

**MARCH 11, 2010
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Brian Chittenden, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, Councilperson Ronald Knott, Councilperson Edward Scott, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Bertram called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and was approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Bertram read the communications:

- ✧ A letter from the Boy Scouts of America with an invitation to a dinner celebrating 100 Years of Scouting and honoring Bob Sherwood (Kinderhook Bank). Supervisor Bertram said she would be unable to attend and asked if anyone from the Board would like to go. Councilman Knott responded that he would like to attend.
- ✧ A letter from the State Board of Elections announcing its annual training conference for county election officials to be held April 26th through April 28th.
- ✧ A letter from Assemblyman Tim Gordon to Bernie Kowalski letting him know that Assemblyman Gordon has requested \$3500 be included in the 2010-11 State Budget to be awarded to the Town of Stuyvesant Highway Department.
- ✧ A letter from the NYS Office of Real Property Services notifying the Town that they have been approved for a payment under the Triennial Act. A voucher for \$4411.84 has been forwarded to the State Comptroller's Office for payment.
- ✧ A letter from Town Justice Carrie O'Hare notifying the Board that the Court had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$1434.00 with no matching funds requirement to be used for scanning documents.

A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the correspondence as read and file them in the Clerk's Office. His motion was seconded by Councilman Brian Chittenden. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the bills submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Bertram gave updates on the following pending issues:

Census 2010: Residents will be receiving the questionnaires in the mail in the next couple of weeks. Supervisor Bertram urged everyone to answer the “short” form and return them. The forms will need to be returned by April 10th. If the Census Bureau doesn’t receive a form, reminders will be sent. If they still do not receive a reply the Census Takers will make a visit to try to get the information.

Outdoor Wood Boilers: Supervisor Bertram read a 1st draft proposed Local Law regarding the placement and use of Outdoor Wood Boilers. Council woman Gumaer asked about the 12’ vs. 18’ stack requirement. Councilman Knott replied that he felt that an 18’ stack would require excessive construction work for a free-standing chimney. Kathy Schneider asked that there be language barring the use of the boilers between May and September. Supervisor Bertram explained that since many people use them to heat their water that wouldn’t be reasonable. Ms. Schneider also asked about the set back requirements and including language that specified the use of seasoned firewood. She also asked for language that specified quality control the type of units. Councilman Knott replied that he didn’t think we should legislate that people spend a lot of money on the wood boilers. Mike Naegeli asked if existing boilers would be exempt from the set back requirements set forth in the proposed law. Councilman Knott replied that yes they would be exempt.

Supervisor Bertram explained that this was just the first draft of a proposed law and that there will be many opportunities for discussion. She said that there would be copies available in the Town Clerk’s Office and urged everyone to read it over and bring their comments and suggestions to the next meeting.

Workshop with Zoning Board/Planning Board/Town Board: Supervisor Bertram reported that the three Boards met in a joint meeting on February 27th. There were discussions regarding the Outdoor Wood Boilers and slope considerations when siting a new house on a hilltop. There will be another meeting held in April that will include the Town Engineer and the Attorney for the Town.

Greenway Committee Survey Results: Councilman Knott reported that 122 surveys were returned and represented 223 residents. These numbers account for approximately 10%. He began with thanking the Greenway Committee members and the Town Board for their work and assistance with the project. He also said that the results would be shared with the NYS Rural Water Association as well as the Town Engineers.

Mr. Knott reported that some of the basic survey results showed that people were mostly satisfied with how the Town was running. 67% were satisfied with the availability of the Town Offices and 93% were satisfied overall with the Town roads. Regarding air and water quality the results also shows that people were “mostly satisfied”.

Councilman Knott will have the entire survey results posted on the Town website.

Meeting with DEC & DOT: Supervisor Bertram reported that she, Councilman Knott and Sean Cummings attended a meeting on Tuesday, March 9th with DEC and DOT. The meeting had been requested by DOT.

The agencies reported that there was Federal Rail Stimulus Money available and that they may be able to use some for an upgrade to the road and railroad crossing on Ice House Road to enable the crossing to be used by the public. The agencies informed the Town that the idea of a connection road has officially been declared “dead”. The issues regarding the crossing at Ferry Road will have to be re-visited and there will be a Public Hearing sometime in the near future.

Supervisor Bertram asked the agencies about our access once the work was completed. There will be a parking area (unpaved) at the end of Ice House Road at the shale bank. Everyone tentatively agreed to a public hearing in April.

Supervisor Bertram reported that the agencies are predicting a 2 year timeframe for completion of the upgrades. There was no mention of closing the crossing at the Landing and that it would also receive an upgrade. There was a discussion about local schools bringing buses to Ferry and Ice House Roads for field trips. It was agreed that the schools would be contacted and there will be no field trips allowed for the next 2 years.

