

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 8, 2023**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2023. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Tom Burrall, Brian Chittenden and David Quinn; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Attorney-for-the-Town Tal Rapplelea.

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Tom Burrall. 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

Street Light Conversion: Supervisor Knott reported that the process is moving forward. We have sent them a check to begin the work.

Spring Trash Day – Supervisor Knott reported that we collected \$778 in scrap metal and paid \$3659 for the dumpsters.

Financial Update – Supervisor Knott reported that he had reached out to the Bank of Greene County with concerns about the interest rate being very low. They have increased the rate.

Supervisor Knott also reported that we cannot use Quickbooks for the desktop any longer and that we have been having issues with using it online.

Public Hearing

Supervisor Knott opened the Public Hearing at 7:15pm and asked Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to read the notice as it was published in the official newspaper, Register Star.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW
TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board for the Town of Stuyvesant will hold a Public Hearing on June 8, 2023 at 7:00pm for the purpose of taking public comment on proposed Local Law #1 of 2023 "A Local Law of the Town of Stuyvesant providing Real Property Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers pursuant to Section 44-A of the Real Property Tax Law". The Hearing will take place at the Stuyvesant Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant, NY 12173. A copy of the proposed Local Law may be found on the Town website at stuyvesantny.us.

Supervisor Knott reviewed the proposed Local Law

- Exemption is 10% of assessed value;
- Must be an active member for 2 or more years for the fire company that serves the Town the member lives in;
- 20+ year members will be granted forever as long as the property is still owned in the Town;
- Unmarried surviving spouses of 20+ year members may keep the exemption as long as they remain in the Town and unmarried; and
- Exemption for non-life time members must be renewed annually.

The County already passed this same Law.

Supervisor Knott also explained that volunteer firefighters and EMS can choose an income tax deduction instead of the property tax exemption.

Councilman David Quinn commented that Supervisor Knott hit all of the information. He added that it would be really important for the School District to also adopt the exemption.

With no further questions or comments, a motion was made by Brian Chittenden to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Following the closure of the Public Hearing, a motion to adopt Local Law #1 was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote.

Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli will forward the information to the County Real Property Tax Services Office and Tal Rappleyea will file the Law with the NYS Secretary of State.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Reports on file.

Recreation Committee: Kelley Williams reported that there are 30 kids registered for the Town of Kinderhook playground. She also reported that we have the new picnic tables approved at the last meeting.

Environmental Management Council: No report

Dog Control Officer: No report.

Kinderhook Memorial Library: Kathryn Schneider reported:

- The Library will be asking for an increase in funding this year; and
- We will receive 2 benches in response to the collection of plastics and film.

Climate Smart Committee: Paula VanMeter reported:

- Trex manufacturing challenge was 500lbs of plastics & film would equal 1 bench;
- The Committee strongly supports updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan;
- They are collecting data on the Town's energy use and to find ways to improve. There are 3 years of data to collect.

The Committee has proposed a Resolution to Board to adopt regarding the collecting information and to keep data efficiently. Supervisor Knott read the following Resolution for the Board's consideration (they all had copies):

***Resolution on Record-Keeping Measures to Improve
Energy Conservation and Efficiency in the Town of Stuyvesant***

WHEREAS the achievement of energy conservation and efficiency is desirable to the Town for protection of environmental and budgetary resources;

WHEREAS analysis of energy use and consumption by the Town will be helpful in determining how to achieve improvement in energy conservation and efficiency and identifying savings;

WHEREAS records of electric, diesel, propane and other fuel use by the Town reflect energy use that can enable analysis of potential measures to reduce energy use and improve efficiency; and

WHEREAS such records are currently kept but are not readily accessible for review by volunteer residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Town of Stuyvesant

1. Retain all records of electric, propane, diesel and other fuel use including invoices, receipts or other records submitted for payment by the Town; and
2. Maintain all such records of energy and fuel use in such a manner that they can be efficiently reviewed for analysis.

PASSED AND ADOPTED as a resolution by the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant, State of New York at its regularly scheduled meeting held on June 8, 2023.

<u>Town Board Members</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ron Knott	X		
Tom Burrall	X		
Brian Chittenden	X		
David Quinn	X		
Kelley Williams	X		

Resolution Certified by:
Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC
Town Clerk

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported the Department:

- Will be paving on Hollow Road the week of June 20th;
- The picnic tables have been received;
- Joe has been trying to reach the CDL school but hasn't had a reply yet;
- Joe has been trying to reach someone about the tennis court – hasn't had a reply yet;
- Joe went to Highway School.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported that Grievance Day was very quiet. The tentative roll ends on June 30th and the final roll will be filed in the Clerk's Office on July 1st. This was the first year there were no grievances or stipulations.

Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals – The Planning Board continues to hear from the applicants on the proposed project on Sharptown Road.

Historian: Cathy Knott reported that the Bicentennial Committee is working on the Bicentennial Picnic coming up on July 1st at the Sand Bar Park in Stuyvesant Falls. The picnic will be 12-3pm and the Town will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages; attendees are asked to bring a dish to share. The theme of the events is “water power and the Falls”.

Cemetery: David Quinn reported that we have a new person mowing and that we received many compliments after the Memorial Day service..

Building Department: Report is on file.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee: Cal Burch reported that there is a meeting on Saturday, June 10th. There will be strawberry topped waffles on Sunday, June 18th 11am – 2pm.

County Government

Broadband: Supervisor Knott has been trying to schedule a meeting with a new company in the County.

Housing Task Force: Supervisor Knott reported that a new website is being developed.

Paving Projects: Projects are getting lined up and Fish & Game Road will be done this year – this is a Federal Aid Project.

New Business

Real Property Tax Exemptions – Supervisor Knott reported that the Board is considering an update to the Senior and Disabled & Low-Income Exemptions. There will be public hearing for the proposed Local Laws #2 and #3 of 2023 changing the income thresholds. The Hearing will be July 13th at 7pm. Drafts of the proposed Laws will be on the website for review.

Supervisor Knott reviewed a proposed Resolution for a grant application to work on updating the Comprehensive Plan. He has been working with someone from CPL (Engineering Firm) to apply for a grant that will be filed at the end of July. He added that a letter of support from the Climate Smart Committee would be helpful. The proposed Resolution follows:

***Resolution of the Town of Stuyvesant
Application for Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Grant Program***

WHEREAS, the Town of Stuyvesant (“Town”) currently has a Comprehensive Plan for the community that was created and adopted in 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Town believes that proactive planning is a valuable tool to provide guidance and direction to Town-elected officials, staff, Board volunteers, and the community at-large; and

WHEREAS, an updated Comprehensive Plan will allow the community to provide direct involvement and input into the vision for the future along with goals and recommendations/actions to achieve that vision; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Department of State (NYS DOS) is currently offering State assistance to municipalities for the 2023-2024 Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Grants (“Planning Grant”) through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) and the Town deems it to be in the public interest and benefit to utilize this funding source to carry out an update to the Town’s Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Comprehensive Plan update would cost between \$50-60,000 to complete; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Grant would fund up to 90% of the total project costs, with a local match of at least 10% required; and

WHEREAS, the Town is committed to this project and will allocate upwards of \$10,000 towards the effort, more than the minimum 10% required local match.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Stuyvesant authorizes Supervisor Ron Knott to submit an application through the CFA for a Planning Grant for an update to the Town’s Comprehensive Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town will allocate a match of at least 10% or more towards the project.

<u>Town Board Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ron Knott	X		
Tom Burrall	X		
Brian Chittenden	X		
David Quinn	X		
Kelley Williams	X		

Resolution certified by
Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC
Town Clerk

Supervisor Knott presented a Resolution to lower the speed limit on Ferry Road. This Resolution was adopted in 2021 but had to be re-done and resubmitted to the County and NYS DOT.

**RESOLUTION
TO LOWER THE SPEED LIMIT ON FERRY ROAD**

WHEREAS, Ferry Road is a dead-end road in the Town of Stuyvesant; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York recently built a public access fishing pier, increasing the amount of traffic on Ferry Road; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak and NYS DOT have repaired the railroad crossing, further increasing the amount of traffic on Ferry Road; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Ferry Road have contacted the Town Board with concerns for safety due to the excessive rate of speed of the traffic;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant will apply to the County of Columbia and the State of New York for a speed limit reduction on Ferry Road.

PASSED AND ADOPTED as a resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant, State of New York at its regularly scheduled meeting held on June 8, 2023.

<u>Town Board Members</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ron Knott	X		
Tom Burrall	X		
Brian Chittenden	X		
David Quinn	X		
Kelley Williams	X		

Resolution Certified by
Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC
Town Clerk

Melissa Naegeli will resend the documents to the County for submission to NYS DOT.

Board Comments

Councilman Tom Burrall asked for an update on the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge repairs. Supervisor Knott reported that the contract with the Engineers had been approved by the State and public meetings are expected to take place this summer. Councilman Burrall voiced his complaint that the process is taking too long and expressed concerns for safety.

Public Comments

Steve Montie asked if there were any plans for repairs to County Route 46. Supervisor Knott replied that he wasn't sure and would check on that at the County.

The abstract of Vouchers presented for payment at the June 8, 2023 meeting:

	<i>June 2023</i>			LIGHTS	
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	LND/FALLS	HIGHWAY
23-199	National Grid	1620.2	12118.15		
<u>23-200</u>	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$1394.74)	9060.8	697.37		697.37
23-201	Repeat Business Systems	1620.41	21.80		
23-202	National Grid	1620.4	27.32		
23-203	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
23-204	National Grid	5132.4	135.61		
23-205	Charter Communications	5132.4	310.72		
23-206	Charter Communications	1620.4	399.93		
23-207	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	47.89		
23-208	Columbia County Treasurer (Solid Waste)	8160.4	3,659.69		
23-209	Gabbit, LLC (\$943.86)	1620.41	619.93		
		5132.4	323.93		
23-210	Redishred Acquisition, Inc.	1410.4	33.00		
23-211	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	8020.4	145.00		
23-212	VFW Post #9593	6510.4	1,600.00		
23-213	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	1,281.25		
23-214	Derick LaTorre	1355.4	60.00		
23-215	Erich Schmidt	1355.4	60.00		
23-216	Paul Chittenden	1355.4	60.00		
23-217	Michael J. Naegeli	1355.4	60.00		
23-218	Cheryl Trowbridge	1355.4	60.00		
23-219	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	40.47		
23-220	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.63		
23-221	Matthew Tuczynski	7110.4	600.00		
23-222	Kristina Kwacz	7550.4	39.80		
23-223	Anthony Link	D90898	200.00		
23-224	Mario's Home Center, Inc.	5132.4	3.18		

23-225	Mario's Home Center, Inc.	5130.4			29.21
23-226	Main Care Energy	5110.41			,589.34
23-227	Anthony Link	5110.4			25.00
23-228	Bob Boll Excavating	5110.4			531.06
23-229	National Grid (\$1434.68)	5182.4		698.40	
				736.28	
23-230	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA62			
23-231	CPL	TA62			
	1-Jun-23		22,690.37	1,434.68	3,071.98
23-232	Staples, Inc. (\$111.74)	7550.4	84.54		
		1410.4	21.63		
		1110.4	5.57		
23-233	Marlin Lease Servicing (\$230.43)	1410.4	75.87		
		1620.41	154.56		
23-234	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	338.49		
23-235	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	1355.4	45.76		
23-236	Barbara D. Cin	1110.4	100.00		
23-237	Town of Stockport	5010.4	231.00		
23-238	County Waste	5132.4	220.02		
23-239	Main Care Energy	7110.4	111.37		
23-240	Tractor Supply Credit Plan	DA90898			59.98
23-241	CarQuest of Valatie	5110.4			182.16
23-242	New Castle Asphalt	5112.4			349.70
23-243	Salem Farm Supply	5130.4	286.41		
23-244	Lowe's	5110.4			219.20
23-245	Repeat Business Systems (\$97.13)	1410.4	21.88		
		5132.4	7.57		
		1620.41	67.68		
	6/8/2023		1,772.35	-	811.04
	<i>June Totals</i>		24462.72	\$ 1,434.68	\$ 3,883.02