

August 10, 2017

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Local Law #2 of 2017 Re: Veteran's Real Property Tax Exemptions**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held a Public Hearing on August 10, 2017 at 7pm for the purpose of taking public comment on proposed Local Law #2 of 2017 regarding Veteran's Real Property Tax Exemptions.

Supervisor Knott called the meeting to order and asked Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to read the Public Notice as it was published in the official Newspaper.

Following the reading of the Notice, Supervisor Knott reviewed the proposed law and explained that the limits of income were being increased to match the Law recently passed by the County Board of Supervisors. He explained that the proposed increase in exemptions would result in an approximate \$3/year to tax bills between the County and Town increases. The Law will also include "Gold Star Parents" as being eligible for the exemptions.

Councilman Tom Burrall asked how many people in the Town took advantage of the Veterans Exemptions currently. The Assessor's Clerk Cathy Knott responded there were 47 and that the Office could provide a breakdown for the Town Board.

Mike Naegeli commented that it was a great idea to match the Law with the County amounts.

Cathy Knott encouraged the Board to adopt the Law.

With no further comments or questions, Supervisor Knott closed the Public Hearing at 7:10pm.

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The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilman Tom Burrall, Councilman Brian Chittenden, Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli, and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Councilwoman Kelley Williams was not in attendance.

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

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 letter from NYS Real Property Services notifying the Town that the equalization rate is 100%

### **Old Business**

*Health Insurance* – Supervisor Knott reported that there is a projected 14% increase to Health Insurance for the coming year. The Board shopped around for prices and have decided to stay with the current plan and company. The 14% increase in insurance works out to approximately 2% of salary of those affected.

*Liability Insurance* – Supervisor Knott reported that the Board had decided to ask for bids from three local insurance companies to see if there was an opportunity for better pricing.

*Resolution for Village of Kinderhook* – Supervisor Knott reported that he had shared at the Workshop meeting a proposed Resolution in support of the Village of Kinderhook applying for a Greenway Grant for development of a “creek trail” on the Kinderhook Creek. He asked for Board support to sign the resolution to join with the Village of Kinderhook to develop the Creek through our Town. Our share of the Grant would be \$3,000 approximately.

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TOWN OF STUYVESANT  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK  
BOARD RESOLUTION 2017

At a regular meeting of the Town Board for the Town of Stuyvesant, Columbia County, New York, duly held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017 at the Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant, New York, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by: Councilman Edward Scott

Seconded by: Councilman Thomas Burrall

WHEREAS, the Village of Kinderhook is applying to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program for a project entitled “Kinderhook Creek Recreational Use Study, Phase I” to be located within the Village of Kinderhook and within the Town of Stuyvesant; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires the applicant municipality to obtain the approval/ endorsement of the governing body of the municipality or municipalities in which the project will be located.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing board of the Town of Stuyvesant hereby does approve and endorse the application for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program, for a project known as “Kinderhook Creek Recreational Use Study, Phase I” and located within this community and will support, cooperate and equally share in the cost thereof with all other municipalities participating therein.

Upon question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Board members voted “Aye” in favor of the Resolution:

<u>Town Board Members</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ronald Knott	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Brian Chittenden	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Kelly Williams	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
Tom Burrell	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Edward Scott	<u>X</u>	_____	_____

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Town Board, the same was duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of Stuyvesant.

Dated: August 10, 2017  
Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC  
Town Clerk  
Town of Stuyvesant

A motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Councilman Ed Scott, seconded by Councilman Tom Burrall, and passed by unanimous vote. Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli will forward the adopted Resolution to the Village of Kinderhook.

Resolution for Purchase of Fuel Oil – Supervisor Knott presented a Resolution to the Board at the Workshop with regard to awarding our Fuel Contract to a company other than the company

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that won the County Bid. After reviewing the bid from the current company, Valley Oil, it was determined that there was a \$.0025/gallon difference. The Board agreed that this was a small amount and agreed to stay with the current company.

**RESOLUTION  
TOWN OF STUYVESANT  
Authorization for the award of fuel oil**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Stuyvesant general accepts the price per gallon of fuel based on the County's bidding process;

**WHEREAS**, this year the County fuel oil bid went to Kosco Oil;

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Superintendent and the Town Clerk have recommended to the Town Board that we consider remaining with Valley Oil who currently has the bid due to past difficulties in billing and delivery service; and

**WHEREAS**, upon investigation it was discovered that Valley Oil bid was only .0025 cents per gallon more than the low bidder, being Kosco.

