

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 10, 2023**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2023. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Brian Chittenden and David Quinn; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Attorney-for-the-Town Tal Rappleyea. Councilmembers Kelley Williams and Tom Burrall were not in attendance.

Supervisor Knott called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

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

Correspondence

Transco – announcing their ribbon cutting to be held on August 16th at 10am at Knickerbocker Road.

Old Business

Bicentennial Event: Supervisor Knott reported that the fireworks have been confirmed for the September 16th event. He explained that Riverview Street and Route 26A from 9J to Riverview Street will be closed to vehicles and a letter will be delivered to all residents effected with timing. The road will be closed to traffic other than residents beginning at 4pm. At 6pm the road will be closed to all non-emergency vehicles.

He also reported that the Schodack Landing Fire Co. food truck will be down by the train station and Pico DeGalo will have their bar open and have a taco truck outside for sales.

He asked Melissa Naegeli to give an update about the vendor event. Melissa Naegeli reported that there are 18 crafting/sales vendors and 12 informational vendors. She added that we are still accepting applications for vendors.

Melissa asked Joe Scrum, Highway Superintendent, if picnic tables could be brought down near the train station, exact placement to be determined based on where the food truck sets up.

Organizational Chart – Supervisor Knott reported the Chart has been updated to reflect the new accountant/bookkeeper Robert Patterson and the appointment of Ricky Smith to Deputy Highway Superintendent. A motion to adopt the updated Organizational Chart was made by David Quinn. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Reports on file.

Recreation Committee: Melissa Naegeli reported that this was the final week of the park program and that there were approximately 30 children from Stuyvesant that attended.

Environmental Management Council: Christian Sweningson reported:

- Columbia Land Conservancy guest speakers came to discuss the development of a Columbia County Conservation Plan. CLC intends to collaborate with partner organizations and municipalities to inform and align conservation and open space planning priorities. They hope the plan will be adopted by the County Board of Supervisors and used to establish community preservation funds in towns.
- There is a grant opportunity that CLC is applying for that will provide funds to hire a consultant to eventually draft the Countywide Conservation Plan for Columbia County that will build off of data in the Natural Resource Inventory.
- The community solar grant funding from NYSERDA was updated and discussed. The County may be eligible to apply for another \$15,000 grant; if the County continues with additional sign-ups it could qualify for another \$30,000 grant.
- Recycling solar panels was discussed and the issues that we will be facing in the next 10 -15 years.

- Zero Waste Columbia had a successful repair café in the Town of Chatham.
- The Columbia County Climate Smart Communities Task Force (CCCSCTF) has a new website www.climatesmart.columbiacountyny.com and they are open for feedback. By-Laws and Task Force members will be listed on the website. Every town, city, or village in the County can nominate a voting member for appointment, similar to the EMC. Town efforts will be consolidated.
- There was a Health recall regarding Allied Healthcare Products in Stuyvesant Falls relating to the NYSDEC Brownfield Cleanup Program. The NYS DOH made a “significant threat determination” based on the level of contamination. Supervisor Knott explained that Allied Health is currently in bankruptcy and the property is for sale.
- Most recent meetings have been helpful. The Committee has noted the members would benefit if there could be a forum so the different committees and groups could communicate more frequently. They are exploring online forum ideas.

Dog Control Officer: No report

Kinderhook Memorial Library: Supervisor Knott reported that they are doing very well with the plastic collection and noted the new bench donated for the Stuyvesant Falls playground. He also reported that he will be meeting with the Library Director to discuss future library programs.

Climate Smart Committee: Lee Jamison reported:

- The next meeting will be Monday, August 14th instead of the regular 4th Tuesday meeting night;
- Bill Schneider has scheduled a Heat Pump information session for October 14th. Lee didn’t know a time yet but it will be at the Town Hall;
- They will have a table at the Bicentennial Event;
- A movie night is being planned about the National Parks. They are hoping to co-host with the Stuyvesant Garden Club. Cathy Knott replied that she will bring it to their meeting and will contact Lee when she has an answer. That event will also be held at the Town Hall and will be facilitated by the Kinderhook Library;
- Paula VanMeter and Hannah Shephard have been working on the greenhouse gas benchmarking;

- There is a \$5000 NYSERDA grant available but the funds must be used to reduce greenhouse gases;
- They penned and signed a Letter in Support for the proposed Countywide Conservation Program.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported:

- The Highway Department is still cleaning up after the storms and have been working in the cemetery;
- 3 roads were washed out and have been repaired;
- Tony Link will start CDL school on August 14th;
- He met with Dave Quinn and they reviewed plans to replace the trail bridge at Hummel Park;

Joe Scrum provided 3 quotes for a roadside trimmer and recommended purchasing the product from Stout Design LLC at a cost of \$5100. After reviewing the proposals, a motion to purchase the trimmer from Stout Design LLS was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion as seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous vote.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported that its been quiet. Exemption renewals will be mailed in November.

Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals – Tal Rappleyea reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals did not have their regular meeting in July. He also reported that the Planning Board continues to review documents from Rudolph Family Farms/Sharptown Ridge project.

Historian: Cathy Knott reported that the final Bicentennial event will be held on September 16th with fireworks. She reported that Historian Juanita Knott will have displays set up under the pavilion as well as items for sale. A limited supply of sweatshirts will be available for sale that day in addition to the t-shirts, bags, pins, and other items previously available.

Cemetery: David Quinn thanked the Highway Department for their clean up work in the cemetery. Councilman Quinn reported that had had met with Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to start mapping out the plots in the cemetery. He has begun walking the site and noting information on the stones. He is creating a spreadsheet with the information from the stones then he will begin going through the limited paperwork we have on file.

Building Department: Report is on file. Supervisor Knott reported that Kevin Haberland had sent out several violation letters to people.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee: Lee Jamison reported that there will be a corn fest and bake sale at the station on August 20th 1-4pm. Supervisor Knott will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs.

County Government

2024 Budget: Supervisor Knott reported that they have started the budget process and will be hearing presentations beginning next week.

Tax Sales: Supervisor Knott reported that the County had a real property tax sale for the first time in several years. The program had been put on hold due to State COVID restrictions on foreclosures. This year the County contracted with Auctions International for the sales and \$1.2 Million was collected.

11 Warren Street: Supervisor Knott reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of the building at 11 Warren Street in Hudson. The building will be renovated and will be used to house the Board of Election, Probation, and the Public Defenders Office. The Board hopes to close on the property in September or October.

New Business

HVAC Resolution – Supervisor Knott reviewed the Resolution. He explained that the HVAC in the Town Hall is 21 years old and outdated. We had prepared an RFP and had sent the project out to bid. We held a formal Bid Opening on August 1st and the lower bidder was Stuyvesant Mechanical LLC. The following resolution was presented to the Board for consideration:

***Town of Stuyvesant Resolution
Awarding HVAC Project Bid
August 10, 2023***

WHEREAS; *the town of Stuyvesant has an aging inefficient heating and A/C system that is now 21 years old, and operates on R-22 which is no longer available and;*

WHEREAS; *the Town of Stuyvesant planned several years ago to upgrade our HVAC equipment following our investment in closed cell insulation, which lowered our town hall buildings heat loss/gain allowing of higher efficient systems and;*

WHEREAS; *the investment in improved insulation has already substantially reduced our use of LP gas, saving tax payers money and reducing our greenhouse gas output and;*

WHEREAS; *our State government and our local Climate Smart communities are recommending further reduction in the use of LP gas and increased usage of electricity through the use of Heat Pump technology and;*

WHEREAS; *the Town of Stuyvesant developed and circulated an RFP that requested quotes to replace our aging equipment with high efficient condensing gas furnaces and Inverter drive heat pumps that will become our primary source of heat and extremely energy efficient Air Conditioning and;*

WHEREAS; *the town received several bids and has determined that the low bidder is a qualified and acceptable contractor who has a record of getting these types of job done and;*

WHEREAS; *the town board has recommended that the use of ARPA funds for this project is a good one-time expenditure investment in our towns infrastructure adding reliability and reducing future costs and Greenhouse gas emissions.*

Now therefore be it Resolved; *the town board of the town of Stuyvesant accepts the low bid on this project and authorizes the town Supervisor to sign a contract included in the RFP to engage the services of Stuyvesant Mechanical LLC for the total sum of 58,946.00 to replace the HVAC system as specified in our RFP*

Adopted August 10, 2023

Certified by:

Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC

Town Clerk

A motion adopt the resolution was made by David Quinn. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote. Supervisor Knott will sign the contract and send to Stuyvesant Mechanicals LLC. Supervisor Knott reported that the RFP stipulated a 90 day completion timeframe from when the contract was approved.

Historic District Designation – Supervisor Knott and Juanita Knott met with Jim Witkowski (Riverview Street) to discuss the process for the creation of a Historic District on Riverview Street. NYS has determined that due to the businesses that used to be along the riverfront, most of the houses on the road would have been built to support them and would have been there between 1823 and 1925 so the area is eligible for a Historic Designation. An application has to be made to the State Historic Parks Office. Supervisor Knott is researching the process and will get some of the County officials who have done this in the past to give some information on how buildings and residents may be impacted by the designation. Tal Rappleyea explained that even simple renovations would require additional clearances.

Board Comments

No comments or questions

Public Comments

Lee Jamison asked if there was an updated on the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge engineering report. Supervisor Knott reported that the immediate focus will be on getting the weight limit restored for full usage due to the Stockport Bridge replacement project coming up soon. The Bridge is still being assessed as to what will be the best way to handle a replacement. Joe Scrum said someone had asked him if the walking portion of the bridge could be “pet friendly”.

Cathy Knott asked the Board for permission to host the annual children’s Halloween Party on Saturday, October 28th 1-3pm at the Town Hall. She also requested the Board provide the \$250 as they have in the past to purchase prizes and decorations. A motion to approve both requests was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous vote. Cathy reminded everyone that she will need volunteers to decorate, bake, clean up, and at the party.

With no further questions or comments a motion to adjourn was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

The abstract of Vouchers presented for payment at the August 10, 2023 meeting:

	August 2023			LIGHTS	
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	LND/FALLS	HIGHWAY
23-300	CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc. (\$2092.11)	9060.8	697.37		1,394.74
<u>23-301</u>	National Grid (\$1463.38)	5182.4		712.38	
				751.00	
23-302	National Grid	1620.4	28.46		
23-303	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
23-304	National Grid	5132.4	355.98		
23-305	Charter Communications	1620.4	399.93		
23-306	Charter Communications	5132.4	310.72		
23-307	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	328.30		
23-308	Marlin Lease Servicing (\$230.43)	1410.4	75.87		
		1620.41	154.56		
23-309	Robert H. Patterson, CPA	1320.4	1,450.00		
23-310	CPL Architecture Engineering Planning	1440.4	1,750.00		
23-311	Repeat Business Systems (\$69.53)	1410.4	15.18		
		5132.4	6.97		
		1620.41	47.38		
23-312	Columbia County Treasure (OFA)	6140.4	2,500.00		

23-313	County Outhouse & Septic	7550.4	250.00		
23-314	Pro Printers	7550.4	133.75		
23-315	Gabbit, LLC (\$1132.19)	1620.41	808.26		
		5132.4	323.93		
23-316	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.60		
23-317	Madsen Overhead Doors	5132.4	322.00		
23-318	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	30.98		
23-319	Long Energy	5110.41			2,484.98
23-320	Monroe Tractor & Impl. Co.	5130.4			1,346.92
23-321	Airgas USA, LLC	5130.4			127.00
23-322	Tolls By Mail	5110.4			165.15
23-323	Cargill, Inc.	5142.4			15,723.75
23-324	CPL Architecture Engineering Planning	TA62			
	8/3/2023		10,074.94	1,463.38	21,242.54
23-325	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	285.31		
23-326	Edmunds GovTech	1620.41	2,582.06		
23-327	RBT CPAs	1320.4	2,485.00		
23-328	Staples, Inc. (\$50.44)	1410.4	26.37		
		8010.4	24.07		
23-329	Col-Greene Town Clerks Association	1410.4	25.00		
23-330	Melissa Naegeli (\$105.23)	1410.4	28.18		
		7550.4	77.05		
23-331	Mario's Home Center	7110.4	26.09		
23-332	Main Care Energy	7110.4	165.89		
23-333	County Waste	5132.4	255.91		
23-334	Lowe's	5110.4			93.71
23-335	Sale Farm Supply	5130.4			37.01
23-336	Mario's Home Center	5110.4			20.28
23-337	Bear Com	5130.4			2,419.86
23-338	CarQuest of Valatie, Inc.	5130.4			108.91
23-339	Air Gas USA, LLC	5130.4			133.00
23-340	Stout Designs, LLC	5130.4			5,100.00
23-341	CPL Architecture Engineering Planning	1440.4	3250.00		
23-342	CPL Architecture Engineering Planning	TA62			
	10-Aug-23		10,016.93	-	7,912.77
	<i>August Totals</i>		20,091.87	1,463.38	29,155.31