

Town Board Meeting October 14, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 7:00pm. In attendance were Supervisor Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Bill Schneider, and Tom Burrall; Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Councilman Brian Chittenden was not in attendance.

The meeting was held at the Town Hall, and was a hybrid meeting. There were no attendees virtually.

Supervisor Knott called the meeting to order opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote.

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

Old Business

Energy Savings Plan – Supervisor Knott reported that he had reached out to other contractors for prices to replace the interior lights with LED and no one else responded. The Town will have to pay approximately \$2500 with the remaining cost to be paid by National Grid. Councilman Bill Schneider asked when the work would begin. Supervisor Knott said he believed it would be relatively soon after the contract is signed. Tom Burrall made a motion to sign the contract with National Grid for the lighting replacement project in the Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

JCAP Grant Application – Town Justice Carrie O'Hare presented a proposed resolution to apply for annual JCAP Grant funding to have 3 boxes of files scanned and 7 boxes previously scanned destroyed at an amount of \$1484. She explained that is isn't a matching funds grant and we would be notified within 4-5 months of an award.

There was a question from Lee Jamison as to why the Court still needed to use paper and couldn't information be transmitted to the State electronically?

Judge O'Hare explained that hard copies still need to be sent and processed. The scanning helps the Court comply with records retention requirements.

*Town of Stuyvesant
Resolution No. 3*

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 14th day of October 2021, at 7:00PM there were

PRESENT:

*Supervisor Ron Knott
Councilman William Schneider
Councilman Tom Burrall
Councilwoman Kelley Williams*

ABSENT:

Councilman Brian Chittenden

AND

Councilwoman Kelley Williams offered the following resolution and moved it adoption:

AUTHORIZE THE STUYVESANT TOWN COURT TO APPLY FOR A JCAP GRANT IN THE 2021-2022 GRANT CYCLE FOR \$1,484.00 AND ACCEPT A JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town Court has the need for scanning of three boxes of Court Records;

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 the Stuyvesant Town Court is hereby authorized to apply for and accept, if given, a Justice Court Assistance Program Grant in the amount of \$1,484.00 for scanning of three boxes of Court records;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Stuyvesant Town Court is hereby authorized to use said grant monies to have three boxes of Court records scanned;

AND BE IT FURTHER

Seconded by Supervisor Ron Knott

And duly put to a vote and carried unanimously.

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 14th day of October 2021 and is in full force and effect.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Town this 14th day of October 2021.

*Melissa A. Naegeli
Town Clerk*

Reports

Town Clerk – Report is on file. Melissa Naegeli reported that the Community Night and Cruise In held on October 2, 2021 was a success. Several craft vendors, food vendors, the VFW, and classic cars were there. Many people came and enjoyed the event and asked if it will be held again. Melissa thanked the Board, the Highway Department, and all participants and will begin working on plans for next year.

Recreation Committee – Kelley Williams reported that everything is pretty quiet with the Rec Committee.

Railroad Station Committee – Lee Jamison reported that the Committee raised \$104 in pie sales at the Community Night and Cruise In Event. There will be a free movie night on October 23rd, movie to be determined.

Environmental Management Council – In Christian Sweningson’s absence, Lee Jamison gave the report:

- There will be a Repair Café on October 23 at the New Lebanon firehouse from 10am – 4pm
- There will be a Tool Library set up at Basilica in Hudson where you can borrow tools for one week.
- The first CLC webinar on “An Overview of Solar Energy Projects” was held on September 29th. The Town of Austerlitz will launch their solarized committee on November 1st and the Town of Chatham will wind down at the same time. Supervisor Knott added that information is on the County website for both Austerlitz and Solarize Ancram, Chatham & Kinderhook groups.
- The Climate Smart Committee would like there to be a move toward a countywide solarize program.

- The Environmental Coordinator position for the county has an offer of a private fund donation of up to \$150,000 to support the position for two years or longer. Discussions are ongoing with a group of Task Force supervisors in the creation of an MOU and job description
- Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs will be held on November 7th in Kinderhook.
- Zero Waste Columbia kick off meeting for the 10-year solid waste management plan for the County and will be assisted by an Albany consulting group. Jolene Race spoke about the need to upgrade our existing transfer stations.

Dog Control – No report.