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant awards our fuel oil bid to Valley Energy for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

<u>Town Board Members</u>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Supervisor Ron Knott	X		
Councilman Brian Chittenden	X		
Councilwoman Kelley Williams			X
Councilman Tom Burrall	X		
Councilman Edward Scott	X		

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Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC  
Town Clerk

A motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Councilman Edward Scott, seconded by Councilman Brian Chittenden, and was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the bills presented was made by Tom Burrall, seconded by Brian Chittenden and was passed by unanimous vote.

**Reports**

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*Town Clerk* -- Report on file.

*Recreation Committee* -- Lee Jamison reported that volunteers had repaired the footbridge at Ken Hummel Park.

Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported that he cannot get a tree for the playground right now. He will take care of getting a tree and planting it in the Fall.

*Railroad Station Committee* – Marilyn Burch reported that the Family Movie Night would be held on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> and would screen “Lawrence of Arabia”. She also reported that the Corn Festival would be held on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall.

*Environmental Management Council* –Christian Sweningson reported that the Council had received a report from the Representative of the NYS Climate Resiliency that paid attention to weather and projections to help municipalities with planning at the shorelines. Raises in temperatures are tiny but cause big impacts on storms. The Northeast is above the National average which is higher than the plant average.

Culvert overload and road flooding are being reviewed because of flooding. Money is available for upgrades. Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler added that he had signed up for the available classes.

*Dog Control Officer* – Report on file.

*Kinderhook Memorial Library* – Lee Jamison reported that the Library Capital Project had received \$200,000 from a Grant from State Senator Cathy Marchionne. The groundbreaking for the large addition is being scheduled.

*Office for the Aging* – Ida Leiser reported that the Reach Program did 20 projects locally for Seniors and did great work. The group was hindered from helping more people because of the proximity of where they were staying and the limitations on travel.

*Highway Department* – the Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported

- They are working on the shoulders of the newly paved roads;
- They are cutting low hanging branches along Town roads;
- They helped at Stockport with paving projects;
- CHiPs money had been applied for; and
- FEMA money had been applied for.0

*Assessor’s Office* – Cathy Knott reported that everything was quiet.

*Planning/Zoning Boards* – Christian Sweningson report that the Zoning Board had reviewed a variance for a house on Summerset Road.

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Marilyn Burch reported that the Planning Board had adopted a Resolution for a horsebarn to be moved back 4' from the road on Route 9.

*Historian* – Juanita Knott reported that Historic Stuyvesant Day would be on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. There would be a Commemoration of WWI Veterans by the VFW at 1pm at the Picnic at the Sandbar in Stuyvesant Falls. She added that she is working on story boards and games and activities for people to participate in at the picnic.

Lee Jamison added that she had been doing research on the Women's Land Army. She had learned that it was women who had been trained to use farm equipment and continue to grow crops to feed the military. She said it was pre-“Rosie the Riveter”.

*Cemetery* – Councilman Ed Scott reported that mowing and trimming were continuing.

Cathy Knott reported that she had been working at the Butler Cemetery identifying and cleaning stones, with the help of her sister Maureen. She is going to prepare a map of the cemetery for the Town records.

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

*Town Hall* – The Highway Department has been cleaning up the grounds in advance of the Ken Hummel Run. Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler will get bids for the crack sealing of the driveway and parking lots.

Supervisor Knott reported that Lee Jamison had presented to the Board a Resolution to support additional PCB clean up in the Hudson River. There was an extensive discussion regarding the history of the clean-up projects in the River and the agencies that supported additional clean-up. Juanita Knott recommended that the County Board of Supervisors also be asked to support the Resolution since the entire Western border of the County and may carry more weight. Lee Jamison asked the Town Board to support the Resolution and bring to the County.

Councilman Edward Scott asked why the Governor hadn't stepped in and hadn't GE done what it was asked to do. Lee Jamison reported that he DEC representative from the Governor's Office had been holding EPA and GE to the fire.

