

Town Administrator Report
May 16, 2016

1. Projects Update:

Quinebaug Regional Technology Park Bridge, Road and Utilities Construction

- Tully Construction and Gerber Construction are out finishing up minor items of seeding and loam and site cleanup. No change
- Trail System- Work is progressing by CFGS Construction to construct the River Trail extension on the east side of the Quinebaug River into the Tech Park. Butler Construction has completed the trail system on the west side of the Tech Park to tie into the Tech Park trail system paralleling Technology Park Drive. Full trail extension should be completed by June 30.
- 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. Meeting with CEN, the state internet organization, to tie into the state’s fiber trunkline. Will have more information about costs to bring to Tech Park after meeting.
- 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.*
- B&W Paving and Landscaping has redeployed to begin the water line relining and replacement program for this construction season. The first segment of the project will be lines in the South Main Street area. 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, Tatem Street, Vandale Street, Vine Street, Walnut Street, Wood Avenue (Church to Marshall)

Sewer Lift Stations

- All ten pump stations on the town’s sewer system have been completed. USDA loan of \$2.97 million for the sewer lift stations project closed on April 15th with a loan rate of 1.75%.

Manganese/Iron Treatment Building

- WPCA has approved a new approach to restart the consideration of the Manganese/Iron Treatment building project at the Park Street wellfields. The

two design/construction teams will be invited to sit down with the WPCA to make presentations on their proposals and to take into account the affordability limit dictated by the Town's initial approval of the project for only \$2 million. The WPCA will have to weigh the affordability of the project against obtaining additional USDA loan/grant funds and use of any existing capital fund reserves. WPCA may make a decision at their meeting May 12 and will report to Board at Monday's meeting.

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. No change.
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. Letters were sent out to all water and sewer users notifying them of change and what to expect from WPCA partnership with Suez. See insert:

March 7, 2016

Recipient First Name Last Name
Title
Address line 1
Address line 2

Dear Putnam WPCA Customer,

The Town of Putnam Water Pollution Control Authority is pleased to announce its new partnership with SUEZ for the operation, maintenance and management of Putnam's water and sewer utility system that began February 1, 2016. All services related to your water supply and wastewater collection will now be managed by SUEZ. All present employees of the Town of Putnam Water Pollution Control Authority will work under the supervision of SUEZ to continue to bring the best-in-class service in the most safe and efficient way possible. Employees have Identification Badges and Clothing with the SUEZ logo.

SUEZ and their management team are excited about operating and maintaining the water and wastewater systems for the Putnam community and are looking forward to this new partnership. Your satisfaction with the service you will get from SUEZ is the core of the business. We want you to rely on high-quality water service that delivers clean water to your tap on a 24-hour, seven day-a-week basis. We also want you to count on a wastewater service that meets all the environmental standards set by our state and federal governments.

The Town of Putnam Water Pollution Control Authority and SUEZ have worked diligently to ensure a smooth transition for the operation and management of your water and wastewater needs. It might comfort you to know that SUEZ has been working with communities and helping them meet, if not surpass the water quality standards set forth by the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Act for the past 50 years.

SUEZ has been providing wastewater services in neighboring Killingly for the past 19 years, and are servicing 33 communities throughout the Northeast region. It is our hope that SUEZ gains your confidence, even though we know that your trust must be earned each and every day for the next 10 years of our partnership. We plan to give 100% to all of your service needs. If you feel differently at any time, please contact us.

SUEZ's operation and management of the Putnam water and wastewater systems does not mean there will be changes to where or how you pay your bills. No increase in rates are expected because of this partnership. The customer service center will remain at Town Hall in the Revenue Office, and office hours will remain the same. Methods of payment you are accustomed to will remain the same and your bill for water and wastewater services will continue to be payable to the Town of Putnam. If you have questions regarding our services, please do not hesitate to reach out to customer service at 860-963-6819. You can also find us on the web at mysuezwater.com. We invite you to call us and let us know how we are doing as we look forward to a long and sustainable partnership. We value you as a customer and look forward to servicing you and your community in an environmentally sound and fiscally responsible manner, now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Glen Tatro
Beausoleil
Putnam Project Manager
Works
SUEZ

Gerard M.
Director of Public
Works
Town of Putnam

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. Working with Committee to

evaluate potential sites to provide the substitute land for passive and active recreation. Site evaluation is ongoing.

4. Armory. Mayor Falzarano, myself, and Town Attorney St. Onge, met with NOW representatives, to see if negotiations could be reopened to devise a solution allowing NOW to have a service agreement with the Town to include armory renovations at their cost and use of the property by NOW and other recreation groups in town. Will report on results of meeting on Monday.
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?

Working with CEN, the state's internet organization, to devise a plan to bring fiber connection to the Tech Park by tying into the state's fiber trunkline. CEN is preparing a proposal including cost and I will be back to the Board once the proposal is received. Tech Park appropriation contemplated bringing fiber connection to the park.

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. 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. This financing to mature in November will not include the permanent financing for the high school project, but we plan to go forward with permanent financing in November. 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.

9. 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.
10. Solar Project on Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. Legislation increasing the allowance for credits under virtual net metering passed the state legislature. This bill allows Putnam, and eleven (11) other towns to move forward with our solar array projects. Will be meeting in the very near future with our vendor, SolarCity, to make arrangements to proceed with the project at our old, closed municipal solid waste landfill.
11. 2016 Small Community Public Health Drinking Water Merit Award. The state Department of Public Health has notified the Putnam WPCA that they are the recipients of the 2016 Small Community Public Health Drinking Water Merit Award. The award recognizes the small community public water systems serving 10,000 people that have made outstanding contributions to the field of drinking water in the area of water operations and administration. The recognition acknowledges that the Commission understood the need to reinvest in the aging infrastructure to ensure a safe and an adequate supply of potable water. The award recognizes among various projects: the Park Street wellfield expansion, water main replacement/relining project, and the water main interconnection with Connecticut Water.

The award ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2016, in the Selectmen's Chambers, starting with a luncheon at 12 noon, followed by the presentation of the award at 1 p.m. Selectmen are invited to this ceremony.