

**Town of Stuyvesant
Town Board Meeting
October 8, 2020**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 7pm . In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Brian Chittenden, Kelley Williams, Tom Burrall and Bill Schneider; Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli was not in attendance.

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

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

A motion to approve the bills presented was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business

Smart TV has been installed. The Supervisor proposed purchasing a laptop to be used at Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings. Bill Schneider made a motion to purchase a laptop at a cost of approximately \$720. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

The Zoning Board of Appeals had a meeting regarding the proposed Event Barn on Eichybush Road. They have adopted a Resolution, filed with the Clerk that sends the issue back to the Town Board to review the Zoning Law and definitions of Agribusiness and Agritourism. Supervisor Knott requested that the Board reappoint the Zoning Committee that had worked on the Zoning Law revisions in the past. Kelley Williams was the Chairperson. Cody Williams and Tom Kilcer were on the Committee representing agriculture; Supervisor Knott has asked Tim Hotaling to take Tom Shanahan's place as a representative from the Planning Board, Steven Taylor a representative from the Zoning Board, Glenn Smith as the ZEO/CEO will replace Gerry Ennis previously on the Board, and Jeff Jensen will serve as a Zoning Board of Appeal representative, replacing Pat Casey. A motion was made by Brian Chittenden to approve these committee assignments. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector -- Report is on file.

Recreation Committee – Kelley Williams reported that it has been quiet. Supervisor Knott added that the playgrounds are in good shape and are getting used regularly. There was a discussion about how to surround the parking lot – with boulders or plantings. Chuck Stiffler said the problem with planting trees is timing so they don't have to be watered. Chuck will get prices for the boulders to surround the parking lot. Bill Schneider recommended that the Recreation Committee and Highway Dept. work together to give a proposal to the Board. There was a discussion about liability issues.

Railroad Station Committee – There was a meeting but no events are being planned this year due to Covid. There is money that has been donated and they are looking at different renovation projects and gathering prices.

Environmental Management Council – Christian Sweningson reported

- Presentation to the Government Committee of the Board of Supporters for the County to become a Climate Smart Community. The Committee requested that the proposed Resolution go back to the Council for revisions to clarify the role of the County in decision making. Supervisor Knott explained that the first request from the EMC had their own task force and was doing something separate from the Government. Supervisor Knott explained he wanted to see any work remain as part of the County Government. He has some comments on the draft resolution and will circulate his concerns with everyone. The task force group should take the 7-10 points that every climate smart community has to agree to and explain what that means to people. Christian asked if it would help to have an example for each point and Supervisor Knott said yes. Christian asked if the language suggested cover the concern about the County being the ones making the decisions?
- A group that came out of the EMC is looking at solid waste in the County or in general in relation to the cost burden on the County and people and how to reduce that through more recycling. In the beginning, it seemed there was a limited role in the County Solid Waste Dept. As members have learned more about the situation, Zero Waste Columbia had been formed. There will be an online presentation with the Claverack Library and County Solid Waste Dept. on October 17th 4-5pm regarding reuse & recycling, reducing, manufacturer's responsibility for reducing waste, etc.

- Supervisor Knott shared that the Historian found a letter between Supervisor Paddock and Senator Bruno from 1986 regarding the same issues of recycling.

Dog Control Officer – Report is on file.

Kinderhook Memorial Library -- The newsletter is out. Lee Jamison reported that some highlights are they are doing away with fines; curbside pick-up will continue; appointment times and home delivery will begin. They are working on a composting project in conjunction with the Climate Smart group in the Village of Kinderhook.

Highway Department – Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported that

- Trash Day was held on Oct. 3rd and he thought it was the largest one yet. They filled 5 large dumpsters plus; 3 metal dumpsters; and 65 tires. One issue was with one resident who had dismantled a camper and brought the pieces up on his trailer. Chuck and Ron explained to him that it wasn't fair to other tax payers in town and it was taking advantage. We will have to figure out a way to make it more fair for everyone. Ron added that we have had to make changes to the "rules" over the years, now we will have to restrict massive loads. Ron thanked the Highway Department for the work they did.
- Working on ditches and removing dead trees. Snow ladders will start to go up soon.
- The body is ordered for the new truck.
- Working with DOT and Amtrak, they are raising the tracks up quite a bit but we aren't sure when yet. Chuck is working with Lee Jamison and Christian Sweningson because it will affect their property on Ferry Road. Ron explained that the plan is to move the tracks closer to 9J and taper Ferry Road from the tracks down. Chuck explained that he is working on potential drainage issues. Tal is preparing a work permit for the project. Christian Sweningson expressed concern about the added water but said he was confident in Chuck's ability to take care of the problem.

Assessor's Office – Cathy Knott was not in attendance but Supervisor Knott reported that not a lot was going on. He added that Cathy is disappointed that there will not be a Halloween celebration this year. Exemptions will be sent out in November.

Planning/Zoning Boards – Planning Board was a site plan and a couple of subdivisions before them now.

Historian – Supervisor Knott reported to Lee Jameson that Juanita is working on information about their house on Ferry Road. Christian said they found some items in the barn that Juanita would be interested in.

Supervisor Knott said Bill Cerbone has a railroad scale that he would like to donate to the RR Station and asked if the Highway Dept. could go pick it up and deliver it; it will take the loader.

Cemetery – Supervisor Knott reported that we had been contacted by a family member of a family that died in the Stuyvesant lighthouse fire. She asked if someone could find out if they were buried in town. Cathy Knott went to the Butler Cemetery and found the headstones and sent pictures.

Building Inspector/CEO – Report on file.

Town Hall – The new television has been installed. The power outage was a good test for the generator during Court – everything worked well and Court was able to proceed.

Website –

County Business

Budget – Working with the Department Heads. The fund balance is depleted from this year covering costs due to Covid. It is estimated that \$1 – \$1.5M reduction in sales tax revenue, tax collections are down across the County. In DSS alone, \$2M in reduction State funding is expected. This has not been an easy budget year. We have saved a lot of money through furloughs but are trying to find ways to save money next year so furloughs do not have to continue. The County DPW has given up plowing State roads. There will be a hard freeze on hiring, as people retire those positions will not be filled.

New Business

Supervisor Knott reviewed the Tentative 2021 Budget that had been filed in the Clerk's Office. This year's tax cap allowance is 1.56% this year. This budget has a 1.32% increase built in. The biggest changes are:

- Full time highway employees who receive health insurance will get a 2% raise but their insurance is changing which will save us approximately \$4,000 and will cover the proposed raises. There are no other raises.
- IT line has been increased to accommodate the postage machine as well as get on a schedule for replacing equipment.

- Anticipated revenues in the General Budget are decreased by over \$13,000. In the Highway Budget the bond payment of \$37,000 has been kept in the budget but moved to the 5130.4 line which is funding for capital equipment. The bond was paid off. This is to refund the money that has been spent on the new truck.

Copies of the Tentative 2021 Budget are available.

The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, November 5th at 7pm

A motion was made to allow Supervisor Knott to sign the road usage and crossing agreement with Transco for the power line project by Bill Schneider. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

A resolution from Judge Carrie O'Hare to apply for a grant to complete additional scanning. The cost is through a grant and will total \$1436. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Bill Schneider. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote. Judge O'Hare added that she applied for a grant to reimburse costs associated with Covid expenses.

Bill Schneider made a motion to have the Highway Department install boulders around the parking lot at the playground to reduce the ability of people to drive off the parking lot on to the playground. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Comments from Board

Tom Burrall asked if there was an update on County Route 25A in Stuyvesant Falls. Supervisor Knott reported that the work is done on the penstock, he met with them last week. Everyone agreed that a work permit would be given so the County can put the road back together. The County Highway Dept. will repair and repave the road and it will hopefully be completed soon.

Tom asked if the work will be completed by November 7th as the Stuyvesant Falls Fire Company is looking at hosting a multi-company fire drill.

Supervisor Knott asked if anyone knew the status of the work being done to get better access to the intake area at the top of the hill on Lindenwald Avenue, near the top of the Falls. Jim Besha (Albany Engineering) is working with Allied to get permission to make the road better. Chuck Stiffler is working with Allied to redo the road in to the Sandbar Park area.

Public Comment

Lee Jamison announced that Oct. 17th is Riversweep. The Falls, Ferry Road, the Landing, and Swyer Preserve will be cleaned up at low tide 10:30 – 12:30. She asked if Supervisor Knott could help by picking up the trash collected.

Lee Jamison said the Seniors Tai Chi group is looking for an indoor space and are exploring using the Town Hall two days per week.

Lee Jamison asked about the police reform project at the County. Supervisor Knott said the County will hire a consultant at the Full Board meeting and the group will consist of approximately 30 people.

Lee Jamison asked about emergency services in the Town. People were trying to reach the Town Hall during the recent power outage and asked if there are any backups to contacting the Town Hall. Supervisor Knott explained that both Firehouses have been named as shelters so they could be contacted. There was a discussion about all of the places around Town where the power was out.

Steven Taylor asked for an update on the rail trail. He asked when the area from Stuyvesant Falls to Hudson will be available to use. Bill Schneider announced that he has heard a November completion for that area. He explained the work that remains at the different sections in that span of trail. Officially the section from Valatie to New Street (Stuyvesant Falls) has been opened.

Christian Sweningson asked if there were any plans for a backup generator at the County Government Building given that the power outage caused the building to be closed. Supervisor Knott explained that it was something that was being explored prior to the Covid pandemic; they are exploring different options and funding availability.

With no further questions or business, a motion to adjourn was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

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

	<i>October 2020</i>			LIGHTS	
<u>CLAIM</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
20-343	CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc. (\$2165.70)	9060.8	721.90		1,443.80
20-344	National Grid (\$1217.53)	5182.4		593.20	
				624.33	
20-345	Constellation (\$164.44)	5182.4		79.10	
				85.34	
20-346	Metz Wood Harder	1910.4	20098.35		
20-347	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	419.68		
20-348	Constellation New Energy, Inc. (\$53.40)	1620.4	0.95		
		5132.4	52.45		
20-349	National Grid	5132.4	90.45		
20-350	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
20-351	National Grid	1620.4	24.05		
20-352	Stickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill, CPAs	1320.4	1630.00		
20-353	Williamson Law Book Co.	1410.4	14.30		
20-354	Marlin Business Bank (\$289.71)	1410.4	87.25		
		1620.4	202.46		
20-355	Columbia County Treasurer (Central Printing)	1410.4	42.00		
20-356	Business Automation Services, Inc.	1620.41	1866.00		
20-357	Johnson Newspaper Corp. (\$103.32)	1410.4	43.18		
		8010.4	30.26		
		8020.4	29.88		
20-358	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	1281.25		
20-359	Time Warner Cable (\$673.21)	1620.4	386.62		
		5132.4	286.59		
20-360	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	368.55		
20-361	Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	1620.41	203.79		
20-362	Repeat Business Systems (\$40.64)	1620.4	35.19		
		5132.4	5.45		
20-363	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	63.86		
20-364	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	28.98		
20-365	Culligan	5132.4	28.93		
20-366	Wex Bank	7110.4	46.99		
20-367	County Waste	5132.4	161.99		
20-368	Mopar Vehicle Protection	5110.4			2,227.99
20-369	Colarusso Quarry	5110.4			113.28

20-370	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			98.28
20-371	Share Corporation	5130.4			152.24
20-372	Salem Farm Supply, Inc.	5130.4			338.27
20-373	CarQuest of Valatie	5130.4			59.27
20-374	New Castle Asphalt	5110.4			748.74
20-375	Valley Energy	5110.4			169.00
	<i>8-Oct-20</i>		<i>28274.05</i>	<i>1381.97</i>	<i>5,350.87</i>