

**PUBLIC HEARING
LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2021
SOLAR FACILITY MORATORIUM EXTENSION
December 9, 2021**

The Town Board held a Public Hearing on December 9, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Stuyvesant Town Hall for the purpose of taking public comment on the proposed Local Law #2 of 2021 – Solar Facility Moratorium Extension. In attendance at the Hearing was Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, Bill Schneider, and Tom Burrall; Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea; and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli.

Supervisor Knott opened the Hearing and asked the Clerk to read the notice as posted in the official newspaper.

Supervisor Knott explained this law extends our moratorium on medium to large sized solar projects for 6 months to give our Zoning Revision Committee time to update our Zoning Law.

With no further comments from the Board, the public was asked for any comments or questions.

Councilman Schneider said he had suggested the month moratorium that can be cancelled at any time prior to the 6 month limit. It doesn't affect homeowner solar panels and feels it's in the best interest of the Town to end the Law at this time.

With no further comments or questions, a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and the Hearing was closed by unanimous vote.

Town Board Meeting December 9, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 7:00pm. In attendance were Supervisor Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, Bill Schneider, and Tom Burrall; Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Knott called the meeting to order opened 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 Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the bills presented was made by Kelley Williams. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

Supervisor Knott reported that he had received an email from Consolidation Communications announcing that as of 1/31/2022 they would no longer be providing television services in Stuyvesant. They will continue to offer telephone and internet services. This will end the franchise agreement and fees.

Special Guest

Robert Gibbs (Lindenwald Ave.) presented to the Board his findings from a survey he conducted in Stuyvesant Falls about the use of the playground there. Copies of the survey results were given to the Board members and a copy is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Gibbs said his survey made three findings – that people would like events at the playground, that it be used as a community space with activities, and the people in the Falls are willing to be involved. Mr. Gibbs said he sees the playground as a valuable asset and would like to work with the Recreation Committee and groups of young families to develop a comprehensive plan for the playground. Some suggestions were to look at locating the equipment in a better way to accommodate

the families that will use it; address a lack of things for the “tweens” in the community, and opportunities for the community to come together.

Supervisor Knott thanked Mr. Gibbs for his efforts and suggested he follow up with Kelley Williams and the Recreation Committee in the new year.

Reports

Town Clerk – Report is on file. Melissa Naegeli reported that the new bag tags were now available in the office.

Recreation Committee – Kelley Williams reported that everything is pretty quiet with the Rec Committee.

Railroad Station Committee – Lee Jamison reported that a Christmas tree had been donated and is set up near the train station and the building has been decorated. There will be a meeting on Saturday, 12/11/21.

Environmental Management Council – No report.

Dog Control – No report. Maggie Banker (DCO) will attend the end of year meeting on 12/30/21.

Supervisor Knott reported that we had received the 2022 Contract from the Columbia Greene Humane Society. He had asked Tal Rappleyea to review it and there were no changes from the previous contract. A motion was made to sign the contract by Kelley Williams, The motion was seconded by Bill Schneider and was approved by unanimous vote. Melissa Naegeli will forward the signed contract to the CGHS.

Kinderhook Memorial Library – Lee Jamison reported the annual report has been mailed out and contributions are always welcome. The report highlights various events. The Library is open and masks are mandatory inside.

Office for the Aging – Supervisor Knott reported that Melissa Naegeli has put a posting on the website seeking additional drivers for Meals on Wheels.

Highway Department – Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler reported:

- There were trees down on Schoolhouse Road last week;
- Ferry Road is done, the Railroad Company did a nice job;

- Working on an agreement with the Town of Stockport to share the purchase and use of a brush chipper. Supervisor Knott said he is waiting to hear from the Town of Stockport. The Board will review for the 12/30/21 meeting.

Assessor's Office – Cathy Knott, Assessor's Clerk, reported the exemptions were mailed out before Thanksgiving and are due back no later than March 1, 2022.

Planning/Zoning Boards – No report

Town Historian – Cathy Knott reported that Juanita will be scheduling meetings for the 2023 Celebration Planning Committee.

Cemetery – No report.

ZEO/Building Inspector – Peter Bujanow reported that year to date (to 11/30) he had issued 95 permits (\$30,600) and completed 44 searches (\$2,200), and there has been an approximate cost of \$4.5 million in improvements in the Town. Bill Schneider asked how those numbers compare to previous years. Peter replied that these numbers almost 4x the previous year. He will have a more specific report in January with comparisons.

Broadband – Bill Schneider reported there are 46 residents not served. After a lengthy conversation with Mid Hudson Cable, they said they would be interested in providing service and will provide numbers. Bill Schneider will write letters to each of the 3 providers in the area asking how much it would cost to provide service to the 46 residences. After receiving that information, the Town can look at various funding options. The Committee will draft a letter and Tal will review it before mailing.

