

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 1 OF 2026
FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held a Public Hearing for the purpose of taking public comment on the proposed Local Law #1 of 2026 Amending Local Law #2 of 2025 Regulating Accessory Apartment Dwelling Units. The Hearing was held at the Stuyvesant Town Hall at 7pm on February 12, 2025.

In attendance were Supervisor Ron Knott; Councilmembers Charles Stiffler and Carolyn Gleason; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea, Esq. Councilmembers Kelley Williams and Brian Chittenden were not in attendance.

Supervisor Knott asked Melissa Naegeli to read the notice that was posted in the official newspaper.

Supervisor Knott opened the Public Hearing at 7:02. He explained the purpose of the amendment is to “allow for a larger unit, to be used as primary residence, as long as 1st building is 1500 sq. ft. or less”.

Tal Rappleyea reviewed the SEQRA Part 2 and after all answers were “No” recommended No Impact be the determination. A motion to declare a Negative Declaration was made by Charles Stiffler. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Gleason and was approved by unanimous vote.

With no questions or comments, a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Carolyn Gleason. The motion was seconded by Charles Stiffler and was approved by unanimous vote.

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2026. In attendance were Supervisor Knott; Councilmembers Charles Stiffler and Carolyn Gleason; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Councilmembers Kelley Williams and Brian Chittenden were not in attendance.

Supervisor Knott opened the meeting following the Public Hearing and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked everyone to remain standing in a moment of silence for Mark Fitzgerald (former Town Accountant and longtime resident).

Supervisor Knott reported that the January Financial Report had been received and will put on the website.

We received the report from NYS Agriculture & Markets and everything is okay.

Received a recognition certificate from Senator Hinchey for our being named a Town of Excellence. Supervisor Knott reported that the Supervisor from Canaan will be awarded the Public Servant Award. Two small towns from Columbia County will be honored at the Association of Towns meeting this month.

Received a letter from the Friends of the Rail Trail asking for donations and an invitation to join.

Supervisor Knott presented a proposed Resolution to the Board to hire a Consultant to prepare the Natural Resource Inventory (a \$37,000 grant had been previously awarded to the Climate Smart Task Force). The Resolution would be to hire Community Planning & Environmental Associates at a cost of \$31,620. A motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Charles Stiffler. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Gleason and was approved by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott reported that the website is now converted to .gov extension. If someone puts in the .us it will automatically divert to the .gov.

Supervisor Knott reported that he had spoken at the ORES presentation in Copake. He spoke in favor of home rule.

Supervisor Knott reported that work continues on the Annual Report (AFD) for 2025.

The State is clearing trees at the end of Ferry Road to start work on the parking area.

REPORTS

Town Clerk Report: Report for the Town Clerk and Tax Collector are on file.

Recreation Committee: There are 32 children signed up for the Kinderhook Town Summer Program.

Environmental Management Council: No report

Dog Control Officer: Report of no action

Kinderhook Memorial Library: Lee Jamison quoted a report from the online newsletter regarding the plastics collection for benches

Climate Smart Task Force: Jim Werkowski reported that Carol Leber thinks we can still get a bench. The application for Bronze Certification has been submitted and we are waiting for a reply.

Melissa Naegeli reported that here is a countywide plan for tree planting for Earth Day this year. After discussion with Kathy Schneider and Keegan Oneal, the tree from the County will be a flowering tree and will be planted at the Veterans' Memorial Park. They are asking that an additional 5 trees be purchased for a total of 6 trees at the park – to go along with the 6 branches of the military highlighted in the center of the park. Supervisor Knott explained that a budget amendment to fund Climate Smart Task Force would have to be done to complete the purchase and asked for a price to be given to the Board. Tal Rappleyea said he would donate one of the trees.

Lee Jamison also reported that there would be a Repair Café on February 14th 10-2 at the Town Hall and will include electrical, wood working, and sewing.

Jim Werkowski said having the new Waterfront Workgroup will get points for the Climate Smart Task Force.

The Task Force is asking about a management plan for Hummel Park.

Lee Jamison reported that River Sweep will be on May 2nd 11am-2pm. Supervisor Knott said this will be the same day as Trash Day.

The Task Force also reported that they are looking into grant funding for a trail between the rail trail and the landing.

