment portion open until November 3rd at 3:00 PM.

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried.

Supervisor Oliverio said the vote will be two (2) weeks from now on November 3rd. It gives people time to get any comments or opinions they have into us. Please send any emails to the Town Clerk - showard@putnamvalley.com. She will disseminate your comments to us.

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021
6:10 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk Sherry Howard
Town Counsel Robert Lusardi

Supervisor Oliverio opened the Regular Town Board Meeting and welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

COMPENSATE AND REAPPOINT THE DISTRICT CLERK

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

RESOLUTION #21- 246

RESOLVED that the Town Board compensate the District Clerk with an additional \$497.00 per pay period for the remainder of the year for doing Senior Clerk tasks. Come January 1, 2022 compensation is to be raised to a salary of \$47,732.00 for doing Senior Clerk work.

Councilwoman Annabi explained that the District Clerk has passed the Clerk's test but is doing Senior Clerk tasks. She is not part of the CSEA as of yet. When she takes and passes the Senior Clerk Test she will become part of the Union and get the next Step on the Senior Clerk pay scale.

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Oliverio said this is the last meeting before the Election. Please go out to vote, we have a great group of candidates on both sides of the aisle. On January 1st there will be a new Town Board.

Supervisor Oliverio thanked Highway Superintendent Cobb for the good job he has done. He was away for a week but the Department ran like a top due to his great management. He will be sorely missed when he retires.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

RESOLUTION #21- 247

RESOLVED, that the Town Board **ADD** the following to the Agenda:

#9a. Authorize the Supervisor to sign the WSP Roaring Brook Lake Dam proposal for Dam Inspection Services

#9b. Authorize the Supervisor to sign the Ampion Solar Bill Credit Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried

RESOLUTION #21- 248

RESOLVED, that the Town Board **ADD** the following to the Agenda:

#10b. Authorize the lowering the level of Lake Peekskill.

#10c. Authorize the lowering the level of Roaring Brook Lake.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

Councilwoman Annabi read the report from Tompkins Corners Cultural Center as follows:

Saturday, October 23rd, from 12-4 pm is our annual Harvest Festival featuring the amazing Arm of the Sea Theater, lots of live music, craft vendors, farmer's market and food. Don't miss it; we look forward to seeing you.

Councilman Luongo read the Putnam Valley Volunteer Fire Department report for the month of September 2021 as follows:

- 6 PIAA's
- 4 Ambulance Assists
- 1 motor vehicle accidents – no injuries
- 1 Gas Leak
- 4 Wires Down
- 1 Lock Out
- 5 Water Evacuations
- 1 Smoke Condition
- 1 canceled enroute
- 3 Smoke Investigations
- 15 Smoke Detector Activations
- 1 Stand By/Mutual Aid

For a total of 43 calls and 446 man hours for the month of September 2021.

The Fire Department will be holding a demonstration at the Town Park this Saturday from 11AM to 1PM. A turkey will be burned to show how dangerous it is to cook a turkey this way. The following Sunday, on Halloween, the Fire Department is participating in the Trunk or Treat at the Putnam Valley Middle School which starts at 2:00 PM.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

Councilwoman Annabi read the report from County Legislator Gouldman as follows:

Bill Gouldman is not able to be here today so he requested I give his report.

**** On Monday, October 27, Putnam County will be having another Flu Clinic at the Garrison Fire Department, from the hours of 2:00 and 6:30 pm. The clinic is open to all Putnam residents from 18 years of age and older. Appointments are needed. Go to the Putnam County Website to make an appointment**

**** For the last 2 weeks the Legislature has been in the process of reviewing the county budget for 2022. If there are any specific budget issues you are concerned about, please reach out to Bill.**

**** Halloween is around the corner. Legislator Gouldman would like to remind everyone to take special caution during this time of year. Have fun, but be cautious.**

