

February 14, 2013

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott, Councilman Tom Burrall, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilman Brian Chittenden, Councilwoman Kelley Williams, Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli and Highway Superintendent Kowalski.

Supervisor Knott called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and open 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 Kelley Williams and it was passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the vouchers presented for payment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kelley Williams and was passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

A letter from Columbia Opportunities announcing that they are now accepting applications for the new apartments in Valatie.

A letter from American Bio Medica transmitting their PILOT payment.

A letter from Assemblyman Michael Kearns (142nd) asking the Board to consider passing a resolution in support of a bill making banks and mortgage companies more responsible for their foreclosure properties.

Special Guest – Honorable Carrie O’Hare, Ph.D.

Town Justice Carrie O’Hare announced that the Court had been awarded a grant for the purchase of a new scanner.

Old Business

Supervisor Knott announced that the books and accounts for the Court and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s Offices had been audited at the Workshop Meeting on February 7th and everything was in order.

Hydro Electric Plant – Both turbines are operating during the day but the company is shutting them down at night.

Cloud Contract for Computer Back-Up – Supervisor Knott explained that after reviewing the proposed contracts from both BAS and Time Warner and after speaking with representatives from both companies, he was recommending the Board sign with BAS. He further explained that while BAS a little more expensive (TW \$9.95/mo; BAS \$14.95/mo), they would be able to provide better IT services and we have already established a relationship with them for other programs and services. A motion was made by Councilman Tom Burrall to sign the contract for cloud backup services with BAS. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brian Chittenden and was passed by unanimous vote. Supervisor Knott will contact BAS and get the process going.

Supervisor Knott also advised the Board that BAS had been working with the Assessor’s office to set-up their new email address and realized his computer had been corrupted. After cleaning it up, they recommended that the computer be replaced. They will submit a price quote to Supervisor Knott.

Supervisor Knott announced that we had received a proposed contract for services from ARE Productions to do the timing and announcing at the Ken Hummel Memorial Run. The prices had not changed from the previous couple of years, \$1000 with a \$600 deposit required. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the contract and it was seconded by Councilman Tom Burrall. As the “event director”, Supervisor Knott asked Melissa Naegeli to sign the contract and forward to ARE with the check.

Supervisor Knott discussed the Town’s legal expenses and explained the costs that had been incurred.

February 14, 2013

Reports

Town Clerk: Report is on file in her office. Melissa also gave a brief report on the collection of taxes. Supervisor Knott asked Melissa to give an update on the website and email addresses. Melissa Naegeli reported that the website was up and running, with minimal bugs. She also announced that there are new email addresses for the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Assessor, Building Inspector and Planning/Zoning Boards. The email addresses are tied to the website address and the old Fairpoint addresses will be obsolete at the end of the month.

Assessor: Cathy Knott reminded everyone that exemptions are due to the office by March 1st. Mrs. Knott also reported that she and Assessor Howard Gleason had attended a training at Columbia-Greene Community College regarding Agricultural Exemptions.

Supervisor Knott reported that Howard Gleason, Assessor, would be at the March meeting to make a presentation on the possibility of doing an in-house re-evaluation due to the changes in market values over the last several years.

ZEO/Building Inspector: Report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee: Cal Burch reported that the next meeting will be Saturday, February 16th at the Town Hall at 9am. He also reported that the February pot luck dinner had been cancelled due to a snowstorm and the next scheduled dinner was March 8th.

Supervisor Knott reported that there was no new information on the grant.

Recreation Committee: Councilwoman Williams reported that she and Councilman Scott had met on Saturday, February 2nd and discussed the hunting situation and concerns at Ken Hummel Park. They are recommending that the park be listed as "bow hunting only" and that the Town work with the Glencadia Rod & Gun Club to let them use the park for youth training programs. She asked that anyone who had any concerns, comments or recommendations regarding this subject come to the March Recreation Committee Meeting.

She also reported that they discussed that work needed to be done at the playgrounds in the spring and explained that the mulch on the playground had to meet State specifications. She will discuss further with Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski.

Councilman Scott said that Mr. Jim Burke of the Glencadia Rod & Gun Club would like to come to the next meeting to explain to the Board what types of programs and training they would be doing with the youth at the park. Supervisor Knott said that would be fine.

Councilwoman Williams reported that the Town had received the check from the County reimbursing expenses from the summer program. She also explained that the grant package that she had submitted had been returned with some minor questions but that the \$2000 was guaranteed to us.

Environmental Management Council: Supervisor Knott explained that Ms. Schneider was at a GIS Training Seminar but reported that the Committee is reviewing information from the TCI fire last year.

Highway Department: Superintendent Bernie Kowalski reported that the new truck was having engine problems. He also reported that the 2007 truck was experiencing electrical problems and was being repaired. The snow guard has been installed on the back of the garage.

Planning/Zoning Boards: Both Boards will hold meetings in February – Planning Board 2/25 and Zoning Board 2/26.

Town Hall: Councilman Edward Scott reported that all was quiet. Supervisor Knott suggested that in the Spring the Board look at resurfacing and repairing the sign in from the Town Hall.

February 14, 2013

Historian: Town Historian Juanita Knott reported that she will have prints made of the slides that former Historian Priscilla Frisbee had accumulated. This will be made possible by the Columbia County Grant that had been awarded.

Historic Stuyvesant Day will be held this year on August 10th and will focus on the Hydro Electric Plan. Mrs. Knott is discussing the plans with Mr. Jim Besha of Albany Engineering. Supervisor Knott verified that Mr. Besha will hold a re-dedication ceremony of the Plant on that day.

Dog Control Officer: Supervisor Knott reported that there had been a couple of complaints and that the report would be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

County Government

Courthouse Renovations: Supervisor Knott reported that he had been appointed to a committee to oversee the construction at the courthouse.

Supervisor Knott reported that he was also serving on a committee to redefine jobs of the Human Resources Dept. of the County due to vacancies. They are looking at ways to streamline services and save the County some money.

Supervisor Knott reported that the Board of Supervisors would have 2 public hearings coming up in the month: 1) an amendment to the Ethics Law and 2) a proposed surcharge on wireless services.

Ag & Farmland Protection Plan: The next public meeting will be held in Ancram on March 2nd at 10:00am.

New Business

Supervisor Knott reported that he had received a proposed contract for services from the Columbia Greene Humane Society. He said the contract was the same as in the past. A motion to sign the contract was made by Councilman Edward Scott and seconded by Councilman Tom Burrall. The motion was passed by unanimous vote. Supervisor Knott will sign and return the contract.

Supervisor Knott reported that he had met with Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea and Town Engineer Ray Jurkowski (Morris Associates) to discuss the solar power presentation made at the December meeting. They have suggested that an RFP be prepared and offered out to vendors to prepare and submit bids. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to start the process to have bidders for a solar project at the Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brian Chittenden and was passed by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott reported that he had been contacted by a couple of residents interested in participating in the Zoning Revision Committee and that more people are needed.

Public Comments

Bernice Wiedjeskog (Sharptown Road) read a statement prepared asking that the Board consider stronger enforcement of the rules at the Ken Hummel Park to preserve the tranquility of the open space. This brought about a conversation regarding the difference between enforcement of rules and laws and the difficulty in policing the park. Supervisor Knott said that the best policing of the park was use by residents who spoke up when they saw a rule being violated.

Robert Gibbs (Lindenwald Ave) presented a petition signed by 40 residents of Stuyvesant Falls in opposition of TCI being allowed to rebuild. Mr. Gibbs asked that the Town Board consider passing a resolution recommending to the Town Board of Ghent that they do not allow the rebuilding of the business. Supervisor Knott explained that each town had "home rule". He added that while it was a terrible accident, the Boards of Ghent had learned a lot. Supervisor Knott said that he was confident that the Boards of Ghent would scrutinize every aspect of a proposal by TCI to rebuild.

February 14, 2013

This subject triggered a conversation regarding the inspection of businesses within the Town, how the fire companies are made aware of what chemicals may be in buildings and regulatory procedures for different businesses.

Lee Jamison (Riverview St.) thanked Mr. Gibbs for his comments. She reported that the Kinderhook Memorial Library had purchased the new computers that had been earmarked for the increase in funding that was approved at the General Election in November. Ms. Jamison reported that the Library is working with a company that does fundraising to raise the money for a much-needed addition to the library. Ms. Jamison also thanked Mrs. Wiedjeskog for her comments and asked if the driveway and parking lot could be plowed for the Owl Walk scheduled for February 23.

Martin Roby (Eichybush Road) addressed the Board and Supervisor and suggested that it was unfair to have put Mr. Pflaum’s lawsuits on display at the previous meeting. He went on to say that it was unfair that he was picked on by the board when other people interrupted him. He also recommended to the Board that they set an example for the residents.

Karen Hummel (Route 9J) said she felt the Board set a good example and tried to set a positive tone at meetings but that the constant badgering and belittling by members of the audience did nothing more than incite bad behavior.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Brian Chittenden and seconded by Councilman Tom Burrall. The motion was passed by unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Recorded this 14th day of February 2013

Approved this 14th day of March 2013

Supervisor Knott

Town Clerk – Melissa Naegeli

Councilperson

Councilperson

Councilperson

Councilperson

February 14, 2013

Abstract of Vouchers presented for payment

#	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	H-WAY	CAP	RR
14	Blue Shield of Northeastern NY (\$3677.70)	9060.8	839.02	2,838.68		
15	National Grid (\$3060.39)	5182.4	2,002.81			
		5132.2	739.22			
		1620.4	268.25			
16	Fairpoint Communications (\$352.45)	1620.4	244.66			
		5132.4	107.79			
17	Scott Alarm Systems	1620.4	494.29			
18	Kosco, Inc.	1620.4	581.19			
19	Rainbow Distributors (\$88.47)	1620.4	76.47			
		5132.4	12.00			
20	Business Automation Services	1620.4	187.50			
21	Ron Knott	1620.4	21.59			
22	Staples (\$285.48)	5010.4	13.64			
		1410.4	133.94			
		1110.4	104.00			
		1355.4	15.51			
		7510.4	18.39			
23	Ebiz Docs, Inc.	1110.4	645.00			
24	Joseph A. Bruno	1110.4	79.00			
25	NYS Association of Magistrates Court Clerks	1110.4	35.00			
26	NYS Magistrates Association	1110.4	160.00			
27	Col. Co. Magistrates Assoc. Attn. Judge Horner	1110.4	50.00			
28	Col. Co. Sheriff's Association	1110.4	128.64			
29	Mark Fitzgerald	1220.4	491.30			
30	Catherine Knott (\$111.39)	7510.4	79.98			
		1620.4	10.43			
		1355.4				

Town of Stuyvesant**February 14, 2013**

20.98

Town Board Meeting

31	Howard Gleason, Jr.	1355.4	100.00	
32	U.S. Postal Service	1355.4	263.95	
33	NYS Assessor's Association	1355.4	120.00	
34	Stuyvesant Postmaster	1410.4	135.00	
35	Melissa A. Naegeli	1410.4	67.14	
36	Kathy Bishop, NYSATRC Membership	1410.4	25.00	
37	NYSTCA c/o Lisbeth Fumagalli	1410.4	183.00	
38	Hyatt Regency Buffalo	1410.4	645.00	
39	Xerox Corporation	1410.4	147.56	
40	Johnson Newspaper (\$75.66)	1010.4	24.58	
		1410.4	51.08	
41	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	937.50	
42	Gerald Ennis	3620.4	725.00	
43	William J. Better, PC	8020.4	8,550.00	
44	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	74.68	
45	Culligan	5132.4	26.75	
46	County Waste	A5132.4	87.99	
47	Lowe's	5132.4	449.39	
48	Bernard J. Kowalski	5132.4	1,527.50	
49	Fleet Services	5110.4	318.04	
50	Farrell Oil Co., Inc.	5110.4	64.02	
51	Long Energy (\$4178.63)	5110.4		3,097.73
		5132.4		1,080.90
52	Lapiner Brothers	5130.4		21.60
53	Mario's Home Center	5130.4		99.07
54	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	5130.4		43.20
55	Sunnyside Garage	5130.4		315.00
56	River Valley Radio	5130.4		391.75
57	Mooradians	5130.4		46.00
58	Ben Funk, Inc.	5130.4		82.92
59	Kivort Steel	5130.4		251.86
60	NY Tech Supply Co.	5130.4		470.49

Town of Stuyvesant

February 14, 2013

Town Board Meeting

61	CarQuest of Valatie	5130.4	149.59		
62	Zwack, Inc.	5130.4	219.21		
63	Grainger	5130.4	71.74		
		12,836.53	6,341.06	0.00	0.00