

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 13, 2026**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, August 13, 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 July 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 Kelley Williams 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

Received letter from MVP regarding proposed rate increase of 17%, Supervisor Knott will be meeting with them next week.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Matt Pavloff, Kinderhook Memorial Library Director and Karen Seymourian, Member of Kinderhook Memorial Library Board. They came to report the 414 Resolution that will be on the General Election ballot in November. They explained that they will be going to year requests instead of biannually. This request is a 10% increase.

They reported that the summer reading program is wrapping-up. It was a successful collaboration with the Valatie Free Library. They are looking to expand collaborations with towns and not-for-profits.

There will be a fundraiser at the Stuyvesant Town Hall on August 29th and an Artist Studio Tour September 19th & 20th.

The Board Representatives from Stuyvesant are Karen Seymourian, Roberta Baldini, Ned DePew, and Amy Abbati.

OLD BUSINESS

State of Emergency– Supervisor Knott reported that it had been declared due to the flooding around the Town in the recent storm. He thanked everyone involved in the event and reported that the FEMA paperwork had been filed.

ArchTop Fiber – Supervisor Knott met with their representatives. They would still like to come to a Board meeting to do a presentation. They are running lines around the town. Lee Jamison asked how can they do areas that other companies said they couldn't. Supervisor Knott explained that they had been given Federal funding to connect areas that needed service.

Supervisor Knott also met with Spectrum and they will be providing quotes for service at the Town Hall.

Budget Amendment #2 of 2026 – Supervisor Knott reported that the Board had approved a budget amendment at their Workshop in the amount of \$\$3484.00.

NYS Retirement – We received a letter from NYSLR that the benefits have changed. While the cost to the members has gone down, the municipality costs are increasing.

AIM Funding – We received \$3,192

Sales Tax – Supervisor Knott reported that we received 4% more than in the 2nd quarter of 2025.

REPORTS

Town Clerk Report: Report on file

Waterfront Working Group – Jim Werkowski reported the group had met twice – once with Nature Conservancy and others. See Park (at the River) can be cleaned up but fill cannot be added to the shoreline. There was a question about insurance coverage. The Fire District is working with their insurance company regarding the question of public access to the boat launch.

Environmental Management Council: Christian Sweningson reported that they had a quorum but there are no minutes. Don Meltz is working on getting help. They didn't realize that Colleen Lutz cannot be a voting member of the Council since she is now on the Board of Supervisors

Dog Control Officer: We received the Ag & Markets report and everything is okay.

Kinderhook Memorial Library: No additional report to earlier comments.

Climate Smart Task Force: Kathy Schneider reported there was no July meeting. The next meeting will be August 17th at 7pm.

NRI Steering Committee: Kathy Schneider reported there will be a Public Information Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 5:30. Ron reported that he put forward the payment request. The photo contest deadline has been extended to the end of the month.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum reported:

- Chipped sealed Ridge Road to 9J power lines
- Eichybush Road was damaged in the flooding
- The kiosk at Overlook Park is being reinstalled
- 9J Detour Signs have not been put up yet
- Looking for a new employee following the resignation of one. Someone who has a CDL or can get one is preferred.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported that it's been fairly quiet. Exemptions renewals will be mailed in November.

Planning & Zoning Boards: Tal Rappleyea reported that both Boards have been quiet.

Historian: Cathy Knott reported that the 32nd Historic Stuyvesant Day picnic was a success and thanked Councilmembers Charles Stiffler and Carolyn Gleason, Supervisor Ron Knott, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli, Tony Link for cooking all afternoon, and the Highway Dept. for their signs and for repairing the cast iron sign.

Supervisor Knott thanked Cathy Knott for her work on Historic Stuyvesant Day.

Cemetery: Councilwoman Carolyn Gleason reported that it's been quiet and they Jacob is doing a good job mowing.

Code Enforcement/Building Inspector: Report is on file. Supervisor Knott reported that Taconic Engineering came to look at the Dan Barber property since the June 15th deadline has passed for the building to be up to code. We are waiting for the final report.

Railroad Depot Committee: Lee Jameson reported there will be a Corn Fest on August 16th 12-3pm.

Veterans' Memorial Park – Supervisor Knott reported the Board has agreed on the wording for the bench to be placed in the Veterans' Memorial Park honoring Community Volunteers.

County Business

Supervisor Knott reported:

11 Warren Street – The new office space work has been done on time and on budget. The offices have been moved. There is a meeting scheduled with the Architect to review the public input on the façade plans.

Stuyvesant Falls Bridge – The State DOT wants a statement of needs and purpose objective for new bridge from the County. We do not have the final bid documents yet for the repair.

Emergency Management Services – The County is working on how to maintain services and handle funding. There was a plan a long time ago when the Governor signed legislation requiring counties to review EMS services; Columbia County is ahead of the game. In 2022 They retained Fitch & Associates to review EMS Services in the County and make recommendations. An EMS Working Group was appointed. They visited sites and reviewed data for new proposal for funding. The EMS would submit their requests to the County. After review, the expenses would be spread across the County based on assessed values. Last year Stuyvesant paid \$123,000; under the new program that would be reduced to \$82,500.

Committee Appointment – Christian Sweningson has been reappointed to as the Town Representative on the County Environmental Management Council.

New Business

Supervisor Knott submitted to the Board proposed Local Laws #2 and #3 for changes to tax exemptions for Low Income & Disabled and Senior. The County voted to go up to 50% for \$45,000 - \$53,400. A motion was made by Charles Stiffler to set a Public Hearing date of September 10, 2026 at 7pm. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

There was a discussion about a proposed Resolution for the collection of voluntary contributions to the Columbia County Humane Society through the dog licensing process, per NYS Ag & Markets Law. The Board will review the Resolution and consider.

Supervisor Knott presented proposed Budget Amendment #3 of 2026:

	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
REVENUE		
DA3501 CHIPS		78,797.90
APPROPRIATIONS		
DA5112.2 Perm Highway Improve	78,797.90	
Totals	\$78,797.90	\$78,797.90

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Amendment.

Historic District – There will be a celebration of the new Historic District on September 12th 12-3pm at the Town Hall. There will be house tours 12-2.

2027 Budget – There will be a budget workshop on September 3rd.

Board Comments

Councilwoman Kelley Williams reported that 30 children participated in the Kinderhook Summer Program.

Public Comments

Lee Jamison asked if there was any concern for Emergency Management Planning with the situation at the Columbia Memorial Hospital. Supervisor Knott reported that the hospital leadership has made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Any specific questions for the planning would be considered by the Public Safety Committee.

Jim Werkowski asked about mowing at Hummel Park. Supervisor Knott explained that the regular person who was mowing was out on medical leave. He said Carl Williams had agreed to mow and would do it to keep the grass for bedding. Kathy Schneider explained the cut grass should be left on the ground for the mice.

Cathy Knott asked the Board for permission to hold the Town Halloween Party on Saturday, October 24th for the 20th year. A motion to approve the request was made by Kelley Williams. The motion as seconded by Charles Stiffler and was approved by unanimous vote.

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:

	August 2026			LIGHTING	
CLAIM #	PAYEE	A/C#	GENERAL	LND/FALLS	HIGHWAY
26-273	MVP Health Care, Inc.	9060.8	841.12		1,682.24
26-274	Crawford Door & Window Sales	1620.2	9,931.03		
26-275	National Grid	5182.4		677.33	
				727.22	
26-276	National Grid	5132.4	275.22		
26-277	National Grid	1620.4	43.03		
26-278	National Grid	1620.4	27.00		
26-279	AramSCO, Inc.	1620.4	74.34		
26-280	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	183.00		
26-281	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	94.32		
26-282	Staples, Inc.	7510.4	21.22		
26-283	Carrie A. O'Hare	1110.4	20.90		
26-284	Columbia Co. Treasurer (Sheriff's Office)	1110.4	75.00		
26-285	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	625.00		
26-286	Vital Records Control	1410.4	79.25		
26-287	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	258.97		
26-288	Gabbit, LLC (959.36)	1620.41	633.63		
		5132.4	325.73		
26-289	Repeat Business Systems (\$197.84)	1410.4	65.94		
		5132.4	65.94		
		1620.41	65.96		
26-290	Columbia Greene Town Clerks Association	1410.4	25.00		
26-291	NYS Town Clerks Association c/o T Villnave	1410.4	100.00		
26-292	Madsen Overhead Doors	5132.4	1,030.00		
26-293	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	125.63		
26-294	The Town CPA	1320.4	1,450.00		
26-295	Hodges T-Shirts & Apparel	7550.4	510.00		
26-296	Main Care Energy	5110.4			1,133.77
		7110.4	385.40		
26-297	Mario's Home Center	5110.4			49.52
		1620.4	19.30		
26-298	Bonded Concrete, Inc.	5110.4			360.00

26-299	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	5130.4			15.44
26-300	Apalachee	5142.4			7,711.68
26-301	Valley Energy	5110.41			4,170.23
26-302	Valley Paving & Construction, Inc.	5112.2			178,797.90
		5112.4			27,259.85
	6-Aug-26		17,351.93	1,404.55	221,180.63
26-303	Town of Kinderhook	7310.4	15,000.00		
26-304	Edmunds GovTech	1410.4	375.59		
26-305	Pro Printers	7550.4	174.61		
26-306	Welsh Sanitation	5132.4	128.84		
26-307	SL Empire Solar I LLC	1620.4	249.78		
26-308	Paychex of New York, LLC	1320.4	556.07		
26-309	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	35.00		
26-310	Staples, Inc. (\$98.58)	1410.4	67.28		
		1620.4	29.98		
		7510.4	1.32		
26-311	Carrie A. O'Hare	1110.4	8.05		
26-312	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	1420.4	650		
26-313	Lowe's	5110.4			719.96
26-314	Valley Paving & Construction, Inc.	5110.4			23,759.85
		5112.4			12,740.15
26-315	Pittsfield Communications Systems, Inc.	5130.4			1,000.15
26-316	Visa	5110.4			226.47
		1220.4	39.94		
		7510.4	15.94		
	8/13/2026		17,332.40	-	38,446.58
	<i>August Totals</i>		34,684.33	1,404.55	259,627.21