Kinderhook Memorial Library – Lee Jamison reported

- Community Conversations regarding strategic planning revisiting meeting will be held on October 17th at Volunteer Park in Kinderhook, from 2-4pm, the public is invited to attend.
- October 17th – 23rd is Friends of Library Week and will be celebrated with raffles and crafts.
- The Board and the Director are working on the sustainable library program, the policies and procedures are being reviewed – the sustainability of economic, environmental, and social.
- Resolution #6 on the Ballot to increase funding to the Library will be on the ballot on November 2nd

Councilman Bill Schneider asked what the large green box in front of the library was for. Lee Jamison said it is a Smart Village & Library program for digital equipment and batteries to be dropped off for destruction.

Councilman Tom Burrall suggested the Library notify the local fire company about the box holding batteries.

Office for the Aging – Supervisor Knott reported that plans for a new kitchen to be built at the Commerce Park are expected in 1-2 months.

Highway Department –Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler reported:

- They will be paving Ferry Road on October 22nd and residents will be notified;
- Trash Day resulted in 4 dumpsters filled, 2 with metal, a trailer full of televisions, and 82 tires;
- Out for the last mowing;

- Preparing for snow;
- Requested permission to spend \$4350 for a new computer to update a truck for salt/sand disbursement. A motion to approve the request was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote;
- Reminder that parking restrictions for Town Roads will begin on November 1st and run through March 31st;
- Highway staff will be back to winter hours beginning on October 25th (5 days per week)

Assessor's Office – Cathy Knott, Assessor's Clerk, reported that exemptions to be renewed will be going out in November and must be returned by March 1 – these are for Aged Exemptions and Agricultural Exemptions. She asked people to let others know there are Veterans Exemptions available also.

Planning/Zoning Boards – Supervisor Knott reported that the September meetings had been cancelled. A letter of resignation from Marc Cross was received citing work schedule interference. Melissa Naegeli will put a notice on the website for the opening.

Town Historian – Cathy Knott reported that there had been 3 meetings so far for the 2023 Celebration. Mark Burch commented that he remembered for one of the celebrations things were painted red, white, & blue around town.

Cemetery – No report.

ZEO/Building Inspector – Peter Bujanow reported that his report was on file in the Town Clerk's Office. He highlighted that 63 permits had been issued, year to date and 31 search requests. He reported that his office had received \$23,400 in fees year to date. So far in October, 11 permits had been issued and approximately \$3.6 million has been added to the Town's value.

Broadband – Bill Schneider reported the County had finished the 1st phase and identified areas without services, 46 homes in Stuyvesant had been identified. Phase 2 will be to determine what the cost would be to provide service and to do the work. Supervisor Knott added that everyone is waiting on Federal money.

There is a State online survey regarding service and Councilman Schneider will get the information to Melissa Naegeli to put on the website. Councilman Schneider added that he felt internet service should be considered like a utility. The largest gap is along Route 22 in Hillsdale. Supervisor Knott said the

County will send out information to all providers in the County asking for any interest in the project. If more than one responds, the County will proceed with an RFP process.

Supervisor Knott reported that in January, 2016 there were 3000 unserved, 10,00 underserved which was approximately 46% of the county; in 2021 there were 1200 reportedly underserved, only 5% of the County.

County Business

Supervisor Knott reported:

- County Route 25A is being worked on and paving is scheduled for the upcoming Monday. October 31st is the open date according to the Contract.
- The trash bags are being phased out and the County is moving to a bag tag system. Residents can purchase the tags at the Clerk's Office. Bags will continue to be sold until they're gone.
- Solid Waste Pilot Compost container is in Chatham and Copake to start

New Business

Supervisor Knott reviewed the 2022 Tentative Budget, there were 2% salary increases for most staff and 3% for highway staff. The 2% salary increases for elected official is the first increase since 2010. The budget will remain flat or show a slight decrease. Supervisor Knott explained that this budget uses \$20,000 from Fund Balance to offset some increases. He compared that to 2010 where \$180,000 from Fund Balance had been used. He commented that the Board works hard to maintain a solid Budget.

Supervisor Knott reviewed some of the changes to the tentative Budget:

- By agreement with Valatie Rescue Squad, a \$21,000 increase will be paid through a County chargeback program;
- There is a small increase proposed for the Library;
- The Fire District number have yet to be added as they hold their own Budget Hearings;
- The Lighting Districts are going down and we are looking into changing those fixtures to LED for additional savings.

Supervisor Knott also reported that the State's Fiscal Stress report has been released and Stuyvesant has a rating of "0", or "no stress".

Steven Taylor asked if the 2% salary increases were enough.

The Board scheduled the Public Hearing for the 2022 Tentative Budget to be held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 7:00pm. Lee Jamison asked if there would be an online link available and Supervisor Knott said there would be. Melissa Naegeli will put the notice in the newspaper.

