

**Town Board Meeting
July 8, 2021**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 7:00pm. In attendance were Supervisor Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Tom Burrall, Brian Chittenden, and Bill Schneider; Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Melissa Naegeli, Town Clerk was not in attendance and the meeting was recorded.

The meeting was held at the Town Hall, and was a hybrid meeting. Supervisor Knott called the meeting to order opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Supervisor Knott explained that the Governor’s Order in 2020 modifying the Open Meetings Law has expired and the meetings were back to being held in person. We will continue to offer online link access for a while.

###

**PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #2 of 2021
MORATORIUM ON SOLAR ARRAYS**

Deputy Supervisor Kelley Williams read the Public Notice that was published in the Register Star.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF STUYVESANT
PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2021
SOLAR ARRAY MORATORIUM**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. The purpose of the hearing is to take public comment regarding the proposed Local Law #2 of 2021 “Establishing a Solar Array Moratorium”. The Town Hall is located at 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant, NY 12173. The proposed local law is available on the Town website at stuyvesantny.us.

Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC
Town Clerk

Supervisor Knott reviewed the background of the proposed moratorium. He explained that our Zoning Law addresses residential and commercial solar projects however in a joint workshop with the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, the Town Board, and the Building Inspector, there was concern that our Law doesn’t address potential new projects. Building Inspector Peter Bujanow

gave everyone a copy of the NYSERDA wording regarding Solar Arrays and the Zoning Revision Committee reconvened to review the language. There were discussions about the zones where utility-scale projects should be sited, the potential effect on the area and the wildlife. Discussed balance of the value of renewable energy with protecting prime soils while also respecting the landowners rights to obtain the best use of their property. A consideration of limiting development on prime soils was talked about in the previous law but the Committee didn't feel it went far enough. There was a discussion when large amounts of trees are removed, a plan for replacement could be require. The Committee didn't feel they knew enough about battery storage and would opt to not allow battery storage facilities at this time, a developer could come to the Zoning Board of Appeals to ask for a variance. The only residential requirement would be to add a uniform building permit.

Supervisor Knott opened the Hearing to comments and questions from the public.

Lee Jamison asked Supervisor Knott or Tal Rappleyea to discuss the pros and cons of allowing these projects. She said she had gone to presentations in the past where farmers and owners of large areas were cautioned to review any offers very carefully. Supervisor Knott explained that the Town cannot prevent people from entering into a private agreement. We are trying to establish guidelines in our Law for when a potential developer comes to Town with a large project. He explained that the main focus is trying to preserve the prime soils in the Town.

Tal explained that contracts between developers and property owners are private and we can't address those. We are looking at making sure our Local Law is up to date and if something does come to the Town looking to build, we can ensure it's done correctly. Supervisor Knott explained that our interest in the Moratorium now is because there is one proposed project currently before the Board that will have to meet the current Zoning. We want to make sure any future projects are held to the standard of any new, updated Zoning Law. The Moratorium gives us time to get ahead of any projects.

Councilman Schneider emphasized that this Moratorium is on "solar farms" not the individual, single family who wants to put up some solar panels for their personal use.

Peter Bujanow added that discussions have primarily been about protecting prime soils and the agricultural community. In the NYSERDA documents, they address prime soils and the sizes of trees that can be removed. The NYSERDA

guidelines say no more than 50% of prime soil but the Committee is considering making that less in our Local Law. Mr. Bujanow said the lower percentage could be justified because we are an Agricultural Community and it would protect our Comprehensive Plan.

Lee Jamison asked how long the moratorium would be. Supervisor Knott replied that this Local Law would establish a 6 month moratorium. Tal Rappleyea explained that the moratorium could be renewed once or twice. Supervisor Knott said he doesn't want it to go on forever but so we have enough time for the Local Law process. The Local Law will have to go to the County for review as well as the NYS Department of Ag & Markets before it can be adopted.

With no further comments or questions, a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Bill Schneider. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and the was approved by unanimous vote. The Public Hearing was closed.

###

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

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

Old Business

ARPA (American Recovery Plan) Funding – Supervisor Knott reported that the Board reviewed an online presentation from the Association of Towns at their Workshop meeting regarding the ARPA Funding and what it can and can't be used for. We are waiting for further guidance from the Treasury Department. Supervisor Knott did apply for the funding and reported that we have been approved to receive \$190,000 over a two year period.

Emergency Management Plan – Supervisor Knott reported that he had sent to Board members the updated Emergency Management Plan, prepared by Bill Vick. Supervisor Knott also reported that we were able to put this plan in to action with the microburst in the area. Supervisor Knott said all the agencies involved worked well together and the area was cleaned up quickly. Chuck Stiffler explained how well all of responding agencies worked together to get all of the damage cleaned up quickly.

