

**NOVEMBER 13, 2008
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Stuyvesant Town Board held a Public Hearing regarding Real Property Exemptions for Cold War Veterans on Thursday, November 13, 2008. In attendance were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer, Councilman Ronald Knott, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilman Bradlee Webster, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli.

Supervisor Bertram opened the Public Hearing at 6:30pm by asking the Town Clerk to read the Public Notice published in the newspaper. Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli read the following public notice:

***PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
November 13, 2008
6:30 PM
STUYVESANT, NEW YORK***

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of Town of Stuyvesant shall hold a Public Hearing on November 13, 2008 at 6:30pm for the purpose of taking public comment with regard to a Local Law providing for an exemption from real property taxes for real property owned by Veterans who rendered military service to the United States during the "Cold War". 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 Bertram read the proposed law and explained that it allowed for a 15% reduction in the assessed value of a property up to \$12,000.00 for veterans who served on active duty from the end of World War II to December 26, 1991 following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The rate would increase for those who were disabled during service. Unremarried widows of those who served would also be eligible to apply. Supervisor Bertram asked if there were any questions or comments. Councilman Knott asked if this was an additional exemption for Veterans. Supervisor Bertram explained that this exemption was for Veterans' that were not eligible previously.

After no additional comments or questions Supervisor Bertram closed the public hearing at 6:40pm.

**NOVEMBER 13, 2008
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Stuyvesant Town Board held a Public Hearing regarding a proposed law regarding Wind Energy Facilities on Thursday, November 13, 2008. In attendance were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer, Councilman Ronald Knott, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilman Bradlee Webster, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli.

Supervisor Bertram opened the Public Hearing at 6:45pm by asking the Town Clerk to read the Public Notice published in the newspaper. Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli read the following public notice:

***PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
November 13, 2008
6:45 PM
STUYVESANT, NEW YORK***

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of Town of Stuyvesant shall hold a Public Hearing on November 13, 2008 at 6:45pm for the purpose of taking public comment with regard to a Local Law providing for a regulatory scheme for the construction and operation of Wind Energy Facilities in the Town to Stuyvesant. 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 Bertram asked Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea to explain the proposed law. Mr. Rappleyea explained that the new law will define how to review Wind Energy Facility projects and allows for them to be reviewed by the Planning Board for site plan review. Supervisor Bertram read the description from the proposed law and opened the hearing for comments or questions.

Ms. Lee Jamison asked if the law applied to wind farms or windmills. Tal Rappleyea explained that the law will apply to both but that our current Zoning Ordinances limit heights of structures to 35'. Putting

these requests in front of the Planning Board for site plan review will require the project to go through the SEQRA process. Ms. Jamison asked if a wind farm could be in an Agricultural District and Mr. Rappleyea answered yes.

Mr. Frank Palladino gave the opinion that a 35' height limitation would cut off the idea of wind power. Mr. Rappleyea explained that the 35' height limit in the current Zoning Law is because of firefighting limitations in the Town. He went on to explain that an area variance could be applied for. Mr. Palladino asked who would inspect the structure and Mr. Rappleyea said it would be covered by the Building Dept.

After no further questions or comments Supervisor Bertram closed the Hearing at 6:55pm.

NOVEMBER 13, 2008 PUBLIC HEARING

The Stuyvesant Town Board held a Public Hearing regarding the 2009 Preliminary Budget on Thursday, November 13, 2008. In attendance were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer, Councilman Ronald Knott, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilman Bradlee Webster, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli and Highway Superintendant Bernie Kowalski.

Supervisor Bertram opened the Public Hearing at 7:00pm by asking the Town Clerk to read the Public Notice published in the newspaper. Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli read the following public notice:

*Public Notice
Town of Stuyvesant
Notice of Hearing on
2009 Preliminary Budget*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the preliminary budget for the Town of Stuyvesant for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2009 has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk, Melissa A. Naegeli, where it is available for inspection by any interested person at all reasonable hours.

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant will meet and review said preliminary budget and hold a public hearing at the Stuyvesant Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant New York, at 7:00pm on Thursday, November 13, 2008, and that at such hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget as compiled, or for or against any item or items therein contained.

