

**DECEMBER 12, 2009**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held its monthly meeting on Thursday, December 10, 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 7:00pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A letter from the Valatie Volunteer Rescue Squad thanking the Town for the recent donation.

A letter from Columbia County Retired Seniors Volunteer Program thanking the Town for the recent donation.

A letter from Frank Palladino resigning his seat from the Planning Board. Supervisor Bertram said that we will contact Sean Cummings since he is the alternate to find out if he would like to fill the seat.

Supervisor Bertram asked Melissa Naegeli to check on what seats are coming up for the Planning and Zoning Boards. Councilman Knott had a list and responded that Marilyn Burch and Paul Harpis had terms that were expiring at the end of the year. They will be contacted to find out if they would like to continue to serve on those boards.

A motion to approve the bills was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster 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 there are no problems and that they are working on the roads. He reminded the residents to please not park on the roads when there is a snow storm coming.

Mr. Kowalski also reported that the ditch bucket from the old backhoe will not work on the new one as he had hoped. A new one will cost between \$3000 and \$3500 to purchase. Councilman Ronald Knott made a motion to approve the purchase up to \$3500. His motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and approved unanimously.

### ***Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer***

Gerry Ennis reported that the Building Permits have slowed down although there are a couple new houses going up. He said that the Zoning complaints have increased and that a number of violation letters have been sent out. The complete report on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

### ***Dog Control Officer***

No Report.

### ***Planning/Zoning Boards***

Report on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

### ***Greenway Committee***

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that the NYS Rural Water Association representative had been at the last meeting and discussed the different aspects of the ground water study. The Committee is hoping to have a public information meeting in February or March.

There will be no meeting in December; the next meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in January.

### ***Agriculture Committee***

No report.

### ***Town Hall Committee***

Councilman Knott reported that the light had been replaced in the "Ken Hummel" window in the front of the building. Councilman Scott reported that there had been a problem with the snow blower but that he drained the old gas and it seems to be okay now.

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

Due to the absence of Marilyn Burch, Lee Jamison reported that \$116 was turned over from the cookie sale at the Holiday Party at the Depot.

### ***Cemetery***

No report.

### ***Historian***

Juanita Knott was not in attendance but Supervisor Bertram reported that the 2010 Town Historic Picture Calendar was finished and available from Mrs. Knott, the Town Clerk, and Mr. & Mrs. Brown. Councilman Knott reported that there are some available at the Riverview Café as well.

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

Cathy Knott reported that all of the exemption forms had been mailed out and are due back to the Assessor's Office by March 1, 2010.

### ***Recreation Committee***

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting they discussed a new tarp for the skating rink at the Stuyvesant Falls Playground. She also reported that she, Councilman Knott, Wes Coon and Mr. Bateman had met at the Ken Hummel Park and chose a better site for the proposed pavilion. It is at the end of the parking and to the left behind the row of trees – the placement has been marked with stakes. Councilwoman Gumaer said she had received an estimate from Mr. Coons for \$15,200. The estimate for the concrete was an additional \$3500. Supervisor Bertram said that with the project having that high of a cost there will have to be 3 estimates received.

Councilwoman Gumaer asked if she write a letter to the Nature Conservancy notifying them of the proposed plans for a pavilion. Supervisor Bertram and the Board agreed that it would be okay to notify them of what we were discussing as far as future plans. This notification does not start “a clock”.

Councilman Knott said while sending the letter would be a good idea, the project is something that will have to be closely looked at because of the cost. He remarked that there are repairs needed at the Highway Garage and that \$20,000 may be hard to come by.

Councilwoman Gumaer reported that the Committee had discussed a calendar to be mailed out with all of the Town events planned. They decided a full calendar would be too expensive but are considering an oversized postcard with upcoming recreation activities. There is a snowshoeing event planned at Ken Hummel Park for January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Councilwoman Gumaer reported that she had been in contact with Assemblyman Gordon’s Office regarding the \$5000 member item from 2007. Supervisor Bertram said she had spoken with Assemblyman Gordon earlier in the day and that she was faxing him the application and he would try to track down the paperwork himself.

The next meeting will be January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall.

### ***Trails Committee***

Sean Cummings was not in attendance but the minutes from the previous Trails Committee meeting are available in the Town Clerk’s Office as well as on the website.

Supervisor Bertram said that the members of the Committee needed to be formally appointed by the Town Board. Councilman Knott made a motion to formally create the Trails Committee and to appoint the following people:

Sean Cummings; Michael Naegeli; Michelle Richardson, Cal Burch; Don Widjeskog;  
Michael Locker, Richard Anderson and Kathy Schneider.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and was approved unanimously.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Bertram thanked the Stuyvesant Garden Club for decorating the Town Hall for the holidays.

Supervisor Bertram said that if anyone was interested in representing the Town on the County Environmental Council that they should get a letter to the Board before the January meeting. The appointment will be made then. Supervisor Bertram said that she had received a letter from Kathy Schneider.

Supervisor Bertram read an update from Jim Bessa (Albany Engineering) that FERC had approved the restoration work to be done at the Stuyvesant Falls Hydro plant.

Supervisor Bertram reported that she had received a proposed contract from the Columbia Greene Humane Society. She said it was the identical contract to the one we are currently using. A motion was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster for Supervisor Bertram to sign the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bertram asked Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea to start researching outdoor wood burner laws that have been enacted around the State. She said the Board will address the issue after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

Supervisor Bertram reported that there were two budget amendments before the Board. One for \$2300 and one for \$16,957.00. The transfers were for supplies, donations, meals on wheels mileage reimbursements, clean up day, road signs, mowing, celebrations and storm repairs. A motion to approve both transfers was made by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Councilman Knott reported that the Association of Town's Newly Elected Officials training will be held in Albany in January. He asked if the Town would pay for the training at \$150 for the 3 days. The Board agreed they would.

Councilman Knott reported that he had recently purchased the old schoolhouse. During the process it was discovered that the area used for the "traditional" parking area at the playground actually belongs to the schoolhouse property. Councilman Knott is asking that the Town look into putting in a different parking area in the spring and to consider extending the fence past the swings. Supervisor Bertram said the Board would look into fence pricing. Highway Superintendent Kowalski said he had met with the County regarding a parking area and that access would have to come off of Summerset Road.

Supervisor Bertram reported that she had been approached by a resident who was interested in assuming the duties and responsibilities of the dog control officer. The current dog control officer is difficult to reach, doesn't give monthly reports and the Town has received numerous complaints. If there is anyone interested in the position please get a letter to the Town by then of the year – an appointment will be made at the January meeting.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Supervisor Bertram presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Councilman Bradlee Webster in honor of his 16 years of service on the Town Board. This was Councilman Webster's final meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were comments regarding the recent election process.

Mike Naegeli remarked that the parking lot discussed for the playground shouldn't be in the middle since the little league has begun to use the field again.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Edward Scott and seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously – the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Recorded this 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Approved this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2010

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TOWN CLERK

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SUPERVISOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCILPERSON

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COUNCILPERSON

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COUNCILPERSON

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COUNCILPERSON

The following Abstracts were presented for payment at the December 2009 Town Board meeting:

CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	HIGHWAY
464	National Grid (1715.89)	5182.4	1,426.79	
		1620.4	289.10	
465	Kingston Oil Supply Corp.	1620.4	4.66	
466	Corner Stone Telephone Co.	1620.4	33.71	
467	Jean Hewig	1620.4	90.00	
468	Columbia County Treasurer (4989.22)	9060.8	1,818.94	3,170.28
469	Johnson Newspaper	1010.4	39.17	
470	Columbia County Sheriff's Office	1110.4	279.90	
471	Metz Wood Harder	1910.4	206.80	
472	Mark Fitzgerald	1320.____	275.60	
473	Cathy Knott	1355.4	64.49	
474	Xerox Corporation (223.92)	1620.4	99.00	
		1410.4	124.92	
475	Staples Business Advantage (222.26)	1410.4	50.68	
		1355.4	114.70	
		3620.4	37.92	
		8020.4	18.96	
476	Melissa Naegeli	1410.4	44.00	
477	U.S. Post Office	1410.4	440.00	
478	Tal G. Rappleyea	1420.4	2,750.00	
479	Gerald Ennis	3620.4	12.40	
480	Charlene Leach	6140.4	51.15	
481	ProPrinters	7510.4	2,864.84	
482	JoAnn Jakiela	7550.4	400.00	
483	Unifirst Corp.	9090.8	105.05	
484	Fleet Services	5110.4		135.03
485	NexTel Partners	5010.4	46.66	
486	Bernard Kowalski (353.16)	5010.4	86.39	

		5130.4		266.77
487	Tractor Supply	5130.4		284.72
488	Northern Safety	5130.4		34.81
489	Scott's Aluminum	5130.4		2,068.44
490	Ben Funk, Inc.	5130.4		2,599.60
491	Fastenal	5130.4		108.15
492	Blizzard Blade	5130.4		95.20
493	CarQuest of Valatie	5130.4		293.10
494	Northern Tool	5130.4		475.83
495	Power Plan	5130.4		121.46
496	Mario's Home Center (\$125.20)	5130.4		85.34
		5132.4	39.86	
497	Main Care Energy (\$844.54)	5110.4		583.16
		5132.4	261.38	
498	Culligan	5132.4	26.75	
499	Knott's Heating & A/C	5132.4	516.00	
500	Otsego Iron & Metal Co. (\$702.84)	5142.4		77.36
		3310.4	360.00	
		5110.4		265.48
501	Cargill, Inc.	5142.4		9,563.73
	<b>TOTAL FORWARD</b>		<b>\$12,979.82</b>	<b>20,228.46</b>