

**March 9, 2017**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott, Councilwoman Kelley Williams, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilman Brian Chittenden, Councilman Tom Burrall, Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli, and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Knott opened the meeting at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Knott reconvened the Public Hearing and asked for comments from the audience.

Mr. Grannis introduced himself and his wife. He spoke regarding a letter of comments from Will Pflaum, his son, regarding the proposed Zoning Law. Mr. Pflaum's letter is on file.

Lee Jamison commented that she thought the Home Occupation section was too subjective. She encouraged mediation vs litigation.

Christian Sweningson commented that there could be arbitrary enforcement issues with the Zoning Law. He added that the ZEO has no clear standards for enforcement. Mr. Sweningson added that language had been added to the new draft but felt it doesn't clarify issues such as amount of noise. He said the law creates more division because it's only enforceable against those who can't litigate or defend themselves.

Mr. Grannis commented that Will Pflaum would prefer written clarification on his comments and referenced the cited case law regarding property use.

Doug Mayer expressed concern about treating everyone fairly. He was concerned with random enforcement and that "unusual, unreasonable, and perceivable" is questionable wording. He added that he appreciated the work that has been spent on this and asked if the proposed Law would be checked for spelling and grammar.

Christian Sweningson reiterated his concern about arbitrary enforcement. He said there were people making a newsletter for the town with local news and a listing of local businesses. He asked that the hearing be continued to give consideration to concerns of arbitrary enforcement.

Jane Jessup Mayer reminded everyone that there are free mediation services available through Common Ground.

Mrs. Grannis asked if there had been a proposal of mediation previously.

Supervisor Knott replied that mediation would be something used for disputes between neighbors but not something when it was the Town and someone breaking the law.

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Councilman Ed Scott said that after reading Will Pflaum's letter he wanted to assure everyone that these proposed changes to the Zoning Law are not to go after him. Mr. Grannis said that Will Pflaum says he is grandfathered.

Lee Jamison spoke and said she hadn't seen anyone at the meetings in favor of the proposed changes. Councilman Scott replied that people do not usually say anything unless they are against something.

Brian Chittenden made a motion to leave the Public Hearing open until the April meeting to give people additional time to comment. The motion was seconded by Ed Scott and was passed by unanimous vote.

The Public Hearing was recessed until the April Town Board meeting.

The regular business meeting resumed.

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Edward Scott, seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

### **Correspondence**

A revised Comprehensive Plan from the Village of Kinderhook was received and is available for review.

A motion to approve the bills submitted was made by Tom Burrall, seconded by Edward Scott, and was approved by unanimous vote.

### **Old Business**

The annual Spring Trash Day will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> and is the same day as the River Sweep Day. Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli will get notices out and tickets will be available in April.

Supervisor Knott announced that the 2016 Annual Report had been submitted to NYS Comptroller's Office.

### **Reports**

*Town Clerk* – Report on file.

*Recreation Committee* – Kelley Williams reported that they had met and discussed the use and lease for the fields at Ken Hummel Park.

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Robert Gibbs from Stuyvesant Falls asked if the removed ash trees at the Stuyvesant Falls playground were going to be replaced. Supervisor Knott replied that he is looking into funding and that he had had discussions with Councilwoman Kelley Williams and Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler about planting trees; they are looking into prices.

Mr. Gibbs suggested that the Committee look into various renovation projects and that he would be willing to help.

Lee Jamison had correspondence Stuyvesant Pathways regarding the conservation area at Ken Hummel Park regarding mowing of the fields where the birds are nesting. It was recommended that the Board agree to mowing of the field one time before the Fall. Stuyvesant Pathways volunteers will move the bird houses and will mow in the Fall.

*Railroad Station Committee* – Lee Jamison reported that a pot luck dinner would be held on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. There will be a family movie night at the depot on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 4pm; they will be showing “It Happened One Night”.

*Environmental Management Council* – Christian Sweningson reported that the Council had discussed the upcoming Good Earthkeeper Awards. He said the main focus of the meeting was the TCI fire and the near disaster it created for area fire companies. There is no agency in Columbia County with oversight in this type of situation. With more businesses moving in to the area, the Council is looking for solutions to the lack of oversight. Supervisor Knott replied that work is being done around the County to make sure fire companies are better informed about local businesses.

*Dog Control Officer* – Report on file

*Kinderhook Memorial Library* – Lee Jamison reported that generous donations toward the Capital Campaign had been received.

*Office for the Aging* – Ida Leiser reported that there hadn’t been a meeting. Their next meeting will be in April.

*Highway Department* – the Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported

- They had been out plowing and sanding;
- Trucks had been repaired;
- That oil prices are expected to rise; and
- The fences at the Stuyvesant Falls playground had blown over;

Mr. Stiffler asked the Board for permission to purchase a new 10’ road broom. He shared three bids from Trias (\$14,994), Nortrax (\$10,952), and Arrowhead (\$10,533). Councilman Tom Burrall read a resolution to purchase the broom from Arrowhead as the low bidder. Supervisor Knott asked Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to take a roll call vote. The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote.

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*Assessor's Office* – Cathy Knott reported that 250 exemption renewals had been mailed in November. As of the March 1<sup>st</sup> due date, all but 5 had been returned.

