

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING
NOVEMBER 10, 2022**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held a Public Hearing for the 2023 Preliminary Budget on Thursday, November 10th at 6:30pm. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilpersons Kelley Williams, David Quinn, and Tom Burrall; Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli.

Supervisor Knott opening the Hearing at 6:30pm and asked Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to read the notice as it was posted in the newspaper:

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Town of Stuyvesant
Public Hearing
Preliminary 2023 Budget**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of Stuyvesant will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 6:30pm for the purpose of taking comment from any interested resident with regard to the Preliminary 2023 Budget. Copies of the Preliminary Budget are available in the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours and on the Town Website at stuyvesantny.us. Salaries included in the Preliminary Budget are: Supervisor \$7,685.00; Town Board Members (4) 12,216.00; Town Clerk/Tax Collector \$24,115.00; Highway Superintendent \$59,604.00; and Town Justice \$8,919.00. The Hearing will be held at the Stuyvesant Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant, NY 12173.

*Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC
Town Clerk*

Supervisor Knott reviewed the 2023 Preliminary Budget on the large screen. He explained that there would be an 8% increase in insurance. Employees would get a 5% increase, 4% raise plus an additional 1% to help with the insurance costs.

He further explained that there are approximately \$48.9M in exemptions and that VRS is at their cap from their original request.

Overall, there is a 2% tax levy decrease.

Supervisor Knott opened the Hearing to questions:

Lee Jamison asked why there is only \$1000 budgeted for celebrations with the Bicentennial coming up. Supervisor Knott explained there is money in the unexpended fund balance and there was ARPA money still available.

There was a question as to whether the Town had explored a different method of snow/ice control than road salt. Supervisor Knott explained that we have purchase new equipment with better monitors for usage. We are fortunate to be able to mix salt and sand, unlike the State DOT who only uses salt.

Richard Moran asked if the Board had considered contracting the mowing because it seems like the Highway Department spends a lot of time doing it. Supervisor Knott explained that several years ago we had an outside person doing it but it got to be very expensive. It was determined that we could purchase a new mower and do it ourselves and save money. Joe Scrum said they only mow once a week. Supervisor Knott added that it was approximately \$10,000 annually in the budget for maintenance of all of the grounds (parks, cemetery, and town hall).

With no further questions or comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:02pm.

Town Board Meeting November 10, 2022

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2022. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Tom Burrall, and David Quinn; Highway Deputy Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Councilman Brian Chittenden and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli were not in attendance. *Minutes transcribed from recorder.*

Supervisor Knott opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 David Quinn. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

A letter from Cathy Knott about the Halloween Party. Supervisor Knott thanked Cathy and the volunteers for another successful party.

CLC is offering a mini grant program.

We received a warning from the Columbia County Alarm Monitoring Office. Supervisor Knott reported that we have been having troubles with the system due to it's age (about 20 years old) and the County program will fine businesses with multiple false alarms. He met with the alarm company and they recommended updating the heat and smoke detector heads. They also recommended updating the panel to be internet based, not telephone lines. The quoted price is \$6620.65. A motion to make the upgrades was made by David Quinn. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Report on file.

Recreation Committee: Kelley Williams reported that things were pretty quiet. She added that people are using the new gazebo at the playground in Stuyvesant Falls. Lee Jamison asked commented that it looked like manure was being spread and asked about the care of the Ken Hummel park and there was a discussion about a maintenance and management plan. Supervisor Knott will follow up with Brian Chittenden and ask that he look into this.

Environmental Management Council: Christian Sweningson reported:

- NYS DEC is investigating concerns with the Germantown water supply. They are conducting water treatments for any possible findings of PCE and TCE. Nothing obvious has been reported at the time of the meeting;
- Columbia Co. Zero Waste & Climate Smart Communities are working on a re-use container program where people can bring their own containers to take food home from restaurants. The initiative project brochure is being created and there will be display stickers at restaurants that will participate;
- Members were reminded to physical inspect their home fossil fuel tanks in order to avoid hazardous situations. Tank life expectancy is 15 to 20 years and new tanks come with a 10 year warranty;
- Composting containers are located at all of the transfer stations. The Committee will reach out to the Dept of Solid Waste for funding for composting signs and marketing. There was discussion about sending out information flyers; and
- Michael O'Hara (Chair) will be stepping down.

Dog Control Officer: Report on file

Kinderhook Memorial Library – Lee Jamison reported that a resolution had been passed previously to amend the By-Laws to set Term Limits. In January new officers will be elected. In March, 4 people will term-out – 1 of those vacancies will come from Stuyvesant. If anyone is interested in filling the position, contact the Library.

Climate Smart Committee: Lee Jamison reported that a meeting is scheduled for November 17th.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported:

- They are bringing down sand from Sharptown Road;

- Closed the park access from the salt shed site because the new road is now open; and
- Working on repairs to the Santa Mailbox at the Town Hall that was damaged by the wind.

There was a question as to why the Ken Hummel Park sign was parallel to the road. Joe Scrum explained that there was a sight issue with the sign being perpendicular. They are looking at ways to make the sign more noticeable.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported they are preparing the exemption renewals to be mailed; they are due back by March 1st.

Planning / Zoning Boards: Supervisor Knott asked Tal Rappleyea what was going on with the Boards. Tal reported that the Rudolph Family Farm had gotten a determination that the Code Enforcement Office was correct from the ZBA and was going back to the Planning Board.

He explained that he had recused himself from the ELA project but they were before the ZBA.

Historian: Cathy Knott reported that Juanita is looking at the Bicentennial plans. The Committee is planning a power point presentation for the first event at the Town Hall in April.

Cemetery – David Quinn reported that he is continuing to work with a family who are installing a memorial.

Building Department: Report on file

Broadband Committee: No report

Railroad Station Committee: Lee Jamison reported that would be a meeting at 9 on the 12th. There would also be an “italiano pot luck” and movie night at 5:30 showing Roman Holiday. This is a free event open to everyone.

County Government

Supervisor Knott reported that a housing task force had been established and they are hiring a housing coordinator. Supervisor Knott will be the co-Chair of the Task Force.

The Office for Aging are commissioning a Feasibility Study for a new building to house upgraded kitchen facilities as well as offices, at Commerce Park. There are also offices proposed for the Health Care Consortium. The expected cost will be approximately \$15M.

The Solid Waste Department is doing away with the \$1 stickers and bringing back the 7 gal bags but they will only be available for purchase at the stations.

There will be a digester at the Greenport Transfer Station. It is on order and will offset the electric usage at the facility.

New Business

2023 Tentative Budget – A motion was made by David Quinn to adopt the 2023 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Speed Sign Request – Supervisor Knott reported that he had done some research on movable speed signs following a request from a resident in Stuyvesant Falls. He had a quote from All Traffic Solutions for a 15” sign with solar power that would be \$4280 complete. There was further discussion regarding having to have approval from the County to put it on a County Road. After Board discussion there was no action taken.

Board Comments

Supervisor Knott asked the Board to recall the Zoning Revision Committee after receiving a request from Tim Hotaling, Chair of the Planning Board, for review of language and definitions regarding short term rentals, accessory dwellings, and other terms. Supervisor Knott further requested that the following appointments be made to fill out the Committee:

Kelley Williams
Cody Williams
Tim Hotaling
Kevin Haberland

Margaret Pino
Amy Abatti
Paul Cassidy
Diane Fingar

A motion to recall the Committee and make the above appointments was made by David Quinn. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott reported that there were 2 letters of interest received for the vacant ZBA Alternate position. Kelley Williams and David Quinn will schedule interviews.

Public Comments

Paul Cassidy asked the Board to please consider affordable housing, economic development, and jobs in the Zoning Law conversations. Supervisor Knott replied that the newly formed Housing Task Force at the County is looking at those issues. Supervisor Knott said the Law has to better define what is agriculture.

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

The following is the abstract of Vouchers presented for payment at the November 10, 2022 meeting:

<i>November 2022</i>			LIGHTS		
<u>CLAIM #</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
22-404	National Grid	5132.4	199.21		
22-405	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
22-406	National Grid	1620.4	29.23		
22-407	National Grid (\$1967.59)	5182.4		955.28	
				1,012.31	
22-408	CDPHP Universal Benefits	9060.8	645.19		
22-409	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	142.84		
22-410	Marlin Leasing Corporation (\$251.91)	1410.4	87.25		
		1620.41	164.66		
22-411	Johnson Newspaper Corp. (\$199.34)	1010.4	58.43		
		8010.4	90.56		
		1355.4	50.35		
22-412	Repeat Business Systems (\$101.63)	1410.4	50.52		
		5132.4	7.66		
		1620.41	43.45		
22-413	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	80.94		
22-414	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	332.72		
22-415	Wex Bank	7110.4	152.60		
22-416	Troy Kay	DA90898			200.00
22-417	Main Care Energy	5110.4			2,725.10
22-418	Kirks Mobile Repair LLC	5130.4			2,455.00
22-419	Mooradian Hydraulics & Equip. Co., Inc.	5130.4			147.64
22-420	Kimball Midwest	5130.4			169.44

22-421	Air Gas USA, LLC	5130.4			93.10
22-422	Calinan Industries Inc.	5142.4			4,054.94
	11/3/2022		2,158.31	1,967.59	9,845.22
22-423	The Bank of Greene County (\$64919.23)	A9710.6	54,161.29		
		A9710.7	10,757.94		
22-242	Tal G. Rapplyea, Esq.	TA62	1,593.75		
22-243	Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	146.98		
22-244	Columbia Co. Treasurer	8160.4	150.00		
22-245	Gabbit, LLC	1620.41	1,717.04		
22-246	Charter Communications	5132.4	293.30		
22-247	Charter Communications	1620.4	389.93		
22-248	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	314.65		
22-249	Staples, Inc. (\$84.59)	1410.4	74.29		
		8010.4	10.30		
22-250	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	535.00		
22-251	Aramco	1620.4	310.27		
22-252	Cathy Knott	7550.4	250.00		
22-253	Tal G. Rapplyea, Esq.	1420.4	625.00		
22-254	Lowe's	5132.4	51.95		
22-255	County Waste	5132.4	200.02		
22-256	Chatham Auto Parts	5130.4			116.97
22-257	Carquest of Valatie	5130.4			28.58
22-258	Air Gas USA LLC	5130.4			95.60
22-259	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			89.07
22-260	Inner City Tire	5110.4			486.88
	10-Nov-22		71,581.71	-	817.10
	<i>November Totals</i>		\$ 73,740.02	\$ 1,967.59	\$10,662.32