**** The Peekskill Hollow Road Project will be starting soon, as he gets more information, he will pass it on.**

**** Bill is interested in your concerns. His door is always open. If you see something or have a problem or issue, just give his office a call at 845-808-1020. If he can correct your issue, he will.**

County Legislator Montgomery said she has more information on the County Budget for 2022. October 26th at 7:00 PM is the Public Hearing on the Budget and October 28th will be the adopting of the Budget. The total appropriations are 167 million. This is an increase in spending by 2.3% - increasing taxes by 1.1 million to about 46.7 million. Since 2020 Putnam County has had revenue which has exceeded spending by 38 million dollars; but we are still raising taxes. Dutchess County, Rockland County, and Westchester are not raising taxes this year.

SCHOOL REPORT

Presented by Councilman Smith

Councilman Smith has spoken to Dr. Luft who said they are still maintaining their guidance from the State Ed. Department and the Department of Health as far as safety procedures.

They test unvaccinated staff on a weekly basis and follow the masking guidance that comes down to them. There are many great events going on that has to do with the appreciation of our First Responders. The Middle School will be hosting First Responders and there will be some demonstrations on the 28th. On the 29th First Responders will be going to the Elementary School to read to the classes about their profession and answer questions. The Educational Foundation has had their color run; and Trunk or Treat will once again be taking place on Halloween. The Book Fair at the Middle School was a success as well. Please check their website for more information.

Councilman Smith also complemented the Putnam Valley Historical Society for the great program they put on about Freedom Land USA. It was very well attended and informative. The food was good and it was a very pleasant afternoon under the pavilion.

SIGN CONTRACT WITH PUTNAM VALLEY MANAGERS

Presented by Councilwoman Whetsel

RESOLUTION #21- 249

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to approve the contract with the Managers of Putnam Valley Town Hall.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi. Councilman Luongo recused himself.

By a vote of 4 ayes, and 1 recusal the Resolution passed

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said again we are coming in under the CAP at 1.98% with the use of ARPA money to offset one-time expenses which benefits the whole community. The Federal Government decided that the Municipalities themselves could use some help with the lost revenue they suffered due to Covid – they gave us 1.26 million dollars. We lost a great deal of money with our Parks and Rec. programs, our Court Fees, and our Building Department Permit Fees. We will have broad band updates, and new software etc.

Councilman Luongo said you just mentioned the Manager's Contract which we started four (4) years ago, this way we know how to project out and what is going to happen. We signed long term contracts with the Fire Department, the CSEA and the Managers. Now we don't have to worry about signing contracts for the next few years, not so many surprises.

Councilman Smith said he is glad that they have stayed under the tax CAP for the last two (2) years. He understands as inflation hits and prices go up there are increases in Town Board and Supervisor's salary that occur and are appropriate. He continued and said at this time with the pandemic and all that has happened to many people he will not accept the increase for himself. This is a personal position.

Supervisor Oliverio said the Town Board has not received a raise for a number of years. This is the time to do it when the Federal Government has assisted us in providing money for those salaries, and understanding the losses this Town has taken. This will not impact the budget, it is nominal, if you add all the increases for the Council People it is \$1,000.00 each. It is a couple of thousand more for the Supervisor's Salary, Town Clerk, and the Judges. Highway Superintendent has stayed stable since it is a new position for the person coming in. You want good people to come in and take these positions for the love of the community; but you also need money for the gas you use, for mileage, for phone calls, and various errands the Board gets involved with. Additionally for the contributions each and every one of us make to various organizations to support them as well. No one is going to get rich on \$16,000.00 a year. The Supervisor's job has only been brought up to \$85,000.00, much lower than the Town's around us, and if this is done right it is a 24 hour a day 7 days a week job. The Highway Superintendent position is the hardest one (1) in Town, especially when the weather is bad.

Councilman Smith said he understands the reasoning and agrees with it but at this time, as we are still recovering from the pandemic, it's a personal decision and he will still go ahead with his original statement. Everyone has to do what's best for them. He will not vote the budget down – he will instead donate the money. Supervisor Oliverio said he has done that in the past when he was a Legislator. Supervisor Oliverio said you want to attract good people and this job goes beyond these meetings.

