

Town Board Meeting

March 11, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2021. The meeting was a remote/hybrid meeting. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott, Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Bill Schneider, Tom Burrall, and Brian Chittenden; Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Knott called the Town Board meeting to order at 7:00pm. The meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Correspondence

- A letter from NYSLRS notifying the Town that previously suspended members had been reinstated.

Special Guest

Town Accountant Mike Torchia presented a report to the Board about the Annual Report filed with NYS. The report is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Torchia reported that the Town is in good shape and recommended the Board look at long range planning for the fund balances for both the General and Highway Funds. He also reported that the only debt is \$343,000 remaining on the salt shed project that will expire in 2026.

Old Business

AUD Report – On file in the Clerk's Office and filed with NYS.

Building Keys – the locks have been changed on all exterior doors to the Town Hall and replacement keys have been distributed.

Personnel Policy – Supervisor Knott proposed an amendment for health emergencies to reflect State and Federal rules for paying employees. A motion to adopt the amendment was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Amtrak Fencing – Supervisor Knott signed a letter to the Department of State with other municipalities regarding the fencing project.

Scenic Hudson – They are asking for a letter from the Board in support of local waterfront revitalization plans.

Memorial Day – Senator Jordan will be in Columbia County for Memorial Day celebrations. We have received a letter asking us to become a Purple Heart Community.

Reports

Town Clerk – Report on file

Recreation – Supervisor Knott has received recreation amendments for the Sand Bar Park for the FERC Application of Albany Engineering to include an accessible fishing pier and canoe launch area.

RR Depot Committee – No meetings have been held

Environmental Management Council – Christian Sweningson reported:

- New Chairman Mike O’Hara wants to move in a new direction – “how to help the county” and partner with different organizations
- Report on Climate Smart Communities was presented to the Board of Supervisors. A Task Force was approved and established.
- Meetings are being held regarding the report on Zero Waste Columbia.
- Good Earth Keeping Award Nominations will begin soon.
- Land Use Planning, some counties have general plans
- Virtual Training available on Natural Resources Inventory and mapping information.

Dog Control Officer – Report on File

Kinderhook Memorial Library Representative – Lee Jamison reported:

- 3 new Board members have been approved: Carol Leber (Stuyvesant Falls), Marissa Rothstein & Bradley Lawrence from Kinderhook.
- Debating a 414 Resolution that would be an additional \$11, 375 (Stuyvesant’s increase would be \$1625) to replace aging computers and e-book content.

Office for the Aging – No meetings have been held.

Highway Department – Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported:

- The new truck is in and it’s very nice.
- Spring Trash Day will be either May 1 or 8, depending on the County’s schedule.
- The Department was out 14 of the 28 days in February plowing

- Working on clearing roadsides.
- Hope to start taking snow fences down soon.

Supervisor Knott reported that Amtrak will be redoing the crossing and paving at Ferry Road. Chuck Stiffler wants to pave the rest of the road at the same time. He would also like to apply for a DEC Grant to replace culverts. Supervisor Knott will reach out to Ray Jurkowski for an Engineering Plan.

Assessor's Office – Special Office Hours have been publicly noticed for review of inventory cards, by appointment only.

Planning/Zoning – There wasn't a Planning Board Meeting. The Zoning Board approved a variance application.

Historian – Juanita Knott has completed Part 2 of her Covid Timeline. She is finishing it up and getting copies made. It will be available in the Town Hall.

Cemetery – We are looking for someone to mow. Supervisor Knott reported that he has received a letter of interest in the position from his grandson. We will advertise the position on the website.

ZEO/Building Inspector – Peter Bujanow reported:

- He spent 2 hours on IPS training and is getting the printer fixed so permits can be issued;
- He attended (online) 12 hours of NYS mandatory training;
- Has completed various inspections and is following up on zoning complaints;
- He is still learning the system capabilities and his reports will be more timely going forward.

Councilman Bill Schneider asked if the files were in working order. Mr. Bujanow replied that it was a tough question. He said the filing system was changed to tax map numbers prior to his arrival which was good but there was limited documentation in the files. He added that IPS will help.

Town Hall – Supervisor Knott reported that the locks on the exterior doors have been changed.

County Government

Supervisor Knott reported:

- Several Resolutions have been passed by the Full Board;

- They are opposing the solar farm exemption to SEQRA;
- He attended a meeting with Jolene regarding NYS Paint Stewardship Program where people who sell paint will have to take it back;
- Adopted the Police Reform Panel program recommendations;
- A Climate Smart Task Force was established by Resolution.

New Business

Supervisor Knott reported he will provide the proposed Recreation Plan for review in April.

Phone System – looking at switching the Town Hall and Garage phone systems to VOIP system. Supervisor Knott has spoken with 3 vendors:

Spectrum – lease the equipment

Garnett (Valatie) -- \$5300 for Town hall & \$950 for Garage

BAS – Fluid Voice System \$3300 for equipment and monthly bills will be approximately the same and service will be included

After a discussion about VOIP and the additional services this will provide, a motion was made by Bill Schneider to go with the Fluid Voice system through BAS. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote.

BAR – Rich Moran has stepped down. Supervisor Knott proposed Cody Williams as a replacement. A motion was made by Bill Schneider to appoint Cody Williams to the BAR. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden. The motion was passed by a vote of 4 yeas and 1 abstention by Kelley Williams.

Stimulus Money – Supervisor Knott reported that the County will receive approximately \$11.5 million but there are no guidelines for the spending yet. The Town could get up to \$350,000. The money will come through the State but the State won't be able to impose new rules for usage.

CHiPs – 20% has been reinstated but the Budget hasn't been passed yet.

Board Comments

Bill Schneider asked if the Zoning Revision Committee could look at the language in our Law in light of the various solar farm issues around the County. Supervisor Knott said he has the Town of Ancram's proposed changes that he will share with everyone.

Tom Burrall asked for a status on the repairs to County 25 in Stuyvesant Falls. Supervisor Knott reported that the Board of Supervisors approved hiring an engineering firm and they are waiting for a survey team. Tom asked if there was a tentative timeline for the work because the Fire Company is hosting the County Convention in July as well as concern about response times. Supervisor Knott asked if a letter with concerns could be prepared by the Fire Company. Bill Schneider asked Supervisor Knott for additional information for the April meeting.

Bill Schneider asked the Board could require Planning and Zoning Board members attend the Natural Resource Inventory Planning training. Tal Rappleyea replied that yes they can although a date isn't set yet. Kelley Williams asked if there will be different times and dates since everyone may not be able to attend at the same time. Bill Schneider said there are usually multiple sessions.

Melissa Naegeli reminded the Board that Sexual Harassment and Workforce Violence training must be done annually. She added that she had heard that NYMIR can provide online training.

Public Comments

Lee Jamison asked about the waterfront revitalization project. Supervisor Knott explained that the letter is asking the Department of State to approve an access plan being proposed by CLC, riverfront communities have signed on.

Christian Sweningson said he thought it was a good idea for the Zoning Revision Committee to revisit the language of the law about solar projects. The problem in Copake is that the State is overriding Town Zoning.

With no further questions or comments, a motion to adjourn was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

The following abstract of vouchers was presented for approval at the March 2021 meeting:

| | March 2021 | | | LIGHTS | |
|----------------|---|-------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| CLAIM # | PAYEE | A/C# | GENERAL | LND/FALLS | HIGHWAY |
| 21-58 | CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$1841.13) | 9060.8 | 613.71 | | 1,227.42 |
| 21-59 | NYS Office of State Comptroller | A2610 | 410.00 | | |
| 21-60 | National Grid | 5132.4 | 159.61 | | |
| 21-61 | National Grid | 1620.4 | 22.70 | | |
| 21-62 | National Grid (RR Station) | 1620.4 | 24.03 | | |
| 21-63 | National Grid (\$1357.93) | 5182.4 | | 660.79 | |
| | | | | 697.14 | |
| 21-64 | Constellation (\$555.69) | 5182.4 | | 267.29 | |
| | | 5182.4 | | 288.40 | |
| 21-65 | SL Empire Solar I, LLC | 1620.4 | 100.28 | | |
| | 2-Mar-21 | | 1,330.33 | 1,913.62 | 1,227.42 |
| 21-66 | Nolan Bottle Gas, Inc. | 1620.4 | 420.55 | | |
| 21-67 | Paychex of New York LLC | 1320.4 | 270.20 | | |
| 21-68 | SL Empire Solar I, LLC | 1620.4 | 79.58 | | |
| 21-69 | Repeat Business Systems (\$141.44) | 1410.4 | 57.70 | | |
| | | 5132.4 | 10.90 | | |
| | | 1620.41 | 72.84 | | |
| 21-70 | Time Warner Cable (\$671.52) | 1620.4 | 384.93 | | |
| | | 5132.4 | 286.59 | | |
| 21-71 | Constellation New Energy, Inc. (\$107.03) | 1620.4 | 0.95 | | |
| | | 5132.4 | 106.08 | | |
| 21-72 | Marlin Business Bank (\$257.95) | 1410.4 | 80.21 | | |
| | | 1620.41 | 177.74 | | |
| 21-73 | Quadient Finance USA, Inc. | 1620.41 | 298.82 | | |
| 21-74 | Jeff Jensen | 8010.1 | 100.00 | | |
| | Amy Abbati | 8010.1 | 105.00 | | |
| | Kaitlyn Handy | 8010.1 | 35.00 | | |
| | Margaret Pino | 8010.1 | 105.00 | | |
| | Steven Taylor | 8010.1 | 105.00 | | |
| 21-75 | Edmunds Gov Tech | 1620.41 | 300.00 | | |
| 21-76 | Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq. | 1420.4 | 906.25 | | |
| 21-77 | County Waste | 5132.4 | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|--------|----------|----------|------------|
| | | | 170.09 | | |
| 21-78 | Verizon Wireless | 5132.4 | 91.42 | | |
| 21-79 | Culligan | 5132.4 | 28.93 | | |
| 21-80 | Looseleaf Law Publications, Inc. | 1110.4 | 184.65 | | |
| 21-81 | NYSAMCC | 1110.4 | 50.00 | | |
| 21-82 | Valley Energy | 5132.4 | 333.21 | | |
| 21-83 | Valley Energy | 5110.4 | | | 3,269.73 |
| 21-84 | Inter City Tire | 5130.4 | | | 1,432.91 |
| 21-85 | Chatham Auto Parts, Inc. | 5130.4 | | | 1,409.71 |
| 21-86 | Visa | 5130.4 | | | 613.50 |
| 21-87 | Allegiance Trucks | 5130.4 | | | 825.17 |
| 21-88 | Mario's Home Center | 5130.4 | | | 112.29 |
| 21-89 | Share Corporation | 5130.4 | | | 111.28 |
| 21-90 | Wex Bank | 5110.4 | | | 41.78 |
| 21-91 | CarQuest of Valatie | 5130.4 | | | 614.80 |
| 21-92 | Air Gas USA, LLC | 5130.4 | | | 53.50 |
| 21-93 | Lowe's | 5110.4 | | | 137.46 |
| 21-94 | Gig's Wrench | 5130.4 | | | 99.34 |
| 21-95 | Cargill, Inc. | 5142.2 | | | 3,821.49 |
| 21-96 | Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc. | 5130.4 | | | 596.29 |
| 21-97 | Tracey Road Equipment, Inc. | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | 11-Mar-20 | | 4,761.64 | | 260,216.25 |
| | | | | | |
| | <i>March Totals</i> | | 6,091.97 | 1,913.62 | 261,443.67 |