

OCTOBER 9, 2008
TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Stuyvesant Town Board held their monthly meeting on October 9, 2008 at the Town Hall at 7:00pm. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilman Ronald Knott, Councilman Edward Scott, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea. Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and Councilman Bradlee Webster were not in attendance.

Supervisor Bertram called the Town Board Meeting to order at 7:05 pm and 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

- ✧ A letter from Habitat for Humanity with an update on their current projects, a request for sites in Town and an invitation to an open house on October 26th.
- ✧ A letter from David McMillan regarding the CSX Bridge on Schoolhouse Road.
- ✧ A letter from Timothy Sullivan regarding the CSX Bridge on Schoolhouse Road.
- ✧

All correspondence is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion to approve the communications as read was made by Councilman Ronald Knott, seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the bills; it was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and passed unanimously.

A Budget Transfer was voted on and approved unanimously. The transfer is for \$8300 in General Fund and \$60,000 in the Highway Fund.

REPORTS

Town Clerk

Melissa Naegeli, Town Clerk read her report and it's on file in her office.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski reported that the Highway Department has their supply of winter sand and are waiting for the salt. They are still one employee short due to injury, until the end of October. Mr. Kowalski also reminded everyone that the trash day was to be held on the upcoming Saturday and asked that nothing be dropped off before someone from the Highway Dept. was there.

Superintendent Kowalski also reported that he and the Stockport Highway Dept. helped Dog Control Officer Erin Carroll catch a potbelly pig that had been reportedly running around Stuyvesant Falls.

Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector

Supervisor Bertram read the revenues portion of the report. The complete report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Control Officer

There was no report.

Planning & Zoning Boards

Although there was no formal report from either Board, Councilman Ronald Knott said that there is a Public Hearing coming up for Ed Boll to open a shooting preserve. The Hearing will be held on Monday, October 27th.

Greenway Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that the Greenway Committee will hold a Public Information Meeting on October 11th at 10:00am to Noon to discuss our waterfront and our natural and cultural resources.

Next regular meeting will be on Thursday, October 16, 2008 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. The committee will be choosing a date for another Public Information meeting to be held before the end of the year.

Supervisor Bertram asked if there was an agenda for the meeting to be held on the upcoming Saturday. Councilman Knott said the discussions will focus on the waterfront, our natural and cultural resources as well as historic resources in the Town. There will also be a survey for residents to complete at the meeting.

Agricultural Committee

No report.

Town Hall Committee

No report.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that the final Farmers' Market was held on Sept. 26 and he thanked Marilyn Burch for all of her hard work over the summer. She has raised a lot of money for the station through baking, the farmers' market and other avenues of fundraising. Mrs. Burch was not in attendance at the meeting so Councilman Knott said the round of applause will have to wait until November's meeting.

The Railroad Station Restoration Committee is considering a variety of options for Halloween Night at the Station, i.e., movie in the early evening for the kids and something later for adults. They are also discussing plans for a traditional Holiday Party at the station.

Councilman Knott said that talks with the architects are ongoing to get all of the necessary updated information to DOT for completion of the grant process.

Lee Jamison added that Marilyn Burch had baked and sold pies at a recent chili cook-off in Hudson – raising approximately \$400. She also report that Mrs. Burch has turned in over \$1000 in fundraising to the Town.

Cemetery Committee

No report.

Assessor's Office

In absence of Howard Gleason and Cathy Knott, Supervisor Bertram reported that the GAR Reassessment Workshop meeting was held on October 4th and was well attended.

Recreation Committee

In the absence of Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer, the report was given by Lee Jamison. Ms. Jamison reported that the last meeting was held on October 4th and they worked on sending out the feedback letters to the parents of the children who attended the Town of Kinderhook Playground Program this past summer. She also reported that there will be a trail clean up at the Ken Hummel Memorial Park on Saturday, October 18th from 10:00am – Noon. Tools will be donated by the Columbia Land Conservancy.

Councilman Edward Scott reported that the sign was complete and was in the back of the room on display. He will work with Highway Superintendent Bernard Kowalski to get the sign up.

In the absence of Cathy Knott, Melissa Naegeli reminded everyone that the Children's Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, October 25th from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the Town Hall. There will be games, crafts and treats. Bakers and helpers are welcome.

Town Historian

Supervisor Bertram reported on the Quadricentennial Committee in the absence of Historian Juanita Knott. She reported that the committee met briefly on October 4th to finalize the picture choices for the upcoming Historic Stuyvesant calendar. The pictures will be of both hamlets and are being scanned in to complete the project. Supervisor Bertram reported that the calendars will be of a good, collectible quality and should be available for sale in November.

Supervisor Bertram also reported that she had been contacted by Town of Stockport Supervisor Pulcher who is interested in joining together to celebrate the Quadricentennial. Supervisor Bertram said that we've also been contacted by Kinderhook and that it's all a matter of getting everyone together. She said that both fire companies will be involved as well.

Councilman Knott reported that he had attended a meeting at the Castleton Boat club recently regarding the Quadricentennial Plans for the Hudson River. He said that while our Town is focusing our efforts on the weekend of September 19, 2009, the boat clubs will begin their celebrations on June 5th and 6th. They are planning a "boat parade" starting in New York City and working their way up the river. Their committee is trying to get all of the boat clubs along the river involved. Mr. Knott said they all sounded enthusiastic about the plans.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Bertram reported that she has not yet received any replies from the letters she sent to the State and Federal elected officials asking for their assistance on the CSX Bridge issue. She has also contacted the Attorney General's Office by telephone but has yet to receive an answer.

Attorney for the Town, Tal Rappleyea reported that he had researched the question posed at the last meeting by Mr. Donohoe regarding increasing the assessment of the CSX properties. Mr. Rappleyea said that while it was an interesting idea, it probably wouldn't work for a couple of reasons – those being 1) the State sets the rates for public utilities and 2) by removing the improvement on their property (the bridge) it would probably lower their assessment which could be damaging in the long run.

Mr. Rappleyea went on to report that he had also researched the idea of a class action lawsuit against CSX. He said that a lawsuit could be brought at either the State or Federal level and that either was a complicated process. It was his opinion that if this was the decided way to go that it be filed in a Federal Court – to open up the number of co-plaintiffs from other states.

Supervisor Bertram asked Mr. Rappleyea if he could contact other towns with CSX bridges to assess how many of them might be interested in pursuing the option of a lawsuit. She also asked him to research what the associated costs would be.

Councilman Knott said that he had thought of an option of removing the bridge and petitioning DOT to put in an at-grade crossing on Schoolhouse Road. He said that we have to start exploring other possibilities if there isn't going to be money available to replace the bridge.

Councilman Knott reported that he had recently attended a meeting with Donald Spencer, DEC (Region 4 Air Pollution Engineer), Brian Lay, DEC (Chief of Monitoring Operations), and Town of Kinderhook Supervisor Doug McGivney. After showing them the location and demonstrating the Town's relationship to LaFarge by showing them an aerial photograph that shows the Town Hall and the LaFarge Plant, everyone was impressed with the location. Councilman Knott reported that the Stuyvesant Town Hall parking lot will be the site for the Air Quality Monitoring equipment for 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Bertram said that the Tentative 2009 Budget has been filed with the Town Clerk. Another workshop has been scheduled for November 8th at 8:00am. She reported that in the Tentative Budget there is no increase in the General Fund, there was a 10.87% increase in the Highway Department due to increased costs for supplies and materials. We have until November 20th to formally adopt the budget for 2009.

A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, November 17th at 6:30 for the 2009 Budget.

A Public Hearing will be held for a proposed Local Law for Wind Energy on November 13th at 6:30pm – prior to the regular Board Meeting. Councilman Knott asked if Melissa Naegeli could have the proposed law posted on the website.

Councilman Knott said that there are still open seats on the Planning and Zoning Boards, as well as openings for alternates. Councilman Knott said that we should look at changing how the alternates are used. Currently they are only used in the event of a conflict of interest. Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea said that we could enact a Local Law to override the State statute to use the alternates in cases of member absence.

Councilman Knott also said that all of the Town Committees are always accepting new members. If anyone is interested they should speak with Supervisor Bertram.

Supervisor Bertram asked the Board to consider options to alleviate the costs associated with taking dogs to the Humane Society. This year there has been 7 dogs taken to the shelter and we are billed \$305 per dog. Oftentime the owner cannot be located or refuses to take the dog or paying the fees. We should look into cost savings measures or reimbursement options. There was a question about using a shelter other than Columbia-Greene Humane Society. Supervisor Bertram said that we could look into other options.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Recorded this 9th Day of October 2008
 Approved this 13th Day of November 2008

TOWN CLERK	SUPERVISOR
COUNCILPERSON	COUNCILPERSON
COUNCILPERSON	COUNCILPERSON

OCTOBER 2008 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

314	National Grid	\$1817.46		333	Col. Co. Solid Waste	\$21.21
315	Fairpoint Communications	230.09		334	Andrew Broockmann	1400.00
316	Empire Alarms	21.95		335	NexTel Partners	46.84
317	Mark Kelly	119.50		336	Mario’s Home Center	330.09
318	Col Co Treasurer	4882.30		337	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	16.50
319	Col Co Sheriff’s Office	185.85		338	Culligan	29.25
320	Colleen Bruno	25.00		339	Colarusso Quarry Co	9134.17
321	GAR Associates	20,000.00		340	Colarusso Blacktop Co	7688.92
322	John G Unson	50.00		341	Main Care Energy	2216.77
323	Melissa Naegeli	66.00		342	ATR Trucking	3004.22
324	Xerox Corp	189.47		343	Col Co Highway	696.24
325	Johnson Newspaper	11.89		344	Columbia Tractor, Inc	37.17
326	The Independent	34.24		345	CarQuest of Valatie	209.09
327	Tal G Rappleyea, Esq.	3125.00		346	Ben Funk, Inc	715.91
328	Marilyn Burch	461.42		347	Bernard Kowalski	179.71
329	John Bosquet-Morra	100.00		348	Unifirst Corp	75.12
330	Matthew Signs	456.00		349	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc	173.53
331	Oriental Trading Co	72.07		350	Tommie Sauca, Sr.	240.00
332	NY Planning Federation	375.00		351	Northern Safety	274.58