

**Town of Stuyvesant  
Town Board Meeting  
March 14, 2024**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly business meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2024. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Brian Chittenden, David Quinn, Charles Stiffler, and Kelley Williams; Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; 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 Kelley Williams. The motion was seconded by Charles Stiffler 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.

***Old Business***

*NYSAC Conference* – Supervisor Knott reported that he attended the NYS Association of Counties annual conference and attended many interesting educational seminars.

*Financial Reports* – Supervisor Knott reported that the Annual Audit has been completed and has been filed with NYS. There is a copy available in the Town Clerk’s Office for review. He also reported that our new Bookkeeper Bob Patterson will attend a future meeting to report on the Town’s finances.

*ARPA Funding* – Supervisor Knott reported there is \$40,000 remaining. The Board is reviewing some ideas for the remainder of the money including redoing the tennis courts and possibly adding pickleball courts. Charles Stiffler is working on getting quotes. The Board is also looking at installing a generator at the Highway Garage. Charles Stiffler reported that he has two quotes – one for diesel (approximately \$20,000) and one for LP (approximately \$12,000). While the cost for the LP unit is less, the cost in the long run could be better with the diesel equipment. He is doing further research and will report back next month.

## **Reports**

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

*Recreation Committee:* Kelley Williams reported that the Board had been notified by the Town of Kinderhook of a slight price increase for the playground program to \$200/6 weeks per child. The Board voted at their workshop meeting, unanimously to offer the program again this year.

*Environmental Management Council:* In Christian Sweningson's absence, Lee Jamison reported that the Council had not yet replaced their Secretary so there were no minutes to report.

*Dog Control Officer:* A potentially rabid skunk and a feral cat – neither of those the Dog Control Officer handles. She directed the residents to the correct reporting office.

*Kinderhook Memorial Library:* There was no report.

*Climate Smart Task Force:* Hannah Shepherd reported that the Task Force had met on February 27<sup>th</sup> and offered the following:

- 578lbs of plastic have been collected toward the 1000lbs needed for another bench;
- We have been approved for the energy audit at the highway garage. We are waiting to be contacted for scheduling;
- She has all of the 2023 energy, propane, and oil bills and is working on completing the benchmarking;
- The battery-operated equipment has been purchased for the Highway Dept.;
- Kathryn Schneider has been attending the County Task Force meetings and the videos are available online;
  - The County is making progress on the charging stations;
  - The County is working on a Hazard Mitigation Plan;
  - The County is working on a strategic plan
- We have earned 74 of the necessary 120 points for Bronze designation;
- Considering another film screening in the Fall; and
- Reviewing further actions that are feasible to take.

The next meeting will be March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Supervisor Knott added that he is working with Joe Scrum to create a spreadsheet of vehicle maintenance and fuel usage.

*Stuyvesant Landing Historic District Subcommittee:* Supervisor Knott reported that he had met earlier with the representative from Hardigan & Associates and the Committee is working on gathering information for the grant application.

*Highway Department:* Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported:

- They plowed 3 times in February;
- They have started sweeping the roads;
- Have cleaned up trees that fell during the wind storms;
- Will begin their 4- 10 Hour days on March 25<sup>th</sup>;
- Was asked about drop zones from National Grid for the utility poles being replaced. They have asked about the Town Hall, the stone yard, and the firehouse. The fire company have told them the fire house is okay. There is some concern about timing at the Town Hall and Stone Yard because of Big Truck Day and Trash Day.
- Still waiting on the quotes for the new truck;
- Truck #19 has been repaired.

*Assessor's Office:* Cathy Knott reported that the exemption deadline has passed. Grievance Day will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in May and packets are due to the Assessor's Office 3 days prior.

*Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals –* Tal Rappleyea reported that the Planning Board continues to review the Rudolph Family Farm proposed project. He said he believes they are getting close to having a complete application.

*Historian:* Juanita Knott reported that the theme of the Historic Stuyvesant Day will be the history of the lighting districts. The picnic will take place on August 10<sup>th</sup> from 1pm – 3pm and the site has not been decided yet. Cathy Knott added that we are looking for volunteers to help.

*Cemetery:* David Quinn reported that there is a large tree that fell that needs to be cleaned up. Charles Stiffler added that there is a large tree leaning toward the cemetery and should be taken down. Steve Taylor has spoken to a couple of people about donating land to the cemetery, Ron and David will reach out to him.

