

TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY
Town Board Work Session

February 11th, 2026

Town Hall

5 PM

~~~~~

**Meeting Called to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

1. **Public Hearing** Local Law Amending Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption
2. **Public Hearing** Local Law Amending Veterans Property Tax Exemption
3. Review Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement to CSEA Contract
4. **Parks & Recreation**: Approve Application for Use of Lakeland Copper Beach Middle School Swimming Pool for Lifeguard Training
5. **Facilities**: Revise Resolution #R26-97
6. **Highway**: Approve Snow Plow Rider for 2026 Winter Season
7. **Building Department**: Daily Fee Report Summary January 1–31, 2026
8. Public Comment [Three-Minute Time Limit Per Person]

**Adjournment**

**Next Town Board Meeting**: Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6 PM

**TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY**  
**TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION**  
**Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**5:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Jolicoeur  
Councilman Luongo  
Councilman Brooks  
Councilman Russo  
Councilwoman Howard

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Clerk Michelle Stephens  
Town Counsel Lillian Meade  
Town Counsel David Daniels

Supervisor Jolicoeur opened the meeting at 5:05 pm with the Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence by Councilman Russo, for those we've lost and for our men and women overseas and at home fighting for our lives.

The Town Board adjourned to an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Seconded by Councilwoman Howard, unanimously carried.

All Town Board members and Town Counsel were present for the Executive Session.  
The Town Board Meeting reconvened at 5:45 pm

Supervisor Jolicoeur made a motion to reopen the meeting, as no resolution had been passed at this time.

Seconded by Councilman Russo, unanimously carried

**AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

Presented by Supervisor Jolicoeur

**RESOLUTION #R26-122**

**ADD 2A-** to include an exception for **disabled persons with limited income** as part of the proposed local law.

Seconded by Councilman Russo, unanimously carried.

Supervisor Jolicoeur made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the Local Law amending the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption.

Seconded by Councilman Russo, unanimously carried

**PUBLIC HEARING: LOCAL LAW AMENDING SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

Supervisor Jolicoeur opened the Public Hearing amending the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption

Seconded by Councilman Russo, unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION #R26-123**

The board reviewed the proposed local law, which:

- Implements the increased senior citizen property tax exemptions to the fullest extent permitted under New York State law.
- Raises the maximum exemption level to **65%**.
- Increases the income eligibility thresholds up to approximately **\$58,400**, as allowed by state statute.
- Confirms that:
  - Notices were sent on time under the prior law.
  - Applicants filing before the **March 1** deadline will be eligible under the new, higher exemption limits.
  - No separate filing is required to receive the updated exemption.

**Board Discussion**

Board members expressed support for the measure, citing:

- The increasing cost of living in New York State.
- The financial pressures faced by seniors on fixed incomes.
- Concerns that many seniors are considering leaving the state due to affordability.

It was noted that:

- Approximately **217 seniors** applied for the exemption in the previous year.
- Only a portion of those applicants would qualify for the increased benefit under the new income thresholds.
- The amendment affects **only the town portion** of property taxes, as the town has no authority over other taxing jurisdictions.

Board members also acknowledged the contributions of senior residents and veterans to the community, emphasizing that even small financial relief could be meaningful.

## Public Comment

### Glen Lefurgy – 70 Sawmill Road

Mr. Lefurgy stated that he has paid taxes in the Town of Putnam Valley for 51 years and questioned why certain charges—specifically fire district taxes, Lake Oscawana taxes, and Wildwood Knolls—were excluded from the proposed senior tax exemption changes.

He noted that his tax bill lists “County of Putnam, Town of Putnam Valley, 2026 County and Town Taxes,” with those districts listed below, and asked why they were not included in the exemption. He requested clarification on the legal basis for excluding these district taxes and expressed concern about fairness, stating that services such as garbage collection and beach use are the same for all residents.

The Chair responded that the matter would be placed on a future agenda and that the town attorney would review the issue.

