

**Town of Stuyvesant
Town Board Meeting
December 12, 2019**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, December 12 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Tom Burrall, Bill Schneider, and Brian Chittenden; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler was not in attendance.

Supervisor Ron Knott opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A motion was made by Tom Burrall to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

- Proposed contract from Monolith replacement. Supervisor Knott asked Tal Rappleyea to review.

A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Tom Burrall and was passed by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott read a prepared statement regarding the proposed events barn project on Eichybush Road:

After listening to residents' concerns and reviewing information presented to us from Mitch Khosrova who is representing several concerned resident's, regarding the proposed Events barn we the Town Board would like to allow our appointed boards the opportunity to continue to review any completed applications that may come before them on this subject.

Having just adopted changes to our town zoning law, a law that was developed after a very long process involving planning board, zoning board members, citizen volunteers, public hearing input and town board member input we are not in a hurry to rewrite our current town zoning law. We do however recognize that a healthy zoning law is ever changing living document.

In allowing our boards to work through this process, and make their own determinations as to their understanding of the law as it is written, and collect more information from the applicants, so we could all have a better understanding of what is being proposed, and how the proposal works or doesn't work within our current code, we would then be better equipped to consider modifications to current law.

Town board member's may have opinions on this draft proposal, but at this time we do not wish to attempt to influence our Planning or Zoning board members on an application that may be before them.

A great deal of public involvement went into creating our current zoning law, and I believe we have a good cross section of residents who have been appointed to our town planning and zoning boards, and trust they can make fair determinations.

If these boards came back to us with a request after attempting to work through any process or dealing with any application and felt the town needed legislative changes, we are open to responding by reinstating an advisory committee and working with them to consider the needed modifications to our zoning laws, that would continue to respect property owners rights and desires while protecting against adverse impacts on neighboring properties that may result from development.

Attorney for the Town Tal Rapplyea added that Mr. Khosrova has an application before the Zoning Board for an Appeal of the determination made by the Building Department. He went on to explain that there is a stay in place while the matter is before the ZBA.

Special Guest

A Presentation by representatives from Transco regarding the power line project that will go through the Town. This was an update following their Article VII Application. The presentation was made available at www.NY-ES.com.

Old Business

Amtrak Fencing – Supervisor Knott reported he had received an email announcing a meeting in January. He also reported that Scenic Hudson is trying to coordinate a meeting in January regarding river access.

Ferry Road Construction – Supervisor Knott reported that construction is underway. Bill Schneider asked if we can ask DEC to plow the parking area at the end of Ice House Road. Ron will ask about plowing the parking lot but explained that they do not want to plow it, he said in order for us to do it we would need to have a contract with NYS.

Eagle Scout Project – Overlook Park – Colarusso helped with fencing and the work is finishing up.

Reports

Town Clerk – Report is on file. Melissa reminded everyone that the parking restrictions are in place, no parking on Town roads through March 31st.

Recreation Committee – Kelley Williams reported that all is quiet.

Railroad Station Committee – A Holiday party will be held on December 14th from 2-4pm. Dawn Collins and John Morra will be performing live music. There will hot chocolate, goodies, and Santa.

Environmental Management Council – Christian Sweningson was not in attendance but asked Lee Jamison to read his report. The report stated the following:

- No quorum at the November meeting;
- Reviewed the final draft of a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for a ban on expanded polystyrene in the County;
- There is an upcoming Zero Waste Planning 3 workshop series being organized by the Capital District League of Women Voters;
- The Council had an article on road salt published in the Register Star and they discussed future article topics;
- Representatives from a number of Town governments have not attended presentations on the Natural Resources Inventory. More will be offered in the Spring;
- A person from the audience asked about the status of a lawsuit against the EPA regarding GE and the cleanup of PCBs from the Hudson River. Members of the Council were asked to remind their Supervisors.

Dog Control Officer – No calls reported in November.

Kinderhook Memorial Library – Lee Jamison reported the Audit of 2018 resulted in no recommendations. The budget was passed and there is a shortfall of \$50,000 that will be raised through fundraising.

Assessor's Office – Cathy Knott reported that exemptions have been mailed and are due back by March 1, 2020. She reminded the audience if they are veterans or are turning 65 to come in to find out about exemptions.

Planning & Zoning Boards – both Boards' meetings were cancelled in November.

Historian – Cathy Knott reported that Juanita is working on plans for Historic Stuyvesant Day 2020.

ZEO/Building Inspector – Report on file.

Cemetery Committee – Tom Burrall reported that all is quiet. Melissa relayed a question to Tal from a resident regarding purchasing back burial plots. He said we can purchase them back at the price it was originally purchased for.

Town Hall – Supervisor Knott reported that he and Bill Schneider are getting prices for smart tvs to be used as monitors in the meeting room.

County Business

County Budget -- Supervisor Knott reported that the Budget had passed the previous night with an 1.8% increase and explained that the average Town bill will see a 5% decrease from the County.

Smart Watt Project -- Supervisor Knott announced the County is continuing to work on this project and are looking at rebates in excess of \$80,000.

NYS Speed Reduction Review – Supervisor Knott reported that they had been notified that changes in the process are being made. Instead of submitting requests and having the State complete the Engineering studies, Towns and Counties will now have to provide those Studies with their requests. The State will still make the final determinations.

New Business

Fund Balance Policy – Document is still being reviewed by Board.

Future Projects – To be discussed at future workshops

Grant Reimbursement – Supervisor Knott reported that DOT will reimburse the final payment on the Railroad Station work completed last year.

AIM Funding – Supervisor Knott reported that he had received a letter that the Town will get approximately \$15,000 again.

Board Comments

Bill Schneider asked about the blinds on the windows in the meeting room that Judge O’Hare had requested. Supervisor Knott explained that the grant won’t be awarded until early in 2020.

Public Comments

Lee Jamison asked about a resolution that was passed at the County Board of Supervisors meeting. Supervisor Knott explained that the Board had passed a Resolution objecting to the Bail Reform Legislation that was going in to effect on January 1, 2020. Ms. Jamison stated her disagreement with the Board’s decision and said she agreed that the Bail System needed to be changed.

Supervisor Knott announced there would be an End of Year Meeting on Monday, December 30, 2019 to pay any remaining 2019 bills. The meeting will be held at 7pm and Melissa will send a notice to the newspaper.

Supervisor Knott announced there would be a Swearing In Ceremony on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at 11am and all were invited.

With no further questions or comments from the Board or public, a motion to adjourn was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

The vouchers presented for payment at the December 2019 Town Board meeting:

	<i>December 2019</i>			LIGHTS	
<u>CLAIM #</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
19-466	National Grid (\$1333.94)	5182.4		649.08	
				684.86	
19-467	Constellation (\$258.79)	5182.4		124.46	
				134.33	
19-468	CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc. (\$2671.04)	9060.8	721.90		1,949.14
19-469	Business Automation Services	1620.4 1	255.24		
19-470	Cathy Knott	1355.4	32.40		
19-471	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's)	1110.4	63.38		
19-472	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	8020.4	17.60		
19-473	Marlin Business Bank (\$218.35)	1620.4	131.10		
		1410.4	87.25		
19-474	National Grid	5132.4	93.37		
19-475	Constellation (\$138.67)	1620.4	4.06		

		5132.4	134.61		
19-476	Columbia County Treasurer (MIS)	1355.4	230.23		
19-477	Solar Management Group	1620.4	99.20		
19-478	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	312.95		
19-479	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	70.42		
19-480	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	34.47		
19-481	County Waste	5132.4	161.99		
19-482	Joe Scrum	DA908 98	82.60		
19-483	Steve Montie	DA908 98	161.99		
19-484	Valley Energy (\$3090.97)	5132.4	339.03		
		5110.4			2,751.94
19-485	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			80.36
19-486	Zwack, Inc.	5130.4			1,494.05
19-487	Mopar Vehicle Protection	5110.4			173.31
19-488	Northeast Auto Parts, Inc.	5130.4			89.98
19-489	D & W Diesel, Inc.	5130.4			314.40
19-490	Share Corp.	5130.4			715.98
19-491	Albany Steel, Inc.	5130.4			58.76
19-492	Morton Salt	5142.2			2,390.96
19-493	Columbia Co. Treasurer (Highway Dept)	5130.2			3,000.00
19-494	T & T Sales, Inc.	5130.2			5,106.00
		5-Dec-19	3,033.79	1592.73	18,124.88
19-495	Stuyvesant Post Office	1410.4	275.00		
19-496	Glenn T. Smith	3620.4	155.00		
19-497	Aaron's Carpet Cleaning	1620.4	225.00		
19-498	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	8010.4	18.74		
19-499	Staples, Inc. (\$69.66)	1110.4	19.19		
		5010.4	19.29		
		1355.4	21.19		
		1410.4	9.99		
19-500	Lowe's	5132.4	137.93		
19-501	Culligan	5132.4	28.93		
19-502	Tme Warner Cable (\$554.03)	1620.4	270.39		
		5132.4	283.64		
19-503	National Grid (RR Station)	1620.4	23.85		
19-504	National Grid	1620.4	23.85		
19-505	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPAs PC	1320.4	1,530.00		

19-506	Air Gas USA LLC	5130.4			36.60	
19-507	Charles Stiffler	5130.4			26.99	
19-508	Wex Bank	5110.4			81.29	
19-509	Car Quest of Valatie	5130.4			277.72	
		12-Dec-19		3,041.99	0.00	422.60
		December Totals		6,075.78	1592.73	18,547.48

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