

March 8, 2018

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, March 8, 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 Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli 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 Tom Burrall, 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 notifying the Town that the Court was awarded the JCAP funding applied for last year for additional shredding/ and security camera totaling \$2100.

### **Old Business**

Tax Collection: Tax money has been coming in. The Town has been paid as has the County. Special Districts have been paid. The letter has been sent out to the Stuyvesant Falls Fire District residents regarding the increase in their taxes.

Computer Services: Received a proposal from BAS for IT Services. Ron met with Jeff Jensen to review the proposals based on his experience in the field. Jeff made some recommendations to Ron regarding some of the different offerings. Ron suggested that he and Bill meet with the representatives from the County IT Office for a proposal for services.

Hudson/Albany Rail Trail: Town Board received a copy what the State would like in the Trail Maintenance Plan. It is being reviewed and was discussed at the Workshop. Ron has asked Tal and Gary (Metz Wood) to review the plans. The State's estimate is approximately \$3000-\$5000 for the Town to cover in maintenance costs. Chuck will rework the numbers based on our employment costs. Bill reported he went to the Stockport meeting and their number exceeds the allowable tax cap amount. Ron said he sent a letter to NYS asking if this maintenance cost would be exempt from tax cap.

Chuck said numbers are based on \$25/hour per man. Our lowest paid employee is \$34.90/hour (including salary and benefits). To meet the cost estimated by the State we would have to hire someone at a lower rate. The estimate is also based on mowing 4 times per year but there is the possibility that it will have to be done more.

March 8, 2018

Additionally, there is the concern that overtime will have to be paid for emergency maintenance that could happen.

Lee Jamison said volunteers have been caring for the trails at the Asbornsen Park for 15 years. Ron reported that the document seems to prohibit volunteers from completing the work on the trail since anyone performing work has to be covered by our insurance. Kathy Schneider said she had read the report and there was a reference to OSHA requirements for the use of chainsaws that would prohibit volunteers from performing work. She asked if the State may waive some of the requirements in order for volunteers to complete the work. Bill highlighted that the State has said they will purchase some additional equipment for our use and said even if we are going to utilize volunteers, we should still ask look into that program. Bill also expressed concern about an old transformer near his house that would be along the proposed trail and said he hopes it is removed because it isn't fenced in and could pose a risk.

Bill expressed concern about where parking areas will be located. Kathy Schneider added that there is no mention in the report for maintenance at the trail heads and parking areas (at least one of which will be in Stuyvesant) and those amounts could be significant.

Lee Jamison reported that other Towns are more positive about the trail and the enhancements to their communities.

Bill Schneider said there is a public meeting at ICC on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Emergency Plan Update: Ron said we have spoken about it in the past but we really have to get our Plan up to date. He said he thought he had asked Tom Burrall to take the lead and asked that it get done.

When there was the power outage recently the Town Hall was at ½ power for several days but it created a lot of problems; copiers and printers were blown out, the phone system was damaged but has since been repaired. There was a problem with the generator and Ron asked that an automatic generator be purchased and installed. He has contacted electricians to start getting quotes.

The system for the delayed shutoff for the ground lights also was broken. Ron is working on getting that repaired.

### **Reports**

*Town Clerk* – Report on file.

*Recreation Committee* – Kelley Williams reported that there isn't anything new from the Committee. Lee Jamison reported that Kathy Schneider has proposed an "e-bird" talk at the Town Hall. She asked if there was WiFi at the Town Hall. Ron said there isn't wifi and Kathy Schneider said it couldn't be done without. Lee Jamison said she will explore some other avenues for internet access. The "talk" will be training people how to "e-bird". Kathy Schneider explained that it is an online database administered by

March 8, 2018

Cornell University that people all over the world contribute to and is basically an introduction to bird watching. The training is to teach people how to report their sightings and use the database and would be scheduled in conjunction with a bird walk to put the applications to use.