Councilwoman Annabi said the Town Board is a tough seat and we do work 24/7 and on every weekend. She believes they should all get compensated just like we do with the Managers. She does understand what Ralph is saying; but \$16,000.00 is not a lot of compensation for a 24 hour job, but if they all agree to lower it back down she will support it.

Councilwoman Whetsel said most of the Town Board Members have been there for some time; and in that time she has only gotten an increase once six (6) years ago. Councilwoman Annabi said yes she knows it is not easy to live here with the high prices.

Councilman Smith said he understands the need for increased salaries – but last year he was outraged when the County voted to give themselves raises. At that time he suggested that these County Representatives donate their raise to one (1) of our Volunteer Organizations. He has no problem with people getting a raise; but sometimes you have to make a personal decision though so please respect mine that I will donate those monies to a volunteer organization within our Town.

Councilman Luongo said the fact that we do have increases built in for salaries and other things did not cause us to go over the Tax CAP because we finally caught up to everything we were in arrears of because of the way we were spending and budgeting.

Supervisor Oliverio said the budget does take into account that we have held the line on spending.

APPROVE VAN DEWATER & VAN DEWATER CONTRACT

Presented by Councilwoman Whetsel

RESOLUTION #21- 250

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approve the contract with Van DeWater & Van DeWater, LLP, 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 101, PO Box 112, Poughkeepsie, New York, 12601 in connection with the defense of tax certiorari proceedings. The scope of services are to provide representation to the Town, the Assessor, and Board of Assessment Review involving challenges to real property tax assessments in both Article 7 and Article 78 proceedings including negotiations, court appearances, discovery, motion practice and trial and advise the Assessor and the Town Board on legal issues pertaining to the same.

Seconded by Councilman Smith unanimously carried.

SIGN WSP ROARING BROOK LAKE DAM PROPOSAL

Presented by Councilman Smith

RESOLUTION #21- 251

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approve the Proposal from WSP to perform a Class C inspection of Roaring Brook Lake Dam in accordance with the NYSDEC guidelines in the amount of \$6,959.00.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried.

Councilwoman Annabi said there is a dam in Roaring Brook that needs to be repaired. This is the Engineering Services to inspect it and get the schedule of work done. This is not the contract for the actual work.

SIGN AMPION SOLAR BILL CREDIT PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

Presented by Councilman Luongo

Supervisor Oliverio said this Resolution only has to do with the Town signing onto the program not the residents. Supervisor Oliverio said Town Counsel Lusardi reviewed this contract and there are some items he is concerned with so we will move this Resolution until the November 3rd meeting.

RESOLUTION #21- N/A (see above)

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign the Ampion Solar Bill Credit Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

RESOLUTION #21- 252

RESOLVED, that the Town Board move the Resolution to sign the Ampion Solar Bill Credit Purchase and Sale Agreement until the November 03, 2021 meeting so Town Attorney Lusardi can review some items.

Seconded by Supervisor Oliverio, unanimously carried.

Councilman Smith said two (2) things about moving it are: 1. We will have to contact Ampion because by that time the offer for the \$1,800.00 contribution to the Town might be in jeopardy; and 2. Please understand that this only concerns our Town Buildings electrical accounts **NOT** individual residents.

WILDWOOD KNOLLS SIGN

Presented by Councilman Smith

RESOLUTION #21- 253

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorize the expenditure of \$1,585.00 for the replacement of the missing Wildwood Knolls sign. The proposal from McCaffrey Signs is attached and includes the design, delivery and installation. The money will come from the District Budget as was discussed at the District Budget meeting.

Seconded by Supervisor Oliverio for discussion.

Supervisor Oliverio said the sign was defaced or stolen. The Wildwood District was very serious about having the sign replaced and it was agreed upon at the Budget Meeting. The Town Board voted unanimously to pass this Resolution.

LOWERING OF LAKE PEEKSKILL

Presented by Councilman Luongo

RESOLUTION #21- 254

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorize the Lake Peekskill District Employees to commence lowering Lake Peekskill by five (5) feet beginning October 21, 2021.

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried.

LOWERING OF ROARING BROOK LAKE

Presented by Councilman Luongo

RESOLUTION #21- 255

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorize the Roaring Brook Dam Custodian to begin lowering the lake by four (4) feet beginning October 21, 2021. After the 4' drawdown, residents will remove debris and clean up the shoreline. Once the beach sand is redistributed, the lake will raise to the 3 1/2 foot drawdown level and will be maintained at that level for the rest of the winter.

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried.

PARKS AND RECREATION PERSONNEL

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

RESOLUTION #R21-256

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accept the following Parks and Recreation Personnel additions:

1. Kristina Cabreja, PV Children's Center (turned 18), @ \$13.00 per hour.
2. Gianna Bianco, PV Children's Center, @ \$13.00 per hour.

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried.

PARKS AND RECREATION REFUNDS

Presented by Councilwoman Whetsel

RESOLUTION #R21-257

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accept the following Parks and Recreation Refunds:

To: Town Board
From: Frank DiMarco, Parks and Recreation Director
Subject: Parks and Recreation Refunds
Date: October refunds 2021

Jessica Mimnaugh 10 Cayuga Road Putnam Valley, NY 10579	\$500.00 LPCC Deposit refund
Robert Jandelli 11 Point Drive North Lake Peekskill, NY 10537	\$500.00 LPCC Deposit refund
Eric Grecco 40 Lincoln Road Putnam Valley, NY 10579	\$138.00 PVCC Not using PVCC Oct 2021
Donna Castro 123 Oscawana Lake Road Putnam Valley, NY 10579	\$160.00 Programs- Taekwondo Refund from cancelled program
Tana Pocock 5 Melnick Road Lake Peekskill, NY 10537	\$500.00 LPCC Deposit refund

Seconded by Councilman Smith unanimously carried.

REQUEST TO GO TO BID FOR HIGHWAY MATERIALS

Presented by Councilman Smith

RESOLUTION #R21-258

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorize Highway Department to go out to bid for materials to be used by the Highway Department in 2022.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried

BUILDING DAILY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2021

Presented by Councilman Luongo

RESOLUTION #R21-259

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accept the Building Department daily fee report and summary for the month of September 2021, for filing with the Town Clerk.

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD MEMBER

Presented by Councilwoman Annabi

RESOLUTION #R21-260

RESOLVED, that the Town Board appoint Susan Caddoo as Zoning Board Ad-Hoc member term to begin on 10/20/2021 and expire 12/31/2021

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried

Supervisor Oliverio said her resume is attached and she is being appointed Ad-Hoc – it is not a permanent position.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Presented by Councilwoman Whetsel

RESOLUTION #R21-261

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accept the Town Board Meeting Minutes from September 15th, September 22nd, and October 06, 2021.

Seconded by Councilman Smith, unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Resident Charlene Pateman said up until the last couple of years she has had a blind faith in America because this is a great Country to live in. Now the Country has us scratching our heads a little bit. The biggest job the Government has is to manage our hard earned tax dollars. She said that is a hard job; but she is a business owner, and during hard times such as these, if she was in charge of the checkbook you either have to increase revenue or decrease spending. She disagrees with Supervisor Oliverio, it is not the time for a raise. We did get 1.2 million for Covid relief, but there are people out there with no job. There is no break for the taxpayers. Is there anything being done with that money that will directly affect the taxpayers? Supervisor Oliverio said that would be gifting and that is not allowed. Ms. Pateman then asked, was there anything done to offset that 1.98% increase (even though it is just under the CAP)? Supervisor Oliverio said we did everything we could. Ms. Pateman said when she goes through the line items everything is either the same or more, nothing seems to have really been cut. She said you do need to pay your people and keep them happy but it seems more than just six (6) people should benefit. You should listen to the people who are still struggling and trying to pick up their pieces from this terrible time. Ms. Pateman emphasizes but she does not think the ARPA money should be used for raises and the percentage of tax increase should go lower.

