

February 8, 2007
Public Hearing

The Stuyvesant Town Board held a Public Hearing for the Veteran's exemption increase. Town Clerk, Melissa Naegeli, read the following notice that was published in the Independent Newspaper and the Hudson Register Star Newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 8, 2007
6:45 PM
STUYVESANT TOWN HALL
STUYVESANT, NEW YORK

Notice is hereby given that the Town Board of Town of Stuyvesant shall hold a public hearing on February 8, 2007 at 6:45pm for the purpose of taking public comment with regard to a Local Law that increases Veterans' Exemptions to Real Property taxes. Complete copies of the proposed local law are available at the Town Clerk's Office. This public hearing will be held at the Stuyvesant Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant, New York.

Supervisor Valerie Bertram called the Public Hearing to order at 6:45 pm. She told everyone in attendance that the current exemption rates were \$12,000 for Wartime Veterans, of which there are 43 in town; \$8,000 for Combat Veterans, there is currently 106; and \$40,000 for Disabled Veterans, there are 5. Some one who served in a combat zone during wartime would get the combined amount. The "disabled" designation comes directly from the Veterans' Administration.

The approved amounts at the County-level are \$24,000; \$16,000 and up to \$80,000.

Supervisor Bertram opened the hearing to questions. Doctor Asbornsen asked if the amount is subtracted from the assessment. Howard Gleason, Sole Assessor, answered that yes, it's subtracted from their assessment amount.

Supervisor Bertram asked if we should go to the same levels as the County. Peter Donohoe asked if the amounts were levied against the Town Tax and if it would be two-tier. Supervisor Bertram answered that it would be handled the same way as Senior Citizen Exemptions.

With no further questions, Supervisor Bertram closed the hearing at 6:50pm.

February 8, 2007
Town Board Meeting

The Stuyvesant Town Board held monthly meeting on February 8, 2007 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall at 7:00pm. In attendance were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Richard Cummings, Councilperson Ronald Knott, Councilperson Bradley Webster, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer and Town Clerk, Melissa Naegeli. Superintendent of Highways Bernard Kowalski was also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Councilperson Richard Cummings, seconded by Councilperson Bradlee Webster, carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter from Diane Gelhorn, Leader of Girl Scout Troop 383, asking to use Town Hall for a sleep over on March 10th. Motion made by Councilperson Ronald Knott to approve, seconded by Councilperson Richard Cummings, carried.
- Letter from David McMillan regarding the use of the Railroad Station (or town hall in the event of no electricity or bad weather) to hold a book sale on behalf of the Friends of the Kinderhook Memorial Library. The sale would be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007. There was no objection.
- Letter from Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand regarding deadlines for applications for Federal grants.
- Letter from Pace University regarding training for Zoning and Planning Board members.
- Letter from NYS DOT regarding the Paving Project for Route 9.
- Letter from NYS Office of Real Property Services with the determination of the Residential Assessment Ratio of 83.67.

Motion made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster to accept correspondence as read, seconded by Councilperson Richard Cummings, carried.

Motion made by Councilperson Ronald Knott to pay bills, seconded by Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, carried.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

In the month of January, the Town Clerk's Office took in \$1606.90 and gave Supervisor Bertram \$1,517.98...

Highway Department

Superintendent Bernard Kowalski reported that the scrap from October was picked up and we earned \$400.

The new mower is in. The Highway Department is painting equipment and cutting back brush along the roads.

Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer

Report is on file with the Town Clerk.

Dog Warden

Supervisor Bertram told everyone that the Dog Control Officer, Charlie Pulver, passed away after a very brief illness. She remarked that he was a special and compassionate person who went beyond expectations to help the animals, and cited his work with the cats from a local farm.

Greenway Committee

Councilperson Ronald Knott reported that the Committee was discussing 5 acre zoning. They are going to bring a resolution to the Town Board regarding support for PDRs. There was also discussion regarding location of wells as it relates to agriculture.

Railroad Committee

Councilperson Ronald Knott reported that Cal Burch and Rich Anderson have built the wall to hold the electrical panel.

Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea is working on the easement agreement for the electrical service.

Lee Jamison reported that there will be an Art Show and Sale at the Railroad Station June 8-10th, it will begin on June 8th at 4pm and will be held in conjunction with the Farmers' Market. The building will be open all day on Saturday and John Morra will be giving an art lesson. The show will be open again on Sunday morning. An invitation was extended to all artists living in Stuyvesant. The Theme of the show is "A River Inspires".

Recreation

Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer reported that a group had walked the new recreation area on Sharptown Road.

A recreation committee meeting was held on January 29th and there were 8 people in attendance. Councilperson Gumaer said she will get the minutes on the webpage.

The summer recreation program was briefly discussed and tabled to collect additional information.

Discussions regarding the recreation area on Sharptown Road were also held. The following items were discussed: The Highway Department can make and pave the access road and parking area for \$10-12,000. There should be a sign locating the park, there will need to boundary markers, a discussion on the hunting issue was tabled. Should there be a second access, can we get grants and what organizations might want to use the fields and would they be willing to help with maintenance costs?

Supervisor Bertram states that we should contact the Crocco family since their property abuts the recreation area.

Grant money should be explored, if only as reimbursement.

Doctor Asbornsen read a letter to the Town Board outlining the agreement with the Highway Department regarding the access road and parking area. The letter is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Cemetery Committee

Ray Hempstead reported that he has 3 quotes for the tree work needed in Firwood Cemetery. The 3 estimates were from Onderdonk's (\$9500); Thomas Butcher (\$6800) and Hudson Valley Tree Service (\$5600). There were slight variations in the estimates and it was discussed that the work has to be done while the frost is in the ground. Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer made a motion to approve the project contingent on the timing and stump grinding for up to a maximum amount of \$6800. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Bradlee Webster and carried.

