

May 14, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott, Councilman Tom Burrall, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilwoman Kelley Williams, Councilman Brian Chittenden, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli. Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea was not in attendance.

Supervisor Knott called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and open with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Councilman Edward Scott, seconded by Councilman Tom Burrall and approved by unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the bills presented was made by Councilman Ed Scott, seconded by Councilman Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

Letter from National grid regarding the North American Transmission project.

RESOLUTION

Due to the resignation of Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski, the following proposed Resolution was presented by Supervisor Knott to the Board:

WHEREAS, *the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant has an Elected Town Highway Superintendent who is been serving a duly elected term to expire December 31, 2017, and*

WHEREAS, *the Town Board has received a letter of resignation from said duly elected Highway Superintendent, Bernie Kowalski, effective May 31st 2015, and*

WHEREAS, *the Town currently has a Deputy Highway Superintendent, who the board feels is qualified to accept an appointment, and*

WHEREAS, *To best serve the residents of the Town of Stuyvesant, the Town Board wishes to maintain quality leadership of this department, and create a seamless transition of leadership in this department.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Town of Stuyvesant Town Board appoints Charles Stiffler to the position of Town Highway Superintendent for the Town of Stuyvesant, to be effective June 1st 2015 for the remainder of the year 2015.*

Supervisor Knott asked Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to take a roll call vote on the proposal:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Ronald Knott	X		
Brian Chittenden	X		
Kelley Williams			X
Tom Burrall	X		
Edward Scott	X		

Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli declared Resolution Adopted at a vote of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays and 1 Abstention.

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Old Business

Payroll Service – Supervisor Knott reported that the Town has contracted with Paychex and a timeclock has been installed at the Highway Garage.

New Accountant – Supervisor Knott reported that 3 companies had been interviewed and the Board had decided to hire Stickler, Torcia, Allen & Churchill.

Property Tax Freeze – Supervisor Knott reported that there had been a presentation to the County Board by the Association of Counties. Future rebate checks will depend consolidation plans and reduction of budgets by 1% through that practice. A lot of suggestions from the State are ones that the Town has already implemented. The State is looking for the Counties to take the lead.

Reports

Town Clerk: Town Clerk & Tax Collector reports are on file. Melissa Naegeli reminded everyone that taxes are only collected locally until the end of May. She also reported that the Office will be closed to attend training during the last week of April.

Recreation Committee: Councilwoman Williams reported the Committee will be looking at the playgrounds for Spring repairs and clean-up.

Railroad Restoration Committee: Marilyn Burch reported that the Train Station was set up for the Lincoln display. Volunteers are working on the funeral arch and have requested that the porta-potty be moved. Residents on Riverview Street will drape their homes and the post office and train station with black.

Marilyn reported that the Program for April 25th is packed from 1-5pm with actors, a play, cannons and the ICC Choir. Lisanne Jensen recently did a children's program at the Library. Supervisor Knott reported that \$6,000 had been budgeted for the celebration and that \$5000 had been raised to date.

Environmental Management Council: Kathy Schneider was not in attendance.

Dog Control Officer: Report on file.

Zoning Revision Committee: Councilwoman Williams reported that the Committee was scheduled to meet on April 15th and that they are close to presenting proposed edits to the Board.

Library: Lee Jamison reported that the Teen Dinner Theatre would be held on April 18th and that it was a sold out event. June 20th will be Big Truck Day. The Newsletter is out.

Office for the Aging: Ida Leiser, Town Delegate, reported that the first meeting will be April 17th and that the interim director is Kevin McDonald.

Supervisor Knott reported that there was an Elder Express Survey that revealed 87% say the meals look and taste good and 98% say the volunteers are good.

Highway Department: Bernie Kowalski reported that Trash Day will be Saturday, May 9th. Snow fences are down, there is a steering box problem on the truck, they are sweeping the roads and the old truck is up for auction.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported if anyone has any changes to their properties they should contact the Office as soon as possible. The tentative assessments will be filed as of May 1st. After the filing, the Assessor will be available to review inventory. Grievance Day is May 26th 4-8pm at the Town Hall. Forms are available in the Assessor & Town Clerk's Offices.

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Supervisor Knott reported that there is an opening on the Board of Assessment and Review. If anyone is interested, they should contact him.

Planning Zoning Boards: The Zoning Board will meet on April 28 to review the Divney project. The Planning Board will meet on April 27th and will hold a Public Hearing on the Fitzgerald property.

Historian: Juanita Knott was not in attendance.

Cemetery: Councilman Edward Scott reported that all was quiet.

Building Inspector/CEO: Report is on file

Town Hall – Councilman Edward Scott reported that he was scheduled to meet with local Electrician Duke Huyck and will have information at the next meeting.

County Government

Supervisor Knott reported that he had attended the Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

New Business

Supervisor Knott reported that the Personnel Policy is still being edited and reviewed.

Supervisor Knott presented a revised Organizational Chart to reflect changes to the Accountant, the Salary Structure at the Highway Garage, and to appoint Edward Scott as the Emergency Coordinator. A motion to adopt the revised Organizational Chart was made by Edward Scott, seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott reported that he had been looking at the process for changing the term of office for the Town Supervisor from 2 years to 4 years. He said that Tal Rapplelea had done some research and the matter has to go before the voters.

Spring Clean Up Volunteers – Lee Jamison agreed to coordinate the clean-up with River Sweep on May 9th. The clean-up is scheduled for 1-4 to coincide with low tide. Townwide team/area captains will run each individual group. Bernie Kowalski said debris could be brought to trash day and tickets would be provided to the crews.

Board Comments

Councilman Ed Scott asked if there was an update on the status of repairs for the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge. Supervisor Knott said there was nothing yet.

Councilman Tom Burrall asked about the Columbia Greene Humane Society bill and whether we would be reimbursed for the fee. Supervisor Knott explained that the fee structure in Town for fines has to be changed to better reflect what the costs are for dogs taken to the shelter. He also explained that those owners would have to be fined and appear in Court.

Public Comments

Charlene Leach asked who to make donations to for the Lincoln Funeral Train celebration. Supervisor Knott explained that the CEDC was administering a 501c3 tax deductible fund for train station donations.

Cathy Knott asked people to bring in old silverware that they don't use any more to stock the Town Hall kitchen instead of purchasing plastic ware and throwing it away.

Chalene Decker and Sarah Holbrook from the Stewardship Farms on Gibbons Road stood and introduced themselves to the Board and audience.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Edward Scott and seconded by Councilman Brian Chittenden. The motion was passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Recorded this 14th day of April 2015

Approved this 14th day of May 2015

Supervisor Knott

Town Clerk – Melissa Naegeli

Councilperson

Councilperson

Councilperson

Councilperson

