

**Town of Stuyvesant
Town Board Meeting
November 14, 2019**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, November 14 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Tom Burrall, Bill Schneider, and Brian Chittenden; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Ron Knott opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A motion was made by Tom Burrall to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

- Shelter Report from the NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets – passed

A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Bill Schneider. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was passed by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott announced that the Public Hearing for the 2020 Preliminary Budget had been held on November 7th. He reminded everyone that the Budget was a 0% increase and was \$16,000 under the allowable cap. With no further discussion, a motion was made by Kelley Williams to adopt the 2020 Preliminary Budget as final. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and with an unanimous vote, the Budget was adopted.

Special Guest

Mitch Khosrova, Esq. made a presentation to the Board and asked that a committee be formed to review the Zoning Law and to establish definitions and procedures for Special Permits.

Tal Rappleyea, Attorney for the Town, spoke and said he had to correct a statement he had made at the October meeting. He reported that any application before the Planning Board is placed on an automatic stay when an appeal is filed with the Zoning Board. Tal said his preliminary advice to the Board would be to establish a committee to review the Law and report to the Board.

Supervisor Knott thanked Mr. Khosrova for his presentation. He said he believes under our current Zoning Law, the Planning Board has the tools to regulate projects. He said the Board needed time to discuss and consider

before deciding on a new committee. The matter will be discussed at the upcoming December Workshop.

Old Business

Amtrak Fencing – Supervisor Knott reported he had met with the Commissioners of the Stuyvesant Fire District, Chief Montie of the Stuyvesant Fire Company, and Amtrak regarding the fencing on the river-side of the tracks, as there seemed to be some confusion and concern about the placement of the proposed fence. The fire company was concerned about not having enough space to launch their rescue boat in the event of an emergency. Amtrak clarified their position to erect a 4' high fence with a solid rail top and showed where the fence would be on the river side of the tracks, ensuring enough space for the trucks to launch the boat.

There was further discussion that Amtrak will work with DEC to modify the boat launch to make the access easier for the fire company. They offered to do the background work as well as the construction. Councilman Schneider asked if changing the launch will in any impact the donation of the property to the fire district. Supervisor Knott explained that the launch position at the water wouldn't change, just the angle from the top.

Scenic Hudson has reported that a meeting will be scheduled after the new year for all communities affected by the proposed fencing project.

Lee Jamison asked if there were new pictures of the proposed fences. Supervisor Knott said there weren't.

Ferry Road Construction – Supervisor Knott announced there was a construction kick off meeting scheduled for Friday, Nov. 15th.

Reports

Town Clerk – Report is on file.

Highway Department – Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported:

- Snow fence is up
- Trucks are ready for winter
- They are cutting dead trees and brush
- The new plow comes tomorrow (11/15)

Recreation Committee – Kelley Williams reported that all is quiet. Supervisor Knott asked her to start thinking of project ideas for 202 as the Board will be discussing capital projects at the December workshop.

Assessor's Office – Cathy Knott reported that exemption renewals will be mailed out next week. She reminded anyone turning 65 this year or next, any firefighters, or veterans should be in touch with the Assessor's Office for possible exemption opportunities.

Railroad Station Committee – Lee Jamison reported that there will be a Holiday party at the Depot on Saturday, December 14th 2-4pm. Supervisor Knott said if they get a flyer to Melissa it will be advertised on the website and the Town's facebook page.

Planning / Zoning Boards – Melissa Naegeli reported that there are changes to the dates of upcoming meetings. The November Zoning Board meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 26th due to Thanksgiving. The December dates will be the 16th for Planning and the 18th for Zoning.

Environmental Management Council – Christian Sweningson was not in attendance but asked Lee Jamison to read his report. The report stated the following:

- No quorum at the October 28th meeting;
- Discussed the recommendations for legislation to reduce or eliminate polystyrene in the County;
- Discussed report on Zero Waste meetings organized by the League of Women Voters;
- Neil Seldman from Institute for Local Self-Reliance specializes in helping cities and business recover increasing amounts of materials from the waste stream and add value to the local economy through new processing and manufacturing facilities. With experiences from all over the U.S., he gave many ideas that can be used in the County; and
- County Health Dept. reported an unprovoked grey fox attack at the Claverack Town Park (a person was bitten on the ankle).

Dog Control Officer – Report on file. Supervisor Knott reported that our current DCO is experiencing health issues and a new DCO will have to be found for next year.

Kinderhook Memorial Library – Lee Jamison reported there will be a Tea Party fundraiser hosted by Amy Strunk at the Winding Brook Country Club. The event will be held on November 24th at a cost \$30/person (children are free). Money will be donated to the Library. The tea party is in memory of Lynn Strunk.

Office for the Aging -- No report

Historian – No report

ZEO/Building Inspector – Report on file.

Cemetery Committee – Tom Burrall reported that he is working with the VFW, American Legion, and Boy Scout Troops to identify veterans buried in the Town's cemeteries.

Town Hall – Supervisor Knott asked Melissa to arrange for the carpets to be cleaned.

Website Committee – Bill Schneider reported that the new website is now up and running. He also reported that we are looking into whether the wifi works outside of the building so we can advertise that there is free wifi available on the property.

Lee Jamison said the Library had a grant to establish hubs and had considered putting one at the Town Hall, with she believed a 1 mile radius. Bill said we will see what our wifi does outside of the building and that we may work with the Library if ours isn't strong enough.

County Business

County Budget -- Supervisor Knott reported that the Budget has to be filed by December 20th and the Public Hearing will be coming up. The Budget currently has a 1.85% increase and explained the difficulty in staying within the State mandated tax cap.

Smart Watt Project -- Supervisor Knott announced the County is working with National grid on an energy savings project for facility lighting upgrades as well as other energy saving initiatives at the County Emergency Management building as well as at the County Garage. He reported that this will be a \$2.7 Million project that has been bonded and will be paid back over 20 years with rebates and other savings through the upgrades.

New Business

Budget Reports -- Supervisor Knott pointed out to the Board that the monthly budget reports have been altered and will now include fund balance amounts per account. The new accounts have been established at the Greene County Bank and will make the reporting easier.

Fund Balance Policy – Supervisor Knott provided a proposed Policy to be discussed for adoption at the January 2020 Organizational Meeting.

Future Projects – Supervisor Knott asked the Board to start thinking about projects to be identified for the coming year.

Board Comments

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

Public Comments

There was a question as to the amount of time the Board will need to decide on establishing a committee to review the Zoning Law. Supervisor Knott responded at least 3 weeks or at the next Workshop meeting.

There was a question as to how to get a copy of the agenda for the workshops. It was explained that workshops do not have agendas. The workshops are for open discussions and that is what determines the agenda for the Board Meeting.

There was a question about when the workshops are held and why they are noticed. Melissa Naegeli explained that the meetings are established at the beginning of the year and do not have to be noticed monthly unless there is a change from the regular schedule. Councilman Schneider reported that the workshops are always the first Thursday of the month and the Board meetings are always the 2nd Thursday of the month.

An Eichybush Road resident thanked the Highway Department for cleaning up the mud on the road.

Lee Jamison asked if there were any updates on the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge. Supervisor Knott said the project is on the Federal schedule for 4-5 years from now and that the committee had not had a recent meeting.

Melissa Naegeli asked Supervisor Knott for the dates of any special meetings in December. The workshop will be December 5th, the regular Board meeting will be December 12th, and the end of year meeting will be December 30th. All meetings will be at 7pm.

Cathy Knott thanked the Board for the money for the Halloween Party and thanked the volunteers who helped. She reported that about 40 kids attended. She also thanked the Board for funding for the Garden Club and explained that one of the things the Club does is delivers flowers and plants to homebound residents, whether they are members or not. She said they will be delivering small Christmas trees to people next month.

With no further questions or comments from the Board or public, a motion to adjourn was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

The vouchers presented for payment at the November, 2019 Town Board meeting:

November 2019				LIGHTS	
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	LND/FALLS	HIGHWAY
19-417	CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc. (\$2614.12)	9060.8	706.52		1,907.60
19-418	Constellation New Energy, Inc. (201.23)	5182.4		96.80	
				104.43	
19-419	National Grid (\$1308.67)	5182.4		637.06	
				671.59	
19-420	Bank of Greene County (64,919.23)	A9710.6	48,582.33		
		A9710.7	16,336.90		
19-421	Glenn T, Smith	3620.4	6.85		
19-422	Metz Wood Harder Inc.	1910.40	880.80		
19-423	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Dept)	1110.40	63.38		
19-424	Paula Van Meter	1110.4	55.00		
19-425	Nolan Bottle Gas, Inc.	1620.4	354.09		
19-426	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	1010.4	25.96		
19-427	Columbia County Treasurer (Solid Waste)	8160.4	1,649.10		
19-428	Constellation New Energy, Inc. (\$58.39)	1620.4	2.90		
		5132.4	55.49		
19-429	National Grid	1620.4	21.18		
19-430	National Grid	1620.4	25.52		
19-431	National Grid	5132.4	70.92		
19-432	Time Warner Cable (\$557.23)	1620.4	273.59		
		5132.4	283.64		
19-433	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	386.10		
19-434	Marlin Business Bank (\$189.87)	1620.4	114.00		
		1410.4	75.87		
19-435	Doyle Security	1620.4	177.41		
19-436	Apex Software	1355.4	235.00		
19-437	Staples, Inc. (\$492.87)	1410.4	8.88		
		1355.4	483.99		
19-438	Repeat Business Systems	1620.4	156.89		
19-439	Stuyvesant Post Office	1410.4	275.00		
19-440	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	70.42		
19-441	Valley Energy	5132.4	204.60		
19-442	County Waste	5132.4	161.99		
19-443	Culligan	5132.4	28.93		

