

**Town Administrator Report**  
**June 6, 2016**

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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. A joint meeting will be held with member towns in the next two weeks.

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. Work is also going on in Mechanics 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 has selected the project team of Tighe&Bond/R.H. White Construction to proceed with project. Due to their bid price being \$2.4 million over the original appropriation, an additional \$2.4 million appropriation will be sought through town meeting/referendum process. This additional appropriation will not warrant an increase in the water rates.

#### 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. 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.
3. 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. NOW has provided a draft Operating and Maintenance Agreement for the Town's review. Agreement will be reviewed with Town Attorney St. Onge.
4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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*.
7. 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 maturity on November 15, 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. Total bond anticipation note financing totals \$21.740 million for the high school, water line, Tech Park, and manganese treatment projects.
8. 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.
9. 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.

10. 2016 Small Community Public Health Drinking Water Merit Award. Award ceremony was held. WPCA water system employees were also recognized with a Certificate of Merit for their hard work that led to receipt of award.