

May 31, 2016

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, May 31, 2016, at 5:30 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: William B. Ferebee, Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council. Absent: Paul R. Martin and Michael J. Buysse, Members of Council. Also present: John and Paula Schuler, Steve Bowers, Deb Whitson, Town Attorney and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

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

Privilege of the floor was offered.

Mr. Ferebee said that John Schuler, General Manager of the AuSable Club, was present to speak to the Board.

Mr. Schuler said he has friends that are willing to perform a concert this summer similar to the Las Vegas Show called Rain. He said he has them tentatively booked for Friday, August 19th for an outdoor concert, but said that the Trustees at the AuSable Club thought this may be a stretch for their culture. He asked if this was something that the Town would allow on Marcy Field saying it could be a huge community event attracting people from neighboring Towns. He said the bill was going to be \$4500 and said that he was going to house the entertainers and was willing to pay \$2250 asking if the Town would pay the other \$2250. He said it is a 2-hour concert but could be part of an all-day event.

Mr. Ferebee asked if the Club Members could be asked for a donation.

Mr. Biesemeyer felt the Town businessmen should be asked.

Mr. Smith asked about the Town's liability.

Mr. Schuler answered that the AuSable Club is actually paying \$1125 and a Club Member has matched that.

Mr. Schuler, Mr. Biesemeyer and Mr. Ferebee discussed the money and the possibility of a Town donation or vendors setting up concessions.

Steve Bowers suggested that the Keene Valley Fire Department could be involved in this project as a fundraiser and could manage the parking, etc.

Mr. Ferebee asked Mr. Schuler to give him a couple days to digest and look into this request.

The next topic discussed was assessments.

Steve Bowers was present and submitted a petition containing about 60 signatures requesting that the Town Board to take a vote of "No Confidence" and leave last year's assessments in place. This petition has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Bowers told the Board a corporate story about taxes where he used to work. He said he feels the Assessor is costing the townspeople a lot of money. He said his assessment is raised every year, fought at grievance and lowered every year, he said the property is under a sales contract right now for \$380,000. He asked if assessments go up 15% with a 2% tax cap if the mill rate would go down.

Mr. Biesemeyer said yes, with the same budget and the assessment increases, the mill rate would go down.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked Mr. Bowers if he had been in to discuss his assessment with the Assessor, Mr. Bowers said no. Mr. Biesemeyer told Mr. Bowers that he should go see her saying that she had lowered several.

Mr. Bowers said he's done that the last three years, though he did say that he had filed the grievance forms.

Mr. Biesemeyer explained that this year, she had a professional appraiser come in from Plattsburgh to help with assessing commercial properties.

When asked how much the assessment was on Mr. Bowers property, he responded saying it is assessed at \$435,000.

(continued)

Mr. Ferebee said when using the Town wide increase for this year of 53,000,000 and using \$868,606, the same amount to be raised by Town taxes as last year, the tax rate would drop from \$1.65 to \$1.51.

Mr. Biesemeyer discussed mill rates and budgets saying there are out of control factors in the Town Budget that are not in the Town's control such as health insurance and NYS Retirement.

Mr. Ferebee thanked Mr. Bowers for the time he spent working on this petition, he assured him it was not falling on deaf ears.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked Deb Whitson, the Town Attorney, what the law says in relation to the request being made by this petition.

Ms. Whitson replied that the law won't allow this request. She said that an Assessor's term of 6 years is set by the State as protection. She said that the Assessor's job is unpopular by definition and said the Town Board has no jurisdiction to fire her for misconduct. She also said the Town Board is without power to reverse the assessment values.

Mr. Biesemeyer said it would be interesting to see what happens after the grievance hearings are finished.

Mr. Ferebee gave a brief update on the transfer station wall saying that the County is getting ready to put that replacement project out to bid.

Resolution No. 123 – 16

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meetings held the last Tuesday of the month be cancelled for June, July and August. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Mr. Ferebee: | Yes |
| Mr. Martin: | Absent |
| Mr. Biesemeyer: | Yes |
| Mr. Buysse: | Absent |
| Mr. Smith: | Yes |

Resolution No. 124 – 16

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that upon their request, the Mountaineer be issued a highway permit for their annual Trail Run, to be held Saturday, June 11th. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Mr. Ferebee: | Yes |
| Mr. Martin: | Absent |
| Mr. Biesemeyer: | Yes |
| Mr. Buysse: | Absent |
| Mr. Smith: | Yes |

Ms. Estes explained to the Board that she had made a clerical error on the Standard Workday and Retirement Reporting Resolution sent to NYS Retirement earlier this year. She presented an amended version to the Board asking for a new resolution accepting it.

Resolution No. 125 – 16

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Standard Workday and Retirement Reporting Resolution submitted to the Board. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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|-----------------|--------|
| Mr. Ferebee: | Yes |
| Mr. Martin: | Absent |
| Mr. Biesemeyer: | Yes |
| Mr. Buysse: | Absent |
| Mr. Smith: | Yes |

Resolution No. 126 – 16

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at the request of Christopher Straight, President of the Adirondack Step Sides Car Club, they be allowed to use Marcy Field the first Saturday of June, July, August, September and October for 4 Carz-N-Coffee events and 1 Car Show. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 127 – 16

Mr. Ferebee offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Anticipated Water Rents for Water Districts No. 1 & 2 as presented. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Board was asked to look over these lists for any inaccuracies they may spot.

Mr. Ferebee said he had planned on holding an Executive Session to discuss personnel, but would wait until a meeting with a full Board.

Resolution No. 128 – 16

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. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 129 – 16

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

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 287 to 324, totaling \$87,767.98, as follows;

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|----------------------|---------------|
| General Fund | - \$15,682.42 |
| Highway Fund | - 69,072.78 |
| Library Fund | - 1,701.75 |
| Water District No. 1 | - 484.64 |
| Water District No. 2 | - 826.39 |

Resolution No. 130 – 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:

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|-----------------|--------|
| Mr. Ferebee: | Yes |
| Mr. Martin: | Absent |
| Mr. Biesemeyer: | Yes |
| Mr. Buysse: | Absent |
| Mr. Smith: | Yes |

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
June 7, 2016

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