

## **Town Board Meeting April 8, 2021**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021. The meeting was a remote/hybrid meeting. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott, Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Bill Schneider, Tom Burrall, and Brian Chittenden; Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli was not in attendance. Minutes were transcribed from the recording of the meeting.

Supervisor Knott called the Town Board meeting to order at 7:00pm. The meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

### **Correspondence**

- Report from NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets that Dog Control Officer reports are up to date.

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

### **Old Business**

*Phone System* – Supervisor Knott reported that he had met with Edmunds GovTech and the new phone system will be installed soon.

*Vacancy for Mowing* – An advertisement for help wanted has been put on the website with a return date for letters of interest of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Emergency Plan* – Bill Vick has updated the Town's plan and it's being reviewed. He is getting updated names of contacts.

*Speeding in Stuyvesant Falls* – Our previous request on the behalf of residents to lower the speed limit was denied. The Sheriff's Department will put the computer tracker on County Route 25 to monitor speeds. The VFW said their property could be used. Moving the machine around is a problem because there isn't anywhere else to put it.

## **Reports**

*Town Clerk* – Report on file. The Clerk's Office will be closed on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Punch cards will be available beginning April 17<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Knott commented that the Clerk's Report was a good financial report showing the Building Department is getting caught up.

*Recreation* – Kelley Williams reported the Committee met on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and reviewed a powerpoint for proposed upgrades at the Sandbar Park in Stuyvesant Falls. Bill Schneider asked about the previously proposed composting toilets that were no longer part of the plan. Supervisor Knott said it was decided that temporary, portables would be a better option for the summer season. The lease agreement with the owners of the property makes it difficult to put up permanent structures. It could be revisited but there have been difficult negotiations in the past.

Councilman Schneider said he liked the idea of the canoe/kayak launch. However, he had concerns about the proposed fishing pier that there aren't a lot of people fishing there and there would be people jumping off the pier. He also expressed concerns about trees coming over the Falls and destroying the pier.

Councilman Schneider asked if there was going to be any bridge construction in 2021. Supervisor Knott explained that the money has been applied for but there are no immediate plans for the bridge.

Lee Jamison commented that the people of Stuyvesant Falls should have input on the Sandbar Park project through a public information session. Supervisor Knott suggested that Councilman Schneider and Ms. Jamison work on community outreach to let people know the information on the project is online and comments can be sent to him and he will send copies to Jim Besha.

*Environmental Management Council* – Christian Sweningson's report was given by Lee Jamison. It was reported that at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting:

- Chairman O'Hara verified that Climate Smart Community Task Force has been approved by the Board of Supervisors;
- Zero Waste Columbia had a report by Kara Humphrey on an event being held on May 6<sup>th</sup> through the Library system and Cornell. Zero Waste is laying the ground work to collaborate with people from New Lebanon, Chatham, and Austerlitz on repair cafes. They are working on a grant for

a tool library at Basilica in Hudson. This would enable ownership of tools through a membership program. A flyer is being developed and they are working with Williams Lumber for discounted tools. There are also plans for a “tool drive” to be held.

- Kara Humphrey and John Bradley attended a meeting with Tompkins County Waste Management Committee and invited them to the April EMC meeting to building grassroots collaborations between EMCs
- Rabies Clinics by the Department of Health are resuming. The first one will be held in Germantown on April 10<sup>th</sup>
- Nominations for the Good Earthkeeping Awards are being accepted. Posters and Flyers will be out soon.

*Dog Control Officer* – Report on File

*Kinderhook Memorial Library Representative* – Lee Jamison reported they weren't scheduled to meet until the following week. There will be a 414 Resolution on the ballot at the November 2021 General Election.

*Highway Department* – Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported:

- Trash Day will be on May 1<sup>st</sup> and the hours are 8am – 3pm
- They have been working on a new access road in to the Sandbar Park. He is working with the abutting property owner for access. The property owner said he would like some kind of fence put up along the road. A post & rail fence was discussed so he could still access his property if he needed to. Supervisor Knott and Chuck Stiffler will talk with Jim Besha at Albany Engineering about a fence and some trees.
- They are sweeping the roads and cleaning ditches
- Signs announcing Trash Day have been purchased to put around Town. It's difficult to get the word out to everyone.
- Two picnic tables are needed. Chuck said he has someone who will make them with a pressure treated base and a regular wood top for \$300 each. Lee Jamison asked where they were needed and Mr. Stiffler explained they were needed at the Sandbar Park.
- Chuck told everyone that the new truck is “awesome”. There are a couple of things that needed to be repaired but they are under warranty.

