

May 9, 2017

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 7:00 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, II, Supervisor, Paul R. Martin, Robert M. Biesemeyer and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council. Absent: Michael J. Buysse, Member of Council. Also present: 7 residents, Deb Whitson, Town Attorney, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and invited everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution No. 132 – 17

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, April 11th and the Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, April 25th, as presented. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Martin:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes

Privilege of the floor was offered.

Charlie Lashway said he was here to discuss a serious problem saying he met with the Supervisor last week. He said this is a 2 issue problem with an occupancy permit. He pointed out that propane tanks are required to be 10 feet from a building saying they are only 18 inches away and saying that he has been working to get this issue resolved since last September. (It is my understanding that this discussion was in relation to a property line, not a building, though the word building was used).

Mr. Biesemeyer said the solution is simple, he said whoever is filling the tanks should red tag them.

Mr. Lashway also said there is a problem with the septic.

Mr. Wilson said he had talked to the Building Inspector and had talked to the contractor on site, who had said they were moving the tanks.

Mr. Lashway spoke about when the Code Officer responded and said he wanted to make sure it's resolved.

Mr. Biesemeyer responded saying it sounds like it's resolved.

Mr. Lashway said he had talked to the Department of Transportation about parking on the sidewalk near a hydrant. He said DOT was there today marking the sidewalk for no parking with orange paint.

Mr. Biesemeyer said there is nothing in the Site Plan Review Law that addresses parking for new businesses saying something should be added but saying it is difficult to go back on businesses that are already established. He told Mr. Lashway if he could advise the Board, they would welcome his suggestions.

A discussion regarding the lack of parking was held.

Mr. Lashway said the problem was that the lot being discussed went from residential to commercial.

Mr. Martin suggested putting the State on notice that the Town wants curbs for pedestrian protection saying this would also stop the parking on sidewalks. He said another parking lot in Keene Valley is being investigated.

Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Lashway for coming.

Mr. Wilson commented that Ryan Hall had put out the crosswalk markers for pedestrian safety today.

Shelley Geiger said she was here tonight regarding the position for the Hiker Parking Attendant at the Garden Parking Lot. She said she had submitted a letter of interest for herself and for Steve Howard, her significant other, who has worked there for the last 3 years with Eloise Endicott. She went on to give some history of her past of driving the shuttle bus. She said she didn't think having the attendant start at 8:00 would work saying by then cars would already be parked in the bus turn-around. She said parked correctly, the lot will hold 46 cars and leave room for the bus to turn around.

Mr. Wilson said that he and Ryan Hall were going to the parking lot tomorrow to begin making plans.

Ms. Geiger said she thinks the increase in rates is a good thing and explained what the hikers need to be told.

She also said that in May and June the lot does not require an attendant 7 days a week saying that in July and August she feels it does.

Mr. Wilson said he appreciated the heads up.

Mr. Biesemeyer said the Town is looking into a credit card system.

Steve Howard said that's a good idea, he said holding too much cash makes him nervous.

Discussions continued regarding how this system may work.

Next was a discussion regarding the anticipated water rents.

Mr. Wilson said that the old list had been reviewed and the same guidelines and policies were applied to the current list.

Mr. Biesemeyer did not agree with some of the changes. He said that the policy should be looked at, saying that some of it has to do with affordable housing and helped people remain in their homes.

After reviewing the list, the Board agreed that the policy of charging 1 ½ for buildings on the same parcel and only used within the family, as opposed to multiple dwellings on the same parcel and rented out, should stay the same as in previous years. Multiple residences that are rented out should pay the full amount for each.

Mr. Martin explained that some of these may only have one shut off.

The Board also agreed that buildings under construction, not having certificates of occupancy, should not be charged at this time.

Mr. Martin pointed out that John Wells is now on public water.

Resolution No. 133 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the current anticipated water lists as amended here tonight. (An amended copy has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.) This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Martin:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes

Next was a brief discussion regarding filling pools with public water.

