November 29, 2018 (December Workshop)

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their December workshop on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott, Councilman Brian Chittenden, Councilwoman Kelley Williams, Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler, and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli. There were also 3 members of the community in attendance.

Supervisor Knott discussed with the Board the candidates who had applied and were interviewed for the position of Town Justice, recently resigned by William T. Vick, Sr. Those who applied were Barbara Fisher, Paula Van Meter, Mark Cross, and Mike Winnie. Supervisor Knott and Councilwoman Kelley Williams held the interviews. All candidates were told that this appointment was only through December 31, 2019 and that they would have to run for the position in the General Election of November 2019 if they wished to continue.

Supervisor Knott explained that he had spoken on the telephone with Mr. Winnie and that Mr. Winnie had said he couldn't be available to start until April 2019. Mr. Winnie did not come in for an interview.

Mark Cross is a new resident in town and expressed interest in becoming more involved with the Town.

Barbara Fisher is current Court Clerk and said she would continue as Clerk if not chosen for the position of Town Justice.

Paula Van Meter is an attorney with court experience in towns similar in make-up to the Town of Stuyvesant.

Supervisor Knott and Councilwoman Williams felt Ms. Van Meter was the most qualified candidate and recommended her for the position. Supervisor Knott added that he had spoken with Councilman Schneider who had reviewed all of the resumes and agreed that she was.

Brian Chittenden made a motion to appoint Paula Van Meter to recently vacated position of Town Justice; to be effective December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ron Knott and was approved by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott will prepare a Resolution appointment Paula Van Meter to the position of Town Justice and will speak with all of the candidates regarding the Board's decision.

Supervisor Knott added that with Ms. Van Meter's acceptance of the position, she will have to resign her current position on the Planning Board. He said he would like the Board's support in offering that vacant position to Mark Cross for his consideration. The Board members in attendance agreed.

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Supervisor Knott reported that we had received the proposed contract for 2019 from the Columbia Greene Humane Society. He said he will have Tal look it over but that it didn't look different from the current contract.

The Resolution proposed last month was accepted by the County Board of Supervisors and 2 stickers/household will be given with the purchase of the County recycling permits.

Supervisor Knott met with Bob Patterson regarding accountant services. He recommended we stay with our current accountants.

The Kinderhook Memorial Library Grand Opening for their new addition is set for December 14th and they have asked for a Proclamation from the Town.

There will be some minor budget amendments at the December meeting, from expenses for paving and the re-evaluation.

Chuck Stiffler told the Board he would be picking up the new plow on Friday, 11/30.

The Board of Assessment Review member due for reappointment in January is Derrick LaTorre. Howard Gleason sent him a letter asking if he was interested in remaining on the Board. We have not had a reply yet.

An End-of-Year meeting will be held on Thursday, December 27th; Melissa will send the public notice to the Register Star.