---

### John – Assessor Candidate

John, who stated he is not a town resident but is a candidate for assessor, addressed Mr. Lefurgy’s question. He referenced the New York State Assessor’s Exemption Manual and Real Property Tax Law §467, which governs the senior citizen exemption.

He explained that the law specifies that exemptions do not apply to **special ad valorem levies or special assessments**. He noted that special districts—such as fire, water, lighting, or similar districts—fall into this category and are therefore not included in the exemption.

---

### Joe Ferraro – Brian Hill Drive

Mr. Ferraro stated that he is interested in understanding the financial impact of the proposed exemption changes.

He noted:

- Approximately 200+ seniors were estimated to be affected.
- Only some would qualify for the increased exemption.
- The overall tax levy does not change; rather, the burden shifts among taxpayers.

He requested information on how the change would affect other taxpayers and whether those calculations had been completed. He also noted that similar changes in other jurisdictions included estimated impacts.

**Resident – Lake Peekskill**

The resident asked whether the exemption was being extended and whether the current exemption, which was set to expire on December 31, would continue.

The Board clarified that:

- The amendment would make the exemption more beneficial.
  - Residents would receive either the current exemption or a higher one if eligible.
- 

**Board Action**

Due to questions regarding the financial impact, the Board determined that additional information would be reviewed.

A motion was made to **suspend the public hearing until the following week.**

Seconded Councilwoman Howard, unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION # R26-124**

**Town of Putnam Valley Local Law No. 1 of 2026**

**LOCAL LAW TO AMEND ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 108 OF THE TOWN CODE OF  
THE TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY BY INCREASING THE INCOME THRESHOLD OF  
THE SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

BE IT ENACTED, by the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley, Putnam County, New York, as follows:

**Part 1. Title**

This Local Law shall be known as the “Local Law to Amend Article I of Chapter 108 of the Town Code of the Town of Putnam Valley by Increasing the Income Threshold of the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption”

**Part 2. Enactment**

This Local Law is adopted and enacted pursuant to the authority and power granted by § 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York.

**Part 3. Amendment of the Town Code**

Article I, Chapter 108: “Senior Citizens Exemption” of the Town of Putnam Valley Code is amended as follows:

§ 108-3 is amended in its entirety and restated to read as follows:

“**§ 108-3 (A):** Pursuant to the provisions of the Real Property Tax Law, the real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, shall be exempt from taxation up to a maximum of 65% of the assessed valuation thereof, as hereinafter provided.

**§108-3 (B):** All of the provisions, conditions and requirements of § 467 of the Real Property Tax Law and amendments thereto shall apply to the application for and the granting of such exemption on the assessment rolls of the Town as they apply to the Town of Putnam Valley except that no exemption shall be granted if the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property for the applicable income tax year immediately preceding the date of making application for exemption is less than \$58,400.

**§108-3 (C):** Real property owned by persons 65 years or over shall be exempt from certain Town taxes pursuant to Real Property Tax Law § 467, up to a maximum of 65% of the assessed valuation pursuant to the following schedule:

| Annual Income                             | Percentage of Assessed Value Exempt from Taxation |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Less than or equal to \$47,000            | 65%                                               |
| More than \$47,000 but less than \$48,000 | 60%                                               |
| More than \$48,000 but less than \$49,000 | 55%                                               |
| More than \$49,000 but less than \$50,000 | 50%                                               |
| More than \$50,000 but less than \$51,000 | 45%                                               |
| More than \$51,000 but less than \$52,000 | 40%                                               |

|                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|
| More than \$52,000 but less than \$53,000 | 35% |
| More than \$53,000 but less than \$53,900 | 30% |
| More than \$53,900 but less than \$54,800 | 25% |
| More than \$54,800 but less than \$55,700 | 20% |
| More than \$55,700 but less than \$56,600 | 15% |
| More than \$56,600 but less than \$57,500 | 10% |
| More than \$57,500 but less than \$58,400 | 5%  |

**§108-3 (D):** The income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of the application for exemption from all sources, as set forth in § 467, must be less than \$58,400. “Income tax year” shall mean the twelve-month period from which the owner or owners file a federal personal income tax return or, if no such return is filed, the calendar year. When title is vested in either the husband or wife, the combined income of both may not exceed such sum.”