Mr. Hall explained letters have gone out to the owners of pools asking them to call in when they are getting ready to fill their pool saying that permission will not be granted for too many pools to be filled at once, drawing down the reservoir as happened last year.

Mr. Lashway informed the Board that this is another reason to meter water.

A very brief discussion was held regarding metering.

The next discussion was about the drainage ditch that runs from Merle-Smith's field to the Verizon building in Keene Valley.

Following the last meeting's discussion, this ditch has been checked out. Mr. Wilson said that the ditch needs cleaning out starting at the Mason Young Road and continuing on to the Verizon building.

Resolution No. 134 – 17

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town go out to bid on having the ditch cleaned out from the Mason Young Road to the Verizon building in Keene Valley. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Martin:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes

The next discussion was a continuation of a discussion which began during the last Town Board Meeting regarding the request to have the wall removed in front of the old Post Office in Keene Valley.

Mr. Martin suggested if the wall is removed the bottom ribbon be left.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he didn't feel this was the Town's responsibility, he pointed out that there are a lot of walls in need of repair in Keene and said this could open a huge can of worms.

Mr. Martin said he thought the owner had decided not to have the wall taken down.

Mr. Smith said if he did, he would do it himself.

Mr. Martin stated that the Town cannot get rid of the parking spots in front.

Everyone seemed to agree.

The Town Board also seemed to agree in doing nothing.

There was a very brief discussion regarding the follow up on a discussion at the last Town Board Meeting about Unemployment costs.

Mr. Wilson said he looked into unemployment insurance as compared to the reimbursement method now being used by the Town and found that it is cheaper to continue as is when there are two or fewer people drawing unemployment.

Mr. Biesemeyer gave a brief update on the repairs needed at the Library.

He said the Library has funds in the amount of \$3,500 from two Betty Little Grants along with a small amount in a Capital Fund. He said although they have discovered there is no time limit to spend the grant money there are still the following repairs they would like done: painting the outside, repairing the wall where the chimney was, a new front window and door and some ventilation work. He said he spoke to a few contractors and so far Charlie Segard is the only contractor to show interest. He questioned if this had to go out to bid.

The Board said they would like to move forward and get more details.

Mr. Wilson said the Keene Valley Library had asked if the Town Board intended to make a donation to the Library next year.

The Board assured Mr. Wilson that that is done every year and possibly hasn't gone out yet for this year.

Mr. Martin also mentioned the AuSable River Association donation.

Donna Austin was present to give the Board her 2017 Tax Collector's Report. She said she met the Town Warrant of \$2,074,119.79 on February 7th. She explained that \$529,514.27 of the unpaid amount returned to the County was for the AuSable Mountain Reserve's portion. This report has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution No. 135 – 17

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at the request of Bob Rose, he be given permission to use Marcy Field on Sunday, July 9th, to host a "Fly-In Breakfast". This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Martin:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes

The floor was handed over to Megan Wellford who was present to make a proposal for dog waste stations.

Ms. Wellford said she was asked to make this presentation as a follow up to a request made by some of her students about three years ago. She said that Betsy Richert and Marie McMahon had been working on this new proposal to have stations made available on the Gristmill walking loop, Community Center athletic fields and near the Town beach.

Donna Austin offered that there is a “no dogs allowed” sign at the beach.

Joe Koehring said although he thought this was a good idea, he was asking that the station be put on the opposite side of the pedestrian bridge from the property owned by his parents.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he had no problem with trying a couple locations.

Mr. Smith said he was familiar with an 80-year old man in Keene Valley picking up after his dog and taking it home. He asked what was the problem with more people doing that.

Locations to begin with were discussed.

There was also a discussion regarding who would collect the waste.

Ms. Wellford and Mr. Biesemeyer both thought the School yard was a good place for starters.

The Town Board all seemed to agree that near the Farmer’s Market was also a good spot.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested going slowly to see how it works out.

Mr. Martin suggested 5 units for now, saying that would cost about \$1,000 for this year.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he thought it was better to start with 1, saying he could be okay with 2.

