

Town Administration

Contract Updates

- Expect to request Annual Fuel Contract with Dime for FY27 in upcoming weeks. Prices are competitive and advisable to lock in.

Status and Upcoming

- Continued FY27 Budget preparations, have received all Department Head requests due in December 2025. Mayor's budget to be developed and shared with BOS February 2026.
- Plan of Conservation and Development: Land Use leading and P&Z Commission. Board of Selectmen view in January 2026.
- Putnam EMS: unit onsite early January. Utility coordination and hookup over next several weeks, furniture installation following power and heat on.
- Belding: continued good progress including State DECD efforts towards final contract. Tax Abatement Agreement approved by BOS and BOF in December 2025.
- Registrar and Voting Efforts: two unplanned election workers exceeded FICA threshold in 2025, coordinating with Registrar again for a list of expected workers to withhold FICA from for 2026.
- Pension Board met in December, in addition to updates, Board approved moving forward with drafting text change to allow election workers and/or similar groups of past Town employees to work for the Town on a limited basis. February 5th Pension Meeting to summarize retirement benefits and likely review text change.
- Health Insurance: ECHIP Meeting scheduled for January 20th, including possible member vote of remaining, dissolution or change. Putnam BOE also weighing their options.
- Updated Union Job Description as Recreation Coordinator, including field activities like events and sports. Advertised in recent weeks, with planned interviews January, and hopeful February position fill.
- General Government: recently Town Meeting approval for Veteran's 100% disabled exemption reduction to Town's median dwelling value. To allow for P&Z Commission input, Zoning fines was voted down, and will work in upcoming months to re-introduce.
- Tech Park Four-Party Agreement: Special Town Meeting advertised for January 29, 2026.
- Same as last month: St Marie Greenhalgh Track Improvements Project: Design efforts underway. Note that other improvements to the area, including scoreboards are also planned.
- Pomfret Transfer Station: internal and Pomfret staff meeting in January, will distribute flyer in Town Crier describing details in upcoming weeks.
- Same as last month: Trash program: considering adjustment to annual program cost - will review and propose to Board of Selectmen in early 2026.
- Same as last month: BOE projects: Roof project has been difficult, with recent near-completion and some outstanding warranties and negotiations ongoing.
- Air Line Trail between Putnam and Killingly. Kickoff scoping meeting with SLR of Cheshire, CT in mid-January.

Road and Sidewalk Improvements

Status and Upcoming

- Same as last month: School Street Sidewalks projects: All construction work complete. Project closeout activities, including LOTCIP financials.
- Same as last month: Kennedy Drive Parking Improvements: Likely will include additional paving on Kennedy Drive expected for Spring 2026, since did not complete in Fall 2025.

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Same as last month: NECCOG design for upcoming years' sidewalks improvements. ECD office leading: Grove St and South Main St (including Chapman, Fremont, King, Center etc.) - expect to apply for Community Connectivity Grant; and towards Walmart - which might be a LOTCIP application.

° [Ongoing: Highway has various additional paving projects seasonally.]

Bridges

Status and Upcoming

° Danco Drive Bridge: Construction continues on 2nd lane, with likely winter shutdown prior to paving in Spring.

° Ongoing: State DOT for the state's new 100% funded program, including Bridges E Putnam over Cady Brook and Chase Road over Cady Brook. Public Information Meeting held in December for Chase over Cady; and similar meeting scheduled for February 10th regarding East Putnam Road over Cady Bridge. Still possible that Rhode Island Road over Mary Brown Brook may be eligible.

° East Putnam over Mary Brown Brook: WMC design engineers recommend lining rather than full replacement, and expect to apply for DOT State Local 50/50 funding. Upcoming ACOE and DEEP permitting expected.

° Same as last month: Wicker Street culvert: expect in-situ pipe repair via lining options, possible site work in Spring 2026.

° Ongoing: Consultant work on inspecting under-20-ft span bridges. Highway completed several minor bridge repair recommendations at the under-20 bridges, including guide rail installation and vegetation clearing. Larger maintenance recommendations will be contracted.

° [Note Highway Department continues to complete minor repairs that were identified on previous inspections (spalling repair, guiderail repair).

Athletic and Recreation

Status and Upcoming

° Same as last month: Tennis Courts on Church St: reviewing other municipal recent examples and considering options for contractors for paving, painting/stripping. Possible construction Spring 2026.

° Track Improvements: CHA completing design deliverables in upcoming months. Reviewed draft design with Town staff and athletic director, considering options for final design.

° Same as last month/Ongoing: Gravel excavation by contractor for Sabin Street Recreation Field construction work. Land Use Director leading. Based on material availability, expect 1 year of continued gravel excavation activities. Town efforts including landscaping to follow excavation.

° Same as last month/Ongoing: coordination with consultant Weston & Sampson for Airline Trail Improvements project including connection to Putnam River Trail at Quinebaug River (Town of Pomfret leading). ACOE permitting expect construction to start late 2026 or 2027. Town of Putnam Wetlands Commission approved project's application December 10th.

° Ongoing: Air Line Connection between Putnam and Intervale St: Land Use and ECD leading. Barton & LoGiudice ongoing efforts including layout of road-adjacent trail (wide-width sidewalk). Expect design to continue through Fall 2026.

° CT Greenway Connection between Putnam and Killingly: DOT TAP funds. Received DOT approval to select SLR. Scoping meeting in January, with scope development over next several months.

Other Town Responsibilities

Status and Upcoming

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Coordinating with SSD regarding various shared and related components including Town Pension, liability insurance, health insurance, mock-OSHA safety reviews, and FY27 budget components.

◦ Union Square Courtyard Improvements: waiting for response to Town's application for DEEP Community Garden Grant Program.

◦ For Route 44 Retaining Wall DOT project: Ongoing coordination with WPCA, engineer, and DOT. 6-month Detour expected, possibly beginning Spring 2026.

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WPCA: planning for additional state funding for water treatment filter rehabilitation and lead and copper service connection construction. Likely will need Town Referendum in March or April of 2026.

◦ Belding Grant with DECD: Following finalization of State contracts and Agreements, developer to contract for remediation work - expect 2026 remediation start.

◦ Senior transportation program, hired personnel and coordinating necessary training. ECD and Veteran's offices leading. Veteran's Office has additional funding approved to provide for Veteran transport days. Expect both programs to be available to eligible public in January 2026.

Conferences and Training

◦ COST Quarterly Board Meetings

◦ CTCMA Meetings

◦ CCM Legislative Meetings

◦ CCM ongoing training credits for CCMO

◦ NEWEA Annual Water and Wastewater Conference Jan 26-28