

**Town Administrator Report**  
**July 18, 2016**

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1. Projects Update:

Quinebaug Regional Technology Park Bridge, Road and Utilities Construction

- Project complete.
- Trail System- Trail system complete and ribbon cutting ceremony held on July 6, 2016.
- 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) – First meeting of Advisory Board was held with Scotland and Brooklyn in attendance. Agenda included update on project. Final agreement was signed by all parties and Scotland presented their share of \$80,000 towards the development of the project. Brooklyn, paying on a schedule, provided their first check of \$8,000. Arrangements are being worked out with Pomfret to sign and pay their share
- Appraisals are being completed and a forester will be contracted to determine how to make lots shovel ready. J&D Engineers are working on a gravel removal plan.

Water Line Replacement/Relining Project

- Contract 1 work is complete.
- Contract 2: B&W Paving and Work is finishing up in Grove and Mechanics Street areas. Work is moving into Milton and Vandale Streets area. Work is about a month behind schedule. The remainder of proposed Contract 2 project areas:
  - 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, Interval Street, Letters Street, May Street, Memorial Terrace, Olney Street, Pomfret Street, Sewer Plant Road, Tatem Street, Vine Street, Walnut Street, Wood Avenue (Church to Marshall)

Sewer Lift Stations

- Project complete and paid for.

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. 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 \$2.9 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. No change.
2. Conversion of Owen Tarr Park and Sabin Street/Woodstock Avenue properties. An appraisal firm, Fishman Associates, has been selected and they have begun work on the property appraisals of the town's existing parcels and potential parcels needed to substitute for Sabin Street/Woodstock Avenue/Tarr Park. 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. 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, Town Attorney St. Onge, and I met with NOW representatives, to see if negotiations could be reopened to devise a solution allowing NOW having 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. Agreement is before the Recreation Commission for their review and input.
  4. Sidewalk Reconstruction. To date, we have spent all of the \$750,000 previously appropriated from the Ash Landfill account.
  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. 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.
  
8. Solar Project on Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. Legislation increasing the allowance for credits under virtual net metering passed the state legislature and was signed into law. This bill allows Putnam, and eleven (11) other towns to move forward with our solar array projects. Our vendor, SolarCity, is proceeding with the project at our old, closed municipal solid waste landfill. Site constraints may significantly reduce the scope of the project from its original size. SolarCity is reviewing the numbers is preparing a new proposal.