

**Town of Stuyvesant  
Town Board Meeting  
January 11, 2024**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2024. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, and Charles Stiffler; Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Councilman David Quinn was not in attendance.

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 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 Charles Stiffler. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

***Correspondence***

A letter was received from Justice O'Hare asking for her annual audit to be scheduled. Supervisor Knott reported that the audit is scheduled for later this month.

A letter from the NYS Association of Towns announcing the Annual Meeting in February in New York City.

A letter from Charter Communications/Spectrum regarding upcoming fee increases.

A letter from NYS Agriculture & Markets notifying us of the shelter inspection.

***Special Guest***

Lynn Hotaling, Assessor spoke to the Board and the audience regarding current valuations and the possibility of a revaluation. Currently, we are at 69% for 2023 and she is working on the numbers for 2024 but she expects it to drop to the low 60s. The sales have slowed but the prices are still high. She explained that we have two options:

1. Trending – this would include an approximate 20% increase across the board. There is no guarantee that would get great improvement;
2. Town-wide Revaluation – this would take some planning and would be a 2-year process. Supervisor Knott added that it would cost somewhere around \$20,000.

She is waiting for recommendations from the State. Supervisor Knott said he is in favor of doing something so we don't keep falling behind. Ms. Hotaling added that if we went with trending and it was able to get us to 80%, there is no guarantee that we don't have problems again in 2025 and we get dropped again.

### **Old Business**

*Recycling Permit Fees* – Supervisor Knott reported that the Recycling Permits are available in the Town Clerk's Office and the prices have increased to \$50 for Seniors; \$75 for Residents; and \$125 for non-residents.

*Pro Housing Community* – Supervisor Knott presented the following Resolution to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis to the Board for consideration:

#### **RESOLUTION STUYVESANT PRO-HOUSING January 11, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, *the Town of Stuyvesant (hereinafter "local government") believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State's economic growth and community well-being;*

**WHEREAS**, *the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, we believe that every community must do their part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities;*

**WHEREAS**, *we believe that supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our communities, and allowing workers at all levels to improve their quality of life through living closer to their employment opportunities;*

**WHEREAS**, *we believe that evidence showing that infill development that reduces sprawl and supports walkable communities has significant environmental and public health benefits; and*

**WHEREAS**, *we believe that affirmatively furthering fair housing and reducing segregation is not only required by law, but is essential for keeping our community strong and vibrant;*

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** *that the Town of Stuyvesant, in order to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, adopts the Pro-Housing Communities Pledge, which will have us endeavor to take the following important steps:*

1. Streamlining permitting for multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing; and
2. Adopting policies that affirmatively further fair housing, incorporating regional housing needs into planning decisions.

A motion to adopt the above Resolution was made at a public meeting on January 11, 2024 by Councilman Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Councilman Charles Stiffler and was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of those in attendance, as recorded below.

<u><b>Town Board Member</b></u>	<u><b>Yes</b></u>	<u><b>No</b></u>	<u><b>Absent</b></u>
Ron Knott	X		
Brian Chittenden	X		
David Quinn			X
Charles Stiffler	X		
Kelley Williams	X		

Resolution certified as Adopted on January 11, 2024  
 Melissa A. Naegeli, RMC  
 Town Clerk

A motion was made by Brian Chittenden to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Charles Stiffler. Following a roll call vote, the motion was passed.

*Office of Renewable Energy* – Supervisor Knott reported that the project in Copake is being redesigned.

### **Reports**

*Town Clerk/Tax Collector:* Report is on file.

*Recreation Committee:* Kelley Williams reported that the footbridge at Hummel Park has been completed. Joe Scrum added that he is waiting for the ground to freeze to do the culvert work.

*Environmental Management Council:* No report.

*Dog Control Officer:* No activity report.

*Kinderhook Memorial Library:* Bill Schneider reported that the library has received a member grant was received to pay for the installation of two 2 heat pumps. Kevin Gilrain is the new President.

*Climate Smart Task Force:* Bill Schneider reported that:

- **Trex** – to date we have collected 403lbs of plastic film. We have until September 30, 2024 to reach 1,000 lbs to qualify for another bench. We get credit for

everything that is collected at the library plus what is collected at Town Hall. The public is doing a great job of filling the bin at the Town Hall.

- **Grant** – We have been notified that we have been awarded a \$5,000 grant. We did not meet in December. At our January meeting we will discuss and bring recommendations to the Board on how the money should be used. Current ideas include a small solar panel at the Depot and electric tools for the Highway Dept.
- **NYSERDA** – Clean Energy Communities changed their rules and we have applied for a FREE energy audit of the Town Garage. We should know in the next few weeks if our application was accepted.

Supervisor Knott suggested the use of heat pumps in the Highway Garage Office and shop. He also added that for questions about equipment, they should speak with Joe. For questions about the building they should talk to Charles Stiffler.

