

**Town of Stuyvesant  
Town Board Meeting  
October 10, 2019**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, October 10 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Tom Burrall, Bill Schneider, and Brian Chittenden; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Ron Knott opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A motion was made by Tom Burrall to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote.

**Correspondence**

- A letter from Tierra Farms announcing a Fall Festival on October 12<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 2pm.
- A letter from Senator Jordan regarding a recognition program for Purple Heart recipients.

**Special Guest**

Town Justice Carrie O'Hare presented a Resolution for a JCAP Grant for \$927 to purchase and install blinds in the meeting room. A motion was made by Brian Chittenden to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Kelley William and was approved by unanimous vote.

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT  
RESOLUTION NO. 1 of October 2019**

*At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held at the Town Hall in said Town, County of Columbia and State of New York, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019, at 7:00 P.M., there were*

**PRESENT:**

\_\_\_ Supervisor Ronald Knott  
\_\_\_ Councilman Tom Burrall  
\_\_\_ Councilman Brian Chittenden  
\_\_\_ Councilman William Schneider  
\_\_\_ Councilwoman Kelley Williams  
X All of the above

**ABSENT:**

\_\_\_ Supervisor Ronald Knott  
\_\_\_ Councilman Tom Burrall  
\_\_\_ Councilman Brian Chittenden  
\_\_\_ Councilman William Schneider

\_\_\_ Councilwoman Kelley Williams  
\_\_\_ All of the above

AND

\_\_\_ Supervisor Ronald Knott  
\_\_\_ Councilman Tom Burrall  
X Councilman Brian Chittenden  
\_\_\_ Councilman William Schneider  
\_\_\_ Councilwoman Kelley Williams  
\_\_\_ All of the above

**offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:**

**AUTHORIZING THE STUYVESANT TOWN COURT TO APPLY FOR AND  
ACCEPT A 2019-2020 JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT FOR  
THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Court has a need for window blinds in the  
Courtroom for security;

**WHEREAS**, there is available a Justice Court Assistance Program Grant  
under the Unified Court System for such purpose;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND DETERMINED,**

that Town Justice Dr. Carrie A. O'Hare is hereby authorized to apply for  
and accept, if given, a Justice Court Assistance Program Grant in the amount of \$  
927.00 for blinds to be installed at the windows in the Courtroom;  
and be it further

**RESOLVED, THAT** Town Justice Dr. Carrie A. O'Hare is hereby authorized to use  
said grant monies to purchase said window blinds;  
and be it further

Seconded by:

\_\_\_ Supervisor Ronald Knott  
\_\_\_ Councilman Tom Burrall  
\_\_\_ Councilman Brian Chittenden  
\_\_\_ Councilman William Schneider  
X Councilwoman Kelley Williams

And duly put to a vote and carried

X Unanimously  
\_\_\_ Other (Specify).

The undersigned, the Clerk of the Town of Stuyvesant, hereby certifies that  
the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town  
at a meeting thereof duly held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019, and is in full force  
and effect.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Town this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October,  
2019.

Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC  
Town Clerk

Judge O'Hare introduced the Honorable Judge Paul Peter from the Town of Schodack. Judge Peter announced that he had nominated Judge O'Hare to the Magistrate of the Year award. Judge O'Hare shared the letters that had been written in support of her nomination.

### **Old Business**

*Amtrak Fencing* – Supervisor Knott reported he had met with the Fire District Commissioners and the Nature Conservancy to discuss modifying the boat launch because there is a potential problem with accessing the launch when the fence is installed. Amtrak will meet with the Fire Company to discuss other possible solutions on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Empire Trail* – Supervisor Knott announced there are proposed rules that will be posted but the State is in a period of public comment.

*2020 Census* – Supervisor Knott reported that he had met with a representative from the US Census Bureau. He received information on different ways people can respond to the Census next year. There will be data collection on line as well as in person. The Library Association has committed to being involved to provide assistance in the online collection.

*Overlook Park Project* – Supervisor Knott reported Josh Krizar, Troop 113, and his helpers are moving along on the project. The old pine tree was cut down and will be milled and used to build benches for the park.

### **Reports**

*Town Clerk* – Report is on file. Melissa Naegeli updated the Board and those in attendance about the postage meter that had been approved at the September meeting. She explained that the lease payment was only for the meter and the machine had to be purchased at a price that exceeded \$2000. She recommended to the Board that it was a better financial decision to continue using stamps at that price. The Board agreed but asked to investigate other companies and prices.

*Recreation Committee* – Kelley Williams reported that the fence at the Stuyvesant Falls playground has been completed. The merry-go-rounds have been painted and there is a cover piece on the teeter totter.

*Railroad Station Committee* – Lee Jamison reported that the “Trash & Treasure and Repair Café” was held on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and had raised just under \$250. She thanked Cal Burch for his work before and after the event and the Highway Department for the ground work around the Depot.

*Environmental Management Council* – Christian Sweningson reported that the Council had an unofficial meeting as they didn't have a quorum. They discussed:

- Several vacancies on the Council;
- Proposed plastic straw ban;
- The proposed polystyrene ban was taken to the Government Committee;
- The Methane Digester demonstration unit at Basilica;
- There will be one more Natural Resource Inventory workshop next year;
- The road salt article has been approved and will be published in the Register Star;
- Tara Becker has reported a rabid fox in Linlithgo and additional funding sources for source water protection plans.
- The 38 acres around the Town Garage in Hillsdale is being reviewed for a solar farm use.

*Dog Control Officer* – No report

*Kinderhook Memorial Library* – Lee Jamison reported that there will be an Art Show fundraiser on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. The art will be on display for the month of October.

*Office for the Aging* -- Supervisor Knott reported that the 2020-21 implementation plan is in place.

*Highway Department* – Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported

- The ChiPs money was received and allowed for paving of part of Riverview Street and Rectory Road;
- Assisted crews in Chatham, Stockport, and Kinderhook Village;
- Trash Day was October 5<sup>th</sup> and they filled 3 dumpsters;
- Getting the trucks ready for winter; and
- New pickup truck was delivered today.

*Assessor's Office* – Cathy Knott reported that it's been quiet and exemption renewals will be mailed before Thanksgiving.

*Planning/Zoning Boards* – No meetings held in September.

*Historian* – Deputy Historian Cathy Knott reported Historian Juanita Knott has begun planning for Historic Stuyvesant Day 2020.

*ZEO/Building Inspector* – Report on file.

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

*Website Committee* – Bill Schneider reported that the new website will go “live” on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. He also announced that all of the Board Members now have town email addresses and they will be added to the website.

### **Special Guest**

Assemblyman Chris Tague was introduced by Supervisor Knott. The Assemblyman gave updates on what’s happening in Albany:

- CHiPs funding has stayed “flat”;
- \$62 M in emergency weather funding was restored;
- He has been participating in a State Task Force to discuss Broadband, Infrastructure, and Roads through the Transportation Committee hearings;
- DOT/MTA funding program and looking at increasing CHiPs funding;
- He is adding language to the bills that state the funding may only be used for infrastructure and not be moved to other General Fund expenditures;
- Expand support for the Clean Water Act;
- Financial assistance to local governments for water services;
- Pave NY funding improvements;
- Legislation to establish a CHiPs-like funding for culverts in local municipalities;
- Asked DOT for a yearly report detailing all State roads and bridges and to create 20 and 30 year transportation plans;
- Changes to the STAR programs
- Encouraging trade schools and hands-on learning programs;
- EMS & fire company funding and a proposed Legislation to make EMS and fire company members tax exempt to help building and maintain memberships;
- Unfunded mandates burdens on local municipalities’ budgets; and
- The Tax Cap was made permanent but recognizes that it creates difficulties for smaller communities when coupled with unfunded mandates.

Assemblyman Tague took some questions from the audience regarding broadband availability. He made contact with those residents after his presentation and promised to follow-up on their concerns.

### **County Business**

Supervisor Knott reported that they are working on staying within the tax cap for the new budget.

Supervisor Kott reminded the audience that early voting will be available this year. Melissa Naegeli read from correspondence from the Board of Elections the places, dates, and times that early voting is available.

Supervisor Knott announced that contracts had been approved to begin some construction work on the Columbia County Fire Training complex.

### **New Business**

*Insurance* -- Supervisor Knott reported both the liability and health insurances had been renewed with small increases.

*OSC Fiscal Stress Rating* – Supervisor Knott reported that the Town had received a rating of “0” again.

*2020 Budget* – Supervisor Knott announced that the Preliminary 2020 Budget was available for review. A Public Hearing was set for November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Melissa Naegeli will post the notice in the newspaper and online.

*Foreclosed Property* – Supervisor Knott announced that the abandoned and overgrown property at 17 Lindenwald Avenue had been added to the County list for tax sale. He requested permission for the Highway Department to go clean up the grounds as they present a safety hazard to neighbors. A motion to approve the request was made by Bill Schneider, seconded by Tom Burrall and approved by unanimous vote.

### **Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION**  
**Town of Stuyvesant**  
**October 10, 2019**

**Columbia County Natural Resources Inventory**

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Environmental Conservation Law Article 47 declares that the management and conservation of our environment is essential to the health and wellbeing of people of the state; and, local, county or regional understanding of the importance of all aspects of the environment is necessary for the most balanced use of natural resources; and, local participation in the planning of activities that influence the ecological balance of the locality and therefore the state is important; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to New York State Environmental Conservation Law Article 47, the Columbia County Environmental Management Council (the Council) was created by the Columbia County Board of Supervisors in 1974 consisting of one member representative for each of the 18 municipalities including Stuyvesant; and **WHEREAS**, pursuant to said law, the Council shall develop, maintain, and amend from time to time an inventory of natural resources within the county including wetlands and open spaces and factors relating to such things as geology, soils, slope, water resources, vegetation, wildlife habitat, unique natural areas, and scenic, historic and archaeological sites; and

**WHEREAS**, the Natural Resources Inventory is designed to be used as a resource guide by county and municipal agencies and others concerned with land planning, management, policy-making and resource use and conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the completed 2018 Natural Resources Inventory, an extensive document with supporting maps and tables has been adopted by resolution of the County Board of Supervisors;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Stuyvesant accepts and approves, for reference only, informational and educational purposes, the 2018 Natural Resources Inventory, Columbia County, New York, as an inventory of data collection identifying natural resources and important community resources within the Town of Stuyvesant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the acceptance and approval of the 2018 Natural Resources Inventory, Columbia County, New York, and any recommendations regarding municipal actions which may be taken, as provided therein, shall in no way be deemed binding upon said Boards or Agencies with regard to present or future actions.

<u>Town Board Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ronald Knott	X		
Kelley Williams	X		
Tom Burrall	X		
Brian Chittenden	X		
Bill Schneider	X		

October 10, 2019

**RESOLUTION**  
**Town of Stuyvesant**  
**October 10, 2019**  
**Marriage License Fee Waiver**

**WHEREAS** Governor Cuomo signed Legislation (S.3756/A.55) waiving the State fee for marriage licenses for active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces or their spouses; and

**WHEREAS** the Bill gives local governments freedom to waive the fees they charge for marriage certificates for active duty service members or spouses; and

**WHEREAS** the Town of Stuyvesant collects a fee of \$17.50 for marriage certificates; and

**WHEREAS** the Town of Stuyvesant wishes to waive the fee they charge for marriage certificates for active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces or spouses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant hereby waives their fees for marriage certificates for active duty service members of the U.S. Armed Forces or their spouses.

A motion to adopt this Resolution was made by Ron Knott. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by the following roll call vote of the Board Members in attendance:

<u>Town Board Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ron Knott	X		
Kelley Williams	X		
Tom Burrall	X		
Brian Chittenden	X		
Bill Schneider	X		

### ***Budget Amendment #1***

<b><u>General Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Decrease</u></b>
DA3501 S/A CHIPS Revenue	\$22,274.15	
DA5112.2 per Highway	\$22274.15	

The Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to amend the preceding Budget Amendments to the 2019 Budget. A motion to approve was made by Tom Burrall, seconded by Brian Chittenden and approved by unanimous vote.

*The Amendment was signed by all members of the Board and certified by the Town Clerk on October 10, 2019.*

### **Board Comments**

Tom Burrall announced that Stuyvesant Falls Fire Co #2 and Stuyvesant Fire Co #1 together with several other local fire companies will participate in a multiple company drill on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Stuyvesant Fire House. He also announced that Stuyvesant Falls Fire Co #2 will be at the St. Joseph's preschool on Tuesday for Fire Safety Month. He reminded and encouraged everyone to check their smoke detector batteries.

### **Public Comments**

Lee Jamison announced that the Stuyvesant/Stockport/Kinderhook trails committee has basically merged with the newly formed "Northwest Columbia Trails" committee and they support interconnecting the area trails. She also announced that Greenway is making an application to designate the AHET as a State Park. This will help to be able to make grant applications and make policing easier.

Bill Roos & Scott Olsen spoke regarding the proposed Samascott Event Barn on Eichybusch Road. They said they like the quiet and are concerned with the increased traffic. They asked that the Planning and Zoning Boards minutes be put on the website. They also expressed concern that a determination was made allowing the project under "agritainment". Mr. Roos said Melissa Naegeli and Doreen Dansforth had been very helpful. He expressed further concern about the barn driveway being directly across from their front door.

Supervisor Knott explained the functions of the individual Board and that the Town Board can rule on or tell the other Boards how to rule on projects. Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea explained the legalities of the Town Board staying out of the decision making process of the Planning and Zoning Boards. Tal went on to explain the process for projects to be approved.

Joan Snyder asked if the ZEO Determinations have to be in writing. Tal Rappleyea responded that written notice is not specific in the NYS Town Law statute.



Nick Calderado said the extra traffic on the road is upsetting and was concerned that the neighbors' concerns weren't being heard. Tal discussed the process for neighbors.

There was a discussion about draft minutes vs. approved minutes being put on the website. Planning and Zoning Boards minutes will be clearly marked DRAFT and will be put on the website.

Supervisor Knott discussed continued difficulties in getting information out to the residents, whether it's through the newspaper or online,

Jim Yager asked the list of things the Planning Board can ask for includes access plans. Tal explained that yes, they can ask the applicant to prove the access is safe.

There was a question about what recourse the residents have if they don't agree with a Planning Board decision. Tal explained that an Article 78 lawsuit could be filed in County Court. Supervisor Knott said the Planning Board looks at all impacts and can place regulations on businesses.

Christian Sweningsen (Zoning Board Member) said Tal did a good job of explaining the process. He added that nothing final happens at the Planning Board until a Public Hearing is held.

Ned DePew asked at what point people are notified. Tal Rappleyea explained that the Boards have to walk a fine line to make sure that everyone is treated equally and fairly.

There was a question as to whether the process could be changed to make the ZEO put determinations in writing to the Planning Board. Tal Rappleyea said he will research Town Law to make sure the Board can do that.

Supervisor Knott thanked everyone for coming and participating in the meeting. Bill Roos asked if the project was on hold since his attorney had filed an application with the ZBA to review the determination made by the Zoning Officer. Tal explained that there is no automatic stay.

With no further questions or comments from the Board or public, a motion to adjourn was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelly Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:33pm.

The vouchers presented for payment at the October, 2019 Town Board meeting:

<b>October 2019</b>				<b>LIGHTS</b>	
<b>CLAIM</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>A/C#</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>LND/FALLS</b>	<b>HIGHWAY</b>
382-19	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$2614.12)	9060.8	706.52		1,907.60
383-19	Tim Van Wagner	7140.4	4,500.00		
384-19	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	76.63		
385-19	Rainbow Distributing Co. Inc.	5132.4	19.49		
386-19	Clark Patterson Lee	1440.4	81.50		
387-19	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	263.95		
388-19	National Grid	5132.4	73.14		
389-19	National Grid	1620.4	48.52		
390-19	Business Automation Services, Inc.	1620.4	1,485.00		
391-19	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill, CPAs	1320.4	95.00		
392-19	Marlin Business Bank (\$218.35)	1620.4	131.10		
		1410.4	87.25		
393-19	Constellation (\$55.77)	1620.4	1.10		
		5132.4	54.67		
394-19	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	1010.4	18.36		
395-19	Columbia Greene Humane Society, Inc.	3510.4	650.00		
396-19	Melissa Naegeli	1410.4	55.00		
397-19	National Grid (\$1186.32)	5182.4		578.26	
				608.06	
398-19	Constellation (\$169.04)	5182.4		81.32	
				87.72	
399-19	Share Corp.	5130.4			165.52
400-19	Car Quest of Valatie	5130.4			514.45
401-19	Valley Paving				33,213.19
	3-Oct-19		8,347.23	1355.36	35,800.76
402-19	Stuyvesant Post Office	1110.4	64.00		
403-19	Culligan	5132.4	28.93		
404-19	County Waste	5132.4	161.99		
405-19	Time Warner Cable (\$558.49)	1620.4	274.85		
		5132.4	283.64		
406-19	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	1,843.75		
407-19	NY State Comptroller - Justice Court Fund	A2610	599.00		

408-19	Kathryn Schneider	8020.4	100.00		
409-19	Stuyvesant Post Office	8020.4	55.00		128.25
410-19	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			170.99
411-19	Ben Funk, Inc.	5130.4			24.11
412-19	Car Quest of Valatie	5130.4			110.20
413-19	Air Gas USA LLC	5130.4			36.60
414-19	Max S. Wood Equipment Inc.	5110.4			450.60
415-19	Wex Bank	5110.4			128.25
	10-Oct-19		3,411.16	0.00	1,049.00
	<i>October Totals</i>		<i>11,758.39</i>	<i>1355.36</i>	<i>36,849.76</i>

DRAFT