

April 5, 2018

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott, Councilwoman Kelley Williams, Councilman Tom Burrall, Councilman Brian Chittenden, Councilman Bill Schneider, Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler, and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli. Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea was not in attendance.

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

A motion to approve the previous minutes was made by Kelley Williams, seconded by Bill Schneider, and approved by unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Bill Schneider, seconded by Kelley Williams and approved by unanimous vote.

### **Correspondence**

- Letter from Kosco notifying about a merger with Heritage;
- Letter from Senator Kathy Marchionne regarding the fencing project along the railroad tracks;
- Letter from Kinderhook Memorial Library regarding their 414 Resolution for the November 2018 Ballot. Supervisor Knott will invite Mr. Gary Spielmann to the next meeting to discuss;
- Letter from Greene County Bank soliciting for business.

### **Special Guest**

Supervisor Knott introduced the newly appointed Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer, Glen Smith. Glen updated the Board and the audience on some of the things he has been working on and updating in the Building Department:

- Proposed changes to the fee schedule to ultimately have the Building Dept. pay for itself. Fees have not changed since 2005. To accompany his proposal, Mr. Smith provided to the Board a compilation of information from surrounding towns on their fees;
- Digitizing files and creating property files;
- Updating and utilizing the IPS System that is connected to the Planning, Zoning, and Assessor's Offices. This system has better reporting capabilities;
- Proposed an ordinance for "Zombie Homes" These are houses that have been abandoned by residents and are in foreclosure or owned by banks and are in disrepair. Mr. Smith explained that it is often difficult to track down the responsibility party for maintenance of a property. This ordinance would enable the Town to access a State database that tracks that type of information;

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- Explained that he realizes there are many problems in Town that have to be dealt with on an individual basis and he is going to tackle them one-by-one;
- Has upgraded the IPS system and has personalized all of the Building Department forms on the system;
- Working on integrating his laptop used in the field to directly update the IPS system in the office with data collected;
- New hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:15am – 12:15pm. He is also available by appointment, does inspections throughout the week, and checks phone messages daily.

Councilman Bill Schneider asked what Mr. Smith meant by “pay for itself”. Glen explained that the fees proposed should be enough to pay for the salary and any contractual expenses incurred by the Building Department.

The proposed fee increases will be discussed at the next Workshop.

### **Old Business**

Amtrak fencing project: Supervisor Knott reported that the Town of Germantown had taken the lead among riverfront Towns and sent a letter to the State asking that the public hearing be postponed to have a longer comment period. The State has obliged and the hearing has been postponed. He also reported that Stuyvesant Fire Company #1 Chief Steve Montie has been in contact with the project Engineer to discuss the project. The Engineer has insured that this is not a crossing closing. Supervisor Knott suggested they be invited to a public meeting to respond to community concerns.

Albany-Hudson Electric Trail – Supervisor Knott received a letter from the State in response that disagreed with Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea’s letter and legal opinion that they are required to comply with Town Zoning Law. Supervisor Knott has drafted a reply to Andy Beers, with help from Tom Kilcer, outlining how the project could adversely affect the agricultural businesses in Town.

Councilman Tom Burrall stated that Project Engineers would be meeting with the Stuyvesant Falls Fire District No. 2 Commissioners and Company Officers on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Reports**

Town Clerk – Melissa Naegeli gave reports on both Town Clerk and Tax Collection business; those reports are on file. She also announced that the Town Clerk’s Office will be closed April 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> to attend training and the office will also be closed on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Recreation Committee – Kelley Williams reported that there hadn’t been a meeting yet. Supervisor Knott reported that he had sent an email to the Jensen family about the park. Supervisor Knott asked Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler if they could look at the vents in the small utility building at the Landing Playground. The vent covers

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keep getting destroyed and he asked if they could figure out something to use that couldn't be destroyed. Mr. Stiffler said they would go take a look.

Melissa Naegeli said she had already been getting questions from residents as to whether the Town would be sending resident children to the Kinderhook Playground program again this year. Kelley Williams replied that while we hadn't had contact with Kinderhook yet, she didn't expect that anything in the program would change.

*Railroad Station Committee* – Marilyn Burch reported that there would be a Pot Luck Dinner on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The next Committee meeting would be Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am at the Depot. There is a Movie Night scheduled for Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Depot showing "The Philadelphia Story". She also reported there would be a Poetry Reading with Irene Mitchell on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Environmental Management Council* – Christian Sweningson that there is an Earth Day evening at the Kinderhook Village Hall "Building a Food Smart Community" scheduled for Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am where there will be various vendors and demonstrations. Earth Day is Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and there will be a presentation by Master Gardner Sedric Gray. The deadline for Good EarthKeeping Awards is April 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sweningson reported that the presentation on "Harmful Algal Blooms" was well attended and said that if anyone sees water that is a "glowing green color" they should report it to DEC. Electric car charging stations are being implemented in various towns around the County.

*Dog Control Officer* – No report.

*Kinderhook Memorial Library* – No report. Supervisor Knott reiterated that he will invite Gary Spielmann to come to the next meeting to discuss the Library's proposed 414 Resolution for the November General Election ballot requesting an increase in funding.

*Office for the Aging* – Marilyn Burch reported that she had been accepted as a Representative to the Committee and the first meeting is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that she had attended the Stuyvesant/Stockport Senior Luncheon and discussed looking for new recipients for the Meals on Wheels program. She explained to the Board and audience that the program is lacking in participants and it is open to any homebound person that has trouble getting or providing food for themselves.

*Highway Department* – Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported

- They are raking and repairing along the sides of the roads;
- All of snow fencing is down;
- They are cleaning up limbs that came down during the Winter;
- They are painting and cleaning up at the Highway Garage;
- He is working on the plans for the Church Street project;
- He is getting estimates for the new road going in to Ken Hummel Park;
- He signed the Shared Services Agreement with the NYS DOT for working near State highways;

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- He is completing the 20 year permit application for NYS DOT;
- He has the paperwork for the “Adopt a Highway” program for local roads; and
- Trash Day is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Assessor’s Office* – Cathy Knott reported that the exemption deadline has passed. If your assessment has changed, you will have an opportunity to meet with Howard Gleason to discuss the changes. If you still do not agree with the assessment, Grievance Day is May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4pm – 8pm. Packets are available from the Assessor’s Office or from the Town Clerk’s Office. Melissa Naegeli said she will scan the packet and upload to the website. Cathy reiterated that homeowners will have to bring proof with them to justify why they think their assessment should change.

Supervisor Knott reported that Howard Gleason had recently attended training and had learned that a shared services agreement should be in place with neighboring towns in the event that a Board member or BAR member wanted to grieve their assessment to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

Supervisor Knott also reported that he had received a package from the US Census Bureau with addresses. He is asking Cathy Knott to look over the list to verify addresses.

*Planning/Zoning Boards* – Christian Sweningson (Zoning Board member) and Marilyn Burch (Planning Board member) reported that neither Board had met. They both reported that the Joint Boards Workshop meeting held on March 15<sup>th</sup> was very informative.

*Historian* – Juanita Knott reported it is less than 5 years to the Town’s 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that she had created a new bulletin board in the Town Hall highlighting some Officials from 1823 as well as pictures from the 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Mrs. Knott also reported that she is learning a lot of interesting information about Poolsburg in preparation for the 2018 Historic Stuyvesant Day celebrating the people and places in Poolsburg.

*Cemetery* – Tom Burrall reported that all is quiet.

*ZEO/Building Inspector* – Report on file.

*Town Hall* – Supervisor Knott reported that he has quotes for the replacement generator and will discuss under new business.

*Website* – Bill Schneider reported that there is no new information.

### **County Government**

*Fire Training Center* – The Board of Supervisors have passed a Resolution to hire an Architect for the project. The Board has requested funding from Senator Marchionne.

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*John L. Edwards School* – Supervisor Knott reported that he has met with various County and City of Hudson officials with the idea of purchasing the school to be used for an Office Campus. While the City of Hudson is interested in the building, they cannot afford to purchase it. The idea of a shared use is being explored.

*2018 Veterans Exemptions* – Real Property Director Suzette Buoy discussed that all Towns have adopted the maximum amounts with the exception of the City of Hudson.

**New Business**

Supervisor Knott presented a proposed Resolution “Authorizing Contract for Auditing Services with Columbia County” for the County Comptroller’s Office to provide auditing services of the Court records at a lower cost than what is being charged by private accountants. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott reported that he had received 3 bids for the replacement of the existing generator at the Town Hall with one that has an automatic switchover. They are:

	<u>17 KW</u>	<u>20 KW</u>	<u>22 KW</u>
Shocker Electric	\$6265	\$6700	N/A
Sheriff Electric	N/A	\$6410	N/A
Rothermel	N/A	N/A	\$9975

He explained that the current generator is an 8500 KW. The new generator would run all systems in the building except the air conditioning, as that would require additional electrical work. Bill Schneider commented that we go with the 20 KW, at least, to run all of the systems considering we are also exploring purchasing additional and newer computer systems. The decision will be discussed at the next Workshop meeting.

**Board Comments**

Bill Schneider reported that Kathy Schneider will host the e-birding seminar and following bird walk discussed at the last meeting on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Kinderhook Library. He said attendees are asked to bring binoculars as they will also be used and discussed.

Chuck Stiffler reported that he had been notified that the CHiPs funding was restored in the budget and we will receive approximately \$92,000.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments or questions.

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

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Vouchers presented at the April 2018 meeting for approval:

<b>CLAIM #</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>A/C#</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>LND/FALLS</b>	<b>HIGHWAY</b>
105-18	Cornell Local Roads Program	5010.4	50.00		
106-18	Wex Bank	5110.4			89.04
107-18	Car Quest of Valatie	5130.4			198.16
108-18	Bob Boll Excavating	5110.4			219.42
109-18	Stuyvesant/Stockport Senior Citizens	6772.4	2,500.00		
			2,550.00	0.00	506.62
110-18	CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc. (\$3277.33)	9060.8	675.74		2,601.59
111-18	Constellation (lighting) \$232.01	5182.4		111.60	
				120.41	
112-18	Constellation (\$102.13)	1620.4	1.43		
		5132.4	100.70		
113-18	National Grid (lighting) \$1195.53	5182.4		597.77	
				597.76	
114-18	National Grid (RR)	1620.4	22.38		
115-18	National Grid (Town Hall)	1620.4	21.02		
116-18	National Grid	5132.4	117.38		
117-18	Time Warner Cable (\$557.55)	1620.4	280.44		
		5132.4	277.11		
118-18	Marlin Business Bank	1620.4	131.10		
			1,627.30	1427.54	2,601.59
			4,177.30	1427.54	3,108.21
119-18	Village of Kinderhook	3620.4	298.12		
120-18	Morris Associates	1440.4	242.00		
121-18	Staples, Inc. (\$124.78)	1410.4	42.24		
		3620.4	23.35		
		1110.4	33.02		
		1220.4	8.99		
		1355.4	17.18		
122-18	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill	1320.4	7,316.88		
123-18	Xerox Corporation	1410.4	284.52		
124-18	Tech Partners	1620.4	297.50		
125-18	Johnson Newspaper Corporation (\$40.15)	1010.4	18.74		
		1355.4	21.41		
126-18	Pro Printers	7510.4	1,463.04		

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127-18	Melissa Naegeli	1410.4	50.00		
128-18	Howard Gleason	1355.4	160.00		
129-18	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Dept)	1110.4	63.38		
130-18	Nolan Bottle Gas Co., Inc.	1620.4	346.12		
131-18	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	218.67		
132-18	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	593.00		
133-18	SMG ( <i>new address</i> )	1620.4	180.04		
134-18	Business Automation Services (\$175.90)	1620.4	31.90		
		1010.4	18.00		
		7510.4	18.00		
		1220.4	18.00		
		1410.4	18.00		
		1355.4	18.00		
		5010.4	18.00		
		3620.4	18.00		
		8020.4	18.00		
135-18	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	2,062.50		
136-18	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	69.47		
137-18	Association of Towns	5010.4	110.00		
138-18	County Waste	5132.4	104.81		
139-18	Rainbow Distributors	5132.4	61.45		
140-18	Mario's Home Center	5132.4	122.37		
141-18	Valley Energy	5132.4	813.73		
	Valley Energy (\$2359.85)	5130.4			619.00
		5110.4			1,740.85
142-18	Ben Funk	5130.4			1,714.60
143-18	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			50.04
144-18	Country Side Glass	5130.4			225.00
145-18	Max S. Woods	5130.4			405.00
146-18	Charles Stiffler	5130.4			405.22
147-18	Frank Clemente	5110.4			120.00
148-18	Share Corporation	5130.4			159.00
149-18	Morton Salt, Inc.	5142.4			4,160.77
	5-Mar-18		15,198.43	0.00	9,599.48