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

*Stuyvesant Landing Historic District Subcommittee*

Maria Ausherman is working on getting a meeting set up.

*Highway Department:* Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported:

- They had to repair the loader;
- Flooding has caused some roads to be closed;
- He attended a seminar for reducing salt.

*Assessor's Office:* Cathy Knott reminded everyone that exemptions are due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals* – Tal Rappleyea reported the Planning Board meeting continues to review the Rudolph Family Farm applications.

*Historian:* Cathy Knott reported that Juanita is working on Historic Stuyvesant Day for August. Supervisor Knott reported that the trees have been planted to commemorate the Bicentennial.

*Cemetery:* No report

*Building Department:* Report is on file. Supervisor Knott added that Kevin Haberland has been updating the filing system.

*Railroad Station Restoration Committee:* Supervisor Knott reported that the Holiday Party was held on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Ron Knott and John Morra installed a pellet stove. John Morra and Cal Burch are working on stripping the old paint.

### **County Government**

*Organizational Meeting:* Supervisor Knott reported that he remains the Majority Leader for the Board of Supervisors and will be on the following committees:

- Public Works, Chairman
- Space Utilization Committee, Chairman
- County Government
- Economic Development
- Finance
- Fleet Maintenance
- Workgroups
- ARPA Committee
- Chair of Airport

Jolene Race retired, Wendy Madsen was appointed.

*11 Warren Street:* Supervisor Knott reported that they are working with the architect to determine which offices make the most sense to relocate.

*Camera System:* The County is looking at upgrading to an online portal system.

### **New Business:**

*2024 Taxes:* Supervisor Knott reviewed the tax bills and discussed the breakdown of impacts.

*Comprehensive Plan:* Supervisor Knott reported that he is meeting with CPL in the coming week. He has a list of companies to interview and he is gathering information to go forward with the Plan.

### **Board Comments**

No Comments

**Public Comments**

Paula Van Meter asked about the status of the new fire house. Supervisor Knott explained that that is a question for the Board of Commissioners and their public meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the firehouse.

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 abstract of Vouchers presented for payment at the January 11, 2024 meeting:

<u>CLAIM #</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
	<i>REMAINING FROM 2023</i>				
<u>23-526</u>	Charter Communications	1620.4	43.32		
23-527	National Grid (\$1260.34)	5182.4		612.19	
				648.15	
23-528	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
23-529	National Grid	5132.4	217.53		
23-530	National Grid	1620.4	32.62		
23-531	AramSCO, Inc.	1620.4	137.88		
23-532	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.4	211.80		
23-533	Marlin Lease Servicing (\$230.43)	1410.4	75.87		
		1620.4	154.56		
23-534	Repeat Business Systems (\$77.85)	1410.4	26.98		
		5132.4	7.15		
		1620.4	43.72		
23-535	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.73		
23-536	Mooradian Hydraulics & Equip Co., Inc.	5130.4			99.00
23-537	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA62			
	<i>Remaining 2023</i>		1,036.86	1,260.34	99.00

	<b>2024</b>				
24-01	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$2327.04)	9060.8	775.68		1,551.36
24-02	The Association of Towns	1920.4	799.00		
24-03	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	1010.4	39.13		
24-04	Doyle Security	1620.4	405.48		
24-05	Quadient Leasing USA Inc.	1620.41	203.79		
24-06	Edmunds Gov Tech	1410.4	496.13		
24-07	New York Planning Federation	1920.4	295.00		
24-08	CCAofTSofH	1920.4	300.00		
	<b>4-Jan-24</b>		<b>3,314.21</b>	-	<b>1,551.36</b>
	<b>REMAINING 2023</b>				
23-538	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	93.33		
23-539	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	319.95		
23-540	M. Carol Leber	1010.4	25.98		
23-541	Staples, Inc. (\$333.05)	1410.4	30.87		
		1620.4	43.56		
		1110.4	154.46		
		3620.4	104.16		
23-542	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Dept)	1110.4	247.83		
23-543	Mario's Home Center	5132.4	100.56		
23-544	Stockport Garage of Col	5110.4			131.20
23-545	Inner City Tire	5110.4			866.20
23-546	Lowe's	5110.4			976.24
23-547	Air Gas USA LLC	5110.4			166.12
23-548	Visa	5110.4			236.13
23-549	Carquest of Valatie, Inc.	5130.4			204.99
23-550	Monroe Tractor & Impl. Co.	5130.4			2,646.72
23-551	Northeast Auto Parts, Inc.	5130.4			60.00
	<i>Remaining 2023</i>		1120.70	-	5,287.60
	<b>2024</b>				
24-09	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	1410.4	83.71		
24-10	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	625.00		
24-11	County Waste	5132.4	242.03		
	<b>11-Jan-24</b>		<b>2,071.44</b>	-	<b>5,287.60</b>