PURSUANT to Town Law, the proposed salaries for hereby specified positions are as follows: Supervisor, \$7,173.00 – Town Board (4) @ \$2,857.00 ea. - Town Clerk/Tax Collector, \$22,067.00 - Town Justice (2) @ \$7,995.00 ea. - Highway Superintendent \$49,169.00 - Assessor \$16,524.00.

Supervisor Bertram began with explaining that the Board held 2 or 3 budget workshops and worked very hard to keep the budget reasonable. The tax rate will go from \$1.67 to \$1.79/\$1,000 if this budget is adopted. There was a 6% increase in the Highway Department and a 0% change in the General Fund. She went on to explain that they were at 10.78% and made some hard decisions to get it to 6% and she thanked the Board for hard work.

Supervisor Bertram asked if there were any specific questions from the public. A transcription of the minutes of the Public Hearing are available in the Town Clerk's Office.

NOVEMBER 13, 2008 TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Stuyvesant Town Board held their monthly meeting on November 13, 2008 at the Town Hall. 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, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Bertram called the Town Board Meeting to order at 7:45 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 Bradlee Webster and voted on unanimously. The minutes were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

- ✧ Email from the Kinderhook Watershed Training Workshop members inviting the Town Board to the training session being held on Friday, December 5th. Information will be available in the Town Clerk's Office.
- ✧ Columbia County Office for the Aging regarding HEAP Outreach for Seniors. Supervisor Bertram called them and is going to a list of people receiving Sr. Exemptions to let them know about this program. Information will also be posted on the website.
- ✧ Letter from National Grid regarding holiday decorations on poles.
- ✧ A copy of an article in the Oct. 26th Times Union – “Fly Ash Culprit at LaFarge”
- ✧ A letter and interim report from LaFarge. Report will be available in the Town Clerk's Office.
- ✧ A letter of interest from Amy Abatti regarding the openings on the Planning and Zoning Boards.

Supervisor Bertram said she had also been contacted by Paul Harpis regarding those openings as well. Supervisor Bertram asked for a couple members of the Board to meet with all of the applicants. Councilmembers Knott and Gumaer volunteered to be the “interview committee” and they will contact everyone who has submitted a letter of interest.

- ✧ A letter from Martin Roby regarding the Reassessment project and his FOIL request.

A motion was made by Councilman Webster to accept the communications as read; the motion was seconded by Councilman Scott and approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to approve the bills. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Gumaer and was approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Bob Holmes addressed the Board on behalf of Fairpoint Communications. Supervisor Bertram explained to everyone that the original contract that had been in place with Berkshire Cable had been misplaced and the PSC would not accept a duplicate. The process had to be started over again to “reaffirm the existing contract between the Town of Stuyvesant and Berkshire Cable”.

Members of the audience had coverage questions for Mr. Holmes. Supervisor Bertram asked if Fairpoint could do a survey similar to one that Time Warner completed earlier in the year when negotiating their contract. Mr. Homes said that a survey could be done. Councilman Bradlee Webster asked if a fee could be charged to the resident if they really wanted cable. Mr. Holmes explained that while that could probably happen it would be unrealistic as the price would be incredibly high.

A Public Hearing was scheduled for January 8, 2009 at 6:45pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Bertram asked to move to the Old Business before the reports so votes could be taken while Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea was in attendance because he had to leave.

A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to pass the Cold War Veterans Exemption Local Law. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and voted in favor of unanimously. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer to pass the Wind Energy Facilities Local Law. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and voted in favor of unanimously. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to adopt the 2009 Preliminary Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster and the motion was voted in favor of unanimously. The motion was carried and the 2009 Budget was adopted.

Supervisor Bertram provided copies of the Hazardous Mitigation Resolution to the members of the Board. She reminded everyone that several months prior the Board agreed to do a similar resolution to agree to accept the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The State requires that Town that doesn't participate in this plan cannot be reimbursed for flooding, blizzards, etc.. The idea behind the plan is to correct or mitigate problems. For instance, if there is a road that floods every year the Town would be able to get the funds from the State or the Federal Government to make the necessary repairs. This resolution states that we are authorizing the submission of the Plan for final consideration and approval. It also states that we accept and will participate in the Plan. A motion to accept the Resolution was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster and seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

After this vote Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea had to leave.