§ 108-5 is amended in its entirety and restated to read as follows:

**“§ 108-5. Applications for exemption.**

- A. The Town shall notify or cause to be notified each person owning residential real property in the Town of the provisions of this article. The provisions of this section may be met by a notice or legend sent on or with each tax bill to such persons reading, “You may be eligible for senior citizen tax exemptions. For information, please call or write your Town Assessor at your Town Hall.” Failure to notify or cause to be notified any person who is in fact eligible to receive the exemption provided by this section or the failure of such person to receive the same shall not prevent the levy, collection and enforcement of the payment of the taxes on property owned by such person.
- B. Application for such exemption must be made by the owner or all of the owners of the property on forms prescribed and furnished by the Town Assessor’s office, shall furnish the information and be executed in the manner required or prescribed in such forms and shall be filed in such Assessor’s office on or before the taxable status date of March 1.

- C. At least 60 days prior to the taxable status date of March 1, the Town Assessor's office shall mail to each person who was granted exemption pursuant to this section on the latest completed assessment roll an application form and a notice that such application must be filed on or before the taxable status date and be approved in order for the exemption to be granted. Failure to mail any such application form and notice or the failure of such person to receive the same shall not prevent the levy, collection and enforcement of the payment of the taxes on property owned by such person."

#### **Part 4. Severability**

The invalidity of any part or provision (e.g., word, section, clause, paragraph, sentence) of this Local Law shall not affect the validity of any other part of this Law which can be given effect in the absence of the invalid part or provision.

#### **Part 5. Effective Date**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon the filing with the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of New York, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law, and specifically, Article 3, Section 27 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: LOCAL LAW AMENDING VETERANS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

Supervisor Jolicoeur opened the Public Hearing amending the Veteran's Property Tax Exemption

Seconded by Councilman Russo, unanimously carried

#### **RESOLUTION #R26-125**

#### **Board Discussion**

Board members noted:

- The number of residents qualifying for the seriously disabled veteran's exemption is much smaller than for the senior exemption.
- Qualification is based on the percentage of disability determined by the Veterans Administration.
- Fully disabled veterans may qualify for a full exemption.

Board members expressed support for the exemption but agreed it would be prudent to review available data on qualifying residents before final action.

### **Board Action**

A motion was made to **suspend the public hearing on the veterans' exemption until the following week** to allow time for additional information to be gathered.

Seconded Councilman Russo. Unanimously carried

### **INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW ON EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED PERSONS WITH LIMITED INCOME**

Presented by Supervisor Jolicoeur

### **RESOLUTION #R26-126**

### **Local Law No. 3 of 2026 – Exemption for Disabled Persons with Limited Income**

The Board discussed introducing a local law to amend and restate Article 6 of Chapter 108 of the Town Code regarding exemptions for disabled persons with limited income.

Discussion clarified that:

- The measure would continue the existing exemption.
- No substantive changes were being made to the exemption itself.
- The action was primarily to extend the provision and align deadlines.
- There would be no end date.

### **Board Action**

A motion was made to **introduce** Local Law No. 3 of 2026 to **amend and restate** Article 6 of Chapter 108 of the Town Code regarding exemptions for disabled persons with limited income.

A Public Hearing will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 5 pm

Seconded Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried.