Supervisor Knott asked if Mid Hudson had indicated which of the 46 they could service. Councilman Schneider said they had said all of them but the easiest would be the addresses at the south end of Route 9J. Supervisor Knott said the County has hired a firm to get prices for all the unserved (broadband) residences in the County. There is no clear understanding when the Federal money is coming but there are small pockets of money available. The Board gave approval to send the letters.

County Business

Supervisor Knott reported:

- The County has adopted the 2022 Budget with a 2% tax levy decrease resulting from property values increase and a 6% decrease on the County portion;
- Solid Waste Masterplan has a review every 10 years, a public hearing will be scheduled;
- Phase 2 of the Smart Watt Program at the County will be going out to bid soon;
- The Board has approved the solar project for the County Highway Building, waiting on National Grid approval;
- A feasibility study firm has been hired and \$3Million in grants have been secured for the proposed project of building a new Office for the Aging Kitchen facility in Commerce Park.

New Business

Supervisor Knott reported:

- A new fee schedule is being prepared for the January meeting;
- A lease offer had been received on the Hummel Park Land from a solar company, it was a 25-30 year proposal. We are currently looking for a farmer to do the mowing since the Allen Farm has been sold;
- CLS has a mini grant program for up to \$1000 for conservation projects. Councilman Schneider asked for details and Supervisor Knott gave him the information;
- The contract has been signed to change the town hall lights. Supervisor Knott has contacted a company to change the street lights to LED. He asked Tal Rappleyea about spreading the fees across the Town. Mr. Rappleyea said the fees can only be charged to people in the lighting districts. Lee Jamison said she would like lower lights to cut down on light pollution. Supervisor Knott said there are different lighting type options. There was a discussion about how to report pole outages. Supervisor Knott said we will get a link on the website to report outages.

Climate Smart Resolution -- Councilman Bill Scheider explained the resolution to establish the Town as a Climate Smart Community. He explained that the Town is already doing many of the things. He said we don't have to do everything on the list. This resolution is the first step in the process. A motion was made by Bill Schneider to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded

by Brian Chittenden who commented that many of the items involved with being a Climate Smart Community are worthwhile goals, he doesn't want this to become a governing process. Supervisor Knott explained that there is some grant money that we could be eligible for with the projects that we are planning to do. Tom Burrall asked what other towns haven't declared and why not. Councilman Schneider said he believed it was Gallatin and some other small towns.

The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Solar language for Zoning Law – Supervisor Knott had previously provided to the Board the proposed language changes from the Zoning Revision Committee regarding Solar projects. Tal Rappleyea had some suggestions regarding:

- SEQRA process – we can determine the type and could make all tier 3, Type I Action, mandating environmental impact studies;
- Decommissioning – Section 10B doesn't exist, focus on bond for decommissioning and timeframes. For instance, 6 months after not generating and must tell us within 60 days, will be considered abandoned at 6 months.

Supervisor Knott reviewed the Agricultural land specific guidelines and asked if the language goes to far. Mr. Rappleyea said it didn't. Supervisor Knott said the goal is to limit these projects to bad soil areas.

Supervisor Knott thanked the Committee for their time and acknowledged the different areas of expertise represented on the Committee.

Tal Rappleyea suggested adding language that the companies must provide training to local firefighters on how to fight any potential fires and they must meet all requirements prior to receiving a Certificate of Compliance. Peter Bujanow asked about battery storage. Supervisor Knott said it's not allowed in the Law at this time although they could apply for a variance.

Brian Chittenden suggested we hold on the proposed law to make edits before sending out. We have the moratorium in place so we have time to review.

The End of Year meeting will be held on December 30, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Board Comments

Supervisor Knott gave Councilwoman Kelley Williams the document regarding the grants for parks. Lee Jamison added that there are also grants available for places adjacent to the Rail Trail.

Councilman Bill Schneider said he hopes the Board will decide on ARPA funds and hold public information when the guidelines are out. He gave a copy of an article regarding salt use in the Adirondacks and the reduced salt use on highways. He thanked the Board for the money for the Rail Trail volunteers. Councilman Schneider said he has enjoyed working with the Board.

The Board asked Councilman Schneider to be the Chairperson for the Climate Smart Committee and to remain on the Broadband Committee.

Supervisor Knott said a meeting will eventually be held regarding the ARPA funding but the guidelines keep changing as to how to spend the money. There may be a opening for some infrastructure spending. We have 2 years to come up with a plan and 4 years to spend the money.

A motion to adopt Local Law #2 of 2021, Solar Facility Moratorium Extension was made by Bill Schneider. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comments

Lee Jamison asked about the Hummel Park Lease conversation. She said she had heard the Allen Farm was sold to a consortium for organic farming. Supervisor Knott said it was an International Energy Company that had wanted a long term lease with Hummel Park.

Lee Jamison asked what is going on with Jenny's Baked. Supervisor Knott said they are a CBD production company.

With no further business before the Board, Brian Chittenden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

The following is an abstract of vouchers presented to the Board for approval: