

FEBRUARY 14, 2008
PUBLIC HEARING

The Stuyvesant Town Board held a Public Hearing on February 14, 2008 at the Town Hall in the for the purpose of taking public comment and voting on the enactment of three local laws. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilman Ronald Knott, Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilman Bradlee Webster, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Bertram called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00pm. The meeting began with the Clerk reading the public notice that was published as follows:

TOWN OF STUYVESANT
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW ENACTING
INCREASED LEVELS OF EXEMPTIONS FOR REAL PROPERTY TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant shall hold a public hearing on February 14, 2008 at 7:00pm in the evening at the Town Hall, 5 Sunset Dr., Stuyvesant, NY 12173, concerning the enactment of three local laws relating to the levels of exemption of payment of real property taxes for

- 1) senior citizens,
- 2) low income disabled citizens and
- 3) veterans

Copies of each proposed local law are available in the Town Clerk's Office

By order of the Town Clerk,
Melissa Naegeli
February 4, 2008

Supervisor Bertram described each local law and read the salary levels for each. Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea told everyone that for Local Law #1 – regarding the increase of exemption for low income citizens is an increase of approximately \$1000 at each level. Dr. Matthew Asbornsen asked if the size of the family mattered. Supervisor Bertram explained that this isn't just for low income citizens but low income and disabled citizens. Currently there are 2 households in the Town that qualify.

Local Law #2 is increasing the exemptions for Senior Citizens. Mr. Rappleyea again explained that this increase represents an increase of \$1000 per level. There was a question about what the exemption was put against – appraised or assessed value. It was explained that it went against the assessed value of the property. Currently there are 45 households that qualify.

Local Law #3 is to increase the exemptions for Veterans'. There are three classifications for Veterans – those are combat veterans, wartime veterans and disabled veterans. Currently there are 107 total veterans in Town receiving these exemptions.

Copies of these Local Laws are available in the Town Clerk's Office with the salary scales in them.

This law will change the amount up to \$4.9 million available for exemptions. For a typical wartime veteran, this exemption will result in \$.01/\$1000 increase for the rest of the residents' tax bills to absorb the additional exemptions to the veterans.

Supervisor Bertram explained that last year we had \$30 million in exemption value when you add all of them (vets, seniors, low income, agriculture, etc.). Councilman Ronald Knott added that in the Town there is \$196 Million in total assessed value of which \$30 million is exempt so we have approximately \$165 million taxable.

With no further questions or comments, Supervisor Bertram closed the public hearing at 7:10pm.

FEBRUARY 14, 2008 TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Stuyvesant Town Board held their monthly meeting on February 14, 2008 at the Town Hall at 7:00pm. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilman Ronald Knott, Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilman Bradlee Webster, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski was not in attendance.

Supervisor Bertram called the Town Board Meeting to order at 7:10pm following the Pubic Hearing. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Bertram asked for a motion to approve the previous month's minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott, seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and voted on unanimously. The minutes were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Bertram read the communications:

- ✧ Letter from David McMillan of the Friends of the Kinderhook Library requesting use of the railroad station for a book sale and presentation on Saturday, April 26, 2008. They also asked to be able to use tables and chairs from the Town Hall. 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the railroad restoration fund. A motion to approve the request was made by Councilman Ronald Knott, seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was passed unanimously.
- ✧ A letter from the Columbia County Fire Coordinator commending the Stuyvesant Fire Company for their response and actions at the fire at 29 Scism Road.
- ✧ A letter from the Columbia County Youth Bureau asking for any interest in serving on the County Youth Advisory Board. Councilman Edward Scott volunteered for this position.
- ✧ A letter from Grace Balint, Secretary for the Stuyvesant Falls Fire District notifying the Town that they should only consider information official if it comes directly from Chris Bortugno, Chairman of the Commissioners for the Stuyvesant Falls Fire District.
- ✧ A quote and contract from Albany Running Exchange Productions regarding the Ken Hummel 5K Run for August 9, 2008.
- ✧ Letter from CSX in response to Supervisor Bertram's letter asking about the Schoolhouse Road and Ridge Road bridges. A copy of the letter is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

A discussion was held briefly following this letter about looking into the potential of receiving grants to pay for the repairs to the Schoolhouse Road bridge. Congresswoman Gillibrand said that there are federal grants out there that could be used to pay for the repairs. The Town would most likely have to make a 5-10% match and we could approach CSX for that money. Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea said that there are other grants out there that we could perhaps apply for to pay the match amount.

Supervisor Bertram said that the Town should continue to try to have CSX held accountable for their bridge.

- ✧ A paper was read by a young resident, Jack, of Stuyvesant Falls. He wrote about the beauty of the town and the Falls.

A motion to approve the bills was made by Councilman Edward Scott and seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster. The motion was carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

Report is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski was not in attendance. Supervisor Bertram thanked the highway department on the good job they've been doing with the snowplowing.

Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer

Supervisor Bertram read the report as filed by the Building Dept. The report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Control Officer

Supervisor Bertram read the report as filed by the Dog Control Officer. The report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Planning Board & Zoning Board

Reports are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Greenway Committee

Kristina Kwacz, Secretary of the Greenway Committee, gave a report of the previous meeting. Representatives from the Recreation Committee had made a presentation to the Greenway committee regarding the Sharptown Road site. The Greenway Committee realized that the 1996 Comprehensive Plan didn't have any recreation planning included. A motion was made and passed at the meeting to hold a public information meeting to assess the recreational needs of the Town. Therefore, the Greenway Committee is requesting the Town Board approve a public meeting be held.

Agriculture Committee

There was no committee report. A suggestion had been made at the previous Board Workshop meeting to put the last report on the webpage. A representative of the Ag. Committee in attendance agreed.

Town Hall Committee

Councilman Edward Scott reported that he has been busy shoveling. He is also getting estimates for paint for the interior of the Town Hall. He has volunteered his time to do the painting.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

A report was given by Marilyn Burch. There will be a book sale at the station on April 26, Farmers' Market will begin on May 9, and there will be a movie night at the station "Strangers on a Train" but no date has been set yet.

The committee has been formulating other ideas for fundraisers to be held at the station. They include another art show, a chicken show, a post card exhibit, and a bake sale to coincide with the sale of the cookbooks that are being published for the railroad station.

Lissane Jensen is writing an article for the Hudson River Sampler regarding the restoration of the railroad station.

The contract for Mesick/Cohen Architects for work at the railroad station in the amount of \$17,080 has been received. Councilman Ronald Knott made a motion to give Supervisor Bertram the authority to sign the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was carried unanimously and the contract was signed by Supervisor Bertram.

The next meeting will be held on February 16th at 9:00am at the Town Hall.

Cemetery Committee

Spring clean-up will begin in a couple of months.

Town Historian

Mrs. Juanita Knott reported that beginning next month notecards will be on sale with designs by Roy Shannon as a fundraiser for the 2009 Celebration.

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer asked if there had been any information about County funding assistance for the 2009 Celebration plans. Mrs. Knott reported that while we haven't heard anything about County funding, the State will make funds available via grants.

Assessor

Assessor's Clerk Cathy Knott reminded everyone that exemption forms are due by March 1st. She told everyone that she will be calling those who haven't yet submitted their forms to remind them of the deadline. She will also have evening hours on Mondays for people to come in.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that the Stuyvesant Falls Fire Company has added water to the skating rink at the playground. A skating party has been planned for the upcoming Sunday at 2:00pm.

The Committee has prepared development estimates for the Sharptown Road property and those were handed to the Board members. After a brief review of the document, there was a discussion about the items on the estimate sheet (estimate paperwork is available in the Town Clerk's Office).

