

October 30, 2018

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, October 30, 2018, at 5:30 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Jerry D. Smith and Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Town Board Members. Absent: Michael J. Buysse, Town Board Member. Also present were: Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Mr. Wilson said he planned on discussing some transfer station issues but said with Ryan Hall home sick he would wait until the next meeting.

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the issue of speeding near the school. He said he had talked to the County and to the School and said he would suggest the Town create a bold crosswalk in front of the school. He said this would be the cheapest, most effective way to address the issue.

There was discussion about the presence of the driveway across the street. Mr. Wilson explained that because it's a Town Road the Town can have a crosswalk even though there is a driveway.

The Board discussed putting up a School Zone sign if the crosswalk isn't enough.

Mr. Wilson asked Scott Smith if he was ready to present his new Snow Removal Policy. Mr. Smith said he had sent it to the Town Attorney and she hasn't gotten back to him. Mr. Wilson stated that this issue can be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked whether there would be any discussion regarding parking along streets in Keene Valley.

Mr. Wilson said he thought the solution to parking on the back side of Market Street is to limit it to one side. He asked the Board to think about ideas for the area around the Johns Brook bridge and what kinds of Local Laws they would like to use.

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the John Brook Bridge project. He said that Schroeder is working on the final bridge design using Option A.

Mr. Biesemeyer seemed pleased the design was Option A and asked if the easement through the Merle-Smith property was all set.

Mr. Wilson said the Merle-Smiths would be getting together to discuss it.

Mr. Smith asked when construction would occur; Mr. Wilson said the bid will go out in January and Mr. Biesemeyer said he was sure the construction company would like to get started in the early Spring.

Mr. Smith asked about the Garden Parking Lot for next Summer; Mr. Wilson responded that the hiker shuttle would run 7 days a week saying only local traffic would be allowed through, there would be no "parking" traffic going through Merle-Smith property.

The next item on the agenda was in regards to the sidewalk in front of the Town Hall.

Mr. Wilson said one bid was received from John W. Sheehan & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$6,000. He said this includes digging out and removing the existing sidewalk, prepping and installing a new 6' wide by 22' sidewalk and installing new wooden stairs and a railing.

Mr. Smith suggested the stairs should be constructed of skid proof trex or its equivalent; Mr. Biesemeyer said he thought that could be added.

Resolution No. 196 – 18

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the one bid received for a new sidewalk and stairs and award the bid to John W. Sheehan & Sons, Inc. at the cost of \$6,000. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Mr. Wilson told the Board they would notice a voucher for the Essex County Treasurer for the AuSable Mountain Reserve's settlement bill. He said this is for money the County covered for the Town of Keene for the difference between the 2016, 2017 and 2018 assessed value and AMR settlements. He said this cost would be paid through unexpended fund balance saying this is why he pushed so hard to protect the fund balance by cutting the deficit from the budget.

Mr. Wilson said he has been contacted by a filming company who would like to film the mountains from Marcy Field on November 5th and 6th. He said they have supplied a certificate of insurance naming the Town of Keene as additional insured.

Mr. Biesemeyer said it would be interesting to know exactly what they are filming; Mr. Wilson said he'd ask.

Resolution No. 197 – 18

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board give permission for the aforesaid filming company to film on Marcy Field on November 5th and 6th. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Mr. Wilson said that Susan Whitney has pointed out that the December Bi-Monthly Meeting falls on Christmas.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to move the December Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting to Thursday, December 27th at 5:30 PM and have it also serve as the End-of-the-Year Town Board Meeting.

It was also agreed upon to schedule the 2019 Organizational Town Board Meeting for Thursday, January 3rd at 5:30 PM.

The next discussion was in regards to the new Salt Shed.

Mr. Wilson started by saying the Board probably remembers that last year a resolution was adopted to accept grant money for the building of a salt shed. He said this resolution needs to be made more specific.

Mr. Wilson explained that the grant requires a match of 75/25 to the Town. He said the grant is for \$695,000 leaving the Town share at \$175,000. He said the Town's match doesn't have to be cash, saying the Town can match with labor or hauling, etc.

Mr. Biesemeyer said it doesn't seem right when we shouldn't be using salt to be forced by the State to build a salt shed. He said he doesn't like it and hates the whole idea of using salt; Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she agrees with Bob.

The structure was discussed; Mr. Biesemeyer asked why it needs to be 42 feet tall.

Mr. Wilson said there are very specific guidelines regarding the entrance and roof clearance.

Mr. Biesemeyer said it bothers him to have to use local tax dollars for this.

Mr. Wilson said if any residents thought the salt is not contained, they could sue the Town.

There was a brief discussion about the aquifer; Mr. Wilson also said the State is making the Town continue to monitor the wells at the transfer station due to high salt content.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he thinks any salt contamination has been caused by DOT using pure salt on the roads; he said it would be interesting to see a different mix used.

Resolution No. 198 – 18

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town of Keene accepts \$695,000 in grant money from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Water Quality Improvement Program to construct a salt storage shed at the highway garage. The Town accepts the Grant/Match Fund Split where Grant funds available are up to 75% of the total project cost, and 25% must be matched by the Town. The Town Board of the Town of Keene fully commits to the submission and execution of a WQIP Contract. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

(Roll Call – next page)

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer: Oppose
Mr. Buysse: Absent
Mr. Smith: Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes

Mr. Wilson explained to the Board that the Town has received an offer from a company to buy out the lease for the Verizon cell tower. He said the offer is for \$220,000. He said the town gets about \$15,450 per month, saying that if this continues for 15 years that would be the better option and if it only lasts for 12 years the lump sum would be better.

The Board discussed what the money would be used for if the lump sum was accepted. Mr. Wilson explained the money (or payments) belong to Water District No. 1 saying it is on WD #1's property. Mr. Wilson said the District could spend some of it; he said the wells have never been reconditioned at the cost of \$10,000 each and there is some electronic equipment needed at about \$20,000. He said that \$75,000 could be used and the rest invested.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen questioned why someone would make this offer on something that may not be needed.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Biesemeyer both said they would be inclined to do it; Mr. Wilson said he is on the fence saying the District isn't desperate for the money.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if the Board could think about it and talk about it again at the next meeting.

There was a little more discussion about AT&T's interest in putting up a tower on the same property. Mr. Wilson said he has met with the engineers but it's not a done deal. He said the Board could come back to this topic next month.

Mr. Wilson said he had talked to some of the Board Members about a Marcy Field request from some Keene Student's. He said the School has submitted their insurance. He said permission has been given for them hold their "Turkey Trot" on November 10th at 11:00.

The next discussion was in regards to the Farmers Market for 2019.

Dick Crawford called saying they are already in the process of making plans for next year and questioning whether they will be allowed to use Marcy Field again.

The Board all agreed that they were in favor of the Farmers Market continuing to use Marcy Field for 2019 with the same conditions that were met this year.

Resolution No. 199 – 18

Mr. Biesemeyer offered Resolution No. 199 – 18, a Resolution to Amend the 2018 Budget. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes
Mr. Buysse: Absent
Mr. Smith: Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes

Scott Smith explained how the CHiPs roll over works.

Resolution No. 200 – 18

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered Resolution No. 200 – 18, a Resolution to Amend the 2018 Budget. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes
Mr. Buysse: Absent
Mr. Smith: Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes

Resolution No. 201 – 18

Mr. Biesemeyer offered Resolution No. 201 – 18, a Resolution Transferring Funds. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of the minutes. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Resolution No. 201 – 18

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Supervisor's Monthly Financial Statement for August, as presented and have it placed on file with the Town Clerk. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Resolution No. 202 – 18

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. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 687 to 739, totaling \$226,318.85, as follows;

General Fund Vouchers	- \$ 78,459.25
Highway Fund Vouchers	- 137,031.59
Library Fund Vouchers	- 1,320.70
Water District No. 1 Vouchers	- 1,437.66
Water District No. 2 Vouchers	- 2,781.40
Salt Shed Capital Fund Vouchers	- 5,288.25

Ms. Estes said that she had received a request from Charlie Smith's daughter regarding Norton Cemetery. She said the Smiths have an angel on Mrs. Smith's gravesite that they usually build a box over in the winter, she said they were requesting permission to cover it with a blue plastic 55-gallon drum. Everyone agreed that would be okay.

Resolution No. 203 – 18

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. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
November 3, 2018

Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman
Michael J. Buysse, Councilman
Jerry D. Smith, Councilman
Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Councilwoman