

**Town of Stuyvesant
Town Board Meeting
March 13, 2020**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2020 at 7pm at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, Tom Burrall, and Bill Schneider; Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea, Esq.; Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler; and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli.

Supervisor Knott called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A motion was made by Tom Burrall to approve the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

- Letter from Senator Daphne Jordan regarding money for extreme winter recovery.

Special Guest

Justice Paula Van Meter

Justice Van Meter presented a proposal to eliminate a judge's position in the Town. She discussed the financial savings and the fact that we are the smallest court and have the least number of cases. Supervisor Knott further discussed the financial aspect and how the court is operating at a \$25,000 budget deficit.

Judge Van Meter went on to offer her resignation and explained that she is offering this in the best interest of the Town. The effective date will be one that is determined for her to close out pending cases. She further urged the Board to make an agreement with Kinderhook or Stockport to consolidate or work together.

Supervisor Knott explained that the Town can follow a process to eliminate one of the justice positions, subject to permissive referendum. Tal Rappleyea

added that the decision would be reversible in the event that we needed to go back to having a 2nd justice.

Councilman Bill Schneider spoke and said the money is a big factor and thanked Judge VanMeter for bringing the issue to the Board.

Tal Rappleyea explained that a petition signed by a percentage of those who voted in the last Gubernatorial Election to force a public vote. Lee Jamison asked when the permission would have to be done. There was a further discussion of the legalities of a permissive referendum and timing.

Mike Naegeli asked about working with another court in relation to revenue share. What happens if we lose a judge. Judge VanMeter explained that there are new laws in place that allow for consolidation. She further explained that the Office of Court Administration will assign a judge if something were to happen (illness, etc.) to the one judge in office. She added that they will not supply a clerk and the Board should consider that.

The Board thanked Judge Van Meter for her presentation.

Ray Jurkowski

Ray Jurkowski, Engineer, on behalf of the Stuyvesant Fire District No. 1 made a presentation to the Board regarding a proposed project of a new building to house the fire apparatus. He gave a powerpoint presentation that showed the proposed drawings and financial implications. He announced a meeting for the public at the firehouse on March 28th and the referendum to be held on April 14th. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$1.88 Million.

The proposal is for a 6800 square foot, 5 bay building that is 60' deep and 100' long. The bond would be 3.5% for 15 years with an annual payment of \$163,231. The Commissioners of the District decided on the 15 year bond because the shorter bond while having a higher payment, results in a savings of approximately \$500,000.

The approximate financial implications would be an additional \$1.08/\$1000 of assessed value.

Councilman Bill Schneider asked how taxpayers will be notified if they don't live here full time. Ray replied that notices will be in the newspaper and there will be door-to-door distribution of information.

Melissa Naegeli, speaking as the Treasurer & Secretary of the Fire District, replied that there are specific bond posting requirements for the newspaper and the Town website.

Lee Jamison asked if the only people who could vote are in the district. Ray replied that was correct.

Paul VanMeter asked if smaller projects or renovation of the existing building had been considered. Ray explained that renovating the current building wouldn't necessarily be less money and that there would be site distance issues because of the close proximity to the road.

Lee Jamison asked if there are State construction grants available. Ray explained that once the project is a "go" those various funding options will be explored.

Christian Sweningson commented that getting the word out to voters and the legal requirements are different and asked if a mailer could be considered. Steve Montie, Fire Chief from Stuyvesant Fire Co. #1 said flyers will be passed out door-to-door and people will be encouraged to attend the public meeting.

Old Business

Supervisor Knott reported that two resolutions had been passed at the Workshop meeting and are on file in the Town Clerk's Office:

- Taina Williams to be hired as the Secretary to the Planning & Zoning Boards
- Regulations regarding renewable energy (solar projects) – letter sent to the Governor, Assemblyman Tague, and Senator Jordan with our opposition.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Report on file

Recreation Committee: Kelley Williams reported that all is quiet.

Railroad Restoration Committee: There will be a free movie night on March 14th at 4pm. The movie will be North by Northwest. Supervisor Knott was thanked for installing the ceiling fan.

Environmental Management Council: Christian Sweningson said in the interest of how long the meeting has gone, his report will be given at the next meeting.

Dog Control Officer: No report.

Library – Lee Jamison reported that

- The Board passed a resolution to eliminate fines. The people will instead be billed to replace the book.
- Big Truck Day will be held on June 20th at the Town Hall
- A magnifying computer has been purchased for the visually impaired.

Office for Aging: No report

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported:

- Trash Day will be held on May 2nd and the hours will be 8am – 3pm
- They are cutting brush
- The new truck has been ordered
- He attended Advocacy Day at the State Capitol
- The all attended a “dig safe” seminar
- Four day work weeks will begin on March 30th

Assessor’s Office: Cathy Knott reported that the office is quiet right now. Grievance Day will be May 28th from 4-8pm.

Planning & Zoning Boards: A public hearing is scheduled for the March Planning Board meeting

Supervisor Knott reported that a joint meeting is being scheduled for the Town Board, the Planning Board, and the Zoning Board for March 30th at 7pm. Melissa will send a public notice to the newspaper.

Historian: Juanita Knott reported that Historic Stuyvesant Day will be held on August 8th and will be the 26th consecutive year. This year the theme will be “History of Stuyvesant Churches). There will be a community picnic at the Sand Bar picnic area in Stuyvesant Falls. She reminded everyone that our 200 Year Anniversary is coming up on 2023 and asked people to start offering ideas for the celebration.

Cemetery: No report

ZEO/Building Inspector: Report on file

Town Hall: Councilman Bill Schneider reported that BAS had been at the Town Hall measuring for the 75” smart TV that will be purchased for the

meeting room. It will be mounted and will be able to turn toward the room. It will also have a sound bar.

County Government

Supervisor Knott reported that he had been attended coronavirus meetings with representatives from the Dept. of Health and Emergency management. They are developing contingency plans. There are no confirmed cases in the County although there are some “pending”. Information will be put on the website and Facebook pages.

Stuyvesant Falls Bridge project – some State funding has been allocated for engineering plans.

Three contracts have been approved for additional 911 communications towers.

New Business

Supervisor Knott reported that an RFP had been sent out for insulating the attic in the Town Hall.

Standard Workday Resolution updated to include new employees. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Brian Chittenden, seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. Melissa will post the resolution for 30 days.

A resolution as presented to reappoint Christian Sweningson as the Town’s representative on 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.

Supervisor Knott reported that after posting the opening for the Dog Control Officer, he would recommend hiring Diane Ryan. She is currently the DCO for Kinderhook. A motion was made by Tom Burrall to hire Diane Ryan. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. Supervisor Knott will update the Organizational Chart to reflect the change.

Comments from Board

Bill Schneider thanked the members of the Stuyvesant Fire Company for attending the meeting for the presentation and staying through the end of the meeting.

Public Comment

Lee Jamison said engineers had come to review the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge years ago and asked if a plan previously discussed had been chosen.

Supervisor Knott said the Bridge is on the National Historic Register and he will be looking for public input as to whether it should be 1 or 2 lanes.

Christian Sweningson thanked Ray Jurkowski and the Fire District and Company for the presentation on the proposed construction project. He added that he was appalled at the current conditions of the firehouse.

Barbara Fischer thanked Chuck Stiffler for contacting the County Highway Department to get the overgrown brush on the corner cleaned up near her house on Route 26A.

Chuck Stiffler reported that the project on Ferry Road has the ramp installed and that the project should be done by the end of the month.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

<i>March 2020</i>				LIGHTS	
<u>CLAIM #</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
20-68	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$2671.04)	9060.8	721.90		1,949.14
20-69	National Grid (\$1301.94)	5182.4		633.09	
				668.85	
20-70	Constellation (\$210.78)	5182.4		101.38	
				109.40	
20-71	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	259.60		
20-72	Nolan Bottle Gas, Inc.	1620.4	100.50		
20-73	Constellation New Energy, Inc. (\$121.05)	1620.4	1.10		
		5132.4	119.95		
20-74	National Grid (railroad station)	1620.4	23.76		
20-75	National Grid (town hall)	1620.4	22.70		
20-76	National Grid	5132.4	127.96		
20-77	Looseleaf Law Publications Inc	1110.4	218.5		
20-78	Windows & Walls (grant money)	1110.4	927.00		
20-79	Marlin Business Bank (\$218.35)	1620.4	131.10		
		1410.4	87.25		
20-80	Glenn T. Smith (reimbursement)	3620.4	9.60		
20-81	Stuyvesant-on-Hudson Garden Club	6772.4	150.00		
20-82	ARE Productions	7550.4	900.00		

20-83	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	69.94		
20-84	Valley Energy	5132.4	432.38		
	Valley Energy	5110.4			2,641.70
20-85	Mopar Vehicle Protection	5110.4			173.31
20-86	Grainger	5110.4			1,054.00
20-87	Sausbier's Awning Shop	5110.4			103.00
20-88	Gig's Wrench	5130.4			47.60
20-89	Zwack, Inc.	5130.4			248.76
20-90	Monroe Tractor	5130.4			110.80
		5-Mar-20	4,303.24	1512.72	6,328.31
20-91	Time Warner Cable (\$557.40)	1620.4	273.56		
		5132.4	283.84		
20-92	SMG	1620.4	93.94		
20-93	Certified Document Security, LLC	1620.4	35.00		
20-94	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	1,182.00		
20-95	Columbia County Magistrates Association	1110.4	25.00		
20-96	NYS Magistrates Association	1110.4	85.00		
20-97	Columbia County Treasurer	1110.4	144.12		
20-98	Staples, Inc. (\$97.74)	5010.4	8.08		
		1410.4	36.79		
		1220.4	23.72		
		1355.4	16.28		
		1620.4	12.87		
20-99	Johnson Newspaper Corp. (\$80.11)	1010.4	57.57		
		8020.4	22.54		
20-100	County Waste	5132.4	161.99		
20-101	Culligan	5132.4	28.93		
20-102	Rainbow Distributing Co Inc.	5132.4	28.98		
20-103	River Valley Radio	5110.4			828.85
20-104	Wex Bank	5110.4			4.00
20-105	Lowe's	5110.4			84.58
20-106	Colarusso Quarry	5110.4			7,616.18
20-107	Roddy Niesen	5110.4			4,500.00
20-108	Ben Funk, Inc.	5130.4			218.31
20-109	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	5130.4			9.98
20-110	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			300.77
20-111	Air Gas USA LLC	5130.4			39.95
20-112	Monroe Tractor & Impl. Co.	5130.4			1,394.00
20-113	Car Quest of Valatie	5130.4			294.30
		12-Mar-20	2,520.21	0.00	15,290.92
	March Totals		6,823.45	1512.72	21,619.23