Maria Ausherman is planning a workshop for a Dairy Farming on October 17th at 2pm.

Historic District: Jim Werkowski reported that there was a successful public information meeting with the SHPO Representatives. People in the District will qualify for State tax credits if they renovate their home to be “period correct”. There is a meeting on March 12th

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported that

- They have plowed County Route 26A 46 times already;
- The new employee, Alex Van Benschoten, has his CDL permit and will begin classes in the Spring; and
- We should have the new truck in 3-4 more months.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported that exemption are due back by March 2nd, this is an absolute deadline.

Planning & Zoning Boards: Tal Rappleyea reported that the Planning Board is doing an environmental review for the proposed Mitchell Avenue solar project and the Zoning Board of Appeals have had interpretations for the ADU Law.

Historian: Cathy Knott reported she is reading and answering emails and organizing the office. Melissa Naegeli asked Cathy if she wanted to do "history mystery" articles on the website.

Cemetery: Carolyn Gleason reported that all is quiet. Melissa Naegeli reported that we had been asked to participate in the Wreaths Across America program by the VFW. They are taking the lead.

Code Enforcement/Building Inspector: Supervisor Knott reported that the permits have slowed down and Kevin is working on getting the Short Term Rentals recorded.

Railroad Depot Committee: Lee Jamison reported that their meeting will be February 4th at 9am and they are going to firm up activities for the year.

County Business

Stuyvesant Falls Bridge – Supervisor Knott reported that the bridge will be closed until the weight study report from Ryan Briggs is completed and we know what has to be completed. The Board of Supervisors have asked for a cost estimate to get the weight limit back to 12 and the County will have to find the money for the repair.

The replacement of the Rossman Bridge in Stockport has been held up because the trail crosses the bridge so a cultural impact study has to be completed. That could cause a 4+ months delay.

Office for the Aging – The Community Center is being held at the Town Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We recently had the water tested and it was cleared for drinking.

Board Resolutions – GIS Program will be getting updated in 2026. The Collective Bargaining Agreement with 911 has been approved.

11 Warren Street – Services with Labellas for the exterior design, 3 options are being considered. Moving offices in to the building is expected to happen during the summer.

Agricultural Districts – When people want their parcel to be included in an Ag District they have to go through a study at the County. There is one in Chatham under review.

New Business

Supervisor Knott presented proposed Budget Amendment #1 of 2026 to accommodate the \$37,000 grant from DEC and to add a Community Beautification line.

Budget Amendment #1 of 2026		
	Increase	Decrease
Revenue		
A80904 HRG DEC	\$37,371.00	
A1990.4 Contingent		\$1,000.00
Unexpended Fund Balance		\$37,371.00
A8510.4 Community Beautification	\$1,000.00	
Total	\$37,371.00	\$38,371.00

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Budget Amendment.

Supervisor Knott reviewed the tax rates: in 2025 the Town tax collection was \$413,128, in 2026 it was down 2% to \$404,998. There has been a \$27,000 reduction in 5 years. The Fiscal Stress Report from the State Comptroller has given us a perfect score for the 3rd year.

Comparisons:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
Town Tax Rate	\$1.532	\$1.475
County Tax Rate	\$4.96	\$4.50

The Library rate is up slightly after the increase was approved at the General Election in November 2025. Stuyvesant Fire District was basically flat, Stuyvesant Falls Fire District had an increase, and the Lighting District was down.

Local Law #1 of 2026 – A motion to adopt the Local Law #1 of 2026 Regulating Accessory Apartment Dwelling Units was made by Carolyn Gleason. The motion was seconded by Charles Stiffler and was approved by unanimous vote.

Waterfront Workgroup: Supervisor Knott presented the following list of proposed appointments to the newly formed Waterfront Workgroup:

Jim Werkowski, Chair
Lee Jamison
Bob Ihlenburg
Kim Mendez
Kate McLeod
Chuck Stiffler
Geoff Johnson
Bill Schneider
Mike Stasi
Deb Stasi
Jason Demarest

A motion to approve the appointments was made by Carolyn Gleason. The motion was seconded by Charles Stiffler and was approved by unanimous vote.

New Computers Supervisor Knott reported we had received quotes for two computers to be replaced. His and Melissa Naegeli's computers need to be replaced and with labor the cost \$2850. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Charles Stiffler. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Gleason and was approved by unanimous vote.

Board Comments

Melissa Naegeli asked permission to hold an Ester Bunny Party with an Easter Egg Hunt (weather permitting). She also asked for a \$300 budget for the party. A motion to approve the request was made by Carolyn Gleason. The motion was seconded by Charles Stiffler and was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comments

Lee Jamison asked if there were appointments for the Recreation Committee. Supervisor Knott said there aren't any new members yet.

Jim Werkowski thanked Joe Scrum and the Highway Department for keeping the roads clear this winter.

With no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Carolyn Gleason. The motion was seconded by Charles Stiffler and was approved by unanimous vote.

The following abstract of vouchers was approved at the February 5th and 12th meetings:

	February 2026			LIGHTS	
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	LND/FALLS	HIGHWAY
26-024	MVP Health Care, Inc.	9060.8	841.12		2,523.36
26-025	The Town CPA, PLLC	1320.4	1,700.00		
26-026	National Grid (\$1636.83)	5182.4		792.61	
				844.22	
26-027	Stuyvesant Mechanical, LLC	1620.4	370.00		
26-028	Gabbit, LLC (\$945.86)	1620.41	621.93		
		5132.4	323.93		
26-029	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	945.00		
26-030	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	27.06		
26-031	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	625.00		
26-032	Main Care Energy	5132.4	384.91		
26-033	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.83		
26-034	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Office)	1110.4	183.47		
26-035	CCMA	1110.4	35.00		
26-036	NYSAMCC, Inc.	1110.4	60.00		
26-037	NYSMA	1110.4	115.00		
26-038	Zwack, Inc.	5130.4			547.52
26-039	Polsinello Lubricants	5130.4			494.47
26-040	Apalachee	5142.4			7,009.59
26-041	Hatchet Hardware of Nassau	5110.4			187.93
26-042	Main Care Energy	5110.41			3,402.90
26-043	Haun Welding - Syracuse	5110.4			383.77
26-044	Welsh Sanitation	5132.4	126.99		
26-045	The Gazette	1010.4	52.07		
26-046	National Grid	5132.4	3,903.05		
26-047	National Grid	1620.4	41.40		
26-048	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA64			
26-049	CPL Architecture	1440.4	102.50		
		TA64			
	5-Feb-26		10,521.26	1,636.83	14,549.54
26-050	Stuyvesant/Stockport Senior Citizens	6772.4	2,500.00		
26-051	Stuyvesant On Hudson Garden Club	6772.4	250.00		
26-052	VFW Post 9593	6510.4	2,000.00		
26-053	Columbia County Office for the Aging	6140.4	2,500.00		
26-054	Friends of the AHERT	7110.41	1,000.00		
26-055	Staples, Inc. (\$280.85)	1410.4	72.69		

		3620.4	85.85		
		5010.4	15.72		
		1355.4	7.86		
		1620.4	29.98		
		8020.4	68.75		
26-056	Peac Solutions	1620.41	251.72		
26-057	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	1,007.61		
26-058	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	608.21		
26-059	SL Empire Solar I LLC	1620.4	37.93		
26-060	The Town CPA, PLLC (\$1700.00)	1410.4	900.00		
		1110.4	800.00		
26-061	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	625.00		
26-062	Main Care Energy	5132.4	810.16		
26-063	Mario's Home Center (\$261.90)	7110.4	258.20		
		5132.4	3.70		
	Mario's Home Center	5110.4			5.84
26-064	Kirks Mobile Repair, LLC	5130.4			2,024.85
26-065	Zwack, Inc.	5130.4			637.65
26-066	Lowe's	5110.4			350.86
26-067	Carquest of Valatie, Inc.	5130.4			297.61
26-068	Main Care Energy	5110.41			2,046.44
26-069	Northeast Auto Parts, Inc.	5130.4			81.44
26-070	Mooradian Hydraulics & Equip. Co., Inc.	5130.4			466.20
26-071	T & T Sales, Inc.	5130.4			272.00
26-072	Visa (ending in #2470)	1620.4	137.16		
26-073	Visa (ending in #4070)	5110.4			455.24
	12-Feb-25		13,970.54	-	,638.13
	February Totals		24,491.80	1,636.83	21,187.67