Board Comments

Supervisor Knott reminded the Board that Zoning Board Chair Jeff Jensen had resigned his position. Supervisor Knott explained that Margaret Pino has served as Deputy Chair for several years and added that he would like to nominate her for the vacant Chair position. A motion was made by Kelley Williams to appoint Margaret Pino to the position of Chairperson of the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote. Supervisor Knott will notify Mrs. Pino of the appointment.

Councilman Bill Schneider asked if the Solar Project Moratorium previously passed should be extended. Supervisor Knott verified with Tal Rappleyea that we have until January to extend. Tal Rappleyea said a 6 month extension could be done to give the Zoning Revision Committee time to review and send it to the County Planning Committee.

Councilman Bill Schneider thanked Chuck Stiffler and the Highway Department for another successful Trash Day. He also thanked Melissa Naegeli for working on the Community Night and Cruise In event.

Public Comments

Lee Jamison remarked that Bill Schneider had previously volunteered to look in to becoming a Climate Smart Community. She said the Library would like to collaborate on the project.

Robert Gibbs reported that he has been working on a survey of the Stuyvesant Falls residents as to what they would like at the playground area. He would like to make a presentation to the Board at the November meeting. Mr. Gibbs added that the Highway Department had done a great job on the entry way into the Sandbar Park and asked when the concrete barriers would be moved. Highway Superintendent Chuck Stiffler replied when more big rocks are found they will replace the concrete barriers.

Councilman Schneider asked Mr. Gibbs if he would be able to give the Board a draft of the presentation to review in advance of the meeting. Mr. Gibbs said there aren't specific requests, just informational.

Supervisor Knott reported that the ARPA funding 1st Report deadline had been extended from Oct. 31 to March 31. He added that he had received earlier in the day, additional guidelines on how the money could be spent.

Lee Jamison said other towns have been holding public meetings with residents to see what they would want to spend the money on. Supervisor Knott replied that the County is further ahead on ideas for the funding but the Towns were just receiving their guidelines.

Cathy Knott reminded everyone that the Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, Oct. 23, 1-3pm. Decorating will be done on Friday, Oct. 22 and volunteers are welcome.

With no further business before the Board, Tom Burrall 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:

	October 2021			LIGHTS	
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	LND/FALLS	HIGHWAY
21-336	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$2454.84)	9060.8	613.71		1,841.13
21-337	Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	1620.41	203.79		
21-338	Metz Wood Harder	1910.4	21,945.59		
21-339	National Grid	5132.4	82.88		
21-340	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
21-341	National Grid (RR Station)	1620.4	23.94		
21-342	National Grid (\$1641.61)	5182.4		797.39	
				844.22	
21-343	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	62.00		
21-344	Marlin Business Bank (\$230.43)	1410.4	75.87		
		1620.41	154.56		
21-345	Repeat Business Systems (\$126.26)	1410.4	18.34		
		5132.4	23.32		
		1620.41	84.60		
21-346	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	356.27		
21-347	Constellation New Energy, Inc. (\$51.80)	1620.4	0.95		
		5132.4	50.85		
21-348	Columbia Co. Treasurer (Central Printing)	1355.4	42.00		
21-349	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	395.09		
21-350	Wex Bank	7110.1	172.69		
21-351	Tim Van Wagner	7110.1	100.00		
21-352	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.89		
21-353	Nancy Scans Corp.	5132.4	30.00		
21-354	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	49.96		
21-355	Culligan	5132.4	30.09		
21-356	County Waste	5132.4	170.09		
21-357	Main Care Energy	5110.4			1,262.04
21-358	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			15.45
21-359	Air Gas USA, LLC	5130.4			58.00
	<i>7-Oct-21</i>		24,772.18	1,641.61	3,176.62
21-360	Columbia Greene Humane Society	3510.4	35.00		
21-361	Time Warner Cable	5132.4	286.36		
21-362	Time Warner Cable	1620.4	384.93		
21-363	Staples, Inc. (\$52.89)	1410.4	11.40		
		1110.4	41.49		
21-364	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill, CPAs	1320.4	405.10		
21-365	Tal G. Rapplyea, Esq.	1420.4	812.50		
21-366	New Castle Asphalt	5112.4			4,402.24
21-367	Allegiance Truck	5130.4			3,974.04
21-368	Share Corporation	5130.4			100.00
21-369	Air Gas USA, LLC	5130.4			64.80
21-370	Car Quest of Valatie	5130.4			49.11
	<i>14-Oct-21</i>		1,976.78	-	8,590.19
	<i>October Totals</i>		26,748.96	1,641.61	11,766.81