*Railroad Station Committee* – Cal Burch reported that there will be a Pot Luck dinner on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. There will also be a free family movie event on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

*Environmental Management Council* – Christian Sweningson gave multiple reports:

- January: Natural Resources Inventory, local government review session that was well attended. Members of the Council who are fire personnel continue to discuss the TCI fire and potential dangers to fire personnel. They are working with Rob Lopez from County 911 for information. Congressman Faso introduced a Bill in Congress regarding Carbon Farming increase sequestration, sponsored by USDA. A representative from the Dept. of Health spoke about increasing arsenic and nitrate levels spotted at different spots in the County. Michael O’Hare spoke about resource recovery and composting programs in Ulster County where they collect approximately 20 tons/month from schools and hospitals in compost materials. The program is being considered for NYC. A “Clean Sweep NY” program to allow farmers and other commercial spreaders a way to get rid of pesticides; the program would not be available to homeowners. There was also discussion about existing and proposed charging stations for electric cars around the County.
- February: Natural Resources Inventory continues to be compiled. The information will be available online at no cost when it’s completed. The Good Earthkeeping Awards are coming up. A youth category has been added for those between the ages of 13 and 19. The nomination form is available on the Town website under “new documents”. Discussed proposed Empire State Forest and Young Forest Initiatives. DEC proposed tax exemptions similar to Agricultural Exemptions. Kinderhook will hold a green Energy Fair on April 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a report on Road Salt Contamination and reducing the environmental impact on people. There was also a DOH report on High Altitude Balloon contamination on lakes and ponds.

*Dog Control Officer* – No report.

*Kinderhook Memorial Library* – Lee Jamison said their next meeting will be March 12<sup>th</sup>. Construction continues. She added that this would be the year for the 414 Resolution to put on the ballot an increase in funding.

*Office for the Aging* – Rich Moran reported there hasn’t been a meeting since November. Ron added that they are exploring adding another bus route, looking for a driver.

*Highway Department* – Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported they have been busy plowing snow and cleaning up trees and limbs along the roadways. He reported that he

March 8, 2018

and Ron recently met with DOT regarding shared services and work permit requirements. He added that he will attend a Traffic Safety meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Assessor's Office* – Exemption deadline has passed. Grievance Day will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in May.

*Planning/Zoning Boards* – Ron reported that a joint workshop will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Historian* – Juanita Knott reported that Historic Stuyvesant Day will be August 11<sup>th</sup> this year. The theme will be “People and Places around Poolsburgh”.

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

*ZEO/Building Inspector* – Went to training; report on file. The report is in a new format, generated from the IPS system.

*Town Hall* – Ron reported that options are being explored for the replacement of machinery that was damaged in the recent power outage.

### **County Government**

Supervisor Knott reported that plans are being developed for the new fire training center. Funds have been applied for from Senator Marchionne.

Working on an agreement with the Sunset Hotel in Greenport for housing homeless.

Meetings are being held to discuss a shared jail with Greene County. Ron said this seems to be a good opportunity for shared services and to save money.

Meetings are being held with State DOT regarding a traffic circle at the Columbia County side of the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. Ron said it appears to be a good solution to a difficult traffic area.

Conversations are being held on housing solar “farms” on County Landfill sights. DEC is in favor of the programs.

### **New Business**

The 2017 AUD Report has been completed and filed with NYS.

A Resolution was presented to the Board for approval for the reappointment of Christian Sweningson to the Environmental Management Council. A motion was made by Brian Chittenden to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was passed by unanimous vote.

A Resolution to allow the Town Highway Dept. to apply for a 10 year permit to perform work near State highways was presented to the Board. A motion to adopt the resolution

March 8, 2018

was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

A Standard Workday Resolution was proposed to remove Gerry Ennis and to add Doreen Dansforth. The Resolution must be posted for 30 days then filed with NYS. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Bill Schneider. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote.

Ron presented a proposed resolution for review, pending a County Resolution, to have the annual Court Audit completed by the County Bookkeeping staff to save money and to meet the shared services initiative.

Trash Day is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>.

April Town Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> instead of April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Joint Workshop will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board Comments**

Bill Schneider reported that he had attended a workshop regarding the use of road salt. There was an extensive study completed on the use of road salt and the environmental impact. Bill expressed concern about wells in Town and said he spoke with Chuck Stiffler about the process of using salt on the roads in the Winter. Kathy Schneider added that it was discussed that we should explore ways to better monitor salt usage. Ron Knott explained that we are expected to have to roads cleared faster when there are storms. Richard Moran asked if there were set standards for clearing the roads. Chuck Stiffler explained that he makes the decision when to plow but there were no State or County guidelines.

### **Public Comments**

Christian Sweningson asked if the Town had received any communications from Amtrak regarding fencing along the tracks. Ron Knott said we had not received any official communications but he would try to get additional information.

Lee Jamison reported that she had attended a presentation on broadband services that was hosted by the Towns of Austerlitz, Ancram, Hillsdale, and Copake. She said underserved areas need advocates and the Towns that seem to be getting action are those that have Broadband Committees. She asked the Town Board to create a committee. Ron Knott explained that our area not only shows underserved areas but also shows blocks of no residences. He pointed out the new maps in the Town Hall that show the areas in the Town that are being reviewed for services. He added that there are expansion of services being done all around town currently. This year the companies are getting money to run wires, next year they will get money to connect residences, but it won't be until the 3<sup>rd</sup> year to see who is and isn't served. Christian added that he was surprised to learn that there are two specific sets of monies involved in the process. One is the fine that will be reduced from \$13 to \$1 million if the

March 8, 2018

companies get the connections made and the other is two merger agreements that required upgrades to connections.

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

*Vouchers presented at the March 2018 meeting for approval:*

<b>CLAIM #</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>A/C#</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>LND/FALLS</b>	<b>HIGHWAY</b>
62-18	Stuyvesant Post Office (\$250.00)	1010.4	200.00		
		1410.4	50.00		
63-18	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$3277.33)	9060.8	675.74		2,601.59
64-18	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	444.00		
65-18	Constellation (\$308.85)			148.55	
				160.30	
66-18	National Grid (\$1251.40)			609.24	
				642.16	
67-18	Nolan Bottle Gas, Inc.	1620.4	468.40		
68-18	Time Warner Cable (\$749.41)	1620.4	280.81		
		5132.4	468.60		
69-18	National Grid	5132.4	113.69		
70-18	National Grid	1620.4	21.02		
71-18	National Grid	1620.4	21.93		
72-18	Constellation (\$99.69)	1620.4	0.96		
		5132.4	98.73		
73-18	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill, CPAs	1320.4	450.00		
74-18	Melissa Naegeli	1410.4	50.00		
75-18	Marlin Business Bank	1620.4	114.00		
76-18	Repeat Business Systems	1620.4	52.46		
77-18	Johnson Newspaper Corporation	1010.4	18.74		
78-18	Staples, Inc. (\$149.24)	1410.4	125.32		
		1010.4	2.91		
		1110.4	6.80		
		1220.4	14.21		
79-18	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	1,968.75		
80-18	Valley Energy	5132.4	1,047.15		
		5110.4			2,453.62
81-18	Sausbier's Awning	5110.4			91.75
82-18	CarQuest of Valatie	5130.4			161.32
83-18	Mooradian Hydraulics	5130.4			103.15
84-18	Morton Salt	5142.4			4,349.32
85-18	VFW Post #9593	6510.4	2,400.00		
86-18	ARE Productions (Ken Hummel 5K)	7550.4	900.00		

March 8, 2018

	1-Mar-18		9,994.22	1560.25	9,760.75
87-18	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	212.88		
88-18	SMG	1620.4	119.10		
89-18	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	69.47		
90-18	County Waste	5132.4	104.81		
91-18	Mario's Home Center, Inc.	5132.4	10.61		
92-18	Mario's Home Center, Inc.	5130.4			157.55
93-18	Tractor Supply	5130.4			103.96
94-18	Blue Tarp Financial, Inc.	5130.4			379.99
95-18	Northeast Automotive Parts	5130.4			54.14
96-18	Package Pavement	5110.4			395.00
	8-Mar-18		516.87	0.00	1,090.64
	Shelter Point Life Insurance Co.	9040.8	838.80		
97-18	Johnson Newspaper Corporation	3620.4	588.19		
98-18	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	123.00		
99-18	Columbia Co. Treasurer (Sheriff's Dept)	1110.4	52.00		
100-18	Carrie O'Hare	1110.4	50.00		
101-18	Culligan	5132.4	28.93		
102-18	Colarusso Quarry	5110.4			72.99
103-18	Air Gas USA, LLC	5130.4			25.40
104-18	Fastenal Co.	5130.4			85.82
	10-Mar-18		1,680.92		184.21
	<i>March Totals</i>		12,192.01	1560.25	11,035.60