New Business

Howard Gleason, Sole Assessor, reminded everyone that March 1 is the deadline for all exemption requests. He thanked his assistant, Cathy Knott, for her hard work.

He reported that the current equalization rate is 82%. He would like to have another revaluation in 2008 and said that the last one was in 1992. Mr. Gleason contacted three companies from a State List and asked for quotes for a revaluation. There is a

company from Buffalo that is currently working in Schodack, Mr. Gleason went to see their work and has invited them to come on May 10th to do a presentation. There was a question from the audience as to where the money comes from to pay a company for a revaluation. Supervisor Bertram explained that the money would come from the General Fund. Sole Assessor Gleason reminded everyone that there was money set aside in the Budget in preparation for a revaluation.

Mr. Gleason suggested that the Town Board approve a resolution or law setting a limit on how low the equalization rate can go.

A motion was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster to approve the Veterans' Exemption at the amounts of \$18,000; \$12,000 and \$60,000. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott and carried.

Supervisor Bertram reported that there was a Real Property and Assessment Committee formed at the County-level.

Supervisor Bertram told everyone that there has been one letter of interest for the vacant Deputy Clerk position. She said that if there is anyone else interested they should send a letter to either her or Melissa Naegeli, Town Clerk. Councilperson Bradlee Webster asked if there was a deadline for the letters. Supervisor Bertram set April 1 as the deadline.

Supervisor Bertram also reported that alternate members are needed for the Planning and Zoning Boards.

Supervisor Bertram told everyone that there have been discussions on sending out a survey to Town residents regarding the larger projects going on in Town, i.e., recreation area and railroad station. It has also been discussed that this "survey" could become a 2X/year newsletter letting everyone know what is going on in Town. Although it would cost money to mail, it would get the word out to everyone.

Councilperson Ronald Knott reported that the "Welcome to Stuyvesant" signs are in bad shape, are starting to deteriorate and should be replaced. He will look into the cost and work involved in getting them replaced and report back to the Board.

Old Business

Don Hogan asked for an update on the situation with his neighbor. Supervisor Bertram told him that there is a court date for the complaint and that the Board has no more recourse or authority once it's in the hands of the Court. Mr. Hogan told the Board that a lot of his neighbors are collecting junk and garbage on their properties. Supervisor Bertram said that there is a difference between junk and hazardous waste. A discussion ensued regarding the problem with setting limits on how much is "too much" junk in a person's yard and the difficulties associated with trying to enforce such laws.

Sole Assessor Howard Gleason reminded everyone that his Clerk, Cathy Knott, is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Robert Gibbs, Stuyvesant Falls, spoke about the playground situation in the Falls. The graffiti has not been cleaned up as the Troopers said it would and it appears that there is more. Supervisor Bertram told the audience that when she first heard about this problem she was not pleased that the Town was not notified of the vandalism in the park. She reminded everyone that if there are situations in town similar to this the Board cannot do anything about it if they are not aware of it.

Councilperson Ronald Knott said he went to the park to try to clean it up but none of the cleaners he tried worked. Lee Jamison suggested contacting the manufacturer to ask about cleaners. Supervisor Bertram will contact Trooper Robin Benzinger to get more information on the kids involved and give them a deadline to clean up the vandalism.

Lee Jamison thanked Supervisor Bertram for bringing up the issue of air monitoring to the County although there was no resolution. Supervisor Bertram explained that it had to be discussed in committee first and that it will go before the Board at the next meeting. The air quality monitors are expensive and the NYS DEC determines where they go.

Supervisor Bertram has spoken with the NYS DOT regarding the problems at the intersection of Route 9J and Route 26A. They will look into the site problem at the intersection and will do a traffic study. DOT told Supervisor Bertram that as of April 1 we will be in Region 1 (the same as Albany as opposed to Poughkeepsie).

Public Comments

Doctor Matthew Asbornsen asked if there was good news regarding the PONY Lawsuit. Supervisor Bertram reported that yes there was. The Town won the lawsuit and is permitted to charge engineering and legal fees.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Richard Cummings, seconded by Councilperson Bradlee Webster, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

2007 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

1	Col. County Sheriff	99.93
2	Berkshire Telephone	382.08
3	Dell Service	122.00
4	Bonnie Sutherland	38.40
5	Hudson Valley Newspapers	29.17
6	NYS ORPS	17.00
7	George Knott	195.00
8	Xerox	164.94
9	CCMA	50.00
10	NYSAMCC, Inc.	25.00
11	Business Automation Services	260.00
12	Morris Associates	973.90
13	Staples	\$473.78
14	COARC	22.50
15	Carrie O'Hare	11.55
16	Joseph Bruno	108.05
17	Lexis Nexis	78.80
18	Mario's Home Center, Inc.	229.73
19	Culligan	33.50
20	Partners in Safety	197.50
21	Sausbier's Awning Shop, Inc.	179.00
22	Chemung Supply Corp.	420.00
23	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	11.07
24	Northern Safety	158.88
25	Unifirst Corp.	213.35
26	Bernard Kowalski	39.00
27	Columbia Tractor Inc.	30.12
28	Carquest of Valatie	115.23
29	Kingston Oil Supply Corp.	528.33
30	Nextel Partners	50.85

Recorded this 8th day of February 2007

Approved this 8th day of March 2007

TOWN CLERK

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON