

**Town Administrator Report**  
**April 18, 2016**

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1. Projects Update:

Quinebaug Regional Technology Park Bridge, Road and Utilities Construction

- Bridge, road and utilities construction and installation complete. Tully Construction and Gerber Construction will be out later this month to finish up minor items of seeding and loam and site cleanup.
- Trail System- Research on low bidder, CFGS, is being conducted and if their qualifications check out, they will be awarded the bid to construct the River Trail extension into the Tech Park.
- Broadband Connection – Various contractors have approached Town to extend broadband connection off the state network to the Tech Park. Will go out to bid/RFP on this service. *No change.*
- Town Consortium (Putnam, Brooklyn, Pomfret, and Sterling) – Meeting was held with Scotland and Brooklyn. Mayor and I had a later meeting with Pomfret First Selectman Craig Baldwin. Interlocal agreement reviewed and will be finalized for towns' signature. Towns' funding is being arranged and invoices will be sent to partner towns. *No change.*

Water Line Replacement/Relining Project

- Contract 1 work is completed in Thompson Avenue/Bates Avenue/Groveland area and in the Wilkinson/Bellevue/Prospect/Oak Streets areas. Final paving will occur in spring 2016. *No change.*
- Contract 2 bid has been awarded to B&W Paving and Landscaping for \$8,101,905. Quinebaug Avenue to Tech Park main installed and activated. Project is shut down for winter. The remainder of proposed Contract 2 project areas:
  - Arch Street, Arthur Street, Brown Street, Canal Street, Centennial Street, Church Street (Pomfret to Woodstock), Eden Street, Edmond Street, Fenner Street, Florence Street, Frank Street, Furnace Street, George Street, Grove Street, Interval Street, Letters Street, May Street, Mechanics Street, Memorial Terrace, Milton Street, Olney Street, Pomfret Street, Sewer Plant Road, South Main Street, Tatem Street, Vandale Street, Vine Street, Walnut Street, Wood Avenue (Church to Marshall)
- Work will begin at those locations in spring 2016. First project this spring will be South Main Street. Attended meeting of Putnam Business Association with BETA engineers to communicate the plans for South Main and its possible impact on businesses. Coordination of work needed between State DOT on their paving projects, Eversource gas improvements, and town's sidewalk and highway projects.

Sewer Lift Stations

- 99 percent completion of work on pump stations 1-8. Pump station 10 is 90% complete and work on Pump Station 9 has started and will be completed by end of spring. *No change.*

- The USDA loan of \$2.97 million for the sewer lift stations project closed on April 15<sup>th</sup> with a loan rate of 1.75%.

#### Manganese/Iron Treatment Building

- WPCA voted at last meeting to reject the proposals from the two design/construction teams. WPCA will work with Suez, our water and sewer operation partner, on possible next steps to correct the manganese and iron problems in our wells. *No change.*

#### Putnam High School Project

- Work is progressing in accordance with construction schedule. Of the original \$36 million appropriation, through April 5, 2016, \$23.1 million has been spent or 63%. On the construction side, 70% has been completed with \$17.8 million out of \$25.6 million spent. Next round of state reimbursement will be received this month. This reimbursement significantly assists Town with its cash flow situation on all project funding.

2. WPCA. Suez (United Water), the selected water and sewer management partner, are well into their management activities since February 1. Despite some small bumps, transition to Suez is going well.
3. Conversion of Owen Tarr Park and Sabin Street/Woodstock Avenue properties. Working with Public Facilities Study Committee to meet the requirements of the state to find a substitute property of equal or better value to replace the passive, open space land off Sabin Street and the active recreation acres proposed to be taken from Tarr Park for the Town Hall/Library complex. Based on town meeting approval of an appropriation for engineering and design work on the Sabin Street property, low bidder, Messier Associates, began work to determine the field needs on Sabin Street and construction of a bridge to site. After meeting with DEEP staff, Town will still have to have appraisals done for all of the respective properties and we'll have to find three (3) new acres to replace the three acres taken out of active recreation use for the Municipal Complex at Tarr Park.
4. Armory. WPCA is still interested in possibly using the Armory as a base for their maintenance crew and equipment. Possible discussion at their meeting last week.
5. Sidewalk Reconstruction. Sidewalk reconstruction project has begun with the following streets or portions of streets started and/or finished: Battey Street, Church Street, and Kennedy Drive. Work has progressed to Main Street with brick pavers being removed and decorative stamped concrete being installed instead. Work progresses. Jerry Beausoleil is working with Eversource on gas line improvements/installation, BETA Group on water line project, and the town's public works priorities to coordinate all of these activities so when, for instance, we repave a road, we don't want to have to dig it up again because of gas line installation.
6. High Speed Broadband Fiber Installation. *No change.* Firms' under state contract are investigating cost of bringing fiber to Tech Park from the backbone line. Began discussion with Town's IT consultant on bringing high speed fiber installation to certain locations in town for economic development reasons, particularly to our Tech Park. Discussion will be framed as a town policy decision and not just for the sake of installing technology. Possible

ways to manage installation could be as a public utility much like our water and sewer utilities. Some key questions to move this question forward are:

- a. What's Putnam's policy?
- b. Who are the champions to move this forward?
- c. Who are community partners?
- d. Who are the telecommunication carriers serving Putnam?
- e. Identify key players and their roles?

7. Pomfret Sewer Line Connection. Putnam is reviewing a draft agreement with Pomfret allowing them to tie in to our system. Pomfret is looking to a possible spring 2016 construction start. *No change*.
8. Municipal Solar Array Installation. SolarCity has finally come back with a proposal that they will go forward with a 700 kW solar installation on municipal solid waste landfill. Because virtual net metering credits were capped, Putnam, along with other towns, was left out of the process to proceed to develop their solar projects. However, a bill, SB 394, has been recommended to the legislature to authorize an additional \$5 million of credits for Putnam and the other towns who were stranded when the credits were capped last year. Will continue to monitor progress on legislation.
9. FY 14-15 Audit. Audit is completed. Fund balance (surplus) has increased to \$4,389,723 representing 18.5% of total General Fund expenditures or sufficient to cover approximately 2.2 months of General Fund expenditures. Our auditors will be presenting audit results in detail at the Board of Finance April meeting.
10. Bond Anticipation Notes and General Obligation Bond Issuance. Brenda Fox-Howard and I are working with our financial advisor and bond counsel on a new BAN issuance through November 30, 2016 for temporary financing of our WPCA projects and the High School. Included in another issuance is \$4.8 million for General Obligation Bonds for permanent financing of the High School project. Since this our first GO bond issuance in a long time, the Town will be seeking a credit rating from one of the rating agencies, Moody's or Standard & Poor's on this borrowing. Brenda and I will be working with our advisors on a presentation scheduled sometime in May.
11. Waste Disposal Agreement. Jerry Beausoleil and I are working with Wheelabrator Technologies representatives, owner of the Lisbon Trash to Energy plant, to develop a new agreement to bring Putnam's trash to the plant when the contract expires on June 30, 2016. Draft agreement will be presented to Selectmen for consideration and approval.