*Building Department:* Supervisor Knott reported that Kevin has been staying busy. He asked Tal Rappleyea to prepare for the next steps for some violations that have been returned.

*Railroad Station Restoration Committee:* Lee Jamison reported that there will be a pot luck dinner at 5pm on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and the movie “The Quiet Man” will begin at 6pm.

### **County Government**

*Snow & Ice Removal:* Supervisor Knott a new snow and ice removal contract with a new labor rate calculated has been agreed to with the County.

*Broadband:* Supervisor Knott reported that the CEDC had a productive meeting with senior ConnectAll staff. The County is in good shape to receive some services soon – the providers will start to receive their Federal funding. He added that the “Archtop” company that purchased G-Tel has put a substation on Route 9J and is preparing to come north on 9J.

*Emergency Management* – Supervisor Knott gave a copy of a letter from David Harrison to put on the website relating to the eclipse coming up on April.

*Speed Limit on Ridge Road:* Supervisor Knott reported that Joe Scrum and Charles Stiffler had come to the Board previously about there being no signage on Ridge Road and no history of a speed limit ever being designated for the Town road. With the closing of the Schoolhouse Road bridge several years ago and an increased number of homes on Ridge Road, there is a concern about not having a posted speed limit on the road. Supervisor Knott presented to the Board a Resolution to ask for a review of the speed limit on Ridge Road and to have it lowered. A motion to request a speed limit reduction on Ridge Road between State Route 9J and Schoolhouse Road was made by Charles Stiffler. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. Melissa Naegeli will prepare the necessary documents and submit to the County Highway Department.

*Office for the Aging* – Supervisor Knott reported that he had been approached by Rich Moran about appointing Wendy Bopp to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> delegate to OFA. Supervisor Knott spoke with Ms. Bopp and asked her to send a letter or email to him expressing interest. We are still waiting to hear back from Ms. Bopp.

***New Business:***

*Budget Amendment*

Supervisor Knott proposed the following Budget Amendment #1:

	<u><b>Increase</b></u>	<u><b>Decrease</b></u>
<u><b>Revenue</b></u>		
<b>DA3505 S/A Misc.</b>		<b>\$2000.00</b>
<u><b>Appropriations</b></u>		
<b>DA5130.4 Machinery</b>	<b>\$2000.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	

A motion was made by Brian Chittenden to approve the Budget Amendment. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Supervisor Knott has been asked to write a letter to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board regarding the condition of State Route 9J.

Supervisor Knott requested Board approval for an expenditure of approximately \$200 to attend Finance School. A motion to approve the expense was made by David Quinn. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

***Board Comments***

David Quinn reported that there are significant changes to OSHA Standards being adopted and it's expected to create an increase in the fire district budgets. He added that there is a comment period on the website for the proposed changes. Supervisor Knott will draft a letter on behalf of the Town Board regarding the changes.

Supervisor Knott asked Councilman Quinn about stipends being available to the volunteer firefighters for attending classes. Mr. Quinn affirmed that this is a new program for firefighters who attend classes sponsored by the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

Melissa Naegeli gave an update on the plans for the Community Big Truck & Vendor Event on April 27<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 17 craft/sales vendors, 9 Business/Organization vendors, and 14 pieces of equipment registered

to participate. The NYS Police have confirmed the helicopter will be able to be here and will contact Melissa for landing details.

Supervisor Knott reported that Trash Day will be May 4<sup>th</sup>. The County Hazardous Waste Day will be the same day.

### **Public Comments**

Lee Jamison reported that Stuyvesant Pathways will hold a trail clean up at Hummel Park on April 20<sup>th</sup>. That is also the same day for the Empire Electric Rail Trail clean up – this year they are starting in Stockport and moving south. Riversweep will be on May 4<sup>th</sup> and the timing will be tricky with the tides. Supervisor Knott agreed to pick up the garbage collected.

Lee Jamison also reported that the Friends of the Library is having a local artists event on May 4<sup>th</sup> and Karen Hummel will have a showing at the train station. Melissa Naegeli asked if a building use form could be completed and submitted for the file.

Lee Jamison reported that she will be meeting with Mark Burch to look at redesigning the trails at Hummel Park. She asked if the County could make trail signs if they are given a design. Joe Scrum said they could.

