

**Town of Stuyvesant
Town Board Meeting
June 11, 2020**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 7pm . In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, Tom Burrall, and Bill Schneider; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; and Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler.

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

Supervisor Knott reviewed and discussed the re-opening plans for the Town Hall. There is a sign in book at the front of the building and all visitors to the Town Hall must sign in with their address. Visitors are asked to not come in if they are sick and to wear a mask if the 6' distancing guideline cannot be met. There is also a limit of one visitor per office at a time.

Correspondence

- A letter from the Columbia Land Conservancy regarding the flyover of Ken Hummel Park this summer;
- Letter from Monolith Solar completing the transfer to Sunlight Capital;
- Email from Maggie Banker regarding the Dog Control Officer. Maggie is the DCO in New Lebanon. Supervisor Knott spoke with Supervisor Houghtaling and Ms. Banker was given a very good review. Supervisor Knott explained to the Board that the NYS Ag & Markets require towns to have a DCO on staff. A motion to appoint Maggie Banker to the position of Town DCO was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. There was a brief discussion about changing the Dog Control Officer to an Animal Control Officer and how to do that.

Old Business

Brownfield Clean Up – The comment portion of the public hearing closed on May 15th. Tal Rapplyea contacted them but no more comments will be accepted and they will be moving forward with the project.

HydroPlant Penstock Repair – Supervisor Knott is in contact with Jim Besha (Albany Engineering) regularly. The replacement penstocks had been ordered

but the wrong equipment was delivered, so it had to be reordered; they expect to be able to start soon. Supervisor Knott and Chuck Stiffler will be meeting with Mr. Besha on June 15th regarding the access road to the Sandbar.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector -- Melissa Naegeli reported that the Town Clerk report is on file in her office. The tax collection period has ended and will be returned to the County Treasurer on Monday, June 15th. Collection was 89% complete.

The Town Clerk's Office will be closed on Saturdays for June, July, and August.

Recreation Committee – Supervisor Knott reminded everyone that the Town of Kinderhook cancelled their summer program this year due to COVID-19. Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported that the Highway Department had been grinding tree stumps at the playground.

Supervisor Knott reported that he had received a phone call regarding garbage left at the Sandbar and the caller had requested garbage cans be installed. There was a discussion that past experience has shown that cans invite more garbage and household waste to be left. We will get signage that says “bring it in, take it out”. Chuck Stiffler said the “dawn to dusk” sign should be replaced with times of operation, like at the Ken Hummel Park.

Railroad Station Committee – Supervisor Knott reported there had been no meetings.

Environmental Management Council – Lee Jamison gave a brief report from Christian Sweningson that the Columbia County Health Dept. has reported finding more substances at Stuyvesant Falls at the Brownfield Clean Up site than was previously found by the Brownfield survey.

Dog Control Officer – No report

Kinderhook Memorial Library -- Lee Jamison reported that re-opening plans are being coordinated throughout the County. Currently, curbside pick-up/drop off will begin on June 17th with a call ahead. Mid-Hudson InterLibrary deliveries will begin on June 22nd. The KML will be doing away with fines.

Supervisor Knott thanked AnnaLee Dragon (Librarian) for all of her help with the virtual meetings.

Office for the Aging – No report. Supervisor Knott reported that the County OFA has been very busy and has gotten extra money from the State for the additional meal deliveries they are providing. He also reported that there has been an abundance of volunteers.

Assessor's Office – Cathy Knott, Assessor's Clerk, reported that the Board of Assessment Review met on May 28th. The Board was in attendance at the Town Hall but the public was invited to attend via GoToMeeting. There were 3 complaints heard and the determinations have been mailed to them.

The Office will be closed on Saturdays for the summer.

Supervisor Knott reported that the Clerk's computer is being replaced.

Highway Department – Chuck Stiffler reported that the Dept. has been clearing ditches and cleaning culvert pipes. The 2nd round of roadside mowing is being completed.

They will be milling and paving the south end of Riverview Street and stone topping Eichybush Road.

He reported that it sounds like 80% of CHIPS funding will be given out. He discussed a 284 agreement that is usually done in January and it's an agreement between the Board and Highway Superintendent about road work to be completed in the year and the money to be spent.

Chuck also reported that the new bids had been done for diesel and fuel oil. Main Care Brothers had won the bid. He will compare their bid with what we have been paying Valley Energy.

The running gear for the new truck is expected in August. There is no date for the body delivery yet.

Planning/Zoning Boards – Bill Schneider reported that the Planning Board will meet to continue discussions on the proposed auto business across from Wil-Roc Farm on Route 9 in the small plaza. The Zoning Board will hold a remote meeting on June 17th regarding the Samascott's event barn.

Historian – Cathy Knott reported that the Historic Stuyvesant Day celebration will be a picnic at the Stuyvesant Landing Playground. Juanita Knott is putting together a timeline and booklet about the COVID-19 virus and individual stories. The town will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and soda. Different this year, people will be asked to bring food for their families to enjoy

but will not be shared. The date is August 8th and the picnic will begin at 12:00 noon.

Cemetery – Chuck Stiffler reported that the cemetery has never looked better and has been getting appreciative comments from people in town.

Building Inspector/CEO – Report on file.