Supervisor Knott reported that Assessor Howard Gleason was working on assessment numbers and that our last revaluation was in 2009 and cost the Town \$80,000 to have it completed by an outside agency. The County has hired an evaluation specialist and a data collector. He suggested we get into the lineup for data collection in 2018 to have new values in 2019. Supervisor Knott will ask Mr. Gleason to come to the Board with a presentation. Tal Rappleyea asked if the information would be gathered from scratch or if the information on file would be updated. Supervisor Knott said he didn't think it would be from scratch but said he would ask Mr. Gleason to explain that in his presentation.

*Planning/Zoning Boards* – Jeff Jensen reported that the Zoning Board is working on proposed changes to the application and will review at the March meeting.

*Historian* – No report

*Cemetery* – Councilman Scott said he has new prices and will file them with the Town Clerk.

*ZEO/Building Inspector* – Report is on file.

*Town Hall* – All is quiet.

### **County Government**

Supervisor Knott reported that

- the County Board had voted to fund the summer youth program and had internships available for students enrolled in college. Internships will pay \$11/hour. Names should be given to Supervisor Knott;
- The SEQRA for the Commerce Park sewer project was complete;
- The County Board had voted to increase the Veterans' Exemption and now the Town can consider increases;
- There would be a meeting on Monday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> of the Hudson Landfill Group regarding the CLC park plans;
- He had given up his seat on the Soil & Water Board

### **New Business**

Supervisor Knott announced that the April meeting would be held on the first Thursday (April 6<sup>th</sup>) instead of the third. Melissa Naegeli will get the notice in the paper.

### **Board Comments**

No comments

### **Public Comments**

Lee Jamison reported that April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day and trail maintenance at Ken Hummel Park is scheduled weather permitting.

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Mr. Grannis commented that after observing the meeting, it is impressive how many balls are in the air that the Board deals with and said thank you.

Christian Sweningson asked if the Building Inspector reports are available online. Supervisor Knott replied that we are working on a new system to make it easier to get them online but that they are always available in the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Scott, seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC*

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Vouchers presented at the March 2017 meeting for approval:

<u>#</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LIGHTING LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
80-17	CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc. (3512.79)	9060.8	600.48		2,912.31
81-17	Stuyvesant Post Office	1410.4	196.00		
82-17	Time Warner Cable (400.34)	1620.4	274.57		
		5132.4	125.77		
83-17	Constellation (410.99)	5182.4		197.75	
				213.24	
84-17	National Grid (1201.72)	5182.4		584.53	
				617.19	
85-17	National Grid	1620.4	21.02		
86-17	National Grid (RR Station)	1620.4	22.37		
87-17	National Grid	5132.4	126.84		
88-17	Marlin Business Bank	1620.4	139.00		
89-17	ARE Productions	7550.4	900.00		
90-17	Constellation (107.36)	1620.4	1.34		
		5132.4	106.02		
91-17	Air Gas USA LLC	5130.4			20.80
	2-Mar-17		2,513.41	1,612.71	2,933.11
92-17	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	749.06		
93-17	Melissa Naegeli (44.98)	1355.4	34.98		
		1410.4	10.00		
94-17	William T Vick, Sr	1110.4	9.80		
95-17	Xerox Corporation	1410.4	288.66		
96-17	Business Automation Services	5010.4	23.75		
97-17	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	190.10		
98-17	Nolan Bottle Gas, Inc.	1620.4	516.40		
99-17	Staples, Inc. (126.19)	1620.4	8.54		
		3620.4	28.49		
		1110.4	6.10		
		1410.4	74.87		
		7510.4	8.19		
100-17	Rainbow Distributors	5132.4	26.98		
101-17	County Waste	5132.4	93.58		
102-17	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	95.45		
103-17	Valley Energy (1,499.01)	5132.4	286.18		

**Town of Stuyvesant**

**Town Board Meeting**

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		5110.4			1,212.83
104-17	Culligan	5132.4	28.93		
105-17	GiGi's Wrench	5130.4			102.00
106-17	Max S. Wood Equipment	5130.4			1,105.00
107-17	Chemung Supply Corp.	5130.4			430.00
108-17	Share Corp.	5130.4			117.75
109-17	Mario's Home Center (245.21)	5110.4			211.75
		5130.4			33.46
110-17	CarQuest of Valatie	5130.4			658.62
111-17	Tractor Supply	5130.4			121.58
112-17	Mooradian Hydraulics	5130.4			212.50
113-17	Ben Funk, Inc.	5130.4			1,376.91
114-17	Roddy Niesen	5110.4			1,800.00
115-17	Air Gas USA, LLC	5130.4			102.23
116-17	Capital Equipment Service	5110.4			120.00
117-17	Morton Salt, Inc.	5142.4			4,359.26
118-17	Wex Bank	5110.4			174.26
119-17	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's)	1110.4	131.13		
120-17	Carrie O'Hare	1110.4	9.80		
121-17	Col. Co. Office for the Aging	6110.4	2,500.00		
122-17	Stuyvesant Garden Club	6772.4	150.00		
123-17	Stuyvesant/Stockport Senior Citizens	6772.4	2,500.00		
124-17	Cornell Local Roads Program	5010.4	50.00		
125-17	Lowe's	5130.4			131.03
	9-Mar-17		7,820.99		12,269.18
	March Totals		10,334.40	1,612.71	15,202.29