

March 8, 2016

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 7:00 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: 9 residents, Debra Whitson, Town Attorney, Gary Manley, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Ferebee, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and invited everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution No. 83 – 16

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Notes from the Informational Meeting held February 9th, the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held February 9th and the Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held February 23rd, as presented. 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 turned privilege of the floor over to Tom Both.

Mr. Both said that some of the members of the Dr. Goff Committee found it difficult to access some of the Town's historical records. He suggested the Town should have these records scanned or microfilmed so that everyone could have access.

He said he is concerned about the town archives having no accounting of what's there and suggested a resolution to protect these records. Mr. Both read a resolution which he had prepared regarding the preservation of Town archival records saying that it may need to be modified. He said he has a very real concern about the safety of these records.

Mrs. Estes said the Town has a book listing the items in their Archives.

Mr. Ferebee said that he agrees these records should be preserved and said sometimes there are Archival Grants to help with the expense. He said he would try to find some funding. He also said that the Town Historian should not be expected to do this work for her annual salary of \$1500.

Mr. Martin questioned whether the equipment at the Keene Valley Archives could be used to get this project done.

Mr. Biesemeyer agreed that for accountability these records should be brought back and stored in one of the Town buildings.

Resolution No. 84 – 16

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board authorize Mr. Ferebee to move forward in sending the Town Historian a registered letter instructing that any of the Town Archives be brought in and stored in a Town building. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Ferebee.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Both informed the Board that the Keene Valley Library is building a new, larger archive room and suggested that the Town archives may be able to be housed there also.

(continued)

Carolyn Fish stated that the Historian has not held hours at the Library in some time.

Mr. Martin stated on behalf of the Town Historian that she has been responsible for 90% of the work that has gone into identifying the Veterans for the Veterans Memorial Site.

Resolution No. 85 – 16

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that from this day forward, all documents, photos, maps, letters or any other material of historic nature that has been entrusted to the Town of Keene Historian will be preserved by means of digitally scanning to assure that future generations, as well as Town residents today, will have uninhibited access to these materials which are part of the history and property of the Town of Keene. 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

Mr. Both said as a Member of the War Memorial Committee he was here to tonight to show the Board the paving stone that has been selected for the walkway at the Memorial Site.

David Nye was present to make a request to the Board that new signs be constructed coming into the Hamlets of Keene and Keene Valley. He also had examples of some directional signs used in other locations that could be helpful for tourists looking for popular destinations.

Mr. Buysse said this has been discussed before.

When the sign with the hiker on it was mentioned, Mr. Martin said that that frame was too labor intensive to use again.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he would like to see a simple "Welcome to Keene, Home of the High Peaks" sign. He said he felt the hiker and sunset signs had a perception of the southwest.

Mr. Ferebee said he has been looking for direction as to what the Town Board would like.

Mr. Both suggested considering another contest to design these signs.

Ms. Neville suggested using the Holt House logo both at the entrance of the Town and on the approach to each hamlet.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he was okay with that, he said there would never be 100% agreement for them.

The Board discussed the materials available.

Mr. Ferebee spoke about the request made by the Village of Saranac Lake to make the signs bilingual when new signs were put up. He also stated that directional signs may be considered.

Mike Hartson was present and asked the Board for permission to use the Holt House and area around it on Saturday, September 17th for the Annual Hill Climb Reunion. He said he would submit the request in writing also.

Resolution No. 86 – 16

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that permission be given for Mr. Hartson to use the Holt House and surrounding area on Saturday, September 17th for his Annual Hill Climb Reunion. 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

Tom Both requested that the American Legion be allowed to use Marcy Field on Saturday, September 24th for their annual Flaming Leaves Car Rally.

Resolution No. 87 – 16

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that permission be given for the American Legion to use Marcy Field on Saturday, September 24th for their annual Flaming Leaves Car Rally. 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 next discussion was in regards to the food pantry that is housed in an extra room at the Library.

Mr. Ferebee said there may be a possibility of relocating it if anyone knows of any available space he would appreciate knowing about it. He said that Milton Dudley is going to talk to his Board at the Keene Valley Congregational Church to see if they have any interest in moving it to their location.

Carolyn Fish, who runs the program, said that the problem with that is that most of the constituents that use the pantry are from Keene and some do not have a car to get to KV. She said they service 5 families consisting of 19 people and 2 of these families walk. She said that she sometimes gets calls and goes to the food pantry twice a day saying if it is moved to KV she will retire. She said she feels badly because she thinks there is a need but she feels strongly against it moving to KV.

There was an open discussion regarding possible locations.

Marcy Neville asked what the cost would be of heating part of the Community Center for space.

Mr. Ferebee asked what size room would be required.

Mrs. Fish spoke about the heat saying the room would need to be kept heated.

