

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2022**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2022. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, and Tom Burrall; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler; and Attorney-for-the-Town Tal Rappleyea.

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion to pay the vouchers as submitted was made by Kelley Williams. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

- An unsigned letter from a citizen was received regarding the Valatie Rescue Squad. Supervisor Knott reported that the concerns are being addressed;
- A letter from National Grid regarding advanced metering infrastructure project to better monitor usage;
- A letter from Edmunds GovTech regarding a rate increase for website management and upgrade. Supervisor Knott told the audience we are accepting comments and suggestions for the website.

Old Business

Supervisor Knott had presented to the Board at their Workshop information regarding upgrading the building alarm system. The Board unanimously approved the upgrade and the new system will be installed in the coming week.

Supervisor Knott presented the following Budget Amendment:

	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Revenue		
A3040		30,323.56
Appropriations		
A7110.4	19,598.65	
A7110.1	3,784.50	
A1620.4	4,986.36	
A5132.4	1,954.05	
Total	30,323.56	

Following a roll-call vote by Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli, the Budget Amendment was approved by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott reported that the Annual Court Audit is underway.

The tax cap filing has been completed. Supervisor Knott reported that we could have raised the taxes by 4% based on the money that has been “built up” with staying at or under the tax cap in previous years. The Budget came in under the allowable cap.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Reports on file.

Recreation Committee: Kelley Williams reported that it’s been quiet.

Environmental Management Council: The draft minutes of the November 2022 meeting are on file in the Town Clerk’s Office. Highlights were:

- There was a presentation by Haley Balcanoff, Sustainability Planner, Clean Energy Communities Outreach Coordinator and Climate Smart Communities Coordinator from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission;
- David Newman reported that Community Solar is winding down as utility capacity is limited;
- Col. Co. Climate Smart Communities Task Force will ask the County to adopt a resolution to conduct a greenhouse gas inventory of government operations;

- Col. Co Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 492-2022 authorizing the launch of a Community Campaign for Clean Heating, Cooling, and Energy Efficiency in Columbia County; and
- Zero Waste Columbia is moving forward with the reusable food waste initiative to bring personal containers to restaurants for leftovers to help cutdown on disposable packaging.

Dog Control Officer: No report

Kinderhook Memorial Library: Lee Jamison reported that the Friends of the Library will be accepting gently used books on Saturday, Dec. 10th from 9-11am at the McNary Center. She also reported that they would be giving away books and goodie bags at the Village Candlelight Light. There will also be jazz musician playing at the Library.

Ms. Jamison further reported that they are considering discontinuing the “snail-mail” newsletter and go with an electronic version.

Carol Leber will be stepping down from her position on the Board and the position will need to be filled by someone from Stuyvesant.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported that the Department is working on the following:

- Cutting trees;
- Trucks are ready for the winter;
- Getting a new sign;
- Leaves have been picked up at the parks;
- Cleaning up dumped garbage on Hollow Road

Matthew Bellerose has been appointed as Deputy Highway Superintendent.

The height at the Ridge Road overpass has been changed to 11 feet.

Assessor’s Office: Supervisor Knott reported that the Board will meet with Lynn Hotaling, Town Assessor, in January to discuss the equalization rate drop to about 70%. We will have to decide whether to do another re-evaluation in 2024 with data collection beginning in 2023. There are other options available that will be discussed.

Planning / Zoning Boards: Tal Rappleyea reported that both Boards have been busy. The Board has started to review the Rudolph Family proposed project on Sharptown Road.

Historian: No report.

Cemetery David Quinn reported that he is working with someone to put in a memorial for a family member. He also reported that we will begin working on a new map of the cemetery.

Building Department: Report on file.

Railroad Restoration Committee: There will be a Holiday Party at the Depot on December 17th 2-4pm. There will be a meeting at 9am to decorate.

County Government

Supervisor Knott reported:

- Housing Task Force is looking for a Housing Coordinator;
- NYS BridgeNY Program reannounced. The new program to allocate \$3.5M to Columbia County for County bridge repairs in the next two years. The culvert program is still being looked at;
- Solid Waste Renovations – major work is happening. A new loading building is setting up for some new programs;
- DMV/Treasurer’s Office Upgrades – the energy project at the DMV and Treasurer’s Office include new roofs, insulation, new windows and doors, new boiler and new A/C systems;
- County Historian has set up a 501c for committees in the County;
- Budget – the vote will be next week and the proposal is a 7% decrease in County tax rate but a 2% tax levy increase.

New Business

Interviews for the ZBA Alternate have not been scheduled yet.

Supervisor Knott reported that we had received the new proposed contract from the Columbia Greene Humane Society and that he had asked Tal Rappleyea to review it. Tal reported that there were no changes from the previous contract and recommended signing. A motion to approve the contract and allow Supervisor Knott to sign was made by Kelley Williams. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous vote. Melissa Naegeli will send the signed contract back to the CGHS.

The 2023 Organization Meeting has been scheduled for January 5th at 6pm.

There will be a Zoning Revision Committee on December 28th at 6pm to discuss accessory dwellings, tiny homes, as well as other items.

Board Comments

There were no additional comments from the Board.

Public Comments

Lee Jamison – asked if there would be a year end meeting. Supervisor Knott explained that the year end meeting was typically held to clean up any left over bills and since our meeting in January is so early, there isn't a need for a year end.

Christian Sweningson –

- Asked if ARPA money could be used for a light at the intersection of Church St./County Route 26A/Sunset Drive;
- Commented that the food waste collection signs should have better visibility at the solid waste stations, they are hard to find;
- The Park Sign at the Hummel Park should be changed. Supervisor Knott reported that the Highway Department is working on that; and
- Asked for update on the manure issue at Hummel Park. Supervisor Knott said Councilman Chittenden would address this at the January meeting.

Steven Taylor –

- Asked if the BridgeNY money could be used on the bridge on Schoolhouse Road. Supervisor Knott replied that the bridge is property of CSX. He added that the residents local to the bridge area have expressed a desire to not have it repaired.
- Asked how successful the moratorium on solar projects was and did we have a lot of applicants. Supervisor Knott said with a proposed project before the Zoning/Planning Boards, he will refrain from specific discussions. However, he did report that property owners have reported that their contact from companies has slowed. Senator Hinchey is working on fining developers who build on farmable lands.

Lee Jamison asked about the Veterans' Banners on the light poles. Councilman Burrall reported that it's still in the works and will put together an application packet to put in the Town Clerk's Office. The banners will cost \$157 each and will have to be purchased by the families. The Town would have to work with National Grid for the pole attachment permits.

Steven Taylor reported that he and John Morra have reached out to Roger Phillips' family to asked for a donation of a lawn sculpture to be placed on the Town Hall grounds in his memory.

Steve Montie –

- Asked who is on the Zoning Revision Committee. Supervisor Knott listed the Committee members;
- Asked what the status of the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge was. Supervisor Knott reported that an RFP to hire a firm for design work and engineering plans is being prepared;
- Reported that the fire trucks will be driving around on Friday and Sunday with Christmas music and lights. He added that if you send a message on Facebook that you saw the truck you will be entered in a drawing for a prize;
- Reported that Belltown Farms donated the use of properties for the Fire Company to use on their drill nights;
- The Fire Advisory Board is looking to hire a firm to analyze the fire service and where it will be in 10 years;
- Asked that the highway department employees join the fire company and to be available to drive during the daytime. There will be a specific training program developed for these drivers. Councilman Quinn replied that there would be no way around them being members of the Company and they must meet OSHA standards for training before they can participate. Supervisor Knott asked if there should be a policy in place for this and he said there should be.

With no further comments or business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Kelley Williams. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and the meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Abstract of vouchers is attached.

The abstract of Vouchers presented for payment at the December 8, 2022 meeting:

December 2022				LIGHTS	
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	LND/FALLS	HIGHWAY
22-261	CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc. (\$1394.74)	9060.8	697.37		697.37
22-262	National Grid (\$1805.03)	5182.4		876.39	
				928.64	
22-263	National Grid	1620.4	26.85		
22-264	National Grid	5132.4	164.77		
22-265	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
22-266	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	213.37		
22-267	Charter Communications	1620.4	389.93		
22-268	Charter Communications	5132.4	293.30		
22-269	Repeat Business Systems (\$290.32)	1410.4	230.25		
		5132.4	7.38		
		1620.41	52.69		
22-270	Johnson Newspaper Corp. (\$133.79)	8010.4	90.94		
		8020.4	42.85		
22-271	Girvin & Ferlazzo, PC	1420.4	2,565.00		
22-272	Nolan Bottle Gas, Inc.	1620.4	193.12		
22-273	Heath Pinkowski	7110.4	672.00		
22-274	Edmunds GovTech (\$3916.50)	1410.4	682.50		
		1620.41	3,234.00		
22-275	Marlin Leasing Corporation	1620.41	154.56		
22-276	Patricia DeLong	8020.4	109.90		
22-277	Visa	1620.4	74.39		
22-278	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.73		
22-279	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	87.92		
22-280	Main Care Energy	5132.4	149.16		
22-281	Visa	5130.4			375.86
22-282	Capitol Supply Co., Inc.	5130.4			162.96
22-283	Main Care Energy	5110.4			930.09
	1-Dec-22		10,217.68	1,805.03	2,166.28
22-284	NYS & Local Retirement System (\$35,461.00)	9010.8DA			19,503.55
		9010.8DA	15,957.45		
22-285	Marlin Leasing Corporation	1410.4	75.87		
22-286	Staples, Inc. (\$256.16)	1355.4	31.24		
		7550.4	29.40		
		5010.4	26.77		
		1110.4	51.30		

		1410.4	67.66		
		8020.4	49.79		
22-287	Repeat Business systems	1410.4	22.91		
22-288	County Waste	5132.4	200.02		
22-289	Wex Bank	7110.4	213.93		
22-290	Columbia County Treasurer	1110.4	148.59		
22-291	Kimball Midwest	5130.4			120.08
22-292	Northeast Auto Parts, Inc.	5130.4			37.97
22-293	Carquest of Valatie	5130.4			104.25
22-294	Tractor Supply Credit Plan	5130.4			23.98
22-295	Tolls by Mail	5110.4			18.78
22-296	Mario's Home Center, Inc.	5130.4			102.28
22-297	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA62	343.75		
	8-Dec-22		17,218.68	-	19,910.89