*Assessor's Office* – Assessor Clerk Cathy Knott reported that letters will go out in early May to anyone who has had a change to their assessment. They will be able to come in and meet with Assessor Lynn Hotaling to discuss the changes. If they still disagree, “Grievance Day” will be the 4<sup>th</sup> on Thursday,

May 27<sup>th</sup>. The members of the Board of Assessment Review will be in-person in the Town Hall and a link will be provided for the public to attend the meeting. Information will also be provided in the letters.

*Planning/Zoning* – Both Boards have activity and meetings scheduled in April.

*Historian* – Cathy Knott, Dep. Historian, reported that there is no news yet on Historic Stuyvesant Day. The Town's Bicentennial will be 2023 and a celebration will take time to plan. Volunteers are being sought to start the process soon.

*Cemetery* – We are looking for someone to mow. An advertisement was put on the website and letters of interest are due to Supervisor Knott by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

*ZEO/Building Inspector* – Peter Bujanow reported:

- He submitted his report – 6 permits this month, 7 in the last 3 months.
- He answers a lot of questions, processes the permits, and is performing inspections.
- Working on getting the information in the IPS System.

*Town Hall* – Supervisor Knott reported the new phone system will be coming. The cracks in the parking lot will be sealed.

### **County Government**

Supervisor Knott reported:

- Proposed Stimulus Funding – the County is projected to receive approximately \$11.5M over a 2 year period and has 3 years to use the money. \$200,000 is projected for the Town. The County money will take approximately 90 days after the Bill is signed. The Town money will go through the State and they have 120 days to release it. We are waiting to hear what the money can be used for.

County Budget is in good shape without the funding. We were running behind because of State funded programs that weren't be reimbursed but they are getting caught up now.

Sales tax revenues ended up pretty good at the end of 2020. There was a hold on foreclosure sales. One was held earlier this year on properties with unpaid taxes since 2015. 2016/2017 foreclosures are still on hold. Money will catch up with the sales are done.

Recent auction properties were set to go in March 2020 but the County held off because of Covid. The recently sold property all overaged 150% over the minimum bid price.

- Sewer Line Project – The project will connect the Commerce Park to the Greenport Sewer System. The pipes will be pushed through soon. Staging areas are set up.

### ***New Business***

Supervisor Knott reported there is a new reporter covering the Town from the Register Star. There was a question on the Town's stance on legalizing marijuana. The Towns are to decide if stores will be allowed if any come to Columbia County. While any stores will probably go to Hudson, the Board will have to consider. Tal Rappleyea said the Board will be able to determine whether to opt in or out, where zones are allowed; stores, growing & distribution services. He will be attending a web training on this soon.

Supervisor Knott asked Tom Burrall to discuss the Purple Heart Community designation. Councilman Burrall explained that State Senator Daphne Jordan will do a Resolution naming Stuyvesant a Purple Heart Community if the Board sends her a letter agreeing to the designation. He is working with the American Legion on a ceremony for Memorial Day. Cathy Knott was asked if she knew of any Purple Heart recipients through exemption applications because DD214s may show it. She explained that the information may not be public information due to HIPA Laws. There was a further discussion on ways to identify purple heart recipients in the Town. Councilman Burrall said some communities have been putting up banners in their towns to honoring the Purple Heart recipients with their picture and dates of service.

The Ceremony on Memorial Day is scheduled for 12:00 but will depend on Senator Jordan's schedule.

Parking Issues – Proposed new law regarding parking on Town roads. There are concerns with parking issues near the trail entrances. Without a Town Law about parking we can't enforce "No Parking" signs. Tal Rappleyea explained the proposed law and discussed how "No Parking" areas could be established. Lee Jamison asked what the complaints had to do with the trailheads. She asked if the complaints were just because people weren't used to the trail and suggested it would be better to have trailhead parking.

Councilman Schneider explained that the proposed Law says the Town may designate No Parking areas and erect signs. It's not a blanket ban on parking on Town roads. Supervisor Knott suggested signs pointing to designated trailhead parking areas. Chuck Stiffler said he thinks part of the problem is

the limited parking provided at the trailheads and people then just park on the shoulders of the roads creating dangerous situations.

Supervisor Knott said the draft of the Law was with the Board members and if they wanted to go forward a public hearing would have to be scheduled.

### ***Board Comments***

Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported that the CHiPs amount had been increased.

Supervisor Knott introduced the new Register Start reporter on the link to the meeting. He explained that we have had difficulty getting information out to people and hoped that having a reporter assigned to our Town again would help with that.

Supervisor Knott announced that we have pictures of the new truck that will be shared on our website and facebook page.

Councilman Schneider asked Peter Bujanow if there was something he mentioned that had to be changed. Mr. Bujanow explained that our Code needs to be updated to adopt the new State Code. Tal Rappleyea said we should use wording that specifies we “follow the most up to date State guidelines” so we don’t have to continue to change the wording in our Law. Supervisor Knott asked Peter to address that wording and whether anything else should be in a new local law. Mr. Bujanow asked the Board to consider changes to the Property Maintenance section under “General Use” section of the Zoning Law. Tal Rappleyea and Peter Bujanow will work together on the wording. The Board passed a Resolution previously that allows it to make changes to the Zoning Law by Resolution.

### ***Public Comments***

Lee Jamison reported that May 1<sup>st</sup> will be annual Riversweep Day. The times will be 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM to correspond with low tide. Volunteers may sign up either with Ms. Jamison or on the Riverkeepers page. The areas to be cleaned up are: Swyer Preserve, Stuyvesant Landing Beach, Sand Bar Area, and Newton Hook. She asked if Supervisor Knott could come up the bags with the Town truck and bring them to the Trash Day as he’s done in the past. Supervisor Knott said he would do that.

Lee Jamison also reported that someone has been driving an ATV on the Asbornsen Nature Trails. We need to get the word out about no motorized vehicles in the park.

With no further questions or comments, a motion to adjourn was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote.

The following abstract of vouchers was presented for approval at the *April 2021* meeting:

<b>April 2021</b>				<b>LIGHTS</b>	
<b>CLAIM #</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>A/C#</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>LND/FALLS</b>	<b>HIGHWAY</b>
21-98	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$1841.13)	9060.8	613.71		1,227.42
21-99	Constellation New Energy Inc (\$78.17)	1620.4	0.95		
		5132.4	77.22		
21-100	National Grid	5132.4	122.69		
21-101	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
21-102	National Grid	1620.4	24.03		
21-103	Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	1620.41	203.79		
21-104	Repeat Business Systems (\$44.02)	5132.4	5.45		
		1620.41	38.57		
21-105	Melissa A Naegeli	1410.4	104.75		
21-106	Staples, Inc. (\$118.62)	1410.4	27.31		
		1355.4	52.16		
		3620.4	7.69		
		1620.4	31.46		
21-107	Metz Wood Harder	1910.4	886.70		
21-108	Marlin Business Bank (\$292.51)	1410.4	91.59		
		1620.4	200.92		
21-109	Quadient Finance USA Inc.	1620.41	19.72		
21-110	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc	5132.4	23.98		
21-111	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.64		
21-112	National Grid (\$1636.85)	5182.4		795.04	
				841.81	
21-113	Allegiance Trucks	5130.4			973.77
21-114	Sausbier's Awning	5110.4			116.00
21-115	Meltz Lumber Co.	5130.4			294.00
21-116	Viking Vector	5110.4			150.00
	1-Apr-21		2,618.03	1,636.85	2,761.19
21-117	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	366.85		
21-118	County Waste	5132.4	170.09		
21-119	Culligan	5132.4	28.93		
21-120	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	198.14		

21-121	Valley Energy	5132.4	289.00		
		5110.4			816.39
21-122	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			87.46
21-123	Wex Bank	5110.4			4.00
21-124	Chemung Supply Corp.	5110.4			2,150.00
21-125	Chatham Auto Parts, Inc.	5130.4			163.56
21-126	Allegiance Trucks	5130.4			54.94
21-127	Share Corporation	5130.4			138.81
	4/8/2021		1,053.01		3,415.16
	April Totals		3,671.04	1,636.85	6,176.35