When asked about getting food from the regional food pantry, Mrs. Fish said the problem with that is that the local food pantry does not meet the criteria because they do not have 501c3 status and that the food needs to be picked up in Saranac Lake and is not free. When asked she said they spend approximately \$6,000 of donated money per year.

She said their problem is that food is disappearing.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he didn't understand how it could be considered stealing. He said it stuck him as odd saying it is stealing, if someone needed something, they should be able to get it.

Mrs. Fish explained that she shops for the week according to what she will need and with this happening she runs short. She explained that it had happened before and had started again.

Mr. Ferebee informed everyone that the door locks had been changed today, saying that the food pantry volunteers would have a set, a set would be left at the Library and there were five sets left over that would be kept in the lock box at the Town Hall.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he felt it was in the best interest of the Town to have the food pantry relocated. He said this operation should be harmonious, but he feels the need to protect the Library.

Mr. Ferebee said he is trying to balance things out. He said he would continue to look for a new location.

Mr. Martin told Mrs. Fish he appreciates the work she does with this program.

Resolution No. 88 – 16

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at their request, permission be given for the Farmers' Market to use Marcy Field on Sundays. 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

Resolution No. 89 – 16

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at Jodi Downs' request, permission be given for the use of Marcy Field on the weekend of August 27th and 28th for their 24th Annual Arts & Antiques Show. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 90 – 16

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at the request of the KCS Yearbook Staff, the Town of Keene take out the same ad in the 2016 Yearbook as they did last year. 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 explained the request made again by Betsy Richert regarding assessment information she had requested. He said that Donna Bramer had given him 2 copies of the requested information and he had misunderstood that one of the copies was for him to send to Betsy. He said when he realized the mistake today he had called and left a message explaining it to Betsy.

The next discussion was also in regards to assessing information.

Barry Miller was present and gave the Board a list containing items that are available on the NYS Real Property Service and Essex County Real Property Service software containing information for the Town of Keene.

Mr. Ferebee began by saying that he had a letter from Howard Fuguet, in Mr. Fuguet's words, "requesting the Town's assistance in getting information to which all real estate taxpayers are entitled under the NYS Freedom of Information Act". He said he understood there had been a private meeting consisting of 4 individuals to discuss assessing.

Mr. Miller said that he had been asked to attend that meeting. He went on to say that the Assessor, by law, has to make a person's property information available to them by May 1st.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked what exactly it is that is being asked for.

Mr. Ferebee and Mr. Biesemeyer said that these individuals need to go to Donna Bramer and ask her for the information they are looking for. Mr. Ferebee and Mr. Biesemeyer said they would go see Donna on Thursday.

There was discussion regarding the meeting that was put on for the public, in which there was a lot of frustration and were not a lot of questions answered.

Mr. Miller said Donna Bramer was very cooperative when he met with her last year.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he thought that all this could be resolved in one meeting.

Mr. Ferebee said he had been asked to have the Board rescind Resolution No. 75 – 16, a Resolution to Amend the 2016 Budget, adopted by the Board on February 9th and have it replaced with a new resolution explaining that the amount was incorrect.

Resolution No. 91 – 16

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board rescind Resolution No. 75 – 16, a Resolution to Amend the 2016 Budget. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 92 – 16

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board adopt Resolution No. 92 – 16, a Resolution to Amend the 2016 Budget. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Ferebee.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Ferebee said he is working on getting a bridge construction schedule together and will post that information on Next Door Keene.

The topic of assessing information was again briefly discussed.

Mr. Buysse said he thought the proper process was to go to the Assessor first and then to the Board.

Mr. Biesemeyer pointed out that this has nothing to do with valuation saying that the individuals are asking what the criteria is that is being used.

Gary Manley explained to the Board that he had a proposal to make saying he would like to purchase a new 2017 tandem. He said he was asking the Board to allow him to continue putting money in his highway budget to make 4 payments over the next 4 years similar to the way the last tandem was purchased. He said the first payment of \$49,839 would be due 1 year from the close of contract.

When asked if he was sure about the purchase price, he said yes, that the Town of Keene could “piggyback” off a contract made with Onondaga County.

Mr. Buysse was not familiar with the policy of piggybacking.

Debra Whitson, the Town’s Attorney, said the practice of piggybacking is legal.

Mr. Manley said that with this purchase he would be putting the purchase of a road side mower on hold.

Resolution No. 93 – 16

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that authorization be given for the Highway Superintendent to enter into contract for the purchase of a 2017 Tandem to be paid for over the next 4 years. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 94 – 16

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the following bills for payment, including those that were prepaid. 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

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 120 – 162, totaling \$33,806.77, as follows:

General Fund bills	- \$24,685.33
Highway Fund bills	- 6,013.32
Library Fund bills	- 636.77
Water District #1 bills	- 1,704.76
Water District #2 bills	- 766.59

Resolution No. 95 – 16

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

This meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
March 17, 2016

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