

**JANUARY 8, 2009**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**

Supervisor Bertram called the Public Hearing to order at 6:15pm and asked the Town Clerk to read the public notice (as follows):

***PUBLIC NOTICE***  
***TOWN OF STUYVESANT***  
***TOWN BOARD***  
***NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING***  
***January 8, 2009***  
***6:15 P.M.***  
***STUYVESANT TOWN HALL***  
***STUYVESANT, NY***

*Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on January 8, 2009 at 6:15pm for the purpose of taking public comment on a proposed local law regarding increasing the Senior Citizen and Limited Income Disability Exemptions. This public hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant, New York.*

*Melissa A. Naegeli*  
*Town Clerk*

Supervisor Bertram explained that the income levels for the Senior Citizen Exemptions are being increased by \$1000. She asked if the Board had any questions or comments. Councilman Bradlee Webster commented that a lot of people are hurting financially and this should be approved.

Supervisor Bertram asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. There were no comments or questions.

Supervisor Bertram explained part two of the proposed law and that the same sliding scale is used for the Limited Income Disabled Citizens Exemption and income levels are also being increased by \$1000. She asked for comments or questions from the Board. Councilman Ronald Knott commented that he thought the law should be passed.

Supervisor Bertram asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. There were none so she closed the Public Hearing at 6:20pm.

**JANUARY 8, 2009**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**

Supervisor Bertram explained that the Public Hearing scheduled for 6:30 for the re-affirmation of the contract with Berkshire Telephone (Fairpoint Communications) has had to be cancelled. The Public Notice did not meet the requirements of the Public Service Commission. The Public Hearing was rescheduled to February 12, 2009 at 6:30pm.

**JANUARY 8, 2009**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**

Supervisor Bertram called the Public Hearing to order at 6:45pm and asked the Town Clerk to read the public notice (as follows):

***PUBLIC NOTICE***  
***TOWN OF STUYVESANT***  
***TOWN BOARD***  
***NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING***  
***January 8, 2009***  
***6:45 P.M.***  
***STUYVESANT TOWN HALL***  
***STUYVESANT, NY***

*Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on January 8, 2009 at 6:45pm for the purpose of taking public comment on a proposed local law regarding alternate members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. This public hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant, New York.*

*Melissa A. Naegeli*  
*Town Clerk*

Supervisor Bertram opened the Public Hearing by explaining that this Local Law is proposed to enable the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals to have alternate members with voting privileges for reasons other than “conflict of interest”. She asked if the Board had any questions or comments. Councilman Ronald Knott asked about the language specifying “up to 2 alternates” when our Boards only typically have 1. Attorney for the Town, Tal Rappleyea explained that the language gives the town more leeway if it was decided to have more than 1 in the future. Supervisor Bertram explained that it was the intention of the Board to only appoint 1 alternate at this time. She also agreed that the required training is a good idea. Councilwoman Gumaer commented that this law will help to eliminate the problems of a lack of quorum. Councilman Bradlee Webster asked the State Statute required alternates to get the same training. Mr. Rappleyea replied that there is a section of law that allows the Town to supersede the State statute with this local law.

Supervisor Bertram asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. There were none and she closed the public hearing at 6:50pm.

## JANUARY 8, 2009 2009 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Stuyvesant Town Board held its Annual Organizational Meeting on January 8, 2009 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Edward Scott, Councilperson Ronald Knott, Councilperson Bradlee Webster, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Bertram called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and the meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Bertram began the meeting with reviewing the following Organization appointments:

