

**NOVEMBER 12, 2009**  
**2010 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 12, 2009 for the purpose of taking public comment on the 2010 Preliminary Budget. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer, Councilman Ronald Knott, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli. Councilman Bradlee Webster was not in attendance.

Supervisor Bertram opened the Public Hearing at 6:30pm and asked the Clerk to read the published public notice. Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli read the following notice:

***PUBLIC NOTICE***  
***TOWN OF STUYVESANT***  
***PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2010 BUDGET***  
***Thursday, November 12, 2010 at 6:30pm***  
***Stuyvesant Town Hall***

*NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the preliminary budget for the Town of Stuyvesant for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2010 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 business hours.*

*FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant will hold a Public Hearing at the Stuyvesant Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant New York, at 6:30 pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009, 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 as follows: Supervisor, 7,388.00 – Town Board (4) @ \$2,934.25 ea. - Town Clerk/Tax Collector, \$22,729.00 - Town Justice (2) @ \$8,240.00 ea. - Highway Superintendent \$50,890.00 - Assessor \$16,524.00.*

*Melissa A. Naegeli*  
*Town Clerk*

Supervisor Bertram explained that there was an 8.8% increase in the budget. The amount to be raised by taxes was increased by \$26,316 – of which \$18,600 were due to increases mandated by the State for the retirement system as well as a 13% increase in health insurance costs.

Supervisor Bertram then opened the hearing to comments by asking the Board first if there were any questions or comments.

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer asked for clarification on the .1 vs. .4 accounts. It was explained that the fund accounts are established by the State. It was further explained that the .1 accounts were for “personal service” where the .4 accounts were for “contractual services”, i.e., utilities, services, and goods. Councilwoman Gumaer also noted for the public that the contingency fund had been increased slightly in case of emergencies.

Councilwoman Gumaer announced that she will return her 3% increase.

Supervisor Bertram then opened the hearing to comments from the public. Ms. Lee Jamison asked for a further explanation on the increases. Councilman Knott noted that the expected revenues were down by \$8,000 in all and that the revenues expected from “Mortgage Tax” had been decreased by \$5,000.

Councilwoman Gumaer explained that the 1620.1 (personal service for the buildings) covers work that is performed at the town hall; i.e., landscaping, mowing, etc. Councilman Knott noted that there was a decrease in the Highway Dept. .1 account but that it was shown in the building .1 account. This is to more accurately reflect where the money is being drawn from. This was to specifically cover when the Highway Dept. employees mow the grounds.

Ms. Jamison asked why there was only \$25.00 under the “Lighting District” revenues. Supervisor Bertram explained that there cannot be a number in the “Real Property Taxes” because the budget hasn’t been approved yet and the tax rate can’t be set until the budget is adopted. Ms. Jamison responded that the budget is hard to understand.

Mr. DePew commented that there should be a better oversight of the numbers.

Supervisor Bertram asked if there were any further comments. With no one responded, Supervisor Bertram closed the public hearing at 7:03pm.

## NOVEMBER 12, 2009 TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held its monthly meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2009 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer, Councilperson Ronald Knott, Councilman Edward Scott, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli and Attorney for the Town, Tal Rappleyea. Councilman Bradlee Webster was not in attendance.

Supervisor Bertram called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### COMMUNICATIONS

A letter from Steven Winkley – NYS Rural Water Association – regarding a “source water protection workshop” scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Town Hall.

A letter from the Columbia County Retired Senior Volunteer Program regarding the RIDE Program and asking the Town to “adopt a driver”.

A motion to approve the correspondence as read was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

**REPORTS:**

***Town Clerk***

Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli read her report and it is on file in the Clerk's Office.

***Highway Department***

Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski reported that they're buying the salt and sand for the winter and they are almost finished putting up the snow fences.

The new backhoe was received so the work on the ditch on lower Lang Road will be completed.

There is an electrical program with one of the trucks and is being repaired. The sand screen is also being repaired.

***Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer***

The complete report on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

***Dog Control Officer***

No Report.

***Planning/Zoning Boards***

Shirley Narzynski reported that there had been a Planning Board Public Hearing on the Goodwin Subdivision. The next meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2009 at 7:00pm.

There was no ZBA meeting in October.

***Greenway Committee***

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that at the Committee's last meeting they discussed and reviewed the summary that they will use to report the results of the surveys.

The surveys are out and have been coming back. Councilman Knott urged everyone to send them back and explained that there are others that are interested in the results, i.e., Stuyvesant Falls Hydro Plant and the NYS Rural Water Association.

Councilman Knott urged everyone to attend the Public Workshop scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>.

***Agriculture Committee***

Brian Chittenden said there was nothing to report.

***Town Hall Committee***

Supervisor Bertram reported that the carpets had been cleaned and that the light timers seemed to be working fine.

Councilman Knott reported that he moved the bench from the Garden Club's Memorial Garden up to the front porch for the winter.

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

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that Marilyn Burch is recovering from surgery. He reported that there is a holiday party scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Railroad Station from 2pm – 4pm. Santa will be there, there will be caroling and baked goods.

The next meeting will be November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Station.

### ***Cemetery***

No report.

### ***Historian***

Juanita Knott reported that the 2010 Historic Calendars are at the printers and will be available soon. She also reported that there were about 20 2009 calendars left if anyone was still interested. Mrs. Knott said there were 200 copies of the 2010 Calendar ordered. She said she expected them to all get sold since almost all of the 200 copies of the 2009 were sold and they weren't available until ½ way through the year.

### ***Assessor's Office***

Howard Gleason reported that exemption forms will be mailed out by December 1<sup>st</sup> and they will be due back to the office by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Gleason is asking the board for permission to purchase a digital camera and associated software for sketching.

Mr. Gleason announced that there is a new computer center for public use being established in the Town Hall. He explained that we are the first town in the County to have this availability. The public will be able to come in during the hours the building is open and check inventory and assessment information on the computer. The center should be up and running by Decemeber 1<sup>st</sup>.

Supervisor Bertram explained that the Assessor's request was for a digital camera (\$129) and the software and licensing agreements (\$350). She further explained that there is money available in the Assessor's budget. Councilman Ronald Knott made a motion to approve the purchase request. His motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and was voted on. The motion was approved unanimously.

### ***Recreation Committee***

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that there was no meeting in November. There was a Harvest Party at the Stuyvesant Falls playground and the community garden. She reported that they dug up the garden, leveled it out and put leaves down. They are preparing the area for the ice rink for the winter.

Councilwoman Gumaer reported that she, Councilman Knott, Scott Longe and Bill Bateman met at the Ken Hummel Park to discuss the proposed site plan for a pavilion. She then passed out a proposed site plan prepared by Mr. Bateman.

Councilman Knott explained that he had gone up and looked over the sight again in better light and discussed the plan with Highway Superintendent Kowalski. He said he realized that the spot they had

chosen was all shale and would be either virtually impossible or very expensive to dig holes in that area to erect a pole barn as proposed by Mr. Bateman and the Recreation Committee.

After a discussion of options, it was decided that the Board, along with some contractors will meet and go look at the various sights around the parking area to determine the best site and type of construction.

Councilwoman Gumaer asked about the paperwork for the \$5,000 member item grant from Assemblyman Gordon. Supervisor Bertram said she will give the paperwork to Councilwoman Gumaer who will hand-deliver the paper work to the Assemblyman's Office.

The next meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall at 9:00am.

### ***Trails Committee***

Sean Cummings reported that the newly-formed Trails Committee had met on October 13<sup>th</sup>. In attendance were the core-committee made up of himself, Michelle Richardson, Mike Naegeli, Don Weijesdog and Eddie Scott. There were members of the public also in attendance for a total of approximately 17 people. Mr. Cummings reported that the meeting mainly consisted of a power point presentation prepared by himself highlighting the various trails in the Town.

Mr. Cummings reported that he is awaiting the contract from Councilman Mike Kipp of Kinderhook regarding the \$10,000 grants for Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport trails. Once the contract is completed the next step will be to send out a Request for Proposal for Engineers/Consultants. Mr. Cummings said they hope to have a consultant chosen by February 2010.

Mr. Cummings reported that there in lieu of a November meeting, the Committee met on November 6<sup>th</sup> and walked trails in Stuyvesant Falls.

At the December meeting, Mr. Cummings hopes to have the Committee work on a goal statement.

The next meeting will be December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Town Hall. The Trails Committee meetings will always be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Supervisor Bertram presented a Certification of Appreciation to Town Historian Juanita Knott for her many hours of dedicated volunteer service to the Town. Mrs. Knott accepted the certificate and remarked that she has a lot of help from other people.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Bertram shared with everyone a report from the Valatie Rescue Squad that showed their expenses and revenues projected for 2010. She reported that she had met with representatives from the Squad and they were asking for \$22,000 from the Town – an increase of \$4492.00. Supervisor Bertram said that the Town of Stuyvesant is picking up 16.25% of the amount, that Kinderhook will pay 78% and Ghent will pay the balance. She explained that the amounts are based on the number of calls in the

respective towns. Supervisor Bertram also explained that this is the first increase they have requested since she has been the Supervisor – 6 years.

There was a question as to why the breakdowns were based on the number of calls vs. per capita. Supervisor Bertram said she didn't know why but that she would ask the Rescue Squad.

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to approve the request from the Valatie Rescue Squad. His motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bertram reminded everyone of the letter read earlier from the Columbia County Retired Senior Volunteer Program asking for a donation to adopt a driver. Councilman Ronald Knott made a motion to send a \$200.00. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. Councilman Edward Scott was not in attendance for the vote but the motion was approved by Councilman Knott, Councilwoman Gumaer and Supervisor Bertram.

Supervisor Bertram told the Board that the term of office for Paul Chittenden on the Board of Assessment and Review was expiring. A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously (Councilman Edward Scott was back in attendance).

Supervisor Bertram reported that Eric Burch had asked to not be re-appointed to the Columbia County Environmental Committee. She asked that if there was anyone interested they send a letter as soon as possible.

Councilman Knott reported that he had done some research on the digital speed signs that had been discussed at a previous meeting. He reported that they would cost approximately \$8,000. He asked Supervisor Bertram if she could take the information to the County and ask that they purchase a few of them that could be loaned out or rented out to the Towns. Supervisor Bertram agreed that it was a good idea and will bring the information to her meeting next week.

Councilman Knott added that he had explored some grants but it didn't appear that we would meet the criteria.

Supervisor Bertram asked if the Board was prepared to vote on the Budget. Councilman Knott said that the budget must be adopted by November 20<sup>th</sup>. He added that there have been several meetings to discuss the numbers and that he felt it was "bare bones". Councilman Knott then made a motion to adopt the 2010 Preliminary Budget as the Final Budget. His motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously and the 2010 Budget was adopted.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mike Naegeli asked if personal information would be redacted from the Assessor's new public computer center. Town Assessor Howard Gleason responded that yes, no personal information will be available.

Michelle Richardson asked about an updated Emergency Plan. Supervisor Bertram said that last year's ice storm was rare but it gave us some information on things that should be changed or added in the Emergency Plan. She added that the committee could get together and start reviewing the plans.

Michelle Richardson said that she said there were grants available for correcting energy inefficiencies.

Steve Montie responded to the question about the Emergency Plan and the ice storm services by reporting that the Stuyvesant Fire Co #1 went “basically door-to-door” to give the information about the shelter and other services available. Supervisor Bertram added that the news of the Town Hall being a shelter was also in the newspaper and on the radio.

Lee Jamison added that there was a concern because people couldn’t call into the shelter. Supervisor Bertram said that there were many lessons learned during the ice storm.

Debbie Gleason asked Chief Montie if Emergency 911 had the shelter information in case people had called there. Chief Montie responded that if someone called 911 they would have given the shelter information.

Ned DePew stated that he didn’t understand how the budget could be referred to as “bare bones” when there were increases. He asked for a copy of the application for stimulus money, he asked if the Board could give a letter of commendation for Ward Stone’s work and send a donation for his studies. Mr. DePew also expressed concern about information being updated on the website in a timely manner. Supervisor Bertram said that she had been contacted by LaFarge to hold a public information meeting regarding the applications and that she would contact Ward Stone. Supervisor Bertram also announced that Friends of Hudson was holding an informational meeting in the Town Hall on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Supervisor Bertram explained the Towns’ process for applying for stimulus money. The Towns were to submit their applications to the County, which she did. The County then chose the projects based on various criteria – the foremost being “shovel ready”. Supervisor Bertram said that there was not an engineering study on the CSX Bridge, no coordination of demolition plan with CSX and that it was not shovel ready. Mr. DePew asked why an engineering study hadn’t been completed and Supervisor Bertram responded that it was cost prohibitive and that it isn’t our bridge to repair. She added that we have been trying to get CSX to repair their property. She added that DOT Grants applications were not available yet.

Supervisor Bertram also reported that the only stimulus money that has been awarded in the County is for 2 water treatment facilities in Hudson and Greenport and the Germantown Bridge (which is State owned). Supervisor Bertram added that she had spoken directly with Supervisor McGivney (Kinderhook) and the money Kinderhook had received for their sidewalks was not stimulus money and that it was from a DOT Grant.

Cathy Knott announced that the plants in the room had been donated by members of the Stuyvesant Garden Club. Mrs. Knott added that the Halloween Party had been very successful and thanked everyone for their help.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously – the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Recorded this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> Day of November 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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COUNCILPERSON

<b>TOWN OF STUYVESANT ABSTRACTS</b>				
	<b>NOVEMBER 2009</b>			
<b>CLAIM #</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>A/C#</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>HIGHWAY</b>
412	Fairpoint Communications (343.12)	1620.4	237.38	
		5132.4	105.74	
413	National Grid (1699.56)	5182.4	1,387.40	
		1620.4	312.16	
414	Fairpoint Communications (325.52)	1620.4	220.69	
		5132.4	325.52	
415	Kosco	1620.4	391.25	
416	City Locksmith	1620.4	87.50	
417	Aaron's Carpet Cleaning	1620.4	212.00	
418	Corner Stone Telephone	1620.4	33.71	
419	Columbia County Treasurer (4989.22)	9060.8	1,818.94	3,170.28
420	Johnson Newspaper (220.09)	8060.4	187.40	
		8020.4	19.99	
		1010.4	12.70	
421	Columbia County Sheriff	1110.4	111.96	
422	Carrie A. O'Hare	1110.4	108.19	
423	Williamson Law Book Co.	1110.4	46.50	
424	Columbia County Assessor's Association	1355.4	50.00	
425	Xerox Corporation	1410.4	124.92	
426	Supply Distribution Center	1410.4	499.85	
427	Staples Business Advantage	1110.4	19.84	
		5132.4	62.16	
		1410.4	6.44	
		1620.4	5.77	



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CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	HIGHWAY
428	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	4,107.90	
429	Morris Associates	1440.4	133.50	
430	David K. McMillan	6140.4	33.00	
431	Richard Moran	6140.4	85.25	
432	Charlene Leach	6140.4	68.20	
433	Andrew Broockmann	8810.4	700.00	
434	J.D. Handling	7110.4	43.76	
435	Joann Jakiela	7510.4	375.00	
436	Columbia County Solid Waste	8060.4	2,751.82	
437	Unifirst Corp.	9090.8	159.68	
438	NexTel Partners	5010.4	48.31	
439	Gorman Brothers	5110.4		5,110.40
440	Colarusso Blacktop Co.	5110.4		236.23
441	Fleet Services	5110.4		307.98
442	Main Care Energy (1100.35)	5110.4		933.43
		5132.4	166.92	
443	CarQuest of Valatie	5130.4		228.10
444	Van Kleeck's, Hudson	5130.4		353.21
445	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	5130.4		24.32
446	Lowe's	5130.4		125.02
447	Mario's Home Center (327.19)	1620.4	10.82	
		5130.4		316.37
448	Northern Tool	5130.4		100.34
449	Marchese Ford	5130.4		154.24
450	Matt's Auto	5130.4		60.00
451	Auctions International	5130.4		753.00
452	Tractor Supply	5130.4		131.36
453	Capital Tractor, Inc.	5110.4		247.41
454	Culligan	5132.4	26.75	
455	Rainbow Distributors	5132.4	21.00	
456	Momar, Inc.	5132.4	264.58	
457	Kivort Steel	5142.4		271.12
458	Cargill, Inc.	5142.4		11,659.07
459	Monroe Tractor-Albany (57,977.22)	FEMA		
460	Howard Gleason	1355.4	164.98	
461	GAR	1355.4	355.00	
462	Donation: Valatie Rescue Squad	*	100.00	
463	Donation: Col. Co. RSVP/RIDE	*	200.00	
	<b>TOTAL FORWARD</b>		<b>\$15,384.50</b>	<b>24,181.88</b>