### **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD**

***Identifier: Introducing Local Law No. 3 of the year 2026: Amending and Restating Article VI of Chapter 108 of the Town Code of the Town of Putnam Valley Regarding Exemption for Disabled Persons with Limited Income”***

**Local Law No. 3 of the year 2026 entitled “Local Law to Amend and Restate Article VI of Chapter 108 of the Town Code of the Town of Putnam Valley Regarding Exemption for Disabled Persons with Limited Income” (“Local Law”), a copy of which is annexed hereto as Exhibit A.**

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_ has introduced this proposed local law for the Town of Putnam Valley, to be known as Town of Putnam Valley Proposed Local Law No. 3 of the year 2026 entitled **“Local Law to Amend and Restate Article VI of Chapter 108 of the Town Code of the Town of Putnam Valley Regarding Exemption for Disabled Persons with Limited Income”**;

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor has certified the immediate need for the passage of said local law pursuant to Section 20 of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held in relation to the proposed Local Law as set forth in the form of notice, hereinafter provided, at which hearing parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard, to be held at the Town Hall located at 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York on **3/11/2026 at 5 o’clock p.m.**, Prevailing Time, and that notice of said meeting shall be published in the official newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Putnam Valley by the Town Clerk, at least three (3) days before such hearing and that such notice shall be in the following form:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley will hold a public hearing at the Town Hall located at 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York on 3 – 11-2026, at 6 o'clock p.m., Prevaling Time on the following proposed local law with the text of such Local Law to be in the form attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A:

**Local Law No. 3 of the year 2026 entitled “Local Law to Amend and Restate Article VI of Chapter 108 of the Town Code of the Town of Putnam Valley Regarding Exemption for Disabled Persons with Limited Income”**

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE**, that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law will be available for examination at the Town of Putnam Valley Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York and on the following webpage of the Town of Putnam Valley website: [www.putnamvalley.gov](http://www.putnamvalley.gov)

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE**, that all persons interested and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposal at the time and place aforesaid.

DATED: Putnam Valley, New York  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2026

---

MICHELLE STEPHENS, TOWN CLERK

**Exhibit "A"**

**LOCAL LAW TO AMEND AND RESTATE ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 108 OF THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY REGARDING EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED PERSONS WITH LIMITED INCOME**

BE IT ENACTED, by the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley, Putnam County, New York, as follows:

**Part 1. Title**

This Local Law shall be known as the “Local Law to Amend and Restate Article VI of Chapter 108 of the Town Code of the Town of Putnam Valley Regarding Exemption for Disabled Persons with Limited Income.”

**Part 2. Enactment**

This Local Law is adopted and enacted pursuant to the authority and power granted by § 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York.

**Part 3. Amendment of the Town Code**

Article VI, Chapter 108: “Exemption for Disabled Persons with Limited Income” of the Town of Putnam Valley Code is amended in its entirety and restated to read as follows:

**“§ 108-24. Statutory authority; exemption granted.**

Pursuant to the provisions of § 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law (“RPTL”), real property owned by one or more persons with disabilities, as defined by RPTL, § 459-c, or real property owned by a husband, wife or both or by siblings, at least one of whom has such a disability, and whose income, as defined herein, is limited by reason of such disability, shall be exempt from town real property taxation to the extent of fifty percent (50%) of the assessed valuation thereof as hereinafter provided.

**§ 108-25: Applicability of statutory provisions; exemption schedules.**

All of the provisions, conditions and requirements of § 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law and amendments thereto shall apply to the application for and the granting of such exemption on the assessment rolls of the Town as they apply to the Town of Putnam Valley except that no exemption shall be granted if the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making application for exemption is the sum of \$58,400 or more.

(A): Real property owned by persons with disabilities shall be exempt from certain Town taxes up to a maximum of 50% of the assessed valuation pursuant to the following schedule:

| Annual Income | Percentage of Assessed Value Exempt from Taxation |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|

|                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|
| \$50,000 and less                         | 50% |
| More than \$50,000 but less than \$51,000 | 45% |
| More than \$51,000 but less than \$52,000 | 40% |
| More than \$52,000 but less than \$53,000 | 35% |
| More than \$53,000 but less than \$53,900 | 30% |
| More than \$53,900 but less than \$54,800 | 25% |
| More than \$54,800 but less than \$55,700 | 20% |
| More than \$55,700 but less than \$56,600 | 15% |
| More than \$56,600 but less than \$57,500 | 10% |
| More than \$57,500 but less than \$58,400 | 5%  |

**(B):** The income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of the application for exemption from all sources, as set forth in Real Property Tax Law §459-c, must be less than \$58,400. “Income tax year” shall mean the twelve-month period from which the owner or owners file a federal personal income tax return or, if no such return is filed, the calendar year. When title is vested in either the husband or wife, the combined income of both may not exceed such sum.”

