

Town Board Meeting September 9, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7:00pm. In attendance were Supervisor Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, and Bill Schneider; Deputy Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli. Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea attended the remote link. Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler and Councilman Tom Burrall were not in attendance.

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 had extended the remote access mandate through January 2022. In addition to Tal Rappleyea, one member of the public was in attendance remotely. Supervisor Knott added that at the October meeting, we will review the proposed 2022 Budget and will be sharing the screen for remote attendees to follow along.

A motion to accept 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 Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business

ARPA (American Recovery Plan) Funding – Supervisor Knott reported that the guidelines from the Association of Towns was reviewed at the Board Workshop meeting the previous week.

Ferry Road Updates – The work on the crossing is complete. Joe Scrum reported that the Highway Department is scheduled to pave the remainder of the road in October.

Budget Amendment – Supervisor Knott presented a Budget Amendment #1 to the Board. The amendment is to increase lines DA5112.2 and DA3501 in the Highway Fund by \$71,271 respectively from CHiPs funding that was higher than originally budgeted. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Kelley Williams. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was

approved by unanimous vote. The Amendment was signed by all Board Members in attendance and is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Reports

Town Clerk – Report is on file. Melissa Naegeli also presented to the Board an idea for a Community Night and Cruise in to be held on October 2nd at the Town Hall. She reported that she had already secured Schodack Landing Fire Co. for food, as well as Pico De Gallo, and Cosmic Donuts. There are also craft vendors signed up. She requested permission to rent two (2) propane heaters from Mario's Home Center at a cost of \$54/each. There was a discussion if 2 would be enough. Bill Schneider made a motion to approve up to 3 heaters be rented. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Recreation Committee – Kelley Williams reported that there are things that need to be replaced or repaired at the Landing playground – paving and cleaning the tennis courts, the fire companies have not come yet to hose it down.

Railroad Station Committee – Mark Burch reported that there are preliminary plans for a movie night featuring “Up” in September.

Environmental Management Council – Christian Sweningson reported:

- CLC had given a presentation on community solar and that it's a program that is becoming increasingly popular. Webinars and additional information is available at CLCTrust.org;
- Solarize Ancram, Chatham and Kinderhook – Ancram and Chatham have received NYSEDA awards qualifying by exceeding 25 sign-ups, Kinderhook hopes to obtain more signatures;
- Climate Smart Communities subcommittee reported that a listening session will be held this Fall with County Climate Smart Communities to exchange information and collaborate on climate efforts and resources. The session will be held on September 30th from 5:30 – 7:30, location to be determined;
- New Lebanon, Chatham, Austerlitz, Canaan, and the Village of East Nassau Climate Smart Committees will sponsor a repair on October 23rd at the New Lebanon Fire Station 10am – 4pm;
- Zero Waste Columbia – John Bradley is working on benchmarking in Claverack and tracking emissions/costs. He also reported on the revenue generated by re-use centers compared to sending materials to a landfill. Chairman O'Hara reported that the Department of Solid Waste

has hired a Deputy Director. A composting pilot project in the County is being planned and GroMax LLC in Hudson has agreed to start in Copake and Chatham and there will a drop off at their transfer stations. EMC and Zero Waste Committees can help with education;

- Columbia County Health Department is getting ready for booster shots at the end of September, have reported that RNs and volunteers are needed to work at vaccination sites, Flue vaccination sites are being established, and there will be a rabies clinic in Claverack in October and Kinderhook in November.

Dog Control – Supervisor Knott asked Melissa Naegeli to remind Maggie Banker that written reports are needed prior to the monthly meeting.

Kinderhook Memorial Library – Lee Jamison reported that the moderate budget increase request will be on the ballot in November. On Saturday, 9/11 there will be a bird walk at 8am. Friends of the Library will host local authors who will be selling and autographing their books, there will be 3 from Stuyvesant. Committee Conversations about long range plans. There will be follow-up on October 17th 2pm – 4pm at Volunteer Park pavilion on State Farm Road.

Office for the Aging – No report

Highway Department – Deputy Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported:

- Ferry Road crossing has been paved and the remainder of the road will be paved in October;
- They are working on patching roads;
- Trash Day will be October 2nd 8am – 3pm – punch cards will be available beginning on 9/13.

Assessor's Office – Cathy Knott, Assessor's Clerk, reported everyone should check their school tax bills to make sure their Star Exemptions are showing. Renewals for other exemptions will be mailed out in November. Enhanced and Basic Star Exemptions are handled directly through the State now.

Planning/Zoning Boards – No Report

Town Historian – Cathy Knott reported that Juanita Knott is busy working with the County Historian and would like to add our facebook page and website links to the County website. They are also working on an interactive map overlay that shows historic sights in the Towns in the County.

Cemetery – Supervisor Knott reported that the person who had been hired to mow in the cemeteries hasn't been coming so Tony Link has been hired to finish the season.

ZEO/Building Inspector – Peter Bujanow reported that his office has been busy. 11 permits were issued in August making 52 for the year to date. Inspections, re-inspections, and working with contractors regarding NYS Codes. There have been some false starts that have been addressed. He added that there are 2020 Rules regarding inspection of food trucks and will present the information to the Town Clerk regarding the Community Night event.

Broadband – Bill Schneider reported that he received the report from the Audit Company, the link will be online. The Committee met on September 7, 2021. The report shows 46 addresses in Stuyvesant without internet access. The Committee will contact providers to see their plans to provide to those addresses. The County will reach out for County-wide service. The County has asked the Towns to verify the addresses cited in the report. Some places were where people didn't know service was available.

Supervisor Knott added that the County's general consensus was that this report puts the County in a good position to use money and that there were 100 homes identified in the County without access.

County Business

Supervisor Knott reported he has been meeting with contractors, the County Engineer, and Albany Engineering regarding the work to repair and reopen County Route 25A. The work is promised to be completed by the end of October. There have been a lot of legal issues ahead of getting the work started. Bill Schneider said the "Road Closed" signs have been moved and asked if the Highway Department could put them back.

Budget meetings with departments have been held with a team of Supervisors. There are big wish lists.

The Solid Waste Dept. will be going to a bag tag system instead of bags. They have been having problems with vendors getting bags. There will be 3 colored tags: Small \$1 up to 10g; Medium \$3 up to 30g; Large \$5 up to 55g. Melissa Naegeli reported that the Town Clerk's Office still has a supply of bags but when they're gone the tags will be available. Christian Sweningson asked how the tag system will work. Supervisor Knott explained that you will use your own bags and just put the sticker on them. Councilman Schneider asked

where the tags will be available for purchase. Supervisor Knott said anywhere bags are sold now tags will be sold.

Supervisor Knott also reported that a new Deputy Director has been hired at the Solid Waste Department.

Columbia Greene Workforce Board is a federally funded agency to help people connect with places looking to hire.

The Board passed a Resolution to hire a Commissioner of Public Works.

Phase 2 of the Seneca Project – a solar array to be put on the highway garage roof. SmartWatt – Sentrica is using the Columbia County project as a case study for a successful example.

New Business

Supervisor Knott reported he had received a lighting proposal from National Grid. A lighting plan to replace all of the fixture/bulbs in the Town Hall would be \$5400. The Town's share would be \$2700 with 10% due up front.

Supervisor Knott has shared the proposal with local contractors to see if there were better price options.

The Board received a proposed Resolution from the Court to apply for JCap Funding for \$1400 for a scanning project. Councilman Schneider commented that the Board should be given the resolutions, if it's not an emergency, with time to consider prior to the meeting. He added that he understands that sometimes emergencies happen. The remainder of the Board agreed and it was decided to table the proposed resolution to the October meeting to give the members time to consider. It was discussed that future resolutions be given to the Town Board or Town Clerk in advance of the monthly workshop to be discussed.