The question of a public information meeting in March was re-raised. The Town Board approved the scheduling of a meeting on March 8th at 10:00 am at the Town Hall. Supervisor Bertram asked the Recreation Committee to be prepared with numbers for all aspects of the proposal for that meeting.

Kristina Kwacz thanked the Board for scheduling the meeting and suggested the Greenway Committee be the facilitators of the meeting to keep it on task of the overall recreation needs of the town and not just about the Sharptown Road site. Councilman Ronald Knott reiterated that we need to get back to "what are our needs?".

Old Business

Supervisor Bertram asked if there were any reply ideas for the letter from CSX. Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea suggested that we respond with another letter urging them to take responsibility while getting on the DOT list so we can get in line for any available money.

Councilman Knott reported that he had attended a DOT Seminar for grants.

New Business

Councilman Ronald Knott made a motion to pass the three Local Laws discussed at the Public Hearing as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster and after a vote the motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- ✧ Stuyvesant Fire Company Chief Steve Montie stressed the importance of smoke detectors and let everyone know that the fire companies have them for free.
- ✧ Ned DePew asked about any movement on the County's behalf on air monitoring. Supervisor Bertram reported that the County Board of Supervisors has charged the Environmental Management Council to research it. He also asked if there had been any decisions made by the Board to act on his request of resolution against LaFarge. Supervisor Bertram replied that there was no change from the previous meeting. Mr. DePew will begin to pass out petitions to compel the Town to do something.
- ✧ Lee Jamison asked if a town could have their own Environmental Management Committee. Supervisor Bertram said that a town could. Ms. Jamison asked if one could be established and Supervisor Bertram said she would speak with Mark Burch, our County representative, about it.
- ✧ Mike Naegeli asked if Sean Cummings was going to investigate the question about the different appraisals on the Sharptown Road property. Mr. Cummings said he would.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster and seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was voted on and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

FEBRUARY 2008 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

6	National Grid	2381.44	29	The Independent	82.83
7	Fairpoint Communications	289.99	30	Schodack Septic Services	216.00
8	Col Co Treasurer	4882.30	31	NexTel Partners	46.41
9	Ronald Knott	150.00	32	Col Co Assoc of Superintendents	50.00
10	NYS Magistrates Assoc	135.00	33	NYSAOTSOH	150.00
11	Col Co Magistrates Assoc	20.00	34	Rainbow Distributors	7.56
12	Col Co Sheriff's Office	56.70	35	Culligan	27.00
13	Carrie O'Hare	20.00	36	Main Care Energy	3326.83
14	Staples Business Advantage	172.75	37	Partners in Safety	158.00
15	Howard Gleason, Jr.	120.00	38	Farrell Oil, Inc.	544.05
16	Catherine G Knott	124.13	39	Colarusso Quarry Co	586.91
17	Melissa Naegeli	75.00	40	ATR Trucking	2355.80
18	US Post Office	82.00	41	Stuyvesant Fire Co (2007)	103.69
19	NYSTCA	120.00	42	NAPA Auto Parts (2007)	19.98
20	The Saratoga Hotel	639.00	43	Tractor Supply (partial 2007)	191.94
21	Xerox	124.92	44	Mario's Home Center	347.27
22	Tal Rappleyea	2750.00	45	Matt's Auto Specialties	21.00
23	Kosco	1170.45	46	Mooradian Equipment	13.50
24	Empire Alarms	21.95	47	Bernard Kowalski	68.71
25	Gerald Ennis	648.00	48	CarQuest of Valatie	522.07
26	Stuy-Stockport Sr. Citizens	2500.00	49	Unifirst Corp	74.56
27	Johnny's Ideal Printing	195.50	50	Ben Funk, Inc.	839.87
28	Johnson Newspaper Corp	54.30	51	Columbia Tractor	100.01

Recorded this 14th Day of February 2008

Approved this 13th Day of March 2008

TOWN CLERK

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON