

## Town of Stuyvesant

## Town Board Meeting

**May 8, 2014**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilwoman Kelley Williams, Councilman Brian Chittenden, Councilman Tom Burrall, Highway Superintendent Kowalski, ZEO Building Inspector Gerry Ennis, Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea and Yvonne Main to record the minutes on behalf of Town Clerk, Melissa Naegeli (absent).

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

A motion was made by Councilman Tom Burrall to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott 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 was received from National Grid regarding the energy solution project, which has been proposed by them to affect the Town of Stuyvesant. The letter basically states that they found ways to do this, without taking any land by eminent domain. They plan to be reaching out to the residents whose land abuts their right-of-way and talk to them. Supervisor Knott did speak to someone at National Grid and they did offer to come to another Town Board meeting. The Board discussed this at their workshop meeting and they will wait a little bit, to see what happens with Round 2 of stuff going into FERC. National Grid does continue to talk to the Town.

Another letter was received from National Grid advising that they have removed the demand meter from the Town Highway garage.

A letter was received from Chris Chale, who was the Town's Bond Counsel when we borrowed money awhile back. She is leaving Rapport, Meyer law firm and going to her own firm. The Town gave her authorization to take the Town records and they would use her again if they needed her.

A letter was received from Saratoga Casino and Raceway about a proposed Hudson Valley casino and resort.

A letter was received from the Kinderhook Library asking if they could use the Town hall for the Big Truck Day on June 21, 2014 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

A letter was received from the Office of The Aging, in regards to the senior services in the Town of Stuyvesant. Ida Leiser and Marilyn Burch spoke about the Meals on Wheels program and that another volunteer was needed. Councilman Edward Scott asked to be put on the list as a volunteer. There is volunteer training at St. Joseph's Church in Stuyvesant Falls, NY on May 15, 2014 at 10:00 am.

### ***Old Business***

***Ice House Road*** – Supervisor Knott announced that conversations/developments were continuing with the DOT and DEC. There are plans to shut down the crossing for a few days to put some underground service in for the new gates.

***Railroad Station Project*** – Supervisor Knott announced that the DOT is still reviewing all of the bids the Town had to send them. The project is still moving along slowly and there are hopes to see contractors there soon.

## **Reports**

**Town Clerk:** Report is on file in her office. The taxes will go to the County on June 1, 2014, as she is no longer able to collect the taxes at the Town level after May 31, 2014.

**Recreation Committee:** Councilwoman Kelley Williams reported that the Committee had met on May 3, 2014 and they discussed what needs to be done at the playgrounds. The Highway crew has fixed some of the picnic table, but some need to be replaced. The new basketball hoops didn't fit the backboards, so they needed to be exchanged for the right ones. Two of the Spring Clean Ups had been done at Swyer Preserve & Stuyvesant Landing (4/26) and Stuyvesant Falls (5/3). Newton Hook (River Sweep Day) is scheduled for 5/10. Lee Jamison mentioned more picnic tables are needed. Councilman Edward Scott mentioned they have solid, unfinished picnic tables that seat eight (8) people at Lowes for \$88.00, but they would need to be preserved. A solution would need to be made to keep them from being removed from the area (chain to tree). The Recreation Committee will discuss further. Lee Jamison reported that the Bird Walk at the Ken Hummel Park on April 27th with Kathy Schneider was successful.

**Railroad Station Restoration Committee:** There will be a Rhubarb Festival will be held on May 9th from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm and admission is \$5.00. Music will be provided.

**Environmental Management Council:** Supervisor Knott reported that Kathy Schneider had been appointed to the task force portion of the EMC to visit the Dewey Loeffel site, where they are cleaning up the toxic waste. Kathy may have a report for us soon.

**Dog Control Officer:** No report.

**Zoning Revision Committee:** Councilwoman Kelley Williams reported the Committee has a meeting on May 14th, and they continue reviewing the definitions.

**Library:** Lee Jamison reported that on May 17th, Karen Hummel and her students will have an art presentation and reception, with are pieces for sale. Big Truck Day is on June 21, 2014 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, at Town Hall. The Town Highway will have a truck or two to show.

**Highway:** Highway Superintendant Bernie Kowalski reported the highway crew is currently doing ditch work and getting the mowers ready to go. Dump/Trash Day was rather slow.

**Assessors' Office:** Cathy Knott reported Grievance Day is May 27th from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

**Planning/Zoning Board:** Yvonne Main reported that there is a conservation easement for Sharptown Road, a lot line adjustment for Eichyush Road, and a lot line adjustment on Cty. Rte. 21, for the Planning Board. There is a request for an accessory apartment being presented to the Zoning Board.

**Historian:** Juanita Knott reported that Historic Stuyvesant Day will be Saturday, August 9th at the See-Riverview Park. A grant application was submitted to the Columbia County Tourism Bureau for the House Tours and the Committee has received a \$100 award toward the Tours. The House Tours is being planned for September and volunteers are needed. The Patrick Sweeney Day was a success.

**Cemetery:** Councilman Edward Scott reported that the mowing and cleanup has been started.

**ZEO Building Inspector:** Gerry Ennis reported that building is starting to turn up with small projects and renovations. Pools must have an alarm system when being installed.

**Town Hall:** Councilman Ed Scott reported that the tulips are up and the landscaping has begun.

## ***County Government***

***Airport:*** Supervisor Knott reported that the full Board of Supervisors has adopted a notation to achieve a safety zone on the current property. The Board will still need to develop a safety zone with Meadowgreens. The whole plan is going back to FAA for further review.

***Standard Solar:*** A firm called Standard Solar came and made a presentation to the County Government Committee recently, regarding a new concept that the Governor has approved and put some money toward called "Remote Net Metering". This is where power can be generated in one place and shared with another place.

***Pine Haven:*** The State is taking the Medicaid reimbursement money that was being sent to the nursing homes and sending it to a Managed Care facility (like an insurance company). The Managed Care will then pay the nursing homes. Everyone is losing the capital component reimbursement portion of that. This has made the County put the brakes on the idea of borrowing \$32 million for a new nursing home that they may not be able to pay back. This is still being discussed and it's currently unknown what avenues the County will take.

## ***New Business***

***Broadband Survey:*** Supervisor Knott the County is embarked upon a Broadband Survey and is asking residents to complete it. There is a link on our Town website and the County website for this. If you don't have internet access, you can also go to the Library to complete it. There is money out there for the cable providers to supply connections to people who currently do not have internet.

***ZEO/CEO Computer:*** Supervisor Knott advised that the computer for the Building Department needs to be replaced due to the new BAS program at a cost of \$801.00. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Chittenden to replace the computer. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and passed by unanimous vote.

***Property Tax Freeze Program:*** Supervisor Knott advised the Governor has made mention that property owners will receive a rebate check if Municipalities and small Governments can 1) stay within the 2% tax cap or 2) come up with a way to consolidate services. He met with some staff from the Governor's office and who didn't have any hard fact onto this. The NYS Association of Counties put together a report for Columbia County, specific to the Town of Stuyvesant and it explained how the Government possibly plans to send property owners rebate checks this fall, for those in a school district only, where the school district budget was kept within the 2% tax cap. It affects us in the Town, by the budget the Board develops in the fall of 2014 for the year 2015. The Government will then look in the years 2016 & 2017 for the Municipalities (being the Town and County) to save 1% of the tax levy the Board developed this fall. We will continue to find ways to share services.

## ***Public Comments***

Charlene Leach asked about the box to the North of the intersection of Route 26A and Route 9J. This was supposed to be removed several years ago and continues to pose a sight hazard. Supervisor Knott will make a few calls to DOT to see if something can be done.

Charlene Leach mentioned that some time ago, Stuyvesant Fire Company planned to do a train/disaster drill. With all the things going on with what the trains are hauling, Charlene questioned if the fire company still planned to do this. Supervisor Knott will check with Fire Chief Steve Montie on this.

Councilman Brian Chittenden announced that the Dutch Hollow Farm Spring Newsletter was available. Farm Day at Dutch Hollow Farm is tentatively scheduled for August 3, 2014.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Brian Chittenden and seconded by Councilwoman Thomas Burrall. The motion was passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Recorded this 8th day of May 2014

Approved this 12th day of June 2014

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Supervisor Knott

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Town Clerk – Melissa A. Naegeli

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Councilperson

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