***Town of Stuyvesant***

***RESOLUTION OF 2017 IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL REMEDIATION AND INVESTIGATION OF PCB CONTAMINATION IN THE HUDSON RIVER***

*WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its Proposed Second Five-Year Review Report for Hudson River PCBs Superfund site, determining that the remedy in the Upper Hudson River — a 40-mile stretch above the Federal Dam at Troy, NY — “will be protective of human health and the environment upon completion;” and*

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*WHEREAS, EPA did not reach a protectiveness determination for the Lower Hudson River — a 150 mile stretch below the Federal Dam; and*

*WHEREAS, nearly 200 miles of the Hudson River — from Hudson Falls to New York City — is a federal Superfund site because General Electric (GE) discharged millions of pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into the River for thirty years, between 1947 and 1977; and*

*WHEREAS, PCBs are manmade, bioaccumulative, persistent pollutants that have been linked to adverse health effects including, among others: cancer, liver disorders, reduced birth weight and conception rates, persistent and significant deficits in neurological development; and*

*WHEREAS, the continued presence of PCBs in the Hudson River has significantly diminished economic activity and recreational use and enjoyment of the River; and*

*WHEREAS, New York State Department of Health has in place fishing restrictions and advisories against consumption of fish to control human exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks; and*

*WHEREAS, some may believe that the EPA's Proposed Second Five-Year Review Report does not adequately address scientific data and analyses presented by the National Atmospheric Administration and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation that PCBs remain widespread and in greater amounts than expected throughout the Hudson River and that there is much more contamination left behind than originally estimated; and*

*WHEREAS, EPA determined dredging was needed to accelerate the timetable to reach remedial targets and deemed that delays of twenty years or more in reaching these targets were unacceptable;*

*WHEREAS, a peer-reviewed study published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that the remedial targets for Lower Hudson River may be reached decades longer than anticipated, since original model projections may have greatly underestimated the time to reach risk thresholds in the Lower Hudson River fish;*

*WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has concluded that the remedy may not be protective of human health and the environment, and that target fish tissue concentrations may not be met within time frames that EPA set out in the Record of Decision for the cleanup; and*

*WHEREAS, the dredging conducted by GE, which was completed years behind schedule, may not adequately allow for restoration of the Hudson River, and*

*WHEREAS, EPA admits that the remedy is not yet protective of human health and the environment in the Upper Hudson River, and that it will need eight or more years of*

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*fish tissue data to determine whether the remedy is effective; and*

*WHEREAS, EPA admits that the Lower Hudson River is not recovering as anticipated and that it needs more information about PCB contamination in that stretch of the River; and*

*WHEREAS, the presence of toxic PCBs in the Hudson River will continue to threaten the health and well-being of Hudson Valley residents and the environment for years to come.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Stuyvesant hereby urges EPA to review its Proposed Second Five-Year Review Report for Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site and (1) officially declare that the cleanup may not be protective of human health and the environment; (2) require GE to consider additional dredging in the Upper Hudson River;*

*(3) require GE to perform any additional necessary removal of contaminated soils and sediments, including those in the Champlain Canal, to restore economic opportunities; (4) require GE to conduct a full remedial investigation of the Lower Hudson River; and (5) declare EPA’s firm commitment to the restoration of the Hudson River, a significant natural and economic resource of New York State.*

*And further, BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be sent to:*

- *US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 2 & Hudson River Field Office*
- *John Flannery, Chairman and CEO, General Electric Corporation*
- *New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo*
- *NYS Office of the Attorney General*
- *NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*
- *NYS Canal Corporation*
- *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency*
- *US Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *Hudson River Congressional Delegation*

*Motion made at a regular meeting of the Stuyvesant town board, on August 10 2017 by*

*Ed Scott and seconded by Tom Burrall*

**VOTING MEMBERS:**

<i>Councilman Ed Scott</i>	<i>Yea</i>
<i>Councilman Tom Burrall</i>	<i>Yea</i>
<i>Councilman Brian Chittenden</i>	<i>Yea</i>
<i>Councilwoman Kelley Williams</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Supervisor Ron Knott</i>	<i>Yea</i>

Councilman Edward Scott made a motion to adopt the Resolution in support of additional remediation and investigation of PCB contamination in the Hudson River.



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The motion was seconded by Councilman Tom Burrall and was passed by unanimous vote.

**County Government**

Supervisor Knott reported that the Shared Services Plan would be voted on at the September meeting of the full Board of Supervisors. He has information available if anyone is interested.

Supervisor Knott reported that one of the Shared Services projects was Opioid Forums around the County. One was being held on that evening, August 10<sup>th</sup> in Hudson; one on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Kinderhook Town Hall; and an additional one will be in Canaan. Columbia and Greene Counties are working together on the forums.

*Solar Farms on Landfills* – There is an EPA study on landfills and the possibility of placing solar farms on them that will be discussed further in committee.

*50 Grandinetti Dr. Sale (Commerce Park)* – There will be a closing at the end of August for the 10 acre parcel and building to develop a County Training Center for firefighters and having a central area for all County Emergency Response Vehicles.

**New Business**

*Veterans' Exemption Local Law #2 of 2017* – Supervisor Knott asked Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to take a roll call vote on the proposed Local Law that was reviewed at the Public Hearing in advance of the meeting. The result of the roll call vote was 4 Yeas and 1 Absent; Local Law #2 of 2017 was adopted.

The Empire Trail meeting was being held at ICC this evening. Supervisor Knott reported that he had met previously with representatives and there was a draft map in the meeting room of where the trail will go. Kathy Schneider added that it was more of a presentation and that 2.62 miles of the trail would go through Stuyvesant. Carl Williams reported that the presentation only covered the “good stuff” and that there were a lot of questions from property owners about liability. He suggested the new trail stay along State lands along the river. Supervisor Knott added that there were concerns from the Town regarding maintenance responsibilities.

Supervisor Knott announced that 2018 Budget Worksheets had been distributed to all Department heads and that the first Budget Workshop would be held at the Board's regular Workshop meeting on the first Thursday of September (September 7<sup>th</sup>).

Supervisor Knott presented to the Board proposed Local Law #3 of 2017 regarding Littering and Dumping. There continues to be a problem with littering at Town parks. A Public Hearing was set to hear comments for September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**Board Comments**

No comments or questions from the Board.

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**Public Comments**

Lee Jamison thanked the Board for their support of the Water Trail Resolution for additional remediation and investigation of PCB contamination in the Hudson River.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Scott, seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC*

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Vouchers presented at the August 2017 meeting for approval:

<u>CLAIM #</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
314-17	CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc. (\$3512.79)	9060.8	600.48		2,912.31
315-17	Time Warner Cable (\$380.59)	1620.4	260.95		
		5132.4	119.64		
316-17	Marlin Business Bank	1620.4	131.10		
317-17	Dan's Heating & Cooling, Inc.	5132.4	722.00		
318-17	National Grid ( <i>town hall</i> )	1620.4	21.02		
319-17	National Grid ( <i>railroad station</i> )	1620.4	22.66		
320-17	National Grid ( <i>highway garage</i> )	5132.4	114.33		
321-17	Xerox Corporation	1410.4	140.50		
322-17	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Dept.)	1110.4	73.13		
323-17	National Grid (\$1050.20)	5182.4		525.10	
				525.10	
324-17	Constellation (\$98.63)	1620.4	1.71		
		5132.4	96.92		
325-17	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	221.12		
326-17	Johnson Newspaper Corporation	8010.4	21.13		
327-17	Business Automation Services, Inc.	1620.4	830.00		
		<i>3-Aug-17</i>	<i>3,376.69</i>	<i>1050.20</i>	<i>2,912.31</i>
328-17	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	1,787.00		
329-17	JCB Specialties	7550.4	720.00		
330-17	Tech Partners	1110.4	97.50		
331-17	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	968.75			
332-17	SMG	1620.4	247.06		
333-17	Xerox Corporation	1410.4	142.67		
334-17	Staples Business Advantage (\$59.94)	1620.4	47.02		
		1410.4	5.83		
		7510.4	7.09		
335-17	Wex Bank	7110.4	184.49		
336-17	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	69.18		
337-17	County Waste	5132.4	104.81		
338-17	Culligan	5132.4	28.93		
339-17	Rainbow Distributors	5132.4	34.47		
340-17	Mario's Home Center (\$40.47)	5132.4	35.98		
		5130.4			4.49
341-17	H.L. Gage Sales, Inc.	5130.4			73.62
342-17	CarQuest of Valatie	5130.4			41.89
343-17	Ben Funk, Inc.	5130.4			89.46
344-17	Airgas USA LLC	5130.4			26.10
345-17	Lowe's	5130.4			13.29

**Town of Stuyvesant****August 10, 2017****Town Board Meeting**

346-17	Colarusso Quarry Co.	5110.4		174.54
347-17	CJ Miner Inc.	5110.4		65.00
348-17	Canaday	5110.4		1,080.00
349-17	Morton Salt Inc.	5142.4		6,086.68
350-17	Carrie A. O'Hare	1110.4	10.64	
351-17	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Dept)	1110.4	117.00	
352-17	Repeat Business Systems	1620.4	75.53	
353-17	ARE Productions	7550.4	900.00	

*10-Aug-17**4,615.20**0.00**7,655.07***August 2017 Abstract****7,991.89****1050.20****10,567.38**