

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT  
PUBLIC HEARING  
2024 Preliminary Budget  
November 9, 2023**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 9, 2023. The purpose of the Hearing was to take public comment on the 2024 Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor Knott opened the Public Hearing at 7:00pm and asked the Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to read the Public Notice:

***PUBLIC NOTICE  
Town of Stuyvesant  
Public Hearing  
Preliminary 2024 Budget***

*PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of Stuyvesant will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday November 9, 2023 at 7:00pm for the purpose of taking comment from any interested resident with regard to the Preliminary 2024 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](http://stuyvesantny.us). Salaries included in the Preliminary Budget are: Supervisor \$7,686.00; Town Board Members (4) \$12,216.00; Town Clerk/Tax Collector \$24,115.00; Highway Superintendent \$65,564.00; and Town Justice \$9098.00. The Hearing will be held at the Stuyvesant Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant, NY 12173.*

*Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC  
Town Clerk*

Supervisor asked the Town Clerk to show the Preliminary Budget on the large screen for the audience. He reviewed the changes to the Budget from 2023. Supervisor Knott reported a proposed 10% in spending offset by revenues resulting in a 1% decrease in Town tax levy, or a \$5,100 decrease. He further explained that with the current 2% tax cap we would have been allowed a \$8300 increase and with the carry over program in NYS it would have allowed for a \$25,000 increase and we still would have stayed under the mandatory cap.

Supervisor Knott also reported that our Fiscal Stress Rating is again at 0. Supervisor Knott explained that our Town has had a \$3.4 Million increase in taxable value allowing Town tax rates to go from \$1.81/thousand in the 2023 budget to \$1.76/thousand in the 2024 proposed budget. Supervisor Knott

reported the Town has healthy fund balance. The line item for the lighting district remained flat this year but Supervisor Knott hopes for a 2025 decrease due to the LED lighting project we recently completed. Both Fire Districts had increases but their numbers are “pass through”. They hold their own public hearings and present the numbers to the Town Board for inclusion in the Budget. The voters approved the Kinderhook Memorial Library increase request on the General Election Ballot. Supervisor Knott also reported that after this year, there are only 3 payments remaining on the Bond issued for the Salt Shed and Highway Garage Improvement project.

Supervisor Knott opened the Hearing to questions:

Councilman David Quinn asked how this budget compared to last year. Supervisor Knott said last year there was a 2% cut.

Lee Jamison asked about the sales tax revenue projections. Supervisor Knott explained that the sales tax in the Budget is broken up between General and Highway Revenues. He further explained how sales tax is collected and distributed throughout the County.

Lee Jamison asked about income from the Hydro Electric Plant. Supervisor Knott explained that we are guaranteed \$10,000/year but it may be higher based on their business. He reported that this year we received a check for \$32,000 which was used to offset expenses for the Bicentennial celebrations.

With no further questions or comments, a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous vote.

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The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, November 9, 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.

Supervisor Knott called the meeting to order at the conclusion of the Public Hearing 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 Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

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

### **Correspondence**

A letter was received from the Empire Trail regarding benches installed.

A letter from Scenic Hudson announcing a meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> at Basilica regarding a review of Hudson River Access.

### **Old Business**

*Town Hal HVAC Project* – Supervisor Knott reported that the heat pumps are installed and working well.

*LED Street Lights Project* – Supervisor Knott reported that the project is complete and we have received

*Riverview Street Historic District* – Supervisor Knott reported that a voucher has been included to hire Hartgen Associates to work on the project.

### **Reports**

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

*Recreation Committee:* Kelley Williams reported that everything is quiet now.

*Environmental Management Council:* Christian Sweningson reported:

- Columbia County will host another Climate Forum on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1-4pm at the CGCC;
- Blue Wave Energy submitted an application to the Greenport Planning Board for approval of the first battery storage facility in Columbia County;
- Stuyvesant hosted a movie and discussion called “Homegrown National Parks” to give information on providing habitats for wildlife, planting native plants, and removing invasive species; and
- An Affordable Housing presentation has been scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> at the West Taghkanic Fire House.

*Dog Control Officer:* No report

*Kinderhook Memorial Library:* Lee Jamison reported the 414 Resolution had passed on Election Day. There will be a First Responders Story Hour at the Town Hall on Friday, 11/10 at 1pm.

*Climate Smart Task Force:* Lee Jamison reported:

- There was a presentation from the Cornell Cooperative Extension regarding heat pumps, energy assessments, and audits; and
- A movie and presentation on Homegrown National Parks were held in conjunction with the Stuyvesant Garden Club.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

A letter was given to by the Climate Smart Task Force to Supervisor Knott in support of the Cornel Cooperative Extension’s proposal in completion of a study and plan to mitigate hazardous waste. Supervisor Knott signed the letter.

*Highway Department:* Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported:

- They have started putting up snow fence;
- The oil pan in #15 has been fixed; and
- The mower has been fixed

*Assessor’s Office:* Cathy Knott reported that exemptions are prepared to be mailed out. They are due back no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals–* Tal Rappleyea reported Planning Board meeting has been rescheduled to November 14<sup>th</sup> due to

Thanksgiving. The only thing on the agenda is the Rudolf Family Farm proposal.

Supervisor Knott explained that there are certain circumstances where the Towns are required to send projects to the County for approval. The County has prepared a list of items that could be given a waiver. He and Tal are reviewing the list. Tal explained that the Town Board would have to adopt the list.

*Historian:* Cathy Knott reported that there are still Stuyvesant souvenirs available for sale.

*Cemetery:* David Quinn reported that all is quiet.

*Building Department:* Report is on file.

*Railroad Station Restoration Committee:* Lee Jamison reported that the next meeting will be November 11<sup>th</sup> and there will be a discussion about a Holiday Party.

Supervisor Knott said there is a plaque dedicated to Fred Zelno that was supposed to have been installed in the Railroad Station. He suggested it could be a small ceremony at the Holiday Party.

## **County Government**

*Budget:* Supervisor Knott reported the County runs 1 month behind the Town schedule but they are ready to finalize the “tentative” budget with a 1.2 – 1.3% increase. He explained the Medicaid funding that was reduced by NYS and upcoming Union contract negotiations will make up the majority of the increase.

*Land Banks:* The County has been discussing forming a land bank. The group will work with municipalities to get abandoned property back into shape to be useful. People will be able to make money or land donations to the “bank”. An application has been made to NYS and the County hopes to have an answer by the end of the year.

*11 Warren Street:* There had been a previous report about the County’s desire to purchase 11 Warren Street to move several offices and storage to be housed in one location and there had been a contract signed with Gelvan. There is a Youth Group currently using some of the space and they do not want to move. They have asked the County to either not buy it or allow them to stay. The County is letting the current owner and the group work it out. The County is not interested in buying the building and allowing private groups to use the space.

*Transportation Plan:* A draft transportation plan update has been put on the County website for review.

***New Business***

Supervisor Knott presented Budget Amendment#5 to the Board:

<u>Budget Amendment #5</u>		
	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
<u>Revenue</u>		
A3040 ARPA		\$1,646.27
<u>Appropriations</u>		
A1620.41 IT Services	<u>\$1,646.27</u>	
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1,646.27</u>	

*The Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to amend the preceding budget amendments to the 2023 Budget. The Town Clerk took a roll call vote:*

<u>Town Board Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Not Absent</u>
Ron Knott	X	
Tom Burrall	X	
Brian Chittenden	X	
David Quinn	X	
Kelley Williams	X	

*Dated:* November 9, 2023  
*Certified:* Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC

*BAR Vacancy:* Supervisor Knott reported 3 letters of interest had been received for the position on the BAR. He and Councilman David Quinn will handle the interviews.

*Tax Cap Filing:* Supervisor Knott reported that the Tax Cap Filing report for 2024 has been completed.

*2024 Budget:* A motion to adopt the 2024 Preliminary Budget was made by David Quinn. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. The Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli will stamp the Budgets and Supervisor Knott will hand deliver two originals to the County.

*Property Assessments:* Supervisor Knott explained that the property values in Town have skyrocketed and we are currently at 69%. He and Assessor Lynn Hotaling have been discussing various remedies. Lynn will attend the December meeting with information.

ARPA: Supervisor Knott reported that we had originally received \$191,691.73 and our current balance is \$40,810.89. He provided the following list to the Board for review of monies spent:

- \$19,598.65 Stuyvesant Falls Playground Pavilion
- \$3,784.50 Hummel Park new access road
- \$4,986.36 Town Hall Sign Board
- \$1,954.05 Water Conditioning System @ Garage
- \$2,715.06 Lighting Upgrades in the Town Hall
- \$2,558.52 Labor for work in the parks on the pavilion project
- \$6,629.65 Fire Alarm upgrade at the Town Hall
- \$25,439.90 Wood Chipper – joint purchase with T/O Stockport
- \$12,118.15 LED Street Lights Project
- 1,646.38 Park upgrades
- \$10,688.00 Website Redesign
- \$58,946.00 HVAC upgrades at the Town Hall
  - Interest as of 4-27-23 \$117.82

The remaining balance is \$40,810.89. The money must be allocated by the end of 2024. Some projects being considered:

- Cemetery Building Upgrades \$15,000
- Depot work *no amount reported*
- Tennis Court Improvements \$10,000
- Emergency Generator Replacement \$10,000

This would leave \$5,810.89 to allocate.

*Supervisor Term of Office:* Supervisor Knott asked the Board to consider changing the Term of Office for the Supervisor from 2 years to 4 years. He explained this would allow a Supervisor time to get used to the position at the County level and to get work done before they have to run for office again. It would have to be put on the Ballot for General Election. Tal Rappleyea explained that the resolution would be subject to referendum and he will review the process and time frames and report back to the Board.

*County Climate Smart Task Force:* Supervisor Knott reported that the new rules for the County Climate Smart Task Force is for each Town to appoint a representative, like they do for the Environmental Management Council. Supervisor Knott reported that Kathryn Schneider had been recommended as the Stuyvesant Representative. She will be appointed by the County Task Force.

## ***Board Comments***

Supervisor Knott thanked Cathy Knott for her work on the Halloween Party. Cathy reported that there were approximately 35 children who attended. She thanked the Board for their support and the volunteers for their help.

Melissa Naegeli reported that she had sent letters to the State and Federal Representatives asking for financial assistance for the Veterans Memorial Park. The NYS Representatives responded that this is the end of the fiscal year and there is no money available now. Congressman Molinaro's Office responded just before this meeting began and their reply had been reviewed yet. Tom Burrall asked to be part of the committee when it's established. Melissa Naegeli asked if anyone knew a landscape designer or engineer who may be able to help with concept drawings.

Melissa Naegeli reported that the Santa Mailbox will return this year. It will be in front of the Town Hall beginning the day after Thanksgiving and will remain in place until December 18<sup>th</sup>. Letters to Santa will receive a letter back and a small personalized ornament.

## ***Public Comments***

Lee Jamison asked if there was a status update on the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge. Supervisor Knott said when the information is ready Ray Jurkowski will prepare a report for the Board.

Lee Jamison also asked about a status update on the footbridge at Hummel Park. Joe Scrum reported that the new culvert had been installed and the wood for the bridge had been delivered to the site. He said as soon as it's dry enough to get the equipment there they will complete the project.

Tom Burrall reminded everyone that this weekend is Veterans' Day and to reach out to a Veteran. He discussed the suicide problem among Veterans.

Supervisor Knott reported that the VFW will host a ceremony on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Steven Taylor suggested a way to memorialize long term servants to the Town of Stuyvesant with a plaque in the Town Hall with their names. Supervisor Knott and the Board agreed that this was a good idea. He will pass it along to the Town Historian to work on.

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 8:32pm.



The abstract of Vouchers presented for payment at the November 9, 2023 meeting:

	<i>November 2023</i>			LIGHTS	
<u>CLAIM #</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
23-434	Stuyvesant Mechanical, LLC	1620.2	58,946.00		
<del>23-435</del>	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$2092.11)	9060.8	697.37		1,394.74
23-436	Troy Kay	DA90898			200.00
23-437	National Grid (\$1178.20)	5182.4		578.45	
				599.75	
23-438	National Grid	5132.4	158.00		
23-439	National Grid	1620.4	25.92		
23-440	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
23-441	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	40.30		
23-442	Marlin Lease Servicing (\$230.43)	1410.4	75.87		
		1620.41	54.56		
23-443	Edmunds GovTech (\$2291.63)	1620.41	,575.00		
		1410.4	16.63		
23-444	Safeguard Business Systems	1410.4	44.78		
23-445	Staples, Inc. (\$288.32)	1110.4	6.00		
		8020.4	81.62		
		1410.4	6.70		
		1355.4	7.98		
		1220.4	2.99		
		5132.4	3.03		
23-446	Robert H. Patterson, CPA	1320.4	1,450.00		
23-447	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	8020.4	42.85		
23-448	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	93.00		
23-449	Repeat Business Systems (\$109.15)	1410.4	20.98		
		5132.4	7.84		
		1620.41	80.33		
23-450	Amazon.com	3620.4	914.00		
23-451	Gabbit, LLC (\$978.86)	1620.41	654.93		
		5132.4	323.93		
23-452	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.73		
23-453	Melissa Naegeli	7550.4	70.95		
23-454	Hartgen Archeological Assoc., Inc.	1440.4	1,250.00		
23-455	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	750.00		
23-456	The Bank of Greene County (\$64,919.23)	A9710.6	56,159.84		
		A9710.7	8,759.39		

23-457	Cathy Knott	7550.4	250.00		
23-458	Columbia County Treasurer (Solid Waste)	8160.4	2,654.78		
23-459	Main Care Energy	7110.4	110.00		
23-460	Long Energy	5110.41			1,402.74
23-461	Pipes Plus	5110.4			1,585.20
23-462	Zwack, Inc.	5110.4			3,299.48
23-463	CarQuest of Valatie	5130.4			70.01
23-464	Nassau Country Value	5110.4			124.36
23-465	Kirks Mobile Repair, LLC	5130.4			4,149.11
23-466	Mario's Home Center	5110.4			85.12
23-467	Bob Boll Excavating	5110.4			1,369.79
23-468	Lowe's	5110.4			372.16
23-469	A Colarusso Quarry Company	5110.4			789.40
23-470	Joseph Scrum	5110.4			188.64
23-471	New Castle Asphalt	5110.4			260.65
23-472	Tracey Road Equipment, Inc.	5130.4			1,454.11
23-473	Colarusso Blacktop	5110.4			1,804.01
23-474	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA62			
23-475	CPL	TA62			
	9-Nov-23		136,801.00	1,178.20	18,549.52