

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 9, 2022**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, and Tom Burrall; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Attorney-for-the-Town Tal Rappleyea.

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

A motion to pay the vouchers as submitted was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

- A letter from the Office of Court Administration asking about the Court Audit;
- A letter from the Kinderhook Memorial Library requesting their funding;
- A letter from the Stuyvesant-on-Hudson Garden Club asking for funding;
- A letter from Sunlight Capital notifying the Town of a rate increase (47%) for supply. Supervisor Knott will reach out to them to discuss;
- The annual payment from Albany Engineering/Hydro Electric Plant. Supervisor Knott explained that the agreement is a minimum payment of \$10,000 per year but that the amount may be higher based on the previous year's production. The check was \$32,000.

Old Business

Supervisor Knott reported that he had attended the NYS Association of Counties Annual Conference, an educational event. Mr. Knott attended a seminar on Medicaid funding. He explained that the State sets what the County has to pay in funding. The Federal Government is set to reimburse the Counties for their expenses during Covid. Governor Hochul is moving that money elsewhere and the shortfall to the Counties will result in tax increases to be able to continue to meet the requirements of Medicaid funding.

Other seminars were on construction resolutions, additional CHiPs funding; updated training on Emergency Management, specifically train safety and derailments. Supervisor Knott reported that he had asked Bill Vick to get additional information.

Bill Vick spoke with the County Emergency Management Director, David Harrison, regarding train derailment training. Mr. Harrison said they have a good plan in place for hazardous materials emergencies. Scenes are coordinated by 911. The tracks to our north going over the river and the tracks in Greene County carry most of the hazardous materials. There is a new Twin County Response Team for hazardous materials situations where both Columbia and Greene Counties respond.

Mr. Vick suggested to those that live near the tracks, that in the event of an emergency to evacuate as soon as possible and to allow the first responders do their work. He also recommends everyone sign up for NY Alert.

Supervisor Knott added that our website and Facebook pages would be updated as needed in the event of an emergency.

There will be a meeting scheduled for Town Officials to review the Emergency Management Plan and to discuss who has what responsibilities.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Reports on file.

Recreation Committee: Kelley Williams reported that we have contracted with Kinderhook for their summer program again. She reminded everyone that participants must be registered with Stuyvesant prior to registering with Kinderhook.

David Quinn reported that one of the bridges at Hummel Park needs to be replaced. He researched and got estimates for the materials. Supervisor Knott and Councilman Quinn have applied for a \$500 CLC Grant.

Lee Jamison added that there was a tree down across the trail that will need a chain saw. She reported that there will be a trail maintenance event on April 22nd. Ms. Jamison also reported erosion problems and that some of the trail is getting very close to the ravine.

Christian Sweningson asked for an update on the manure spreading at the park. Councilman Chittenden explained that the use of manure is an

acceptable farming practice. Supervisor Knott added that the Town continues to look into the situation and will get the answers.

Environmental Management Council: Christian Sweningson reported there was no update.

Dog Control Officer: No report

Kinderhook Memorial Library: Lee Jamison reported that the new 2 Stuyvesant Representatives are Roberta Baldini and Amy Abbati. Ms. Jamison also reported that there would be an Iditarod Event at Rothermel Park and there is an Art Studio Tour fundraiser planned for the Spring.

Climate Smart Committee: Lee Jamison reported that they were attending webinars on heat pumps and the NYSERDA Clean Energy campaign. Supervisor Knott reported that Don Meltz was the County Coordinator for the Climate Smart Committees.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported the Department:

- Continues snow plowing;
- Now has an EZ Pass;
- Matt Bellerose has resigned;
- Ricky Smith was given a raise;
- Joe Scrum is meeting with Zwack to get prices for truck bodies.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported that the deadline for exemptions has passed.

Supervisor Knott reported that the Board had met with Assessor Lynn Hotaling regarding the equalization rate and the possibility of another re-val. They all agreed to hold off for now.

Planning / Zoning Boards: Supervisor Knott reported that both Boards have been busy. There were no formal reports.

Historian: Cathy Knott reported that the Committee will meet on Saturday to put together the pictures for the birthday party event in April.

Cemetery: David Quinn reported one of the copies of the cemetery plot map has been filed off site.

Building Department: Report is on file.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee: Lee Jamison reported that John Morra is working on lead paint removal and getting ready to paint. Supervisor Knott added that a proper restoration would go to varnish and Mr. Morra will make color suggestions. John Morra is lead paint removal certified. Rich Moran will meet with Mr. Morra to discuss the colors.

County Government

Supervisor Knott reported that the new Housing Coordinator for the Task Force is Christ Brown.

The Board of Supervisors issued a Resolution in Support of Senate Bill S88.5 from Michelle Hinchey regarding short term rentals.

Summer Youth Programs are available again this year through the County. Any students enrolled in college can be sponsored to work in the County. The Board is working with Questar to include their high school students. If anyone is interested they should contact Supervisor Knott.

Supervisor Knott reported that the Columbia 250 Celebration has a committee and is starting to make their plans.

There will be major work starting at the solid waste stations around the County.

The food waste digester is on site in Greenport and there will be a “groundbreaking” ceremony in April.

New Business

Supervisor Knott reported that he is still working on the RFP for HVAC changes at the Town Hall.

Supervisor Knott presented the following Resolution to change the names of Town Roads:

WHEREAS, *two certain town roads currently known as Dennis Court and Blush Circle are located in the Hudson Meadows development in the Town of Stuyvesant; and*

WHEREAS, *said Dennis Court and Blush Circle are listed as such with Columbia County E911 service; and*

WHEREAS, *the Town of Stuyvesant has received a request from the owner of the Hudson Meadows development to change the names of the said two roads; and*

WHEREAS, the Town of Stuyvesant Highway Superintendent has recommended such name change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the authority granted in NYS Town Law Section 64 (9), that the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant hereby renames the town roads currently known as Dennis Court and Blush Circle, which shall henceforth be named Hudson Court and Hasbrouck Circle; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be filed with the Director the Columbia County E911.

<u>Town Board Members</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Ronald Knott, Supervisor	X	
Kelley Williams, Councilperson	X	
Tom Burrall, Councilperson	X	
Brian Chittenden, Councilperson	X	
David Quinn, Councilperson	X	

Dated: March 9, 2023
Certified by Melissa Naegeli
Stuyvesant Town Clerk

A motion to adopt the Resolution presented was made by David Quinn. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott presented the following Resolution in Opposition to Altering Soil and Water Conservation District Law:

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have existed for over 70 years in communities across New York State and were established to meet the needs of the State’s diverse geographical regions with local leadership; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs provide counties with a wide range of environmental services, including watershed monitoring, soil health protection, sediment and erosion control, storm water management, invasive species mitigation; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs strive to make programs and services that are inclusive and open to everyone; and

WHEREAS, State law establishes that each SWCD’s Board of Directors shall have two members of the County Board and three members who are not of the County Board, two of whom shall be practical farmers selected by the County Grange and Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, this framework provides each county with the flexibility to select a Board that meets its unique needs; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) was notified that the Watershed Health Coalition has proposed significant changes to Soil and Water Conservation District Law without adequate input from local stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes include a mechanism by which a District's two County Board representatives may be removed and replaced via open election; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes include the revocation of the County Grange and County Farm Bureau's authority to appoint representatives; and

WHEREAS, SWCD Board members from the County Board, Grange, and Farm Bureau provide local knowledge and expertise to SWCDs that enable them to deliver conservation services to their communities; and

WHEREAS, changing the structure of SWCD Boards could have a significant negative impact on their ability to make decisions through informed partners on the very issues that SWCDs deal with every day; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes would also impact initiatives that counties receive funding for through other sources and change how planning would be done, as watersheds extend past county and municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Stuyvesant has a very active agriculture community that relies on the present structure of our local SWCD to provide services and funding to those operations that provide needed food chain goods.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Stuyvesant opposes any amendments to Soil and Water Conservation District Laws that would change the make-up, mission, and function of the State and County Soil and Water Conservation Districts without local input; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Stuyvesant urges the Legislature to seek input from County Legislatures and Boards of Supervisors, the New York State Farm Bureau, the New York State Grange, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and SWCDs before proposing changes to SWCD Law; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution should be forwarded to Senator Michelle Hinchey, Assembly Member Didi Barret, and Assembly Member Scott Bendett.

<u>Town Board Members</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Ronald Knott, Supervisor	X	
Kelley Williams, Councilperson	X	
Tom Burrall, Councilperson	X	
Brian Chittenden, Councilperson	X	
David Quinn, Councilperson	X	

Dated: March 9, 2023
Certified by Melissa Naegeli
Stuyvesant Town Clerk

A motion to adopt the presented Resolution was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Councilman Brian Chittenden discussed the benefits of the existing Soil and Water Conservation District Law. He added that the County Soil and Water Board didn't know about the proposed changes to the Law.

Supervisor Knott reminded everyone that Trash Day will be May 6th and the County Hazardous Waste Day will be April 29th.

Board Comments

Councilman David Quinn said he recommends the NY Alert System that Mr. Vick suggested earlier.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

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

The abstract of Vouchers presented for payment at the March 9, 2023 meeting:

March 2023				LIGHTS	
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	LND/FALLS	HIGHWAY
23-70	Trevellyan.biz	1620.41	4750.00		
23-71	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$2092.11)	9060.8	697.37		1,394.74
23-72	National Grid (\$2096.05)	5182.4		1,016.71	
				1,079.34	
23-73	CPL (\$1834.00)	TA62			
		1440.4	393.00		
23-74	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	67.01		
23-75	Scheriff Electrical Services, Inc.	1620.4	499.76		
23-76	Repeat Business Systems (\$93.93)	1410.4	28.57		
		5132.4	7.50		
		1620.41	57.86		
23-77	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	1355.4	89.22		
23-78	NYSATRC Membership	1410.4	25.00		
23-79	Columbia Greene Humane Society Inc.	3510.4	140.00		
23-80	Sausbier's Awning Shop, Inc.	1620.4	67.00		
23-81	Gabbit, LLC (\$923.86)	1620.41	599.93		
		5132.4	323.93		

23-82	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	801.55		
23-83	Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail	7110.4	500.00		
23-84	Stuyvesant Stockport Senior Citizens	6772.4	2,500.00		
23-85	NYSTCA	1410.4	180.00		
23-86	Marriott Syracuse Downtown	1410.4	810.00		
23-87	Charter Communications	1620.4	389.93		
23-88	Charter Communications	5132.4	293.30		
23-89	National Grid	5132.4	236.00		
23-90	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	176.00		
23-91	Marlin Leasing Corporation	1620.41	322.30		
23-92	Main Care Energy	5132.4	689.75		
	Main Care Energy	5110.41			1,065.11
23-93	Tolls By Mail	5110.4			8.84
23-94	Air Gas USA, LLC	5130.4			95.60
23-95	Mabey's Truck Service	5130.4			200.00
23-96	Rick's Tire Service, LLC	5130.4			202.50
	<i>2-Mar-23</i>		<i>14,644.98</i>	<i>2,096.05</i>	<i>2,966.79</i>
23-97	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA62			
	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	937.50		
23-98	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
23-99	National Grid	1620.4	50.10		
23-100	Visa	7550.4	448.46		
23-101	Redishred Acquisition, Inc dba Proshred	1410.4	30.00		
23-102	Safeguard Business Systems (NEW ADDRESS)	1410.4	100.41		
23-103	Staples, Inc. (\$414.96)	1620.4	349.99		
		1355.4	17.06		
		8010.4	17.06		
		1220.4	3.31		
		1410.4	35.44		
23-104	Stuyvesant on Hudson Garden Club	6772.4	250.00		
23-105	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.63		
23-106	Main Care Energy	5132.4	680.91		
23-107	County Waste	5132.4	220.02		
23-108	Columbia County Treasurer	1110.4	184.29		
23-109	Salem Farm Supply	5130.4			\$ 57.81
23-110	Village Dodge	5130.4			76.00
23-111	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	5130.4			10.29
23-112	Kimball Midwest	5130.4			119.54
23-113	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			37.34
23-114	Carquest of Valatie, Inc.	5130.4			479.67
23-115	Stockport Garage of Col	5130.4			15.00

23-116	Paychex of New York	1320.4	342.20		
23-117	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	155.68		
23-118	Nolan Bottle Gas, Inc.	1620.4	460.62		
	<i>9-Mar-23</i>		<i>4,368.38</i>	-	<i>795.65</i>
	<i>March Totals</i>		<i>19,013.36</i>	<i>2,096.05</i>	<i>3,762.44</i>