Bill Vick explained that the plan was basically the same with updates to contacts and phone numbers. Tom Burrall suggested we have a way to reach Amtrak in the event of another emergency on or around the tracks. Ron Knott and Bill Vick explained that the Fire Company and 911 Office can reach them and they are always very responsive to requests to shut down the trains. Bill Vick is working on an updated roster with names and phone numbers. A motion to adopt the Emergency Management Plan was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and it was approved by unanimous vote. Supervisor Knott thanked Bill Vick for his work on the document and explained that it is a “living” document and can be updated and edited at any time as needed.

Phone System – Supervisor Knott explained that the new phone system has been installed at the Town Hall and will be installing equipment at the Highway Garage next week.

Reports

Town Clerk – Report is on file

Recreation Committee – Kelley Williams reported that the recreation program is ongoing.

Railroad Station Committee – Supervisor Knott reported that the Committee has meant in a while. The Highway Department has been at the site working on drainage issues. The walkway between the building and the composting toilet is cleared.

Environmental Management Council – No report.

Dog Control – No report.

Kinderhook Memorial Library – Lee Jamison reported the Library is now open and continue to offer curbside pick up. Bill Schneider asked about the Library Resolution for the November Ballots. Lee explained that the paperwork has been filed with the Town Clerk.

Office for the Aging – Richard Moran explained that they haven’t resumed in-person meetings. The luncheons at the Church have started again as has Tai Chi.

Highway Department – Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported:

- Paved over a 1 mile on Eichybush Road (from Route 21 to Hollow Road) and Requa Road
- Waiting on the information on Ferry Road – expected to be August 16th through August 30th. Chuck explained that property owners will have to sign a work easement.
 - Lee Jamison asked about having Clean Up Day to coordinate with RiverSweep on May 7, 2022. Chuck explained that the date depends on the County schedule.

Assessor's Office – Cathy Knott, Assessor's Clerk, reported that the Final Assessment Roll was completed and has been filed in the Town Clerk's Office. If there is anyone that has moved in to Town that is a Veteran or 65 years old or older they should come to the Office for possible exemptions.

Supervisor Knott discussed that we should work on identifying seniors or anyone that may need additional assistance in relation to the Emergency Management Plan.

Planning/Zoning Boards – Zoning Board meeting was cancelled. Planning Board met to discuss application for camp site but the applicant was not in attendance.

Town Historian – Cathy Knott reported that on Saturday, August 14th we will host a Historic Stuyvesant Day picnic "Welcome Back". The picnic will be held at the Stuyvesant Playground. Tom Burrall offered to cook the hamburgers and hot dogs. Cathy asked Chuck Stiffler to bring some picnic tables to the pavilion. The Town Hall will be open to use the restrooms.

The County Historian has started a 501c organization to help fund a lot of projects around the County. That organization needed a Board of Directors and Supervisor Knott nominated Richard Moran. Mr. Moran said he had not been contacted for a meeting yet.

Cemetery – Supervisor Knott reported that there are trees down. Chuck Stiffler said the Highway Department will take care of it.

ZEO/Building Inspector – Peter Bujanow reported that his monthly report had been submitted to everyone electronically. He said we had the same number of permits in July as in June. We continue to get inquiries, continue to perform inspections, and continue to field complaints. To date, the estimated cost improvements added to the Town is almost \$2.2 Million.

Bill Schneider asked Peter if he had been following up on the properties that had fallen into disrepair that he was told about when he started working in the Building Department. Peter explained that those have taken a backseat due to the number of inspections that were pending when he started. He suggested that there be a push for those properties that need to be cleaned up be done closer to October when the Town clean up is held. We do receive a number of complaints about properties that need to be cleaned up. As the construction projects slow down he will work on those properties.

Broadband – Bill Schneider reported that the 6 person committee met last week and are waiting on the survey from the company that was hired by the County. Ron, Bill, and Karen Macadoo met with representatives of the company to ask how the survey is being completed. The representatives explained they are driving around the County to determine where there is no service. They are going to give a report to the County by August 15th. They will not be providing a map. They said they may be able to do a map for the Town at a cost to be determined. Bill asked the Board if he could have permission to ask them for a map. Bill explained he had been told that the company couldn't meet with individual Towns because they wouldn't have time. The company said they would like to come for a special meeting with the Town residents to get their input. A meeting is scheduled for July 22 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall for the purpose of talking to people and answering questions. There is an email address that will be put on the website for people to send them questions or information about their area.

