

**FEBRUARY 12, 2009
PUBLIC HEARING**

Supervisor Bertram called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30pm and asked the Town Clerk to read the public notice (as follows):

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF STUYVESANT
February 12, 2009**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant, New York. The Public Hearing will be held with regard to the re-affirmation by the Board concerning the renewal of the Cable Television Franchise Agreement by and between the Town of Stuyvesant and Berkshire Cable Corporation which was originally approved on October 13, 2005 for authority to operate a Cable Television System for a period of ten years within the Town of Stuyvesant. At such public hearing all persons will be given the opportunity to be heard. Written or oral statements will be taken at the hearing.

A copy of the Franchise Agreement is available for public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk during normal office hours: Thursday and Fridays 9:30am – 1:30pm; Saturdays 9:00am – Noon and Monday evenings 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

Melissa A. Naegeli
Town Clerk

Mr. Bob Holmes from Berkshire Cable Corp. presented to the Board his follow-up on the information requested at the meeting in December, 2008. Mr. Holmes was asked to look into providing services to the Northern end of town along Route 9J as well as to the South to Ferry Road. Mr. Holmes reported that after investigating the situations presented, running services to the North would cost approximately \$60,000 and would have to be paid by the 3 homes that would be serviced.

To run the service to the South to Ferry Road it would cost approximately \$50,000 and would have to be paid by the 10 homes that would be serviced.

Mr. Holmes explained that the NYS Public Service Commission requires the utility company to provide the service if there are 35 homes or more to be serviced.

Supervisor Bertram asked Mr. Holmes if he foresaw any changes in the future to services provided. Mr. Holmes said yes, that there are new technologies being developed that may help our rural area in the future.

Lee Jamison said that she had spoken with a resident in Stuyvesant Falls on County Route 25 who also doesn't have cable or DSL service. Mr. Holmes said that he didn't understand why since the service area went past his residence. He said he would look into the situation and contact Supervisor Bertram with an answer.

After no further comments or questions from the Board or audience, Supervisor Bertram closed the Public Hearing at 6:40pm.

**FEBRUARY 12, 2009
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, Councilperson Ronald Knott, Councilperson Edward Scott, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Councilman Bradlee Webster and Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski were not in attendance.

Supervisor Bertram called the meeting to order at 7:00pm 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 Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter from the Columbia County Fire Coordinator thanking the Town Fire Companies for their hard work during the Ice Storm Emergency in December 2008.

A notice from the Columbia County Health Department with a listing of Rabies' Clinics. The schedule will be posted.

A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the communications as read. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and voted on all in favor. The motion was carried.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

Report is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Highway Department

Supervisor Bertram read a written report from Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski. The report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Greenway Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that at the last Greenway Committee meeting they reviewed the information that was received at the last public meeting. The Columbia County Land Conservancy and Scenic Hudson have offered to help the Committee with completing their Comprehensive Plan tasks and are working on renewing a map of conservation lands in the Town. Representatives from both organizations will be at the February meeting and they will be working on the Comprehensive Plan. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26th at 7:00pm.

Supervisor Bertram asked the Committee was ready to make a presentation to the Board. Councilman Knott said not yet.

Assessor's Office

Supervisor Bertram read a report prepared by Sole Assessor Howard Gleason, Jr. who was not in attendance. That report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Assessor's Clerk, Cathy Knott, reminded everyone that their Exemption forms are due back to the Assessor's Office by March 1st

Agriculture Committee

No report.

Town Hall Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott thanked Councilman Edward Scott for cleaning the bathrooms in the building. Mr. Knott reported that there had been a frozen and broken pipe in the attic and that there had been water damage to the carpet. The insurance company has come to look at it. Councilman Knott said that the pipe has been capped but that a plumber should be contacted to repair the pipe.

Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer

Report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Control Officer

There was no report filed.

Planning Board & Zoning Board

No report was filed.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

The February meeting scheduled for the 21st has been rescheduled to the 28th due to the GAR Public Information meetings scheduled for the 21st.

The Committee is asking for input from the Agriculture Committee regarding the Farmers' Market and that they are projecting the Friday before Mothers' Day as the opening day for the 2009 Season. There have been discussions about another movie night as well.

The next meeting will be at the Town Hall on February 28th at 9:00am.

Cemetery Committee

No report.

Town Historian

The Columbia County Quadricennial Committee has been meeting and there are a lot of plans being made. There is going to be a celebration at the Hudson Waterfront and all the Towns have been offered a booth area.

Mrs. Knott explained that the County is looking at the Quadricennial Funding of \$45-47,000 that will go to the County to be disbursed. The Towns will have to spend the money then get reimbursed. Unfortunately, the process will take approximately 3-4 years for reimbursement.

Mrs. Knott also gave a brief listing of some of the activities that are being planned for our Quad. Celebration weekend – September 19 & 20. There will be a parade in Stuyvesant Falls, an ecumenical service at the Reformed Church, a lecture and discussion at the Ice House and the fireworks at the riverfront on Sunday evening.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer began her report by showing a pictorial display created by Michelle Richardson of some of the activities sponsored by the Recreation Committee this winter.

Councilwoman Gumaer reported that the snowshoe walk was held at the Ken Hummel Memorial Park on the evening of January 10, 2009 during a snowstorm. There were 30 participants.

An ice skating party was held at the skating rink at the Stuyvesant Falls Playground on February 1st and free skating lessons were given by Kate Nichol. The rink is being used frequently by the kids in the area.

A Snowman Building Contest was scheduled for Saturday, February 14th. Unfortunately, the weather has not cooperated and there is no snow. The party has been changed to an indoor Valentines' Day craft party and they will build "indoor snowmen". The party is scheduled for 1pm – 3pm at the Town Hall and there will be a storyteller from the Kinderhook Memorial Library as well. Prizes for the snowmen were donated by Edson Folmsbee and Kozmo Jakiela. Councilwoman Gumaer made a motion for the Recreation Committee be allowed to spend up to \$50.00 for supplies for the Craft Party. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bertram and voted on. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Sean Cummings reported that after speaking with Ralph Rader from the Department of Parks, he has learned that there have been a lot of budget cuts to that Office but they aren't giving up hope of getting the grant money for the Park.

The Committee had asked Edson Folmsbee to look into pricing for boundary signs for the Ken Hummel Park. Supervisor Bertram said the Board had discussed this issue at the recent Workshop Meeting and that they were interested in larger signs than what the Committee had asked Edson about.

The next Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th at the Town Hall at 9:00am. The subject of this meeting will be hunting at the Ken Hummel Memorial Park. Don LaValley who is a member of the Stockport Rod & Gun Club will be in attendance to explain how his club handles this subject.

Old Business

Supervisor Bertram reported that at the recent Workshop Meeting attended by her, Councilman Knott and Councilman Scott, they discussed the signage at the park for the boundaries. They are getting prices from the County. They also are looking into a larger sign with the park rules, i.e., "no motorized vehicles, no fires, open dawn-to-dusk".

They also discussed the Railroad Station. There is some painting that needs to be done to the exterior and some moldings that needs to be replaced. There will also need to be a Spring Clean Up around the grounds.

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that he had been in contact with NYS DEC regarding the siting of the Air Quality Monitor coming the grounds of the Town Hall. He suggested putting the monitor between the 2 side driveways. This site would save money because a new pole wouldn't have to be set. The next step is to stake out for the electrical service. Councilwoman Gumaer asked how big the monitor is going to be. Councilman Knott said that it will be 8' x 8' with a 35' antennae.

Supervisor Bertram explained that due the closing of the Independent the Board will have to amend the Organizational Plan naming them as the Town's Official Newspaper. A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to make the Register Star the Official Newspaper. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

Councilman Knott reported that the Town now had three bids for the replacement of the furnace: High: \$3858; Middle: \$3281; and Low: \$3052. The low bidder was Yaun Co. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to award the job to the low bidder. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Councilman Knott will let Bernie know.

Supervisor Bertram told everyone that Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski has injured his back and will have to have surgery. There isn't a date set yet. Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer asked who would be in charge while Bernie was out. Supervisor Bertram explained that Jeff Altomer is the Deputy Superintendent.

Supervisor Bertram reminded everyone that the Town contract with Columbia-Greene Humane Society is expiring. Councilman Knott reported that he had looked into contracting with the Menands Shelter and found that the contract would be exactly the same terms. Councilwoman Gumaer said that while it was the same amount of money it was further away so she made a motion to stay with the Columbia-Greene Humane Society and to sign the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and a vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.

New Business

Supervisor Bertram reminded everyone that there had been a Public Hearing before the Board Meeting regarding the Re-Affirmation of the Existing Contract with Berkshire Cable Co. A motion was made by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer to reaffirm the existing contract with Berkshire Cable Co. with an addendum stating that the Town of Stuyvesant expects that the Berkshire Cable Co. will look into a plan for expansion of services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and a vote was called. The motion was passed unanimously.

Supervisor Bertram asked if there any other comments from the Board Members. Councilman Knott reported that he and the Town Historian had met with Mr. Jim Besha from Albany Engineering regarding the information kiosk and project planned at the Overlook Park in Stuyvesant Falls. There is a Landscape Architect currently working on a plan to present to the Town in the near future.

Supervisor Bertram said that the Town had received a final scope of work and Environmental Impact Statement from LaFarge and that it's available for review. Mr. Ned DePew in the audience said it was also available online.

Supervisor Bertram opened the floor to questions from the audience. Mr. DePew asked about the reassessment project and the new assessment numbers that had been mailed out to residents. He said he thought the assessments were fair and asked for a commitment from the Board not to raise taxes in the future. Supervisor Bertram explained that the tax impact will be different for everyone – some will go up, some will go down and some won't change. Councilman Knott added that asking the Board to make that commitment is also asking the Board to know the future and that's not possible to know.

Mr. Peter Donohoe asked if GAR had to use comparables for their valuation findings. Supervisor Bertram said yes and Councilman Knott explained that the numbers have to be approved by the State before they are final. Supervisor Bertram suggested everyone attend the public information sessions, make their appointments for their informal hearings, and to contact the Assessor's Office to ask questions until they are comfortable with the process and the numbers.

Mrs. Sharon Hall asked if she could look at other assessments. Supervisor Bertram explained that the reports are on the Town's Website and that there will be a "library" established at the St. John's Lutheran Church on Route 26A to review the assessments for the Town.

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 8:05pm.

FEBRUARY 2009 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

26	National Grid (final Playground)	66.11	52	Bernard Kowalski	42.00
27	National Grid	2472.79	53	NexTel Partners	47.40
28	Fairpoint Communications	301.56	54	Culligan	26.75
29	Columbia Co. Treasurer	5185.66	55	Madsen Overhead Doors	465.00
30	Cornerstone Telephone	30.47	56	Mario's Home Center	29.63
31	Kosco	987.74	57	Rainbow Distributors	14.00
32	Mark Kelly	150.00	58	Northern Tool	78.16
33	Chemung Supply Corp.	355.75	59	NYS DEC Region 4	100.00
34	Tech Partners	137.45	60	Farrell Oil Co., Inc.	591.82
35	NYSTCA	135.00	61	Main Care Energy	2873.62
36	Hyatt Regency Rochester	637.22	62	Partners in Safety	158.00
37	Xerox	124.92	63	Colarusso Quarry Co.	2793.75
38	Staples	790.38	64	Hudson Valley Tree Service	825.00
39	Tal Rappleyea, Esq	2500.00	65	Pulver's Glass	420.20
40	Catherine G. Knott	74.05	66	Marchese Ford	266.70
41	Howard Gleason, Jr.	58.39	67	Van Kleeck's Tire	195.00
42	Carrie O'Hare	65.00	68	Tractor Supply	149.28
43	NYS Magistrate's Association	65.00	69	Unifirst Corp.	233.91
44	Colleen Bruno	54.30	70	Empire Radiator	600.00
45	Williamson Law Book	197.28	71	Mooradians	530.66
46	Col. Co. Sheriff's Office	197.28	72	Wallingford's Inc.	236.25
47	NYSAMCC	9.23	73	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	54.38
48	The Independent	25.24	74	Power Plan	208.00
49	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	115.88	75	Ben Funk, Inc.	1178.22
50	George Knott	126.90	76	CarQuest of Valatie	192.76
51	CC Assoc of Superintendents	50.00	77	Cargill, Inc.	3678.45
			78	Matt's Automotive	54.00

Recorded this 12th Day of February 2009

Approved this 12th Day of March 2009

TOWN CLERK

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON