

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

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, December 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 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 David Quinn. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

A letter from Green Lantern Solar asking to lease Ken Hummel Park.

Ag Data Statement from Rudolph Family Farm.

Old Business

Stuyvesant Falls Bridge – Supervisor Knott reported that the engineering firm has a schedule and is expected to address the Town Board at a meeting in April.

Columbia County MIS Contract – Supervisor Knott reported we had received a proposed agreement with Columbia County for back up IT Services. Supervisor Knott signed the contract.

Comprehensive Plan Upgrade Grant – Supervisor Knott reported that he had received a denial from the NYS Secretary of State's Office. He is looking into other grants and other firms and moving ahead will depend on the prices.

Town Hall Heat Pumps – Supervisor Knott reported that early analysis is positive. To date we haven't used any propane and the electric bills are lower than they were in the summer using air conditioning.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Report is on file. Melissa Naegeli reported that she had answered over 30 Santa letters and there are a few days left.

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

Environmental Management Council: Christian Sweningson reported:

- NYS Building Code requires a building permit for heat pump installations;
- The Zero Waste Columbia Bring Your Own Container program is going forward;
- Potential lead contamination in apple sauce sold at Dollar General;
- Rabid raccoon found in Hudson and a suspicious deceased bear in Hillsdale negative for rabies;
- A tree planting campaign is being developed by Arthur's Point Farm in Ghent.

Full draft minutes are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Control Officer: Supervisor Knott reported that there is a voucher in this month's abstract to purchase 2 traps requested by the Dog Control Officer. The cost of the traps is being split between the 6 towns that she services.

Kinderhook Memorial Library: Lee Jamison reported that the Library participated in the Village of Kinderhook's Candlelight Night on December 8th. Kinderhook and Stuyvesant Climate Smart Committees collaborated on a table and instructed how to repair Christmas lights.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported:

- They are working on tree trimming;
- He is getting prices for a new truck;
- They are working on the gutters at the Town Hall, one was damaged; and
- They will replace the walking bridge at Hummel Park on Friday

Climate Smart Task Force: Lee Jamison reported there was no meeting in December.

- We have been given “Clean Energy Community Status” by NYSERDA. This designation makes us eligible to apply for grants.
- We are half-way to Bronze Certification.
- Kathy Schneider was recommended by the Town Board to be the County Representative to the County Climate Smart Task Force, appointments will be made at the February Board of Supervisors meeting.
- The price for recycling permits has increased. The Town receives \$5 for each permit sold at the Town Clerk’s Office.
- Composting is available at the transfer stations.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 23rd at 7pm.

Assessor’s Office: Cathy Knott reported that exemptions have been mailed out and are due back to the Assessor’s Office by March 1st. Mrs. Knott also reminded everyone that the income level for Aged Exemptions has increased to \$42,400. If anyone has questions about exemptions they may be eligible for they should contact the Assessor’s Office.

Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals – Tal Rappleyea reported the Planning Board meeting continues to review the Rudolph Family Farm applications. There was also a Minor Subdivision application,

Historian: Supervisor Knott reported that the Bicentennial Committee had wanted something permanent to celebrate the 200th Birthday of the Town. Juanita Knott and the Committee chose to plant 2 trees – one at the Stuyvesant Landing playground and one at the Stuyvesant Falls Playground. It was decided they would be Black Locust trees as that what was used by the original settlers of the areas. Supervisor Knott reached out to a company to purchase the two trees and they said they will donate the services of planting.

Cemetery: David Quinn reported that all is quiet.

Building Department: Report is on file. Supervisor Knott added that Kevin Haberland has been busy with apartment building inspections and investigating junk car complaints.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee: There will be a Holiday Party on December 16th 1-3pm. A plaque will be dedicated in memory of Fred Zelno.

County Government

11 Warren Street: Supervisor Knott reported the County has purchased the property at 11 Warren Street. Another location had been found for the Youth Group that had been using the building. An Architect has been hired to work on plans for offices to move over.

2024 Budget: The County has approved the 2024 Budget. There is \$172 Million in total appropriations and has a \$45 Million tax levy, this is a 1.37% tax levy increase. They have achieved this by holding spending. Supervisor Knott highlighted some expenses that they couldn't control:

- Union and management salary increases;
- \$1.1 Million in Medicaid that is being kept by NYS;
- Retirement is up \$670,000;
- Additional money for 18B attorneys; and
- \$292,000 in new road equipment

Recycling Fees: Supervisor Knott reported that the Recycling Fees has increased as follows:

- Resident (under 65 years old) went from \$50 to \$75
- Senior Resident (65 years +) went from \$35 to \$50
- Out of County went from \$100 to \$125

The Town receives \$5 for each permit sold at the Town.

- Hazardous Waste Days in 2023:
 - Fall had 336 households
 - Spring had 464

A report by Town is available.

Jolene Race has retired and the County is advertising for a new Director.

New Business:

Animal Holding Contracts: Supervisor Knott reported we had 2 proposed contracts for sheltering animals picked up by the Animal Control Officer. One is from Columbia Greene Humane Society and the other is from Maggie Banker, our Animal Control Officer. Tal Rappleyea reviewed both contracts and said they are both okay. A motion to direct Supervisor Knott to sign both contracts was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Fire Tax on Ag Value: Supervisor Knott reported that the Stuyvesant Fire District No. 1 voted to remove the Ag Exemption from the Fire Tax. He went to their meeting to explain how it will affect farmers vs. home owners.

Property Assessments: Supervisor Knott explained that the property values in Town have skyrocketed and we are currently at 69%. Lynn Hotaling is doing some research and will come to the January meeting to present to the Board.

Board Comments

Tom Burrall thanked the community for their support for the last 12 years and reported that this was his last meeting. He wished Charles Stiffler good luck in his coming term of office. Councilman Burrall said he will continue to serve the community through his work with veterans.

Public Comments

Lee Jamison asked about Allied Healthcare on the agenda. Tal Rappleyea explained that they had filed bankruptcy and will be in court in January. The Town has to find out about how it affects our lease of the grounds at Sandbar Park.

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

<u>CLAIM #</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
23-476	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$2327.04)	9060.8	775.68		1,551.36
23-477	NYS & Local Retirement System (\$21,904.00)	9010.8DA			12,047.20
		9010.8A	9856.80		
23-478	Tim Hotaling	8020.1	400.00		
	Gale Bury	8020.1	280.00		
	Kathryn Schneider	8020.1	280.00		
	Howard Gibbons	8020.1	210.00		
	Joseph Belline	8020.1	210.00		
	Diane Fingar	8020.1	280.00		
	Michael Stasi	8020.1	140.00		
	Margaret Pino	8010.1	300.00		

	Kaitlin Handy	8010.1	140.00		
	Amy Abbati	8010.1	210.00		
	Steven Taylor	8010.1	175.00		
	Christian Sweningson	8010.1	210.00		
	Steven Montie	8010.1	210.00		
	Bryan Rohrer	8010.1	140.00		
23-479	National Grid	5132.4	189.38		
23-480	National Grid	1620.4	26.73		
23-481	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
23-482	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	55.00		
23-483	Williamson Law Book Co.	1110.4	95.11		
23-484	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	172.97		
23-485	Redishred Acquisition, Inc.	1410.4	33.00		
23-486	Gabbit, LLC (\$1010.23)	1620.4	671.30		
		5132.4	338.93		
23-487	Fingar Insurance	1910.4	23,728.83		
23-488	Marlin Leasing Servicing (\$230.43)	1410.4	75.87		
		1620.4	154.56		
23-489	Robert H. Patterson	1320.4	1,450.00		
23-490	Johnson Newspaper Corp. (\$100.53)	1010.4	56.92		
		8020.4	43.61		
23-491	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	625.00		
23-492	County Waste	5132.4	220.02		
23-493	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.73		
23-494	National Grid (\$1238.53)			601.76	
				636.77	
23-495	Zwack, Inc.	5130.4			196.20
23-496	Long Energy	5110.41			939.84
23-497	Polsinello Lubricants	5130.4			800.91
23-498	Herrington's	5130.4			1.72
23-499	Air Gas USA, LLC	5110.4			147.30
23-500	Allegiance Trucks @ Upper Hudson Valley LLC	5130.4			27.33
23-501	Countryside Glass Co.	5110.4			700.00
23-502	Mooradian Hydraulics & Equip Co., Inc.	5130.4			199.60
23-503	Car Quest of Valatie, Inc.	5130.4			228.52
23-504	Colarusso Blacktop	5110.4			77.69
23-505	Mario's Home Center	5110.4			60.32
23-506	Northeast Auto Parts	5130.4			30.00
23-507	Momar, Inc.	5110.4			792.70
23-508	Tractor Supply Credit Plan	5110.4			219.60
23-509	CPL	TA62			

	7-Dec-23		41,840.14	1,238.53	18,020.29
23-510	Repeat Business Systems (\$130.60)	1410.4	32.48		
		5132.4	8.30		
		1620.4	89.92		
23-511	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	310.80		
23-512	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	144.65		
23-513	Steven J. Taylor	1620.4	360.51		
23-514	Melissa Naegeli	1410.4	79.98		
23-515	Amazon.com (<i>paid with Visa Card</i>)	1620.4	71.24		
23-516	Town of Stephentown	3510.4	113.16		
23-517	County Waste	5132.4	242.03		
23-518	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	98.00		
23-519	Carlos Araoz	1110.4	70.00		
23-520	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Office)	1110.4	187.83		
23-521	CCMA	1110.4	35.00		
23-522	Lowe's	1620.4	270.61		
		5110.4			206.52
23-523	Air Gas USA LLC	5110.4			133.00
23-524	Long Energy	5110.41			755.86
23-525	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA62			
	12/14/2023		2,114.51	0.00	1,095.38
	<i>December Totals</i>		43,954.65	1,238.53	19,115.67