**§ 108-26. Proof of disability.**

In conjunction with the provisions of RPTL § 459-c(2)(b), an award letter from the Social Security Administration evidencing receipt of the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDL) or supplemental security income (SSI) benefits; or the Railroad Retirement Board evidencing receipt of railroad retirement disability benefits; or a certificate from the State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped stating that such person is legally blind shall be submitted as proof of disability.

**§ 108-27. Application for exemption.**

Application for an exemption pursuant to this article must be made annually by the owner or all of the owners of the property, on forms prescribed by the State Board, and shall be filed in the Assessor's office on or before the applicable taxable status date; provided, however, that proof of permanent disability need be submitted only in the year exemption is first sought or the disability is first determined to be permanent.”

**Part 4. Severability**

The invalidity of any part or provision (e.g., word, section, clause, paragraph, sentence) of this Local Law shall not affect the validity of any other part of this Law which can be given effect in the absence of the invalid part or provision.

**Part 5. Effective Date**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon the filing with the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of New York, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law, and specifically, Article 3, Section 27 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

### **Review Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement to CSEA Contract**

Presented by Supervisor Jolicoeur

Counsel addressed a proposed **Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** related to the CSEA collective bargaining agreement.

The Chair stated that additional information was still being gathered and that the Board had several questions requiring clarification. It was noted that communication had occurred with the Town's representative in discussions with CSEA, and further discussion would take place before any action is taken.

A brief procedural exchange confirmed that:

- No motion had been made.
- No vote was taken.

The item would be postponed, **tabled, and deferred to the following week's meeting** pending receipt of additional information.

No further action was taken on this item.

**Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement**

**WHEREAS**, Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, Unit 8151, AFSCME, AFL-CIO ("Union") and Town of Putnam Valley ("Town") are parties to a Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA") with a duration of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2029 ("CBA");

**WHEREAS**, there has been confusion with the implementation of the vacation policy of the CBA;

**WHEREAS**, the Union and the Town feel it is mutually beneficial to the parties to enter into this agreement;

**NOW, THEREFORE** the new language for the vacation policy of the CBA shall read as follows:

1. Five (5) days with vacation pay shall be computed after one (1) year's continuous employment of the employee's anniversary date.

Ten (10) days' vacation with pay after two (2) years continuous employment on January 1 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year which the anniversary occurs.

Fifteen (15) days' vacation with pay after three (3) years continuous employment (hired prior to 7/1/98), on January 1 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> year which the anniversary occurs.

Twenty (20) days' vacation with pay after eight (8) years of continuous employment on January 1 of the 8<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> year which the anniversary occurs.

Twenty-five (25) days' vacation with pay after fifteen (15) years of continuous employment on January 1 of the 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> year which the anniversary occurs.

Thirty (30) days' vacation with pay after twenty (20) years of continuous employment on January 1 of the 20<sup>th</sup> year which the anniversary occurs.

Vacation time will follow the calendar year.

Employees hired after 7/1/98 shall earn vacation at the rate of 5 days after the first year of continuous service, 10 days after 2 years of continuous service on January 1 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year which the anniversary occurs and 15 days after 5 years of continuous service on January 1 of the 5<sup>th</sup> year which the anniversary occurs. Thereafter they shall follow the above schedule.

2. This Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement will be incorporated into the next Successor Agreement between the Union and the Town.
