

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 11, 2023**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams and David Quinn; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Attorney-for-the-Town Tal Rappleyea. Councilmembers Tom Burrall and Brian Chittenden were not in attendance.

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Kelley Williams. The motion was seconded by David Quinn 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.

Old Business

AARP Filing: Ron review the review that was filed at the end of April. We have a balance of \$124,151.

Projects completed:

- Stuyvesant Falls playground pavilion;
- Road into Hummel Park;
- The new sign at the Town Hall;
- Water conditioner at the Highway Garage;
- Lighting upgrades in Town Hall to LED;
- Fire Alarm system upgrade at Town Hall;
- Purchase agreement for wood chipper with Stockport;
- Labor costs for work at the park (see above projects)

Some projects planned:

- Repair of the cemetery building;
- HVAC upgrade at the Town Hall;
- Street lights LED upgrades;
- Emergency generator at the Highway Garage

Zoning Revision Committee – a draft continues to be reviewed. A copy will be put on the website. Supervisor Knott said we have to start considering an update to our Comprehensive Plan.

Budget Amendment #1 of 2023

	Increase	Decrease
Revenue		
Highway Fund		
DA3501 S/A Chips	78,127.10	
Appropriations		
DA5112.2 Highway Improvements	78,127.10	
Total	78,127.10	

The amendment was signed by all members in attendance and was adopted. The amendment is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Comprehensive Plan – The Board is looking to engage a Consultant for the revisions to the Comprehensive Plan.

Street Light Conversion – Supervisor Knott reported that we are pursuing National Grid to follow up after the submission of the paperwork. National Grid expects to have a contract and invoice soon.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Reports on file.

Recreation Committee: Kelley Williams reported that the Highway Department repaired the fence at the Stuyvesant Falls playground, the table is in the pavilion, and the stairs are repaired.

Environmental Management Council:

- There were Earth Day clean up events;
- There is interest in a homegrown national park program;
- The County Climate Smart Committee has received Bronze status;
- There will be no Climate Carnival in 2023;
- Zero Waste Columbia – the bring your own containers program is moving forward;

- Report on EcoRich Digester at the Greenport Transfer Station, there will be collection bins at stations around the County.

Dog Control Officer: No report.

Kinderhook Memorial Library: Roberta Baldini reported:

- There were over 300 attendees at the Art Tour;
- There will be a 414 Resolution to put an increase funding request on the November ballot;
- Asked about putting a library shelf in the Town Hall;
- Risk Assessment at the Library for insurance;
- The sustainable library program is approximately 70% complete, hope to be finished by the end of June;
- Applying for a request for feasibility study for a heat pump installation;
- The film and plastic collection bin is at the Town Hall.

Climate Smart Committee: Lee Jamison reported that they met on April 25th and will be meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Town Hall.

- Post cards are going out with climate smart information;
- Carol Leber is working on the film & plastic collections; and
- Need National Grid electric usage information for 3 years.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported the Department:

- Has swept the roads;
- Mowing parks and road sides;
- We need 2 new picnic tables at \$300 each;
- We used 6 ½ dumpsters, 2 metal containers, and collected 36 televisions at trash day;
- Paving Hollow Road and will need an additional \$76,000;
- Tony Link will be going to CDL classes; and
- Waiting to hear back from the tennis court guy.

A motion was made by Kelley Williams to use \$76,000 from the Highway Fund Balance for the paving. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Kelley Williams to purchase 2 picnic tables at a cost of \$600. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous vote.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported that Grievance Day is May 25th 4pm – 8pm. Paperwork must be in the Office by May 22nd.

Historian: Cathy Knott reported that the Town's Birthday Party was a great success and that over 100 people signed the guest book.

The next event will be a picnic on July 1st at the Sand Bar Park in Stuyvesant 12-3pm. The Town will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Residents are asked to bring a dish to share.

Cemetery: David Quinn reported that he is working with a family for a stone installation and burial of cremated remains.

Building Department: Report is on file.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee: There will be a Rhubarb Festival on May 20th 1-3pm. There will be pies, tarts, and other rhubarb treats. John Morra has promised a band. Karen Hummel suggested rhubarb art.

County Government

Supervisor Knott reported:

- ColumbiaNY 250 – The 250th Celebration for the County will be held in 2026 and a large celebration is being planned for 7/4/2026.
- Local Laws for Tax Exemptions for volunteer firefighters and EMS and low income.

New Business

CLC site visit to Hummel Park is scheduled for next week.

Highway Training Agreement to reimburse training fees for CDL license. The Agreement states that the employee has to stay with Stuyvesant for 2 years or have to reimburse tuition fees to the Town. The Board considered the following agreement proposed with Anthony Link:

Town of Stuyvesant Highway Department Training Agreement

WHEREAS, the Town of Stuyvesant has been informed that certain new federal regulations regarding the training of Commercial Driver License (CDL) holders have been adopted; and

WHEREAS, among other things such regulations require that new CDL holders must be trained by a certified trainer for approximately 80 hours; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant recognizes that such training may be expensive and in an effort to induce new highway employees to work for the Town, the Town of Stuyvesant believes it is in the best interests of the residents of the Town to reimburse new employees for such cost; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto recognize that there must be some protection for the Town when making such reimbursement.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY

AGREED, that the Town of Stuyvesant shall reimburse new employees who obtain a CDL while employed by the Town and who incur the expense of required training and it is further

AGREED, that any employee who receives such reimbursement from the Town, shall repay the Town in full for such reimbursement in the event the employee leaves the employment of the Town within two (2) years of the receipt of such reimbursement.