Town Hall – Supervisor Knott reported that the insulation project was completed while the building was closed. He added that there has been a noticeable difference already.

The television for the meeting room has been delayed due to restrictions because of COVID-19. Supervisor Knott has gotten word from BAS that they will be able to deliver and install starting the week of June 15th. He also discussed with them installing a camera so meetings can be streamed online in a virtual meeting format so people can interact remotely. Bill Schneider discussed a GoToMeeting subscription through the Library.

Supervisor Knott reported that he had contacted Spectrum about upgrading the internet service in the Town Hall. They responded with an increased price of \$100. Supervisor Knott continues to look in to this.

Chuck Stiffler reported that the Highway Dept. crew had trimmed the bushes around the Town Hall. There was a discussion about having different bushes or plants put around the building that will be easier to maintain.

County Business

Supervisor Knott reported that he has been attended regular meetings and most are centered around budget cuts. The County is facing a deficit of \$10-\$20 Million. He applauded the agencies that through fiscal cuts and savings have been able to make up approximately \$10M.

He also reported that the Board of Elections had 2 new Commissioners hired this year and have been very busy with changes to the election process, with additional absentee ballots being requested. Supervisor Knott commended the employees at the BOE and said the work environment seems to have improved and they are working well together.

New Business

Supervisor Knott said he would like to contact the Bank of Greene County regarding a credit card for the Town. Our Procurement Policy allows for a credit card with a limit of \$1500. He explained that there are times that he or the Highway Dept. needs to make purchases that require credit cards. A motion to allow the Supervisor to get a credit account/card from the Bank of Greene County with a limit of \$1500 was made by Bill Schneider. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

He also reported that he spoke with Don MacCormack (Bank of Greene County) about a bond for the new truck and refinancing the bond for the Salt Shed at a lower interest rate. The bond for the truck could be done at the Board level but the Salt Shed bond would require another public vote.

Comments from Board

Tom Burrall asked if there had been any word about changing the 2% tax cap requirement because of the virus. Supervisor Knott responded that he hadn't heard anything. He added that the Town is in pretty good shape and we will be okay. Budgeting for next year for the State and County will be challenging.

Tom Burrall asked if Supervisor Knott had had an opportunity to ask Jim Basha about the fire hydrant in Stuyvesant Falls. Ron said he hadn't but would ask at their meeting on Monday.

Supervisor Knott reported that Judge Paula VanMeter's last day was May 31. He said that Tal Rappleyea reported that there will be a tight timeframe to adopt a resolution if the Board wishes to remove the 2nd judge position.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Kelley Williams. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

The abstract of vouchers presented for payment at the June 2020 meeting:

<i>June 2020</i>					
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	LIGHTS	HIGHWAY
				LND/FALLS	
20-183	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$2671.04)	9060.8	721.90		1,949.14
20-184	VFW Post #9593	6510.4	1,200.00		
20-185	Constellation (\$281.50)	5182.4		135.40	
				146.10	
20-186	National Grid (\$1111.58)	5182.4		542.29	
				569.29	
20-187	National Grid	5132.4	67.48		
20-188	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
20-189	National Grid (RR)	1620.4	23.94		
20-190	Johnson Newspaper Corp. (\$155.62)	1355.4	61.04		
		8010.4	34.44		
		8020.4	60.14		
20-191	Time Warner Cable (\$1150.56)	1620.4	583.48		
		5132.4	567.08		
20-192	Mario Nistico	1410.4	65.00		
20-193	Columbia-Greene Humane Society	3510.4	35.00		
20-194	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	576.00		
20-195	Marlin Business Bank (\$222.07)	1620.4	134.82		
		1410.4	87.25		
20-196	Repeat Business Systems (\$57.50)	5132.4	5.45		
		1620.4	52.05		
20-197	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	310.60		
20-198	EA Morse & Co., Inc.	5132.4	87.63		
20-199	Business Automation Services	1410.4	300.00		
20-200	Quadient	1620.41	400.00		
20-201	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPAs	1320.4	110.00		
20-202	SunLight General Capital	1620.4	390.34		
20-203	Paul Chittenden	1355.4	48.00		
20-204	Derick LaTorre	1355.4	48.00		
20-205	Richard Moran	1355.4	48.00		
20-206	Cheryl Trowbridge	1355.4	48.00		
20-207	Michael Naegeli	1355.4	48.00		
20-208	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	1,475.00		
20-209	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	69.71		
20-210	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	14.00		
20-211	Culligan	5132.4	28.93		
20-212	County Waste	5132.4	161.99		

20-213	Mario's Home Center	5132.4	44.37		
20-214	Valley Energy	5132.4	199.37		
20-215	Valley Energy	5110.4			134.91
20-216	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			15.99
20-217	Village Dodge	5130.4			127.95
20-218	Charles Stiffler (REIMBURSEMENT)	5130.4			200.20
20-219	Wex Bank	5130.4			95.83
20-220	CarQuest of Valatie	5130.4			65.98
20-221	Air Gas USA LLC	5130.4			44.65
20-222	Lowe's	5130.4			42.68
20-223	Mopar Vehicle Protection	5110.4			198.31
20-224	Abele Tractor & Equipment	5110.4			1,675.00
	<i>11-Jun-20</i>		8,129.71	1393.08	4,550.64