  
3. This Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement is subject to approval by the Town Board.

**Agreed to:**  
**ON BEHALF OF TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alison Jolicoeur  
Town Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ON BEHALF OF CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
ASSOCIATION, INC., LOCAL 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Neil Heard  
Labor Relations Specialist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Cotone  
President, Putnam Valley Unit 8151

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Approve Application for Use of Lakeland Copper Beach Middle School Swimming Pool for Lifeguard Training**

Presented by Councilman Russo

**RESOLUTION #R26-127**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board authorize the Town Supervisor Alison Jolicoeur to complete an Application for Authorized Use of School Facilities for the Lakeland Central School District. The application is to reserve the use of the swimming pool at Lakeland Copper Beach Middle School on April 24<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and May 16<sup>th</sup> to facilitate the training of lifeguards for beaches at our District lakes and the Putnam Valley Day Camp.

The cost for renting this facility will not exceed \$2,500.00, and this has been included in our 2026 budget.

Seconded by Councilman Luongo, unanimously carried.

**Revise Resolution #R26-97**

Presented by Councilwoman Howard

**RESOLUTION #R26-128**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board revise Resolution #R26- 97 to reflect the hours of operation to 8:00 am to 11:30 am.

Seconded by Councilman Russo, unanimously carried

**Approve Snow Plow Rider for 2026 Winter Season**

Presented by Councilman Luongo

**RESOLUTION #R26-129**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board appoint the following as laborer/snow plow rider for the 2026 snow season at the rate of \$18.00 per hour with no benefits.

Snowplow riders may be used during this period as laborers if the need arises.

**Thomas Kerr**

Seconded by Councilman Russo, unanimously carried

**Daily Fee Report Summary January 1–31, 2026**

Presented by Councilman Brook

**RESOLUTION #R26-129A**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board approve the daily fee summary for January 1, 2026, to January 31, 2026

**Town of Putnam Valley**

M5 Standard Fee Report Paid Only  
From 01/01/2026 To 01/31/2026

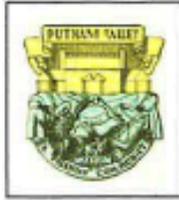
| Count By Type         |           |                    |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Fee Type              | Count     | Total              |
| ADDITION/ALTERATION   | 6         | \$3,780.00         |
| BEDROOM COUNT REQUEST | 1         | \$50.00            |
| CW                    | 2         | \$225.00           |
| DECK                  | 2         | \$664.00           |
| DENIAL                | 1         | \$100.00           |
| ELECTR APPLY/ ELEC    | 7         | \$350.00           |
| ELECTR APPLY/SWS      | 4         | \$290.00           |
| FENCE/WALL            | 3         | \$25.00            |
| GAS/PROPANE           | 2         | \$150.00           |
| HSAC                  | 38        | \$1,125.00         |
| IGL TANK              | 2         | \$250.00           |
| PERMIT FEE            | 3         | \$25.00            |
| PS                    | 1         | \$600.00           |
| RENEWAL               | 7         | \$4,452.00         |
| SEARCH                | 7         | \$1,400.00         |
| STR Application       | 2         | \$1,000.00         |
| WELL                  | 1         | \$75.00            |
| WVUS                  | 1         | \$100.00           |
|                       | <b>78</b> | <b>\$14,096.00</b> |

Seconded by Councilman Russo, unanimously carried

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Supervisor Jolicoeur opened the floor to Public Comment

The following letter was read by Councilwoman Howard. into the record expressing opposition from the Ethics Board to a proposal



**Town of Putnam Valley**  
**BOARD OF ETHICS**  
P.O. Box 656 Putnam Valley, NY 10579

**Agnes Powe**  
*Chair*  
**Clement Van Roos**  
*Member*  
**Brian Whittaker**  
*Member*  
**Kimberly Garay**  
*Member*  
**Anthony J Bondi**  
*Interim Member*

The Hon Alison Jolicoeur  
Members of the Town Board  
265 Oscawana Lake Road  
Putnam Valley NY 10579

January 23, 2026

Dear Supervisor Jolicoeur and Members of the Town Board,

We are writing to express our opposition to the Supervisor's proposal to expand the Ethics Board by two additional seats while simultaneously shortening the terms of its members.