Supervisor Knott reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Jeff Jensen resigning his position as Chair and member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. He further reported that Maggie Pino, currently the Deputy Chair, has agreed to step into the position of Chair. Steve Montie, currently the alternate members, will move into a full position. Supervisor Knott reported that only one letter of interest was received for the vacancy on the Board. The letter was from Bryan Rohrer and Supervisor Knott made a motion to appoint him to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott asked that the CEDC link be added to the website.

Supervisor Knott reminded everyone that trash day is October 2, 2021.

Board Comments

Bill Schneider said he would like to pursue being a Climate Smart Community. Supervisor Knott said we are doing a lot of the things already to earn “points”. Christian Sweningson asked if the points can be awarded retroactively. Councilman Schneider said he will complete the paperwork. Supervisor Knott commented that a Climate Smart Coordinator had been hired at the County to help Towns.

Public Comments

Robert Gibbs asked if there were monies available for improvements or changes to the Stuyvesant Falls playground. He offered to a needs assessment in the Falls for the playground and asked if the Board would be open to this. Kelley Williams said she thought it was a great idea and Mr. Gibbs said he would get started on it.

Cathy Knott reminded everyone that the Halloween Party is scheduled for Saturday, October 23 1-3pm. She said she will be looking for volunteers to help decorate, run games, bake treats, and clean up after the party.

Supervisor Knott announced that he will review the 2022 Tentative Budget at the October meeting.

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>September 2021</i>			LIGHTS	
<u>CLAIM #</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
21-298	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$2454.84)	9060.8	13.71		,841.13
21-299	Schodack Septic Services, Inc.	7110.4	25.00		
21-300	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	8010.4	8.92		
21-301	Repeat Business Systems (\$86.21)	1410.4	35.42		
		5132.4	5.45		
		1620.41	45.34		
21-302	National Grid	1620.4	23.92		
21-303	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
21-304	National Grid	5132.4	25.02		
21-305	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	70.01		
21-306	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPAs	1320.4	15.00		
21-307	Marlin Business Bank (\$264.99)	1410.4	87.25		
		1620.4	177.74		
21-308	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	141.37		
21-309	Constellation New Energy, Inc. (\$87.28)	1620.4	0.95		
		5132.4	86.33		
21-310	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.94		
21-311	Mario's Home Center	5132.4	81.60		
21-312	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	25.49		
21-313	National Grid (\$1441.52)	5182.4		720.76	
				720.76	
21-314	New Castle Asphalt	5112.4			2,552.92
21-315	Mooradian Hydraulics & Equipment	5130.4			17.50
21-316	United Ag & Turf NE	5130.4			24.56
21-317	Share Corporation	5130.4			27.96
21-318	Dolan's Welding & Repair	5110.4			80.00
21-319	Max S. Wood Equipment, Inc.	5130.4			70.68
21-320	A. Colarusso & Son, Inc.	5110.4			869.71
21-321	CCA of TS	5110.4			84.00
	<i>2-Sep-21</i>		2,084.16	1,441.52	5,768.46
21-322	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPAs	1320.4	15.00		
21-323	Time Warner Cable	5132.4	86.36		
21-324	Time Warner Cable	1620.4	84.93		
21-325	NYS Office of State Comptroller - Justice Fund	A2610	26.00		
21-326	Staples, Inc. (\$388.22)	1410.4	188.48		
		1110.4	3.29		
		1355.4	6.41		
		5132.4	8.99		

		8020.4	4.48		
		3620.4	6.57		
21-327	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	1,187.50		
21-328	Catherine G. Knott	7550.4	137.69		
21-329	Columbia Co. Treasurer (Sheriff's Dept.)	1110.4	117.00		
21-330	Carrie A. O'Hare	1110.4	37.91		
21-331	Edmunds GovTech	1620.41	2,455.00		
21-332	Culligan	5132.4	30.09		
21-333	County Waste	5132.4	170.09		
21-334	Goodyear Tire & Rubber	5110.4			72.26
21-335	Tolls by Mail	5110.4			8.72
	9-Sep-21		5,635.79	-	280.98
	<i>September Totals</i>		7,719.95	1,441.52	6,049.44