TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 10, 2026

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2026. In attendance were Supervisor Knott; Councilmembers Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, Charles Stiffler, and Carolyn Gleason; Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli; and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum was not in attendance.

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

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

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

SPECIAL GUESTS

Keith Haviland, Spectrum. Mr. Haviland was in attendance to answer any questions from the Board regarding the proposal to switch phone service in the Town Hall from Gabbit to Spectrum. Supervisor Knott explained that the quote is $600.50/month compared to the current $935+/month. Tal Rappleyea is reviewing the contract with Gabbit to make sure we can get out of it. A motion to change to Spectrum was made by Charles Stiffler. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Health Insurance– Supervisor Knott reported that MVP has increased by 17%. He and Councilwoman Kelley Williams reviewed other plans and he recommended to the Board that we remain with MVP. The Board voted at the Workshop unanimously to stay with MVP.

ArchTop Fiber – Supervisor Knott reported that the company continues to work in the area but hasn't provided a timeframe for completion.

FEMA– Supervisor Knott reported he had received a communication from David Harrison (County Emergency Management) that said while we haven't received the "official" correspondence yet, it doesn't look like we will meet the threshold

to receive any emergency reimbursement. Supervisor Knott also reported that we had submitted our claim to the insurance company.

NYS Route 9J – Supervisor Knott reported that we have been notified that the paving between Gibbons Road and the County line will not be completed this year. Joe spoke with the crew supervisor on Thursday and was told the work was being held up by DEC and that late October is the goal for completion of the repairs.

REPORTS

Town Clerk Report: Report on file. Melissa Naegeli reported that the deadline to order Veterans blocks for the Fall installation will be September 18th. The trash day tickets will be available beginning on September 15th.

Waterfront Working Group – Jim Werkowski reported the Stuyvesant Fire District Commissioners didn't have an answer at their last meeting. The next meeting of the Working Group will be September 19th.

Environmental Management Council: Christian Sweningson reported that he missed the last meeting and there were no minutes.

Dog Control Officer: Melissa Naegeli read the report from Maggie Simmons that she had responded to two complaints.

Kinderhook Memorial Library: Lee Jamison reported that there will be an Art Studio Tour September 19th and 20th.

Climate Smart Task Force: Jim Werkowski reported

- The trees that were planted around the Veterans Park are doing well,
- He and Hannah are working on the greenhouse gas inventory,
- They are trying to sort out the solar credits and find out if they can be used for other buildings. Ron said he spoke with National Grid and they are reviewing it;
- NRI Public Information Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd at 5:30 to review mapping and announce the winners of the photo contest,
- They have been discussing areas in town with too much lighting at night and will approach those businesses – firehouses and churches – to discuss turning them down,
- There will be a Repair Café at the Town Hall on September 26th 10-2, and
- The Dairy Farm Presentation by Brian Chittenden originally scheduled for October has been rescheduled to December 5th.

Ron Knott reported that Karl Kuhnen has started mowing at Hummel Park.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Joe Scrum was not in attendance. Supervisor Knott and Councilman Charles Stiffler reported:

- The new guardrail is being installed on Eichybush Road,
- The guardrail on Gibbons Road is being repaired,
- The CHIPs Reimbursement paperwork has been submitted, and
- Trash Day will be October 3rd.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported that it's been fairly quiet. She encouraged everyone to review their school taxes and make sure they're getting their exemptions.

Planning & Zoning Boards: Tal Rappleyea reported that the Planning Board will continue the SEQRA process for the proposed Mitchell Avenue solar project in September. The ZBA has been quiet.

Supervisor Knott reported that he and Tim Hotaling, Planning Board Chair, are going to schedule a joint boards workshop to discuss the solar storage training that Tim attended.

Historian: Cathy Knott reported that residents have been very generous with information, pictures, letters, deeds, and other items they have found in their homes.

Cemetery: Councilwoman Carolyn Gleason reported that it's been quiet. She had been contacted by someone to install a stone.

Code Enforcement/Building Inspector: Report is on file.

Railroad Depot Committee: Lee Jameson reported there will be Dollywood at the Depot" on September 19th. There will be a potluck dinner and a Dolly Parton movie.

Veterans' Memorial Park – Melissa Naegeli reported the deadline for ordering bricks to be installed this Fall before Veterans Day will be September 18th.

County Business

Supervisor Knott reported:

2027 Budget – All department heads have given their budget requests to their Committee heads and they will go to the Comptroller for review. Sales tax looks okay.

Short Term Rentals – The County had contracted with Granicus to find, review, and monitor short term rentals around the county. Those rentals would be charged a 4% tax that would go to the County and be distributed to the towns based on the number in each town. Stuyvesant will receive over $6000.

Solid Waste – The County Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for October 10th 8am – 12:00noon at the Commerce Park.

Flock Camera Concerns – Sheriff Salvatore and a representative from Flock were at the Board of Supervisors' meeting. They explained the audit system and other safeguards in place and answered questions that the Supervisors had. Senator Hinchey has a bill in the Senate to regulate the camera systems.

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:

	Decrease	**Increase**
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 – Supervisor Knott reported that the Board held a Budget Workshop on September 3rd. Having paid off all debt, we are looking at a potential 5% reduction in the tax levy from the Town. The Board will review the draft Budget for the public at the October Town Board meeting.

Donations for CGHS – NYS adopted a law that will allow for people to make donations to the contracted shelter for the Town through their dog license renewals. The following resolution was presented for consideration. Supervisor Knott asked Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to read the resolution:

RESOLUTION
VOLUNTARY SHELTER CONTRIBUTION OPTION ON DOG LICENSE

***WHEREAS**, Chapter 59 of the New York State Laws of 2010 as amended where further amended, effective December 2025, to require a line item on dog license renewals giving applicants the option of making a contribution in support of the pound or shelter managed or contracted by the municipality and deposit said funds in a dedicated fund to disperse annually to the applicable pound or shelter; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Town of Stuyvesant contracts for these services with the Columbia-Greene Humane Society; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Town Clerk's Office has initiated this requirement by listing the option to make donations to the Columbia Greene Humane Society on all dog licensing renewal processes and added to the monthly reconciliation report and payment to the Town Supervisor of monies taken in by the Town Clerk's Office.*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town Board acknowledges the new legislation and approves the process and procedures made for implementing this law.*

Town Board Member	***Yes***	***No***	***Absent***
Ron Knott	*X*		
Brian Chittenden	*X*		
Carolyn Gleason		*X*	
Charles Stiffler	*X*		
Kelley Williams	*X*		

DATED: September 10, 2026

Following a roll call vote, the Resolution was adopted by a vote of 4 yes and 1 no.

Budget Amendment #4 of 2026: Supervisor Knott presented the following Budget Amendment for consideration:

	Decrease	**Increase**
REVENUE		
DA2300 OTHER GOV	($5,000)	
	Increase	**Decrease**
APPROPRIATIONS		
DA5142.4	$5,000	

A motion was made by Charles Stiffler to approve the amendment. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Organizational Chart – The Federal mileage reimbursement rate has been increased to .76 per mile. A motion to amend the Organizational Chart to reflect a change from .72 to .76 reimbursement for mileage was made by Carolyn Gleason. The motion was seconded by Charles Stiffler and was approved by unanimous vote.

Upcoming Events – Supervisor Knott reminded everyone that the Historic District house tours and celebration was taking place on Saturday, September 12th 12pm – 3pm; the NRI Public Information meeting will be held on September 23rd at 5:30pm; Trash Day will be October 3rd and tickets will be available in the Town Clerk's Office beginning September 15th; County Hazardous Waste Day will be October 10th 8am – 12pm; there will be public hearing for proposed Local Laws 2 and 3, increasing income levels for disabled and low income senior citizen real property tax exemptions.

Board Comments

Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea said after reviewing some of the documents from Gabbit, there may be some termination fees that could apply in order to switch service to Spectrum. He will investigate further.

Public Comments

Lee Jamison asked what will the change to the budget be. Supervisor Knot replied we are hoping for a 5% reduction. He explained the changes to EMS funding and they will be funded through the County now. The County will

contract with all services and spread the cost across the county. Stuyvesant could potentially see a reduction of $40,000 in expense.

Lee Jamison thanked the Columbia Paper for the article about the upcoming Historic District tours and celebration.

Jim Werkowski asked for clarification on the line item in the budget for the Climate Smart Task Force. Supervisor Knott verified it is called "Community Beautification" 8510.4

Rachel Samuels asked if the Board knew anything about the situation with the Ichabod Crane School District budget. Charles Stiffler told her there was a public information meeting being held tonight.

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:

	September 2026			**LIGHTS**	
CLAIM #	**PAYEE**	**A/C#**	**GENERAL**	**LND/FALLS**	**HIGHWAY**
26-317	Tal G. Rappleyea, Esq.	TA64			
26-318	National Grid (RR Station)	1620.4	38.17		
26-319	Repeat Business Systems (197.84)	1410.4	65.94		
		5132.4	65.94		
		1620.41	65.96		
26-320	The Town CPA PLLC	1320.4	1,450.00		
26-321	Gabbit, LLC ($957.56)	1620.41	631.83		
		5132.4	325.73		
26-322	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	1620.41	52.00		
26-323	National Grid ($1391.88)	5182.4		671.34	
				720.54	
26-324	National Grid	5132.4	235.43		
26-325	National Grid	1620.4	27.00		
26-326	National Grid	1620.4	39.08		
26-327	Aramsco, Inc.	1620.4	453.65		
26-328	Catherine G. Knott	7550.4	208.73		
26-329	Carlos Araoz	1110.4	80.00		
26-330	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Office)	1110.4	189.94		
26-331	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	360.23		
26-332	Edmunds GovTech	1620.41	1,719.00		

26-333	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.83		
26-334	Callanan Industries, Inc.	5110.4			2,206.34
26-335	Mooradian Hydraulics & Equip Co Inc.	5130.4			83.75
26-336	Mario's Home Center	5110.4			26.33
	9/3/2026		6,071.46	1,391.88	2,316.42
26-337	MVP Health Care, Inc.	9060.8	841.12		841.12
26-338	The Town CPA, PLLC	1320.4	1,450.00		
26-339	Carrie O'Hare	1110.4	29.99		
26-340	Welsh Sanitation	5132.4	134.97		
26-341	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	238.73		
26-342	Maggie Simmons	3510.4	70.38		
26-343	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	5130.4			31.98
26-344	Inter City Tire	5130.4			2,143.70
26-345	Hatchet Hardware of Nassau	5110.4			50.97
26-346	Main Care Energy	5110.4			131.44
26-347	Kimball Midwest	5110.4			516.45
26-348	Visa	7110.4	1,104.04		
	9/10/2026		3,869.23	-	3,715.66
	September Totals		9,940.69	1,391.88	6,032.08