This proposal, which was discussed in executive session and introduced as one of the first items of business of the Town's new Supervisor, raises serious concerns regarding governance, independence, and the integrity of Putnam Valley's ethics oversight framework.

Putnam Valley's Ethics Law was not created hastily. It took approximately three years to draft, involved extensive public and legal input, and has long been regarded as a model ethics code. The number of Ethics Board members and the length and staggering of their terms were intentionally designed to ensure independence, continuity, and insulation from political influence. These provisions were not arbitrary; they were adopted to prevent any single administration from exerting undue influence over an oversight body charged with impartial review.

It has now been suggested that a new law be drafted that would depart from these carefully constructed safeguards. Before any vote is taken on such a measure, we urge the Town Board to consider the following points.

First, there is no demonstrated necessity to revise the Ethics Law or restructure the Ethics Board. Over the past five years, the Board has handled only two complaints and two inquiries, indicating that the current five-member structure has been sufficient to meet the Town's needs. There is no data-driven justification showing that the Board is overburdened, ineffective, or in need of expansion.

Second, a review of surrounding — and in many cases larger — municipalities shows that none

maintain an ethics board larger than five members. Expanding Putnam Valley's Ethics Board beyond this norm would make our small town an unnecessary outlier without a clear governance benefit.

Third, the structure and timing of this proposal raise legitimate concerns about public perception and trust. Expanding the number of seats while shortening existing terms would allow for the immediate appointment of multiple new members at once. Even if well-intentioned, such a change creates the appearance that the balance and independence of the Ethics Board could be altered wholesale, rather than evolving gradually as terms naturally expire.

Staggered, longer terms are a widely recognized governance safeguard designed to prevent the wholesale replacement of oversight bodies by any single administration. This structure preserves continuity, institutional memory, and consistent application of ethical standards — qualities that are essential to an effective ethics board.

Shortening term lengths also increases turnover, which risks undermining that institutional memory and the Board's ability to interpret ethical precedent consistently over time.

Additionally, because changes to the Ethics Board directly affect public oversight and transparency, addressing such restructuring in executive session further heightens public concern and underscores the need for careful, open deliberation.

An Ethics Board must remain clearly independent of executive influence to maintain credibility. Structural changes that reduce term stability while increasing appointive control risk weakening that independence and eroding public trust — regardless of intent.

Finally, this proposal raises concerns about precedent. If the Ethics Board can be restructured at the outset of an administration without demonstrated necessity, future supervisors — regardless of party — could do the same. Over time, this risks transforming ethics oversight from a stable, nonpartisan safeguard into a fluctuating political instrument.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask the Town Board to reject this proposal and to preserve the current five-member structure and term lengths of the Ethics Board. Doing so will ensure that Putnam Valley's ethics oversight remains independent, stable, and worthy of public confidence.

Sincerely,

*Opus Lowe*  
CHAIR

RECEIVED  
JAN 28 2026

*Curt Van Pelt*  
Farm Advisor & Youth

*BR*

*HB*  
Secretary

TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY

*MIS*

*Anthony J. B... Farm Chair*

## **Board Discussion**

Board members clarified:

- The proposal had not been discussed in executive session.
- It was discussed in an open session.
- No final decision had been made.

Additional points raised:

- Current ethics board terms are **five years**.
- Longer, staggered terms help prevent political influence.
- Continuity and institutional memory were cited as benefits of the existing structure.
- Some members felt the five-member structure remains appropriate given the low caseload.

A member of the public suggested that increasing board size could provide greater diversity of perspectives, even if caseloads remain low.

No formal action was taken on the ethics board proposal.

### **Supporting documents can be found here**

[02-11-2026-Town-Board-WORK](#)

Supervisor Jolicoeur made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 pm

Seconded by Councilman Russo, unanimously c

**Next Town Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

**Michelle Stephens**  
Michelle Stephens  
Town Clerk

2/18/2026