A motion was made by David Quinn to adopt the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

RFP for Tree Work – The highway department has been doing simple tree work but for work that will exceed \$5000 we will have to get quotes first. Supervisor Knott and Tal Rappleyea will work on a RFP.

Broadband – Supervisor Knott met with Mid-Hudson Cable regarding expanding into Town up 9J, Route 46, and Ferry Road. They are waiting to see what money will be available from the State.

Real Property Tax Exemptions – Supervisor Knott reviewed the proposed Local Law #1 of 2023 for Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and EMS. The draft law will be on the website. A public hearing has been scheduled for June 8th at 7pm.

Website – the new website is live.

Board Comments

There were no additional comments from the Board

Public Comments

Lee Jamison asked about Trash Day. Supervisor Knott reported that we used 6 ½ 50 yard containers and collected 141 tires. He said they were very busy but were very organized. Ms. Jamison reported that RiverSweep found 1 tire, 35 bags of trash and 2 bags of recycling. She said there were 22 volunteers and collected approximately 1,271 lbs of trash.

Christian Sweningson spoke about the Hummel Park manure issue. He said he had spoken with Councilman Brian Chittenden and apologized for his previous comments about Wil Roc Farm.

Rachel Samuelson commented that the new sign for Hummel Park looks very nice.

Lee Jamison reported that Mark Burch has offered to reroute the trail because it’s getting very close to the ravine at Hummel Park. She asked if ARPA money could be used for signage. Supervisor Knott said to bring quotes and said the County Highway Department does nice sign work.

Rachel Samuelson commented to everyone to be be aware of ticks because they are very bad already.

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 abstract of Vouchers presented for payment at the May 11, 2023 meeting:

	<i>May 2023</i>				LIGHTS	
CLAIM	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL		LND/FALLS	HIGHWAY
23-159	National Grid (\$1671.62)	5182.4			812.87	
					858.75	
23-160	CDPHP Universal Benefits	9060.8	697.37			
23-161	Trevellyan.biz	1620.41	5,938.00			
23-162	Gabbit, LLC (\$974.51)	1620.41	635.58			
		5132.4	338.93			
23-163	Paychex of NY LLC	1320.4	306.00			
23-164	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	561.20			
23-165	Marlin Leasing Servicing (\$230.43)	1410.4	75.87			
		1620.41	154.56			
23-166	National Grid	5132.4	164.37			
23-167	National Grid	1620.4	26.10			
23-168	National Grid	1620.4	22.70			
23-169	Charter Communications	5132.4	310.72			

23-170	Charter Communications	1620.4	399.93		
23-171	Sue Brignull	7550.4	30.75		
23-172	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.63		
23-173	Mario's Home Center	7110.4	1,030.58		
	Mario's Home Center	5110.4			25.22
23-174	Roddy Niesen	5110.4			14,000.00
23-175	Inner City Tire	5110.4			703.08
23-176	Main Care Energy	5110.41			1,574.10
23-177	Valley Energy	5110.4			272.25
	5/4/2023		10,755.29	1,671.62	16,574.65
23-178	Staples, Inc. (\$247.93)	1355.4	25.08		
		7550.4	185.12		
		1110.4	5.57		
		8020.4	32.16		
23-179	Edmunds Gov Tech (\$1857.45)	1620.41	1,533.00		
		1410.4	324.45		
23-180	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	346.00		
23-181	Columbia Greene Humane Society, Inc.	3510.4	650.00		
23-182	Repeat Business Systems	1410.4	33.98		
		5132.4	8.03		
		1620.41	54.77		
23-183	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	1,062.50		
23-184	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA62			
23-185	Cathy Knott	7550.4	77.44		
23-186	County Waste	5132.4	220.02		
23-187	Visa	7110.4	1,115.69		
23-188	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	30.98		
23-189	Columbia County Treasurer (CCSO)	1110.4	184.29		
23-190	Sausbier's Awning Shop	5132.4	116.10		
23-191	Callanan Industries, Inc.	5142.4			6,053.40
23-192	Salem Farm Supply	5130.4			202.62
23-193	Carquest of Valatie, Inc.	5130.4			307.14
23-194	Air Gas USA, LLC	5130.4			120.00
23-195	Lowe's	5110.4			318.14
23-196	Tractor Supply Credit Plan (\$111.44)	90898			59.98
		5110.4			51.46
23-197	Nassau Country Value	5110.4			22.52
23-198	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	253.40		
	11-May-23		6,258.58	-	7,135.26
	<i>May Totals</i>		\$ 7,013.87	\$ 1,671.62	23,709.91