### STUYVESANT TOWN BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 2009

### STUYVESANT TOWN BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 2009

*Official Depository* – National Union Bank of Kinderhook, First Niagara Bank  
*Official Newspaper* – The Independent  
*Official Meeting Night* – Second Thursday of each month/7:00 pm  
*Official Working Night* – First Thursday of each month  
*Official Mileage* - \$.55 per mile  
*Deputy Supervisor* – Ronald Knott  
*Town Attorney* – Tal Rappleyea  
*Building Inspector* – Gerald Ennis  
*Zoning Enforcement Officer* – Gerald Ennis  
*Fire Inspector* – Donald Balint  
*Town Engineer* – Morris Associates @ \$85.00 per hour  
*Budget Director* – Supervisor Valerie Bertram  
*Deputy Highway Superintendent* – Jeffrey Altomer  
*Deputy Town Clerk* –  
*Registrar of Vital Statistics* – Melissa Naegeli  
*Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics* – Catherine Knott  
*Record Management Officer* – Melissa Naegeli  
*Town Historian* – Juanita Knott  
*Sole Assessor* – Howard Gleason, Jr. – Cathy Knott, Secretary  
*Dog Control Officer* – Erin Carroll  
*Deputy Dog Control Officer* –  
*Columbia County Traffic Safety Board* – Frank Sacco  
*Columbia County Council of Aging Delegate* – Mary Leighton  
*Assessment Board of Review* –  
*Chairman Planning Board* – Gale Bury  
*Member of Planning Board* – Harold Leiser  
*Alternate Member of Planning Board* – Sean Cummings  
*Chairman Zoning Board* – William Vick  
*Member of Zoning Board* – Margaret Pino  
*Alternate Member Zoning Board* –  
*Secretary to Zoning and Planning Board* – Shirley Narzinski  
*Custodian of the Town Office* – George Knott  
*Emergency Coordinator* – Frank Sacco & Tim Trowbridge  
*Town Accountant and Bookkeeper* – Mark Fitzgerald  
*Highway Superintendent* – Allowed to purchase tools and equipment under \$1000.00 w/o Town Board approval

**Highway Superintendent** - Allowed to purchase sand and gravel at prevailing rate  
**Highway Superintendent** – Allowed to rent County Equipment at prevailing rate  
**Supervisor** – Ability to invest idle funds in CD's and Money Market Accounts  
**Supervisor** – Upon recommendation of Town Accountant, transfer funds between General and Highway Funds  
**Supervisor** – Able to pay utility bills without approval from Town Board  
**Official Polling Places** – St. Mary's Parish Hall, Stuyvesant Town Hall  
**Salaries** – Elected and appointed officials to be paid as indicated in the budget

- 1) Sr. MEO \$18.43 per hour
- 2) MEO – 1 \$17.19 per hour
- 3) MEO – 2 \$17.19 per hour
- 4) Per diem \$13.00

**Supervisor appointed Town Board Committee Chairpersons as Follows:**

**RECREATION** – Rosalind Gumaer

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE** — Bradlee Webster, Sr.

**BEAUTIFICATION CHAIRPERSON** – Rosalind Gumaer

**PUBLIC SAFETY** – Bradlee Webster Sr., Frank Sacco, Nancy Hadcock,  
Tim Trowbridge

**TOWN HALL COMMITTEE** –Edward Scott, Ronald Knott

**CEMETARY COMMITTEE** - Bradlee Webster, Sr.

**GREENWAY COMMITTEE** – Ronald Knott

**RAILROAD RESTORATION COMMITTEE** – Ronald Knott

**Gasoline and Fuel Oil** – County Bids

**Rules of Procedure at the Board Meeting** – (Accept current procedures)

**Compensatory Time for the Highway Department** – Not more that 120 hrs. can be accumulated per year

**Adoption of:**

1. **Procurement Policy**
2. **Investment Policy**
3. **Code of Ethics**
4. **Standard Workday**
5. **Type Reserve – Highway**
6. **Special Reserve – Town Hall**
7. **Capitol Reserve Fund – Town Hall**

Dated: January 8, 2009

Supervisor Bertram asked if the Board had any questions or comments. Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer asked if there were any appointments to the BAR this year. Supervisor Bertram said there were none for this year. Councilwoman Gumaer also asked about the Public Safety Committee and if they ever meet. Supervisor Bertram explained that the committee is incorporated within the Town's Disaster Plan. Ms. Gumaer asked about their involvement in the last power outage after the ice storm. Supervisor Bertram explained that the Town's Disaster Plan is for a disaster that was unique to the Town. During the ice storm power outages we were covered by the County Emergency Plan.

Ms. Lee Jamison asked what Senior M.E.O. and M.E.O. stood for. Supervisor Bertram explained that M.E.O. stands for "machine equipment operator" and that those are the Highway Department positions. Ms. Jamison also asked why the Greenway Committee, the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the other committees are not included on the list. Supervisor Bertram explained that the committees included in the Organizational Plan are the "Standard Committees" of the Town where the Greenway Committee and others are "appointed committees". Supervisor Bertram said that the Greenway, Railroad Station Restoration and Agricultural Committees could be added.

Ms. Jamison asked if Supervisor Bertram was the FOIL Appeals Officer and why that wasn't included in the Plan. It was explained to her that Supervisor Bertram's role as the FOIL Appeal's Officer is a matter of law and not appointment.

Supervisor Bertram closed the Organizational Meeting at 7:10pm.

**JANUARY 8, 2009**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. IN attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, Councilperson Ronald Knott, Councilperson Edward Scott, Councilperson Bradlee Webster, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Bertram called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and approved unanimously.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no new communications received since the December meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to the pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and was passed unanimously.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

*ReAssessment Update by Town Assessor Howard Gleason & GAR Representative Dave Barnett.*

Assessor Gleason began with thanking the public for working with GAR over the last several months while GAR was taking pictures and surveying the properties. Since November he has been reviewing the values and hopes to have them all reviewed and agreed upon by the end of January. Mr. Gleason turned the presentation over to Mr. Barnett (GAR) to explain what will happen in February and March.

Dave Barnett also thanked the public and thanked the Town Board for hiring his company to do this project. Mr. Barnett went on to explain the “next steps”. In the middle of February “disclosure notices” will be mailed to all property owners. Included with that letter will be an insert with information regarding information centers, informal meetings, workshops, and how to go through the grievance process. A sample packet will be prepared for the Town Board. The disclosure notices are being generated by the NYS Office of Real Property Services. There will also be an 800 number that property owners can call to speak with someone from GAR to make appointments or for general information. An online database will also be established to schedule information sessions. GAR is asking that people make reservations to make sure everyone is accommodated.

Mr. Barnett asked if there were any questions from the Board or audience. Mr. Martin Roby asked if there will be land breakdown values on the assessment report. Mr. Barnett said that there was a land breakdown analysis completed and that the values are being finalized. Mr. Roby also asked if since property values are reportedly down by 16% would the new values reflect that. Mr. Barnett said that the statutory date of July 1, 2008 has to be used to prepare values. Any sales that happen after that date cannot be used until after July 1, 2009. Town Assessor Howard Gleason explained that while the number of sales in the Town are down, the values are not.

Mr. Roby asked if the public will be able to see what comparisons were used to determine values. Mr. Barnett said that yes, that information would be available. Mr. Roby went on to ask if he brought current sales to the grievance day could they be considered in valuation. Mr. Gleason explained that by law, sales after July 1 of the previous year cannot be used in valuing a property.

Mr. Gleason and Mr. Barnett also explained that the new assessments will be used for the 2009 School Taxes (in September of this year).

Councilman Knott asked how someone will know if changes they made to the surveys are correct. Mr. Barnett said that they can call the phone number that will be included in the letters.

Supervisor Bertram said that there will be a link on the Town website to GAR as well as information libraries established in the Town.

Mr. Barnett told everyone that when they go to review the inventory reports there is only so much that can be included. Mr. Andrew DiGiacomo asked what the meaningfulness of the letter was since the

taxes included in the disclosure notice are only “hypothetical”. Mr. Barnett explained that it is a law to send the disclosure and the hypothetical tax amount.

## **REPORTS:**

### ***Town Clerk***

Report is on file in the Clerk’s Office.

### ***Highway Department***

There was no report from the Highway Department.

### ***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***

There was no report filed.

### ***Planning Board & Zoning Board***

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard the Boll case.

### ***Greenway Committee***

No report.

### ***Agriculture Committee***

No report.

### ***Railroad Station Restoration Committee***

No report.

### ***Cemetery Committee***

No report.

### ***Town Historian***

No report.

### ***Recreation Committee***

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that the Committee met on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The committee is planning a meeting specific to hunting concerns at the Ken Hummel Memorial Park. The meeting will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> and will be open to the public.

A moonlight snowshoe walk will be held at the Ken Hummel Memorial Park on the evening of Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Currently there are 13 reservations for snowshoes and those shoes are being donated by the Columbia County Dept. of Soil & Water.

Supervisor Bertram asked if the Committee has considered cancelling due to the impending snowstorm. Councilwoman Gumaer said if the weather is really bad they will call everyone.

Councilwoman Gumaer also reported that the Committee has finished building the ice rink and the liner will be put in on Friday and will be ready for the Fire Company to fill with water. A skating party has been scheduled for Sunday from 1pm – 3pm if it freezes in time. She also thanked everyone who helped with the ice rink.

### ***Old Business***

Supervisor Bertram reported that she has spoken with Gene Kelly (DEC) regarding the air monitor. It will be installed in February or March. National Grid will install a pole at DEC expense. Mr. Andrew DiGiacomo asked how long it will be before the data starts coming in.

Mr. Ned DePew said that there was a curious system used to test the stacks at LaFarge and that the results don’t really speak to health issues. He warned that we shouldn’t get lulled into false information and that the LaFarge plant still isn’t safe.

Supervisor Bertram explained that the monitor is a particulate matter monitor – not mercury. Councilwoman Gumaer asked if there were emission standards for particulate matter. Supervisor

Bertram said no and that has been why they can be allowed to continue operations. Mr. Ned DePew said that there are standards for water and Supervisor Bertram reiterated that there are none for emissions.

Ms. Lee Jamison said that individuals could be tested for mercury levels. Mr. Bob Greene (The Independent) said that Assemblyman Gordon had recently said that tests run on individuals hadn't had any positive results.

### ***New Business***

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer to pass Local Law #1 regarding the increased salary ranges for real property tax exemptions for Senior Citizens. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster and was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer to pass Local Law #2 regarding the increased salary ranges for real property tax exemptions for low income and disabled citizens. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster to pass Local Law #3 regarding the use of Alternate Members for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and approved unanimously.

Ms. Lee Jamison asked if copies of proposed laws could be available before the public hearings. Supervisor Bertram explained that copies are always available in the Town Clerk's Office.

Supervisor Bertram showed a handmade quilt made by Mrs. Barbara Brown of Stuyvesant Falls. The quilt will be raffled off to raise money for the Town's Quadricentennial Celebration. The quilt will hang in the Town Clerk's Office on display.

Supervisor Bertram explained that there was a glitch with the calendar being prepared by the Quad. Committee and that they are working on fixing the problems and will have the calendar produced as soon as possible.

Ms. Michelle Richardson asked if the Board had had a chance to discuss her letter regarding changes to the budget process. Supervisor Bertram explained that there has not been a workshop meeting yet. Ms. Richardson also said that she has a desktop publishing program and offered to help with the calendar. Supervisor Bertram said she should contact Lissane Jensen.

Councilman Knott briefly went over a handout he had prepared explaining the new tax rates that had been increased with the new budget.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

**JANUARY 2009 ABSTRACTS**

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

1	Fairpoint Communications	301.63	14	NYS Assessor's Association	85.00
2	National Grid	2209.84	15	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	3250.00
3	Col. Co. Treasurer	5185.66	16	NY Planning Federation	150.00
4	Hudson Valley Newspapers	9.86	17	Mesick, Cohen & Wilson	14,637.11
5	Association of Towns	10.00	18	NYS Assoc. of HW Supers	150.00
6	Corner Stone Telephone	28.71	19	NexTel Partners	98.83
7	NYS Magistrate's Assoc.	65.00	20	Culligan	26.75
8	Service Education, Inc.	800.00	21	Mario's Home Center	425.00
9	Xerox Corp.	200.16	22	Terry Haggerty Tire Co., Inc.	100.00
10	NYSATRC	25.00	23	Van Kleeck's Hudson	146.00
11	Business Automation Services	660.00	24	CarQuest of Valatie	326.51
12	Johnson Newspaper				
13	GAR Associates	10,000.00			

Recorded this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2009

Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2009

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TOWN CLERK

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SUPERVISOR

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COUNCILPERSON

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COUNCILPERSON

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