Supervisor Oliverio said the original tax increase was 8%. He and Ms. Angelico spent hours looking at ways to reduce that. We found ways to do it by paying for our one-time huge expenses that are very necessary with the ARPA funds and going into our Fund Balance a little bit. To do anymore we would be scraping bone or taking more from the Fund Balance. Ms. Pateman said if there is no money, then there is no money to be spent.

Resident Shawn Keeler who lives on Luigi Road said in 37 days, 22 hours, 37 minutes and 20 seconds his Christmas Light Display will be lit. The lighting this year will be in honor of all of the victims of the Corona Virus, his Father and two (2) good friends of his named Robby Shannon and Jimmy Roberts. The German American Club is letting him use their parking lot and he has three (3) buses doing runs to his home. This year there is a donation box outside of his house during the season. This money does not go to him – he will be donating it to a specific Putnam Valley family that is in need. They have four (4) children and the Mother has Cancer. Last year the money went to the Kidney Foundation. Supervisor Oliverio said it is a fantastic display.

Councilman Luongo said the leaves are falling and we may have rain this weekend. Leaves on the wet road are just like ice, be careful. Also, the heating season has started for some of us. Clean your chimney and burn and dry good wood. Check before you turn stuff on.

Councilman Luongo said he sadly will not be in the area on Veteran's Day.

Councilman Luongo said he likes to look around and see what good things are going on here in Town. He has come across two (2) properties in the last few months and people cleaned up not just to the rock wall but passed the rock wall. One (1) was at Kramer's Pond and Oscawana Lake Road; and the other one is on Mill Street just passed the cemetery. Supervisor Oliverio said James Brazee had a beautiful tree put up at his car shop on Oscawana Lake Road in the center of our Town.

Resident Eileen Reilly said she also wanted to add something positive to the conversation. She said volunteers from Sustainable Putnam went to Tompkins Corners and got rid of mass quantities of mug wort which is an invasive species of plant. They all cleared it to the existing stone wall which was hidden. In the summer they will plant a native meadow there.

Councilwoman Whetsel said it is certainly not life threatening to her if she does not get the \$1,000.00 a year raise so if you want to take it out of the budget go ahead. Councilwoman Whetsel said she is just saying for all the years she has been on the Board she hasn't gotten an increase in six (6) years. If it means people are going to be really unhappy with it – take it out she doesn't care.

Supervisor Oliverio said as far as the stone walls are concerned – the Town Board passed a law a few years ago protecting them as historic landmarks. Former Supervisor Sallie Sypher and her husband Wylie have just written a book entitled Putnam Valley: A Look Back about the history of Putnam Valley.

Councilwoman Annabi said the last bulk drop-off and the medication take back prescription day were very successful. She added that the Tompkins Corners Harvest Festival is this Saturday. Parks and Recreation is also having a Pumpkin Festival on the same day with a hay ride, parade, horse rides etc.

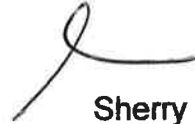
Councilwoman Annabi said there is a drive-thru Veteran's Chow Down at the Putnam County Golf Course sponsored by the Dwyer Vet-to-Vet program. They assist our Veteran's that are having a hard time. It is being held on November 7th from 11AM to 2PM - reservations are needed.

Supervisor Oliverio moved to go into Executive Session on a contractual issue. No further business will be conducted. He said we will see you on November 3rd at 5:00 PM for a continued discussion on the budget – and hopefully we will pass the budget. Be safe for Halloween; and good luck to all the candidates.

Supervisor Oliverio closed the Town Board Meeting at 7:02 PM.

Seconded by Councilwoman Annabi, unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherry Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Sherry Howard
Town Clerk
11-01-2021**