

## **Town Board Meeting August 12, 2021**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 7:00pm. In attendance were Supervisor Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Tom Burrall, Brian Chittenden, and Bill Schneider; Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

The meeting was held at the Town Hall, and was a hybrid meeting. Supervisor Knott called the meeting to order opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Supervisor Knott explained that the Governor's Order in 2020 modifying the Open Meetings Law has expired and the meetings were back to being held in person. We will continue to offer online link access for a while.

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

A motion to approve the bills presented was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote.

### ***Old Business***

*ARPA (American Recovery Plan) Funding* – Supervisor Knott reported that we have received \$95,000, and it's been deposited in to a separate account to be monitored. Guidelines were expected in July but now are expected in September.

*Solar Array Moratorium* – Currently at the County Planning Office for review

*Emergency Management Plan* – Supervisor Knott reported that Bill Vick had added a contact list and that it had been shared with the necessary parties. The list will be kept confidential as it has personal phone numbers included.

*Ferry Road Updates* – The road will be closed for construction beginning on August 15<sup>th</sup> and is expected to reopen by August 28<sup>th</sup>. The road may open on the weekends but it's not decided yet. The tracks are being raised and the grade of the road is being changed to make a safer crossing. The Town, DOT, and Amtrak are working together on the project. Chuck Stiffler announced the road will officially close at 9pm on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. A parking area has been established for residents.

DEC had been contacted about trees down on the trail between Ice House Road and Ferry Road. We haven't been notified if anything has been done yet.

*Census 2020* – Supervisor Knott reported that he has the updated numbers from the 2020 Census. The County is down 1500 over the last 10 years, the Town is down 96.

Supervisor Knott reported that the sales tax revenues are up 74% so far in 2021 over the same time period in 2020. The CHIPs funding expected is \$141,000.

### **Reports**

*Town Clerk* – Report is on file

*Recreation Committee* – Kelley Williams reported that 20 kids had attended the Playground Program in Kinderhook.

Chuck Stiffler reported that a large limb had fallen at the Landing Playground and had damaged the top of the backstop. Other work that needs to be done is

- Fill under the swings;
- Blacktop in the pavilion;
- Recoating the tennis court; and
- Benches that were previously discussed.

*Railroad Station Committee* – Lee Jamison reported that a movie night showing Princess Bride was held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*Environmental Management Council* – Christian Sweningson reported that the Good Earthkeeping Awards had been announced:

- Paige Ruane, Individual Category;
- John Duran, Business Category (PlugIn Stations Online);
- Marc Anthonisen, Individual Category;
- Kathy & Martin Overington, Individual Category; and
- Kaya Weidman, Group/Organization (Kite's Nest).
- Lifetime Achievement Award to Ex-Officio Member Theresa Mayhew and Edwin Simonsen.

Mr. Swingson also reported:

- The Town of Ancram received donations and funding from NYSEERDA for their Solarize Campaign under Clean Energy Communities

- Climate Smart Communities reported that Town and County signups for the solar campaign receive double credit for Clean Energy and NYSEERDA grants. The task force would like to hire a full time coordinator, CLC and Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley will provide funding.
- Zero Waste Columbia reported no new developments since the last meeting. Working with Jolene Race (Col. Co. Solid Waste) on a grant for public/private partnership for 2 stations to receive food waste from the public – giving to Growmax and Almstead. Supervisor Knott said they are talking about 1 in Chatham and 1 in Greenport as pilot programs. There is a concern about what they will receive in waste.
- Columbia County Health reported the County is in recovery mode for COVID-19. There was a large outbreak at a camp in Copake, all the children were sent home but will safely return. Harmful algal blooms have been identified at Kinderhook Lake, Chrysler Pond, and Lake Taghkanic.

*Dog Control* – No report.

*Kinderhook Memorial Library* – Lee Jamison reported the Friends of the Library are sponsoring a Garden Tour on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> 10 – 2pm. Tickets are at the website or a Friends member and maps will be available at the Farmers Market to pickup with a ticket.

Discarded books drop off – please call ahead of time to schedule a drop time.

*Office for the Aging* – Richard Moran reported that according to Kevin McDonald, regular in person meeting will resume in September. Supervisor Knott reported the Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution to hire additional aides to help shut-ins. They will be looking for part-time employees and will pay \$18/hour and will have a car from transportation.

*Highway Department* – Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler reported:

- They previously paved Eichybusch and Requa Roads and finished off the shoulders;
- Will be paving Ferry Road following the track work;
- The new truck is helping towns all over the county.

*Assessor's Office* – Cathy Knott, Assessor's Clerk, reported that the final roll was filed with the Clerk's Office on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Exemptions Renewals will be mailed in the Fall. She reminded everyone if there are new owners, Veterans, Seniors, they should come in to find out about exemptions.

*Planning/Zoning Boards* – Zoning Board had a Public Hearing for a Variance Applications for a swimming pool on 8/11. The project was approved.

*Town Historian* – Cathy Knott reported Historic Stuyvesant Day will be held on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Stuyvesant Landing Playground pavilion, 12:00pm – 3:00pm.

- Chuck/Ron will take care of tables;
- Brian will provide chocolate milk;
- Chuck will cook;
- Kelley will pick up the ice and deliver
- Garden Club will have plants for sell
- Juanita Knott will have Stuyvesant “retro” items for sale

Supervisor Knott reported that a 2023 Bicentennial Celebration Committee had been established and will meet at the end of August. They are considering ideas for 2023, one being celebrations throughout the year.

*Cemetery* – Chuck Stiffler reported that he will follow up with the person hired to do the mowing and make sure it’s done more regularly.

*ZEO/Building Inspector* – Peter Bujanow reported:

- There were 12 permit applications in July, 5-7 to process; 42 through July 30<sup>th</sup> had been received YTD with 5 new construction projects;
- 6 roof top solar installations ranging from 4.6 to 9.8 kw
- 2 geothermal project installations.

*Broadband* – Bill Schneider reported that there wasn’t anything new. The Committee is waiting to meet following the report from the audit company.

*Emergency Management* – Bill Vick reported that a main transmission line was down at 3:30 causing power outages in the Kinderhook area and was expected to repaired soon.

*Town Hall* -- Supervisor Knott reported that there had been issues recently with the Air Conditioning Unit. The equipment is approximately 20 years old and he is looking at upgrading the equipment. He will prepare an RFP and said there are more options available to us since we’ve upgraded the attic insulation. Bill Schneider asked about the windows that were discussed at the Workshop. Supervisor Knott said he will get someone to come in and look at them.

Supervisor Knott reported that he had spoken with Cathy and the Garden regarding the trees in front of the building. They are overgrown and should be replaced. The Garden Club will offer ideas for replacement.

### ***County Business***

Supervisor Knott reported the contract for repairs to County Route 25A in Stuyvesant Falls was awarded to Colarusso and work should begin soon. The project is expected to be completed in October.

Supervisor Knott also reported that the County had voted to move from self-administered Workers Compensation Insurance to PERMA.

### ***New Business***

The 2022 Budget Process is starting and the Board will begin Budget discussions at their workshop in September. The tax cap for 2022 is 2%

Supervisor Knott has been in contact with National grid about lighting upgrades to LED in the Town Hall. They will come do an assessment and give a cost estimate for the work.

Update to the Organizational Chart – with the retirement of Steve Montie, Chuck Stiffler has promoted Joe Scrum to the position of Deputy Highway Superintendent. A motion to revise the Organizational Chart to reflect the new position of Joe Scrum was made by Bill Schneider. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

### ***Board Comments***

Bill Schneider asked if there was information on how we would be allowed to use the ARPA funding. Supervisor Knott said it is expected in September.

Bill Schneider asked if something could be put on the website to update everyone about the County Route 25A project. Robert Gibbs asked if there was an end date for the project and Supervisor Knott said he didn't believe there was.

### ***Public Comments***

Lee Jamison commented that the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge has become unsightly with rust and flaking. It is a landmark of the town and should be painted and cleaned up, the Town should complain to the County to get it

cleaned up. She added that the bridges on Schoolhouse Road and the overpass on Ridge Road also need to be repaired. Christian Sweninson added that bare metal was showing on the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge.

Supervisor Knott said the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge is the County's largest and most expensive. He will get the numbers to share with everyone. He added that Dean Knox, recently deceased, had been working on the bridge redesign and ideas for repairs.

Carole Curran asked if when County Route 25A is repaired would the trucks be coming across the bridge again. Supervisor Knott reported that a previous traffic study shows approximately 1000 cars/day crossed the bridge.

Christian Sweningson thanked Supervisor Knott for the information on the design work previously done on the bridge. Supervisor Knott reported that years ago a committee had been established and options were given for repair vs replacement of the bridge. Lee Jamison said yes, there had been a meeting and there were options offered.

Robert Gibbs asked what was there before and there was a brief discussion about the different types of bridges that had been there previously.

Robert Gibbs reported that there is a tree in the Stuyvesant Falls playground that is dead and leafless that should be taken down. Chuck Stiffler said he will go look at it.

Supervisor Knott reported that there have been discussions about upgrades to the playgrounds. One idea was a gazebo at the Stuyvesant Falls playground.

Lee Jamison asked who had left the vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Supervisor Knott reported that Ed Scott had left the Board. A replacement must be a resident of the Town.

Lee Jamison asked for clarification of the \$95,000 and if that was half of the ARPA amount or the entire amount. Supervisor Knott explained that was only half of the funding.

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

The following is an abstract of vouchers presented to the Board for approval:

<b>TOWN OF STUYVESANT ABSTRACTS</b>					
	<b>August 2021</b>			<b>LIGHTS</b>	
<b>CLAIM #</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>A/C#</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>LND/FALLS</b>	<b>HIGHWAY</b>
21-256	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$3068.55)	9060.8	617.71		2,454.84
21-257	National Grid (\$1420.28)	5182.4		690.91	
				729.37	
21-258	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	297.81		
21-259	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	1,282.00		
21-260	Marlin Business Bank (\$230.43)	1410.4	75.87		
		1620.4	154.56		
21-261	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	50.00		
21-262	National Grid	5132.4	115.93		
21-263	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
21-264	National Grid	1620.4	25.00		
21-265	Johnson Newspaper Corp	1010.4	83.56		
21-266	Staples, Inc.	1410.4	42.28		
21-267	Constellation New Energy, Inc. (\$78.28)	1620.4	1.71		
		5132.4	76.57		
21-268	Columbia County Treasurer	1110.4	398.10		
21-269	Honorable Dr. Carrie A. O'Hare	1110.4	16.20		
21-270	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Dept)	1110.4	107.10		
21-271	Loose Leaf Law Publications Inc.	1110.4	87.45		
21-272	NYS Magistrate's Association	1110.4	75.00		
21-273	Sheraton Niagara Falls, Attn: Reservations	1110.4	772.00		
21-274	Partners in Safety, Inc.	5110.4			48.00
21-275	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	28.98		
21-276	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.94		
21-277	Mario's Home Center	5132.4	295.18		
21-278	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			25.33
21-279	Capital Equipment Service	5130.4			245.68
21-280	Cargill, Inc.	5142.2			1,942.44
	5-Aug-21		4,688.65	1,420.28	4,716.29
21-281	Staples, Inc.	3620.4	358.77		

21-282	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	178.27		
21-283	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	176.00		
21-284	VISA	1620.4	23.09		
21-285	Time Warner Cable (Highway Garage)	5132.4	286.36		
21-286	Time Warner Cable (Town Hall)	1620.4	384.93		
21-287	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	2,031.25		
21-288	Columbia Greene Town Clerks Association	1410.4	25.00		
21-289	Wex Bank	7110.4	125.13		
21-290	Culligan	5132.4	30.09		
21-291	County Waste	5132.4	170.09		
21-292	Colarusso Quarry Company	5110.4			710.38
21-293	Max S. Wood Equipment, Inc.	5130.4			120.76
21-294	Air Gas USA, LLC	5130.4			58.00
21-295	New Castle Asphalt	5110.4			108.85
21-296	Main Care Energy	5110.4			2,579.10
21-297	The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company	5130.4			272.26
	12-Aug-21		3,788.98	-	3,849.35