Bill Schneider added that the Committee would also like to meet with our Spectrum representative.

Supervisor Knott asked the Board if they would approve up to \$1000 for the mapping project of the Town. A motion was made by Brian Chittenden to approve the \$1000 request. The motion was seconded by Ron Knott and was approved by unanimous vote. Bill will contact the surveying company for a price.

County Business

Supervisor Knott reported that the bid opening for the County Route 25A road repair job was held today and the bid went to Colarusso and Sons with a completion date in September. Bill Schneider and Tom Burrall expressed disappointment with the time it has taken to get the road reopened.

Last week Supervisor Knott had an opportunity to attend a meeting with Senator Schumer regarding the County's use of the ARPA Funding. They met at Art OMI and everyone had a chance to discuss it.

New Business

Assemblyman Tague has a summer reading program. Supervisor Knott asked Melissa Naegeli to put the information on the Town website and it has been shared with the Kinderhook Memorial Library as well.

A proposal is before the Board from Edmunds GovTech for a new firewall (\$870) as well as a new battery backup (\$300). Bill Schneider made a motion to approve the \$1170 expenditure for the equipment. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott reported that the Zoning Revision Committee met regarding the language for the solar arrays. He asked the Board what they wanted to do about the proposed Local Law #2 of 2021 regarding a Moratorium on Solar Arrays. A motion was made by Bill Schneider to adopt the Local Law for a 6 month Moratorium on Solar Array projects. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. Tal Rappleyea will send the Law to the Secretary of State's Office for filing.

Public Comments

Cathy Knott asked for permission to hold the annual Children's Halloween Party on Saturday, October 23rd, from 1-3pm. She will need volunteers to help decorate the night before, bake treats, run games, monitor the treat tables, and clean up.

With no further business before the Board, Brian Chittenden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

The following is an abstract of vouchers presented to the Board for approval:

	<i>July 2021</i>			LIGHTS	
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	LND/FALLS	HIGHWAY
21-217	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$1841.13)	9060.8	613.71		,227.42
21-218	National Grid (\$1353.60)	5182.4		658.94	
				694.66	
21-219	Constellation New Energy, Inc. (\$57.94)	1620.4	1.12		
		5132.4	56.82		
21-220	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	32.64		
21-221	Marlin Business Bank (\$264.99)	1410.4	87.25		
		1620.41	177.74		
21-222	National Grid	5132.4	93.15		
21-223	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
21-224	National Grid	1620.4	24.25		
21-225	Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	1620.41	203.79		
21-226	Columbia Co. Treasurer (Sheriff's Dept)	1110.4	106.53		
	<i>1-Jul-21</i>		,419.70	1,353.60	,227.42
21-227	Repeat Business Systems	1410.4	02.98		
21-228	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	1355.4	8.92		
21-229	Williamson Law Book Co.	1110.4	2.81		
21-230	NYSTCA c/o Allison Vento	1410.4	5.00		
21-231	Wex Bank	7110.1	04.90		
21-232	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.96		
21-233	Culligan	5132.4	30.09		
21-234	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	20.49		
21-235	County Waste	5132.4	170.09		
21-236	Valley Paving & Construction, Inc.	5112.2			7,470.00
	Valley Paving & Construction, Inc.	5112.2			29,926.00
21-237	Abele Tractor & Equipment, Inc.	5110.4			,675.00
21-238	Roddy Niesen	5110.4			,000.00
21-239	Columbia Tractor, Inc.	5130.4			152.81
21-240	Kimball Midwest	5130.4			25.83
21-241	Share Corporation	5130.4			10.64
21-242	Car Quest of Valatie	5130.4			35.60
21-243	Mario's Home Center, Inc.	5130.4			2.38
21-244	Cargill, Inc.	5142.2			,631.31
	8-Jul-21		678.24	-	158,749.57
21-245	Town of Kinderhook	7310.4	,850.00		
21-246	Time Warner Cable (Town Hall)	1620.4	384.93		

21-247	Time Warner Cable (Highway Dept.)	5132.4	286.36		
21-248	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	267.50		
21-249	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill, CPAs	1320.4	90.00		
21-250	Visa	5110.4			10.67
21-251	Air Gas USA LLC	5130.4			56.50
21-252	Tolls by Mail	5110.4			41.05
21-253	Valley Energy	5110.4			1,099.71
21-254	Lowe's	5110.4			259.08
21-255	New Castle Asphalt	5110.4			34.41
	13-Jul-21		,078.79	-	1,801.42
	<i>July Totals</i>		,176.73	1,353.60	61,778.41