

October 28, 2015

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 5:30 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: William B. Ferebee, Supervisor, Paul R. Martin, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Michael J. Buysse and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council. Also present were: 2 residents, Gary Manley, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

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

Mr. Ferebee said that Susan Allen had called to speak during privilege of the floor. Ms. Allen said she would like to comment on the Old Mountain Road. She said if the recent Press Republican article was correct, she would like to commend the Town. She said she urges the Town to support the Town of North Elba against DEC's determination to close that road. She stated that it is unfortunate to have to spend money again saying that this matter was settled 5 years ago with a decision by DEC that the Towns own that road and that it is not part of the Forest Preserve or part of the Sentinel Range Wilderness.

Mr. Ferebee said he has spoken to North Elba's Supervisor and Attorney saying they are willing to bring suit. He said at this time he is monitoring the situation saying that he knows they would not close half a road.

Mr. Buysse asked the background of this matter, Mr. Ferebee gave the history. Barry Miller suggested there is safety in numbers and asked the Board to adopt a Resolution of Support for North Elba.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he thought the Board had adopted a resolution to keep this road as a recreational use road.

Mr. Ferebee said the Town has a Local Law which issues permits for hunters to use the road with ATVs during hunting season.

He said if the Towns were to give in it would set precedent for other roads.

Mr. Martin said we could look up our resolution in which the skiers and the hunters agreed to the shared use of this road.

Mr. Ferebee assured Ms. Allen that the Town is not willing to give this road up.

Mr. Ferebee gave some very brief updates on bridge construction.

He said he was sure that everyone had noticed that the hump on the bridge near the Mountaineer had been mellowed. He said they are getting close to wrapping up that project.

He said on Bridge 7 (near Biesemeyer's Office), they are driving sheet piling to help support the single lane for next year's construction.

He said a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is being planned for November 21<sup>st</sup> on the pedestrian bridge between Gristmill and Halls Falls Roads.

Next was a discussion on the name of this bridge. Mr. Ferebee said he knew it as the Dr. Ray Bridge, Mr. Buysse said he thought it was going to be dedicated to the Veterans and Mr. Martin said he knew it as the Walton Bridge.

Resolution No. 181 – 15

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the pedestrian bridge between the Gristmill and Halls Falls Road be named The Walton Bridge. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ferebee:	Yes
Mr. Martin:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Yes
Mr. Smith:	Yes

Mr. Ferebee again mentioned that a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is being planned for noon on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> with Sunday being the rain date. He said they will be taking bids for the high bidder to be the first person to cross the bridge.

Mr. Ferebee asked the Board for a resolution to declare and advertise a couple pieces of equipment at surplus bid.

Resolution No. 182 – 15

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the following items be declared surplus and offered for surplus bid:

- 2008 Highway Truck w/ 9' Western Plow
- 2003 Bobcat w/ Snowblower
- Misc. Highway Tires

This resolution was seconded by Mr. Buysse.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ferebee: Yes  
Mr. Martin: Yes  
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes  
Mr. Buysse: Yes  
Mr. Smith: Yes

Resolution No. 183 – 15

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

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ferebee: Yes  
Mr. Martin: Yes  
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes  
Mr. Buysse: Yes  
Mr. Smith: Yes

Mr. Ferebee said the only other matter of discussion is the Comp Time request made by the Highway Department Employees. He said one of the Board's concern was it's legality. He said he has supplied the Board with the U.S. Department of Labor Standards Fact Sheet regarding Local Government regulations saying this is legal. He said it would provide a small savings to the Town saying most of the Towns around us do it though they don't have written policies for it.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he didn't get the feeling it was a huge deal to most of the men, he said it strikes him as a major headache.

Mr. Ferebee said he and Susan have done a little research on how the time is kept and it doesn't seem too bad.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that another 3 weeks off per year along with the sick, vacation and personal time the employees get seems like a lot of time off. He said he doesn't get the feeling that the "crew" is gung ho about it. He asked Mr. Manley what his thoughts on this were.

Mr. Manley said he wouldn't want to say no to this request, he said everything seemed to be going better, saying the crew and himself seem to be gaining respect for each other. He said when he was on the crew under Tom Whitney they were allowed to use comp time and that it ended during their time under Bruce Reed.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that he has seen instances when government employees have a lot of time off and take second jobs which can take jobs away from the private sector. He also said he has concerns about keeping track of this kind of program.

Mr. Ferebee said since this can't start until January, he has asked Dean Smith to come to the December meeting to discuss it further.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that there are a lot of projects that could be done when the weather is good and the crew is at work. He said he doesn't like this program, though he questioned the possibility of using it somewhat scaled back.

There was discussion about the need to keep this time devisable by an 8 hour day which would be the required way of using this time.

Mr. Ferebee asked everyone to continue thinking about it and said it would again be discussed in December.

Resolution 184 – 15

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the following bills be accepted for payment, including those that were prepaid. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ferebee: Yes  
Mr. Martin: Yes  
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes  
Mr. Buysse: Yes  
Mr. Smith: Yes

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 662 to 694, totaling \$71,036.98:

General Fund Vouchers	- \$14,496.91
Highway Fund Vouchers	- 31,461.60
Library Fund Vouchers	- 980.77
Water District #1 Vouchers	- 1,380.16
Water District #2 Vouchers	- 22,717.54

Mr. Ferebee said he had one more thing to show the Board. He pointed out the graveled approach to the pedestrian bridge, from the Gristmill side, asking the Board if they would like to see that approach paved. He said it was the width of two lanes by about 40 feet and would cost approximately \$2000 to pave. Everyone agreed to have it paved.

Resolution No. 185 – 15

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. Buysse.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ferebee: Yes  
Mr. Martin: Yes  
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes  
Mr. Buysse: Yes  
Mr. Smith: Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk  
October 30, 2015

William B. Ferebee, Supervisor  
Paul R. Martin, Councilperson  
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilperson  
Michael J. Buysse, Councilperson  
Jerry D. Smith, Councilperson