

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 9, 2026**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2026. In attendance were Supervisor Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, Charles Stiffler, and Carolyn Gleason; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Knott opened the meeting and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Charles Stiffler. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from MVP Insurance requesting a 21.4% increase.

OLD BUSINESS

Stuyvesant Falls Bridge – Ryan Biggs has reported that a bid package will be going out in August. Construction is expected in October. We have not heard from the State yet on the historic review.

REPORTS

Town Clerk Report: Report on file

Waterfront Working Group – Jim Werkowski reported that the Committee will meet on July 10th at 6:30 with the Nature Conservancy and the Fire District at See Park.

Environmental Management Council: A motion was made by Charles Stiffler to reappoint Christian Sweningson as the Town Representative to the County Environmental Management Council. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Christian reported that there was no quorum for an official meeting. He did report that there was an informal discussion about asking for the OWL to record minutes of meetings in the future. Don Meltz will be attending meetings, is working on rehabbing information online, and will review the articles that established the committee. He is working on what the expectations of the group are. Christian explained the various tasks that the group is asked to do and how they overlap with other groups. Christian said the Columbia Land Conservancy is a resource for County plans and that the Council will become familiar with County Haz-Mat plans. He also announced the Town's Bronze Certification to the Council.

Dog Control Officer: There was a complaint about a dog loose on County Route 25.

Kinderhook Memorial Library: Lee Jamison reminded everyone that there will be a musical performance at the Stuyvesant Town Hall, hosted by the library. The Lost Radio Rounders will be playing at 2pm on July 25th.

Climate Smart Task Force: Kathy Schneider reported:

- They met in June but there will not be a meeting in July;
- The Benchmarking Report for 2024-25 is completed;
- The Trex Recycling Program has changed and they will no longer be offering the benches. We collected over 2000 lbs of plastics but will remove the collection bin July 31st. People can still take their plastics to Hannaford where they will have a collection bin.
- The NRI Group will meeting on Tues., July 14th at 5:30;
- There will be a County Climate Smart Summit in January
- The Committee would like to have a Town email address;
- She was interviewed by a college student regarding DEC Climate Smart Program and the difficulties for small towns.

Supervisor Knott commented that the Benchmarking Report results are affected by the usage and how we purchase propane.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported:

- Paving on Ridge Road between Schoolhouse and Tuczynski Roads will begin on July 15th;
- The decals have been put on the new truck.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported that it's been fairly quiet. The Final Assessment Roll has been filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Planning & Zoning Boards: Tal Rappleyea reported that the Planning Board is waiting on the Solar Company to move forward. The solar company is dealing with DEC.

Historian: Cathy Knott reported that the 32nd Historic Stuyvesant Day picnic will be held on August 8th 1-3pm at the Town Hall. The theme is roads "Every road tells a story". Everyone is welcome and asked to bring a dish to share. The Town will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages.

Cemetery: Councilman Charles Stiffler said Jacob Schermerhorn is doing a good job keeping the cemetery mowed and neat. Melissa Naegeli reported that she had been contacted about installing a headstone and she directed them to Councilwoman Carolyn Gleason.

Code Enforcement/Building Inspector: Report is on file.

Railroad Depot Committee: Lee Jameson reported there will be a meeting on Saturday, July 11th. The "Red, White, and Blueberry Waffle Brunch" will be held on Sunday, July 19th 12-3pm.

Supervisor Knott reported that he had met with someone who was interested in using the depot for a private event.

Veterans' Memorial Park – Supervisor Knott reported that we have collected enough donations to purchase another bench. Councilman Charles Stiffler and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli suggested the bench be in honor of Community Volunteers. We are not working on the wording for the bench.

County Business

Supervisor Knott reported:

11 Warren Street – The internet installation has held up the move but it's now going forward. The move-in dates are August 3rd for probation and parole offices; August 10th for the Board of Elections. There is a façade meeting with the City of Hudson Public Works to discuss the suggestions that were received.

Pro-Housing Community Grant – The County has received the contract for the grant to study and identify abandoned and empty properties. CEDC is accepting applications for Housing Development Coordinator.

Property Foreclosures – The Supreme Court has ruled that counties are not obligated to sell foreclosed properties for full market value. Previous owners have to be notified of the sale and have 3 years to respond.

New Business

Supervisor Knott presented the following resolution to the Board for consideration:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT
OF THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS
BILL OF RIGHTS
July 9, 2026**

***WHEREAS**, town government provides services essential to the vitality of New York State, including but not limited to maintaining and repairing roads, protecting neighborhoods and businesses, guiding economic development, and serving as the first line of defense, communication, and safety for residents every day of the year; and*

***WHEREAS**, the 933 towns of New York State are home to more than 9.1 million New Yorkers and are diverse in population, geography, and demographics, such that decisions affecting daily life are best made at the local level by the government that best understands each community's character, challenges, and needs; and*

***WHEREAS**, the towns of New York are partners in shaping the State's future, and a true partnership between the State and its local governments will propel the New York State forward to the benefit of all New Yorkers; and*

***WHEREAS**, the New York Association of Towns has adopted a **Bill of Rights** articulating the core principles that should govern the relationship between the State and its towns; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Town of Stuyvesant shares and affirms those principles, namely:*

- 1. **Protection and defense of municipal home rule**, recognizing that towns, as the level of government closest to the people, are best positioned to balance competing interests and make decisions that shape daily life;*
- 2. **Local control of land use and zoning**, free from statewide zoning rules that override the voice of resident taxpayers and the officials they elect;*
- 3. **Freedom from unfunded mandates**, so that local taxpayers are not made to bear the cost of orders imposed by State and federal authorities without the resources to carry them out;*
- 4. **Modernized transparency, accessibility, and engagement**, including reform of outdated public-notice requirements that consume scarce municipal dollars on print notices often missed by the public; and*
- 5. **A meaningful voice in State decisions** affecting the hometowns that towns govern, so that town government is treated as a true partner rather than an afterthought or a hurdle to clear; now, therefore, be it*
- 6. **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant hereby endorses and adopts the New York Association of Towns Bill of Rights and affirms its commitment to the principles set forth therein; and be it further*
- 7. **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to respect and uphold these principles in the enactment of legislation and the administration of State programs affecting towns; and be it further*

8. **RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New York, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the State Senator(s) and Member(s) of the Assembly representing the Town of Stuyvesant, and the New York Association of Towns.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carolyn Gleason to adopt the above Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brian Chittenden and was approved by a unanimous vote of the members in attendance.

<u>Town Board Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ron Knott	X		
Brian Chittenden	X		
Carolyn Gleason	X		
Charles Stiffler	X		
Kelley Williams	X		

The motion to adopt was made by Carolyn Gleason and was seconded by Brian Chittenden. The Resolution was adopted by unanimous vote made by roll-call.

Property Tax Exemptions – Changes have been made to the Senior income levels and the County is reviewing an increase to maximum income amounts.

There has been a change to the Veterans Exemptions expanding to 100% disability/permanent disability. Enabling legislation could allow for a full exemption. The County is reviewing the changes.

NYS Retirement – the member contribution rates have changed so the burden on the governments is increased.

NYS Budget – There were several laws passed with the budget but they haven't been signed by the Governor yet.

Board Comments

No comments

Public Comments

No comments

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

The following abstract of vouchers was approved at the July 9th meeting:

	<i>July 2026</i>			LIGHTS	
<u>CLAIM #</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
26-241	MVP Select Care	9060.8	841.12		2,523.36
26-242	Gabbit, LLC (\$957.56)	1620.41	631.83		
		5132.4	325.73		
26-243	National Grid (\$1324.24)	5182.4		643.80	
				680.44	
26-244	National Grid	5132.4	221.65		
26-245	National Grid	1620.4	27.00		
26-246	National Grid	1620.4	39.13		
	1-Jul-26		2,086.46	1,324.24	2,523.36
26-247	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	374.15		
26-248	Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	1620.41	252.96		
26-249	Peac Solutions	1620.41	286.22		
26-250	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	145.03		
26-251	Nolan Bottle Gas, Inc.	1620.4	476.75		
26-252	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	110.00		
26-253	The Gazette	1355.4	46.68		
26-254	Repeat Business Systems (\$451.74)	1410.4	65.94		
		5132.4	65.94		
		1620.41	289.96		
26-255	Nan Stolzenburg	8090.4	7,905.00		
26-256	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	447.56		
26-257	CPL Architecture Engineering Planning	1440.4	205.00		
26-258	Columbia Greene Humane Society, Inc.	3510.4	40.00		
26-259	Catherine Knott (\$40.83)	7510.4	23.26		
		1620.4	17.57		
26-260	Crowne Plaza - The Desmond Hotel	1110.4	946.00		
26-261	NYSMA	1110.4	100.00		
26-262	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	1,600.00		
26-263	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Office)	1110.4	379.88		
26-264	Mario's Home Center	7110.4	56.19		
		5110.4			22.93
26-265	Alex Van Benschoten	DA9089.8			59.96
26-266	J.C.Smith Inc. (\$782.79)	5130.4			289.00
		5110.4			261.27
		3310.4			217.52
26-267	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	5130.4			37.97

26-268	Salem Farm Supply	5130.4			164.90
26-269	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA64			
26-270	Visa (ending in 2470)	1620.4	57.60		
26-271	Visa (ending in 4070)	5130.4			24.79
26-272	Welsh Sanitation	5132.4			257.68
	7/7/2026		13,891.69	-	1,336.02
	<i>July Totals</i>		\$15,978.15	\$ 1,324.24	\$3,859.38