Supervisor Bertram reminded everyone that at a previous meeting there was a discussion about the Columbia-Greene Humane Society contract coming due at the end of the year. Councilman Knott reported that he had been in contact with the Shelter in Menands (*Mohawk-Hudson*). They will be getting back to him with information about a contract. Councilman Gumaer asked if we were going to switch. Councilman Knott said when we get the information it would certainly be something to look at because they offer the same services but he was unsure about the costs. He will have the information for the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Bertram reported that Warren Leiser's term was up on the Board of Assessment and Review. After speaking with Mr. Leiser he is willing to be reappointed. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to reappoint Warren Leiser to the Board of Assessment and Review. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Bertram said that the Senior and Disabled Citizen's Exemptions need to be looked at. The proposal is to raise the income levels by \$1000 – maximum income levels of \$28,000 with a sliding scale up to \$36,400. A Public Hearing will be held on December 8, 2008 at 6:45pm.

REPORTS

Town Clerk

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

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent reported that the snow fences are up and the plows are on the trucks. He also reported that he is going to attend an auction to find a wing for the truck.

Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector

Gerry Ennis, Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer gave his report which is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Ennis also reported that a lot of towns and counties are placing moratoriums on the outdoor wood boilers that are cropping up. The issue is the amount of smoke in the air. The State is also looking at some regulations for them because of emissions and other concerns. Mr. Ennis said he will get more information for the Board.

Dog Control Officer

There was no report.

Planning & Zoning Boards

Planning & Zoning Secretary Shirley Narzynski reported that the Hearing held on the Ed Boll proposed Pheasant Hunting project was referred to the ZBA. There will be a Planning Board meeting on Nov. 24th where a conservation easement will be reviewed. The ZBA will meet on Nov. 25th.

Councilman Knott reported that Pat Casey, Charlene Leach and Tom Shanahan had attended a full training in Saratoga. Gale Bury and Harold Leiser attended a summer school training over the summer. He wanted to express the thanks of the Board to those people who have been keeping up on their training requirements.

Greenway Committee

Councilman Knott reported that there will be another Public Information Meeting on November 20th and the topic will be agriculture.

Agricultural Committee

No report.

Town Hall Committee

Councilman Knott reported that the rope on the flag pole broke and the flag came down. It has been repaired with the help of the Highway Department and the telephone company.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

Councilman Knott reported that there will be a Christmas Bazaar at the Station. He also reported that he expects to hear from DOT any day regarding the status of the grant application.

Cemetery Committee

Councilman Bradlee Webster reported that Andy Broockmann will finish the last of the leaf clean up. He also reported that there had been a wash-out and it was repaired by the Highway Department.

Assessor's Office

Cathy Knott, the Assessor's Clerk, reported that the Exemption forms are being mailed out and will be completed by the following week.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that there was a trail day on October 18th. She also reported that at the meeting held on November 1st they discussed on some proposed events for next year, including a full moon walk at the park in January with snow shoes or cross-country skis and a snowman building contest at the Town Hall on February 14th from 1:00-3:00.

Councilwoman Gumaer reported that there has been no word yet on the grant application. She said they will be redoing the ice rink for the small playground but that there will be nothing planned at the large park this year because of budgetary concerns. They are hoping to be able to repair the roof at the Landing playground pavilion. The signs are up at the Ken Hummel Park – the name sign and the sign with the rules for hunting. A “park closed” will be up during deer-rifle season.

Councilman Scott reported that he has been in contact with the EnCon Officer regarding the park being open for hunting. He said that boundary signs will need to be put up next year if hunting will be allowed again.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 6th at 9:00am at the Town Hall.

OTHER

Councilman Knott made a motion to appoint Frank Palladino to the Planning Board. Councilwoman Gumaer suggested that in light of additional applicants, the interview process should be completed before any appointments were made. The rest of the Board agreed and the motion was rescinded.

Town Historian

Councilman Knott reported that there are plans to improve the Overlook Park at Stuyvesant Falls. There is a consideration of an information kiosk. Town Historian Juanita Knott has contacted a local Boy Scout Troop to help do the work and has met with Mr. Jim Basha from Albany Engineering who has offered to help with information as well as funding for this project. The plans are going well and it is hoped that it will be completed in time for the Quadricentennial Celebration. Supervisor Bertram added that that was one of the first things the Quad Committee discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Richardson asked if there will be any type of outreach to the farmers regarding the Public Information Meeting being held by the Greenway Committee. Councilman Knott said that there are two Committee Members who are farmers – they are going to call the other farmers and let them know. There will be a press release in the newspaper and there are flyers in the post offices.

Ned DePew asked if there has been any progress report on the power plant. Supervisor Bertram responded that no, but they are still working on cleaning up the site. Mr. DePew asked if we could ask for a report and Supervisor Bertram said Mr. Basha could be invited to a meeting to give an update.

Ned DePew asked if there was any new information on the CSX bridge. Supervisor Bertram said there is no new information. She spoke with the Attorney General’s Office who asked why she was contacting them and what it was she wanted. She said she wanted them to be our advocate to investigate whether or not CSX not repairing the bridge is legal. She has not yet heard back from the Attorney General’s Office. Supervisor Bertram went on to say that someone from the AG’s Office was at the Town Hall looking through records to investigate whether the Town or CSX owns the bridge.

Lee Jameson said at the last meeting Councilman Knott had mentioned removing the bridge and making an at-grade crossing and asked if the Town Engineer could take a look at it. Councilman Knott said it would be possible but that before that he and Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski will go and take a look at it and get some preliminary measurements. Ms. Jameson also asked if Tal Rappleyea is canvassing other towns and areas for a class action lawsuit. Supervisor Bertram said she didn’t know but would ask him.

Cathy Knott reported that the Halloween Party was a success and a lot of fun. There were about 35 kids. She wanted to acknowledge everyone who helped with set up, baking, working at the party and with clean up. Supervisor Bertram said everyone seemed to be very happy with the party.

Lee Jameson reported that the adult Halloween Party – the showing of the “Rocky Horror Picture Show” at the Railroad Station was also a lot of fun.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster and seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Recorded this 13th Day of November 2008
 Approved this 11th Day of December 2008

TOWN CLERK	SUPERVISOR
COUNCILPERSON	COUNCILPERSON
COUNCILPERSON	COUNCILPERSON

NOVEMBER 2008 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

352	National Grid	1748.27	375	Schodack Septic	216.00
353	Mark Kelly	150.00	376	Empire Wireless	35.00
354	Kosco	230.67	377	Mario’s Home Center	363.44
355	Metz Wood Harder	17236.63	378	<i>Removed for 2009</i>	
356	Col Co Treasurer	4882.30	379	Rainbow Distributors	5.50
357	Col Co Sheriff’s Office	64.80	380	Hudson Electrical Supply	148.14
358	Joseph A Bruno	71.25	381	Culligan	29.25
359	Carrie O’Hare	14.69	382	Bernard J Kowalski	235.54
360	Catherine G Knott	51.20	383	All-Lifts, Inc	158.40
361	Staples	303.13	384	Columbia Tractor, Inc.	100.82
362	Xerox	271.64	385	Unifirst Corp	103.75
363	Melissa Naegeli	24.00	386	Tractor Supply	187.76
364	Melissa Naegeli(TownClerk)	50.00	387	CarQuest of Valatie	91.10
365	Johnson Newspaper	26.61	388	Northeast Automotive Parts Inc	20.56
366	The Independent	62.93	389	Want Ad Digest	80.00
367	Tal G Rappleyea	3000.00	390	Mooradian Hydraulics	124.80
368	Morris Associates	157.50	391	Auctions International	231.00
369	Gerald Ennis	47.32	392	Colarusso Quarry	4698.58
370	Charlene Leach	77.50	393	CJ Miner, Inc.	395.00
371	Marilyn Burch	62.00	394	Main Care Energy	624.25
372	Lisa’s Silkscreen	130.60	395	Van Kleeck’s Hudson	21.50
373	Col Co Solid Waste	1344.14	396	Terry Haggery Tire Co	1840.22
374	Andrew Broockmann	700.00	397	Cargill, Inc.	7131.14
			398	Applied Industrial Technologies	380.00