Lee Jamison asked about the kiosk at Hummel Park and Joe Scrum said it will be re-installed. She also asked about the kiosk at Overlook Park in Stuyvesant Falls. Joe explained that it had fallen over and was picked up for safety. Jim Besha, Albany Engineering, will have it repaired and reinstalled.

David Quinn asked Lee Jamison if the blue bird houses we purchased last year had been put up. She explained that they have not and she will have to talk to Kathy Schneider about the best places for them.

Hannah Shepherd asked about the new owners of the mill and whether we can still use the Sandbar Park. Supervisor Knott and Tal Rappleyea explained that technically our lease agreement was with Allied but it was not vacated by the Court. We have reached out to the new owners but haven't had a response yet. Albany Engineering has made an offer to purchase all of the land on their side of the creek, including the park area.

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 March 14, 2024 meeting:

	<b>March 2024</b>			<b>LIGHTS</b>	
<b>CLAIM #</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>A/C#</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>LND/FALLS</b>	<b>HIGHWAY</b>
24-46	CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc. (\$2886.51)	9060.8	775.68		2,110.83
<u>24-47</u>	National Grid (\$1333.29)	5182.4		602.20	
				637.14	
24-48	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
24-49	National Grid	1620.4	27.40		
24-50	National Grid	5132.4	253.17		
24-51	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	93.33		
24-52	Gabbit, LLC (\$978.86)	1620.41	654.93		
		5132.4	323.93		
24-53	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	105.00		
24-54	Doyle Security	1620.4	294.50		
24-55	Sausbier's Awning Shop, Inc.	1620.4	81.50		
24-56	Edmunds GovTech	1620.41	1,575.00		
24-57	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	329.10		
24-58	Robert H. Patterson, CPA	1320.4	3,950.00		
24-59	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Office)	1110.4	268.29		
24-60	L8413164 - Blue 360 Media LLC	1110.4	60.76		
24-61	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	1,062.50		
24-62	Crowne Plaza Albany - The Desmond	1410.4	765.00		
24-63	NYSTCA c/o Patricia Kalba	1410.4	125.00		
24-64	Redishred Acquisition, Inc.	1410.4	33.00		
24-65	NYSATRC Membership	1410.4	25.00		
24-66	Hudson Register Star	1355.4	100.91		
24-67	Repeat Business Systems (\$240.26)	1410.4	75.00		
		5132.4	16.61		
		1620.41	148.65		
24-68	Staples, Inc. (\$183.39)	1410.4	24.10		
		1010.4	92.10		
		5132.4	50.37		
		1355.4	6.09		
		8020.4	10.73		
24-69	Long Energy	5132.4	1,154.35		
24-70	VISA (\$2208.45) PAID ONLINE	7550.4	312.50		
		1620.4	12.95		
		5130.4			1,883.00

24-71	Premo Designs	7550.4	250.00		
24-72	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.73		
24-73	Mario's Home Center	5110.4			113.39
24-74	Valley Energy	5110.4			219.00
24-75	Air Gas USA, LLC	5110.4			166.12
24-76	Mooradian Hydraulics & Equip Co. Inc.	5130.4			59.91
24-77	Lowe's	5110.4			396.79
24-78	NAPA	5130.4			41.69
24-79	Salem Farm Supply	5130.4			72.58
24-80	Carquest of Valatie	5130.4			66.47
24-81	Long Energy	5110.41			3,405.16
24-82	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA62			
24-83	CPL	TA62			
	<b>7-Mar-24</b>		<b>13,142.88</b>	<b>1,239.34</b>	<b>8,534.94</b>
24-84	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	155.88		
24-85	Staples, Inc. (\$583.74)	1110.4	43.56		
		1410.4	122.98		
		8020.4	73.65		
		1620.4	43.56		
		1220.4	299.99		
24-86	County Waste	5132.4	242.03		
24-87	Lowe's	5110.4			147.57
24-88	Visa	5110.4			194.21
24-89	Tractor Supply Credit Plan	5110.4			87.13
24-90	Air Gas USA, LLC	5130.4			5.00
	<b>14-Mar-24</b>		<b>981.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>433.91</b>
	<b>March Totals</b>		<b>14,124.53</b>	<b>1,239.34</b>	<b>8,968.85</b>