Charlene Leach asked about the money that had been set aside with the Greenway Committee to build the launch at the landing. Supervisor Bertram said that it wasn't discussed but she will look into the situation.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli read her financial report and it is in file in her office. Melissa also reported that she has collected 81% of the taxes and will ask the Treasurer's Office to approve an extension to collect until May 31st. Melissa also reported that the preservation of the death record book for 1903-1913 has been completed.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski that the Department has been working to clean out lower Lang Road. He said that the sand they are pulling out of the ditches seems to be clean and they will try to screen it for use on the roads next winter. Mr. Kowalski reported that we will receive our CHIPS money this year but that next year is iffy.

Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer

Gerry Ennis was not in attendance. His report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Planning Board & Zoning Board

Report will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Greenway Committee

Councilman Knott reported the resource maps that had been received from Scenic Hudson are now on the Town Website. He also reported that Steve Winkley is still working on mapping the water resources and that there will be a public information meeting sometime during the summer.

The next meeting will be held on March 25th at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Town Hall Committee

Supervisor Bertram thanked Councilman Scott for painting the meeting room, the hallway and the offices.

Councilman Scott reported that the snowblower has been tuned up and put away.

Railroad Restoration Committee

Marilyn Burch reported that the Committee is working on scheduling events for this year's Farmer's Market. She also reported that she has applied to the NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets to be certified to accept WIC since a couple of vendors are able to accept WIC.

The opening day of the Farmer's Market will be May 7th and will be a movie night. Dan Schnoover will bring his reel-to-reel and show "20th Century". There are plans for an ICC Art Show to be held on May 14th.

Other special events will be Strawberry Shortcake Day; Taste of Thailand III; Taste of Buffalo and Corn Harvest.

Councilwoman Gumaer asked Councilman Knott if there was any news on the grant for the railroad restoration project. Councilman Knott replied that he had put the representative from DOT in contact with the Town Engineers and that he hadn't heard any updates yet.

Councilman Knott said that the Railroad Station has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places for several years. A new committee member, Otto Miranda, had gotten estimates to have a plaque made indicating that designation. Councilman Knott said that we could get an 11" x 8" sign for \$151 including shipping and asked the Board for permission to purchase the sign. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 20th at 9:00am.

Town Historian

Supervisor Bertram reported that Juanita Knott is working on updating the Town History book and hopes to have it completed by the end of the year.

Assessor's Office

Assessor's Clerk, Catherine Knott, reported that all of the exemptions are in.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that the snowshoe and owl walk held on February 27th was a success. She said there were approximately 20 people in attendance and thanked the Columbia County Soil & Water Department for donating the snowshoes. There were also cross country skiers in attendance.

Mrs. Gumaer reported that the March committee meeting had been cancelled and that the next meeting will be held on April 3rd.

Councilwoman Gumaer will attend the Recreation Committee in Kinderhook on March 22nd. She is going to offer the Ken Hummel Park as a destination for a field trip for the playground group this summer. She is also going to request that there be some camp counselor positions given to Stuyvesant kids.

Councilwoman Gumaer said that she had the \$15,000 estimate for a pavilion from Coons and asked if this was a project that was still in the plans. Supervisor Bertram said that there had been some repairs identified that were needed at the Highway Garage and that we have to start making the plans for a salt shed. Supervisor Bertram added that she didn't realize a pavilion was going to be so expensive. She said that in her opinion, the priority right now has to be the highway garage. Councilman Knott said that there is money set aside each year for the playgrounds. He suggested that we be careful about how that money is spent and hold some fundraisers and perhaps the pavilion can happen in a couple of years.

Councilwoman Gumaer asked if that was something they could look at at the next workshop meeting. Supervisor Bertram said it could be looked at and that the next workshop meeting will be April 1st at 7pm.

Trails Committee

Sean Cummings reported that Chris DeCintio had attended the Trails Committee meeting that was held on Tuesday, March 9th. Mr. DeCintio shared some drawings of existing trails along the riverside. He said there were ideas for permitted DEC campgrounds in a few spots. Mr. DeCintio said that there is a DEC Program for volunteers to "Adopt a Natural Resource". The volunteers couldn't be "the committed" as representatives of the Town so they could be covered under the DEC workers' compensation insurance. Sean reported that Chris has the tools to use for clearing the trails. Mike Naegeli added that the DEC is considering bringing in sheep to help with the invasive plants along the trails.

The Stuyvesant-Stockport-Kinderhook joint committee has designated a person to conduct the Feasibility Study. The project was awarded to _____.

Proposed dates for litter clean ups will be April 24th; May 1st; and May 8th. All days will be 10:00am to Noon.

Sean asked Councilman Knott if the Trails Committee and Greenway Committee could have a joint meeting and hold a public forum on the river access information. Supervisor Bertram said we should hold off on any public forums until there is more to report.

Dog Control Officer

Wes Powell was not in attendance. His report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Old Business

Councilman Scott said there had been a burial at the Firwood Cemetery. He added that he had been contacted by Split Line Construction to discuss re-setting some of the stones.

Public Comments

Karen Hummel said the meeting looked great with the new paint. She said she had attended the snowshoe walk and that it was great. She also wanted to publicly thank the Stuyvesant Fire Co. and Councilman Knott for helping her so quickly when she had an electrical issue at her house.

Sean Cummings said he had asked DEC about a sign at Ice House Road. He said that DEC told him the sign was being designed.

Supervisor Bertram thanked Deputy Louie Bray for being at the meeting and expressed the thanks of several residents who have seen him patrolling the Town.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilman Brian Chittenden. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Recorded this 11th Day of March 2010

Approved this 8th Day of April 2010

TOWN CLERK

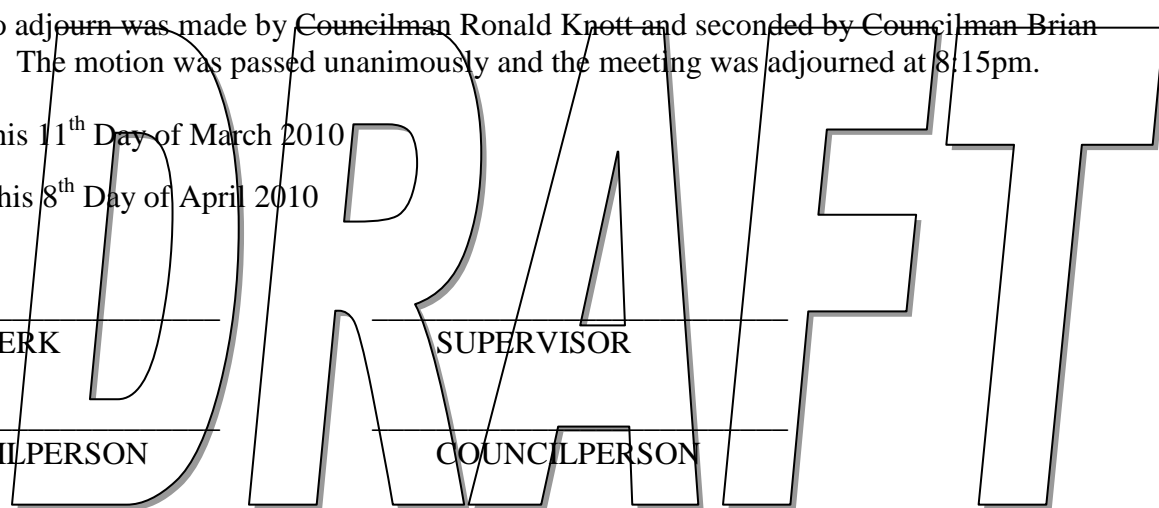
SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

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FEBRUARY 2010 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

TOWN OF STUYVESANT ABSTRACTS				
MARCH 2010				
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	HIGHWAY
88	National Grid (\$1936.13)	5182.4	1,632.65	
		1620.4	303.48	
		5132.4	<i>credit</i>	
89	Fairpoint Communications (\$337.98)	1620.4	234.23	
		5132.4	103.75	
90	Kingston Oil Supply, Co.	1620.4	859.80	
91	Corner Stone Telephone	1620.4	33.71	
92	Johnson Newspaper	1010.4	36.07	
93	Carrie A. O'Hare	1110.4	22.91	
94	Columbia Co. Sheriff's Office	1110.4	129.42	
95	Brown's River Marotti Co.	1410.4	842.00	
96	Xerox Corp.	1410.4	124.92	
97	Staples Business Advantage	1410.4	430.79	
98	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	2,000.00	
99	NexTel Partners	5010.4	48.60	
100	Fleet Services	5110.4	271.11	
101	Hudson Valley Tree Service	5110.4	450.00	
102	Main Care Energy (\$3274.42)	5110.4	2,147.97	
		5132.4	1,126.45	
103	Culligan	5132.4	26.75	
104	Rainbow Distributors	5132.4	7.00	
105	Lowe's	5132.4	20.00	
106	C.J. Miner, Inc.	5132.4	394.00	
107	Mario's Home Center, Inc. (\$568.22)	5132.4	119.30	
		1620.4	448.92	
108	Otsego Iron & Metal Co.	5130.4		168.64
109	Carquest of Valatie	5130.4		40.59
110	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	5130.4		299.53
111	Monroe Tractor & Implement Co.	5130.4		51.18
112	Terry-Haggerty Tire Co., Inc.	5130.4		2,680.00
113	Tractor Supply	5130.4		236.39
114	Bernard Kowalski	5130.4		77.45
115	Cargill, Inc.	5142.4		1,944.37
116	Unifirst, Corp.	9090.8	129.77	
	TOTAL FORWARD		10,007.47	5,498.15