

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
September 14, 2023**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, September 14, 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 Rappleyea.

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 Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

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

***Correspondence***

A thank you card was received from Tony Link to the Board, thanking them for the support in his CDL Classes.

***Old Business***

*Bicentennial Event:* Supervisor Knott reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final event was happening on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The vendor fair will be at the playground from 3:30 – 6:30 and has 38 vendors confirmed. The fireworks will be at 7:30 at the Landing.

*Historic District* – Supervisor Knott reported that he and Town Historian Juanita Knott met with a group interested in creating a Historic District in Town. He will invite the group to make a presentation at the October meeting. He would like this group to become a sub-committee of the Historian’s Committee.

*Street Light Conversion* – Supervisor Knott reported that the conversion project is in process and appears to be almost complete.

Supervisor Knott also reported that the National Grid project to replace the poles and lines along Route 26A and up Summerset Road to the housing project seems to be stalled. He is working with Senator Hinchey's office to get this complete; affordable housing is an important State initiative.

*Office for Aging Senior Picnic* – Supervisor Knott attended the picnic at the VFW in Stuyvesant Falls and said it was nice event and well attended.

## **Reports**

*Town Clerk/Tax Collector:* Reports on file.

*Recreation Committee:* We have received the voucher from Kinderhook for the summer program.

*Environmental Management Council:* Lee Jamison gave the report in Christian Sweningson's absence:

- Chairman O'Hara reported that the EMC will continue to meet in person and is subject to the open meetings law. He said the new procedure will be to ask members to respond in advance of the meeting whether or not they will attend. If there isn't a quorum, the meeting will be cancelled so other members are not inconvenienced. Without a quorum no business should transact or be discussed.
- Heat Smart Campaign – there have been 43 heat pump installations as of August. There will be a workshop in Stuyvesant in October for heat pump information.  
An application is underway for a \$15,000 grant available. With additional heat pump sign-ups the County could be eligible to apply for \$30,000-\$40,000 and possibly receive 600 CEC points.
- David Newman reported the Col. Co. Climate Smart Communities Task Force (CCCSCTF) By-Laws were passed by the County Board of Supervisors. Each Town will nominate a representative to serve as a member on the Task Force, similar to the process for the EMC.
- CARP Public Survey – Columbia County is creating a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP). The survey and printable poster can be accessed at [climatesmart.columbiacountyny.com](https://climatesmart.columbiacountyny.com)
- Zero Waste Columbia – agreements are being arranged with local restaurants to participate in the Bring Your Own Container program.

- The Stuyvesant Climate Smart Community Task Force will co-host a movie event with the Stuyvesant-on-Hudson Garden Club on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. The movie will be Homegrown National Park.

*Dog Control Officer:* One dog had been taken to the Columbia Greene Humane Society. It was retrieved by it's owner.

*Kinderhook Memorial Library:* No report

*Climate Smart Task Force:* Bill Schneider reported:

- The committee will participate in the September 16<sup>th</sup> Bicentennial Event with a booth about natural pollinators and will have plants available;
- Heat Pump information session will be held at the Town Hall on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm;
- The movie Home Grown National Parks will be at the Town Hall on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm;
- The group continues to work on the benchmarking process for energy usage;
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> will begin the next 6 month collection period to earn a bench;
- The next meeting will be September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Supervisor Knott reported that the County has qualified for 2 \$15,000 grants that will help offset the costs of the energy conservation projects going on. He also reported that the heat pump installation project at the Town Hall will begin in October.

*Highway Department:* Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported:

- Trash Day will be October 7<sup>th</sup> 8am – 3pm;
- The new tree trimmer has been received;
- They continue to work on clean up from the recent storms.

Supervisor Knott reported that the CHiPs money had been received in the amount of \$148,243.00 The AIM Payment was also received in the amount of \$15,000.

Joe Scrum reported that someone had approached him about mowing the perimeter of Hummel Park to help with access to the trail and he will use the Town equipment. Supervisor Knott said he had spoken with our insurance company and because this was a past employee who is still used

for part-time work in the winter he will be covered. The Board agreed this is a good solution to the mowing and Joe will contact the volunteer.

*Assessor's Office:* Cathy Knott reported that its been quiet. She encouraged everyone to review their school tax bills to make sure the exemptions they think they are getting are still there.

*Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals –* Tal Rappleyea reported that the Board continues to review the Rudolph Family Farm proposed project on Sharptown Road.

*Historian:* Cathy Knott reported that the event on Saturday will be big. She also reported that there will be 2 trees planted this Fall to mark the Bicentennial – one will be planted in Stuyvesant Falls Hamlet and one in the Landing.

*Cemetery:* David Quinn reported that there had been one interment since last month's meeting. Councilman Quinn presented to the Board updated regulations. He said the last update focused on monuments and this update is more about burials, plantings, and allows for bronze plaques for military and organizations and flat markers. A motion was made by Kelley Williams to accept the new regulations. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote. Melissa Naegeli will put the new regulations on the website under the Cemetery Committee information.

*Building Department:* Report is on file. Supervisor Knott reported that Kevin Haberland had sent out several violation letters to people in and they are working on those.

*Railroad Station Restoration Committee:* Lee Jamison reported that there had been a successful corn festival held. The Committee is discussing upcoming projects and will make recommendations to the Town Board.

## **County Government**

*2024 Budget:* Supervisor Knott reported that they are looking better than they did at this time last year.

*Local Laws:* Supervisor Knott reported that the Board had adopted several local laws, two were the mortgage tax law and transfer tax law. The law didn't change, they just need to readopt. The weighted vote has been changed. They were based on a total of 3535 and each town had a percentage based on their population. The new base is 200. Stuyvesant gets 6 votes but it is the same percentage.

*Land Bank Application:* A non profit company will assist the County in returning foreclosed or abandoned properties to productive use.

*2024 Climate Carnival:* Plans have begun for the 2024 Climate Carnival and there is a flyer on the board in the Town Hall.

### ***New Business***

*2024 Budget* – Supervisor Knott reported that the Board held their first Budget Workshop and have developed a proposed budget, keeping it “pretty flat”. He will go over the Budget at the October Town Board meeting.

### ***Board Comments***

No comments or questions

### ***Public Comments***

Bill Schneider, on behalf of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail, thanked the Board for their financial support and asked that they be considered again in 2024. There will be an Oktoberfest fundraiser on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Samascott’s. Tickets are \$25 online/\$22 in person. There will be a History Night at the Valatie Theater on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. There are 9 benches slated to be installed along the trail. NYS has given 2 new mowers to the volunteers for maintenance. There is a “Welcome to Stuyvesant Falls” sign at the trail in Stuyvesant Falls and directs visitors to Overlook Park; Bill said he sees a lot of people going to look at the Falls.

Lee Jamison asked for an update on the bridge repairs at Hummel Park. Joe Scrum said they were cutting the wood for it this week.

Ms. Jamison expressed concern about the recent power outage and lack of internet and phone service. She suggested the Town have a back up system for communications from the Town Hall. David Quinn said we have an Emergency Management Plan in place. Supervisor Knott added that we rely heavily on the County Emergency Management Office and that Bill Vick does a great job. Supervisor Knott will invite Butch Harrison, Director of the CC Emergency Management to come to the Board to make a presentation.

Cathy Knott reminded everyone about the upcoming annual Halloween Party and hinted at a special guest. The party will be on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm and children from Stuyvesant and the surrounding communities are invited to attend. She added that volunteers are needed to provide goodies, run games, decorate and clean up.

With no further questions or comments a motion to adjourn was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

The abstract of Vouchers presented for payment at the September 14, 2023 meeting:

	<i>September 2023</i>			<b>LIGHTS</b>	
<b>CLAIM #</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>A/C#</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>LND/FALLS</b>	<b>HIGHWAY</b>
23-343	CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	9060.8	697.37		1,394.74
<u>23-344</u>	National Grid (\$1551.70)	5182.4		754.72	
23-345	Robert H. Patterson, CPA	1320.4	1450.00	796.98	
23-346	Charter Communications	5132.4	61.31		
23-347	Charter Communications	1620.4	53.35		
23-348	National Grid	5132.4	324.45		
23-349	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
23-350	National Grid	1620.4	27.85		
23-351	Marlin Lease Servicing (\$230.43)	1410.4	75.87		
		1620.41	154.56		
23-352	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	530.00		
23-353	Repeat Business Systems (\$132.31)	1410.4	28.35		
		5132.4	8.33		
		1620.41	95.63		
23-354	Gabbit, LLC (\$978.86)	1620.41	654.93		
		5132.4	323.93		
23-355	Staples, Inc. (\$57.52)	7510.4	12.00		
		1410.4	7.34		
		8160.4	15.20		
		5010.4	22.98		
23-356	Joseph Scrum	7110.4	46.78		
23-357	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	40.47		
23-358	Marriott Syracuse Downtown	1110.4	791.01		
23-359	NYSMA	1110.4	75.00		
23-360	Redishred Acquisition, Inc.	1410.4	33.00		
23-361	Lisa's Silkscreen Printing	7550.4	797.50		
23-362	Santore's World Famous Fireworks, LLC	7550.4	7,500.00		
23-363	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's )	1110.4	184.29		
23-364	Chemung Supply Corp.	5110.4			685.00
23-365	Zwack, Inc.	5110.4			163.25
23-366	Air Gas USA, LLC	5110.4			140.30

23-367	Long Energy	5110.41			1,191.58
23-368	Corporate Billing, LLC	5130.4			117.00
23-369	Monroe Tractor & Impl. Co.	5130.4			315.47
23-370	Hodges T-Shirts & Apparel	5110.4			416.00
23-371	J.C. Smith, Inc.	5110.4			569.50
23-372	CPL	TA62			
	9/7/2023		14,034.20	1,551.70	4,992.84
23-373	Town of Kinderhook	7310.4	3,600.00		
23-374	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	249.28		
23-375	Columbia Greene Humane Society, Inc.	3510.4	70.00		
23-376	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	447.90		
23-377	Mario's Home Center	5132.4	32.98		
23-378	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.60		
23-379	County Waste	5132.4	184.13		
23-380	Fingar Insurance	1910.4	500.00		
23-381	Main Care Energy	7110.4	176.23		
	Main Care Energy	5110.4			75.07
23-382	Air Gas USA, LLC	5110.4			147.30
23-383	Lowe's	5110.4			393.89
23-384	Gig's Wrench	5130.4			104.00
23-385	A Colarusso Quarry Company	5110.4			1,024.50
23-386	Carquest of Valatie	5130.4			144.68
23-387	Albany Steel, Inc.	5110.4			31.16
23-388	Tolls By Mail	5110.4			107.75
23-389	Salem Farm Supply	5130.4			303.64
23-390	Tractor Supply Credit Plan	5110.4			184.43
23-391	Mario's Home Center	5110.4			632.26
23-392	Long Energy	5110.41			1,902.11
	9/14/2023		5323.12	0.00	5,050.79
	<b>September Totals</b>		<b>19,357.32</b>	<b>1,551.70</b>	<b>10,043.63</b>