Ms. Wellford said some people thought the priority would be the Gristmill loop.

Following a discussion about the waste polluting the river water, Bob Andrews, the Town’s Health Officer, said the beach water seems to test fine.

Resolution No. 136 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board authorize having a dog waste station placed at each, the KCS playground and Marcy Field near the Farmer’s Market site. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Martin:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes

The next discussion was in regard to a recent issue with the Governor’s Broadband Grant.

There was a discussion about this grant being released without consulting municipalities. Another network was granted this area though Keene Valley Video has an exclusive 20-year agreement with the Town. The other network has since announced it is pulling out their paperwork.

Tom Both explained this had all been a clerical error saying when an application for this area was not returned, Slic moved into the area. He said it was all an unfortunate situation but said KVVI would be keeping the area saying it was a happy ending for everyone.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he was glad to hear this saying that he had heard some other stories.

Mr. Wilson informed those present that the Friends of Hurricane Mountain were hosting a project to employ a Steward at the Fire Tower saying that this individual would be a Town employee and that the Town would be reimbursed by DEC.

Mr. Wilson gave those present the heads up that Sunday, May 20th, the 15th Annual Clean Keene Community Day would be held.

The next discussion was in regards to “new” transfer station fees.

Ryan Hall explained that the policy for recycling ANY appliance with screens has changed saying that any television (including flat TVs) and computer monitors will now cost \$20 for the Town of Keene to dispose of. He said that disposing of any e-waste was going to get more difficult before it gets better.

Next was a discussion regarding “Bulky Days”.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that something is going to need to be done about bulky days. He said that it is getting out of control saying that he spent some time there during bulky days and reported that people are bringing in truck loads. He said it is being used by caretakers in a commercial fashion.

It was discussed that there are a few solutions; to stop them or to put on a limit.

Mr. Smith suggested cutting back to one a year.

The next discussion was initiated by an email received from DeAnna Brown about the replacement of a playground sign on Route 73 near the Community Center. She said there used to be one there and it’s gone now.

The Board indicated this would be checked into.

Ms. Wellford asked if the curb at the crosswalk near Cedar Run Bakery would be cut out. It was agreed by those familiar that this is a tricky spot.

The Board reviewed an email request from a non-resident asking permission to purchase a cemetery lot.

Mr. Martin gave some history on this policy and said he would like to consider allowing this family who has vacationed here annually to purchase a plot.

Resolution No. 137 – 17

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board authorize permission for the Jackson Family to purchase a cemetery plot at Norton Cemetery. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Martin:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes

Resolution No. 138 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and possible litigation. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Martin:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes

The Town Board and Debra Whitson entered into Executive Session at 8:54 PM.

Resolution No. 139 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board reconvene into regular session. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Martin:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 9:34 PM.

Mr. Wilson said no decisions had been made during Executive Session.

Resolution No. 140 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Supervisor's Monthly Financial Statement for March and have it placed on file with the Town Clerk. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes
Mr. Martin: Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes
Mr. Buysse: Absent
Mr. Smith: Yes

Resolution No. 141 – 17

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the following bills for payment. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes
Mr. Martin: Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes
Mr. Buysse: Absent
Mr. Smith: Yes

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered #262 to 298, totaling \$125,176.82 and Capital Fund, (Holt House) Scenic Byways Vouchers Numbered 1 and 2 of 2017, totaling \$3,450, as follows;

General Fund bills	- \$12,047.20
Highway Fund bills	- 9,851.87
Library Fund bills	- 329.62
Water District No. 1 bills	- 45,596.68
Water District No. 2 bills	- 57,351.45

Capital Fund – Scenic Byways - \$ 3,450.00

Resolution No. 142 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that with all business having been transacted, this meeting be adjourned. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes
Mr. Martin: Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes
Mr. Buysse: Absent
Mr. Smith: Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
May 12, 2017

Joseph P. Wilson, II, Supervisor
Paul R. Martin, Councilman
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman
Michael J. Buysse, Councilman
Jerry D. Smith, Councilman