

November 21, 2016

Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting held Monday, November 21, 2016, at 6:00 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: Susan Kennedy and Marlene Martin, DOH, Mike Mascarenas and Dan Zakowski, Essex County, Todd Hodgson, AES, Ryan Hall, Town of Keene Water Department, Deb Whitson, Town Attorney, 2 residents, 1 reporter and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Ferebee, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM saying this meeting had been scheduled for a couple of reasons. He said one being a situation in Water District #2 with the lack of production in one of the wells and what needs to be done.

Mr. Ferebee turned the floor over to Susan Kennedy from NYS DOH. Ms. Kennedy began by giving some background on the Department of Health's inspections of the Water District #2 water system. She said one well in Keene Valley is not working and had definitely come to light in June. She said June's situation had given them the opportunity to identify Water District #2's deficiencies and the DOH expects the Town of Keene to get going on resolving them.

Mr. Ferebee said the Town has chosen a hydrogeologist and that AES was working on a study to make recommendations.

Todd Hodgson from AES began by explaining the purpose of the engineering proposal for Water District #2. He said that two items were cited, the first being the function of Well #2 as a backup well which does not have the capacity to meet the demands and the second issue being the need for improvement of well head protection and monitoring well protection.

He explained that the next task is to review and assess information on the existing wells and site hydrogeology and then locating optimal locations for drilling. He said he understands that a new well is not an inexpensive project.

Mr. Biesemeyer expressed that money for a Town this size is a huge issue.

Ms. Kennedy pointed out that the money is well spent for wells, saying the issue may be that the old wells may not have had a proper study done.

Ms. Kennedy said DOH's goal is to have both adequate quantity and adequate quality of water. She said the quality is there but the quantity is not.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he didn't understand the replacement estimate of this well being \$284,000, which he said was 30 times the cost of a residential well. He said he would like the Board to keep their options open to "shop this out".

He said he felt sometimes a cavalier attitude is given when it comes to costs. He said before incurring major expenses the Town Board needs to make sure it doesn't create an economic hardship for the users on a small district like Water District #2.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if AES or the Town could get estimates from several well drillers after getting the results from the hydrogeologist. He added that he would also like to have an additional cost estimate from another engineering firm.

Ms. Kennedy suggested having the hydrogeologist make a presentation to the Town Board.

Mike Mascarenas asked what would happen if well #1 shut down today. Ryan Hall responded "We're doomed".

Mr. Hodgson explained the reason that the capacity of well #2 has decreased so dramatically since being drilled.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked how deep the wells are.

Mr. Hodgson said that well #2 is 325 feet deep, Mr. Hall responded that well #1, the production well, is 87 to 90 feet deep.

Mr. Biesemeyer questioned whether there was enough water for two wells from the same aquifer.

Mr. Hodgson said that would be the goal and then went on to talk about “well head protection”.

Mr. Ferebee initiated the next discussion regarding financing. He said that Water District #2 has \$286,000 in reserve, saying that the District could pay \$200,000 from that and only have to borrow \$100,000. He said that would leave the other \$86,000 still in reserve.

He said he had just wired back \$1.7 million that had been overfunded on the previous water project saying this would reduce the annual debt payments.

Mr. Biesemeyer questioned this return when the District is in need of \$300,000 saying he would need to digest this information.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked Ryan Hall, the Town’s Water Superintendent, if he felt that the leaks that have been fixed were part of the water shortage in June.

Mr. Hall said yes and no, he said the well was producing 136 gallons per minute but the District was using 175 gallons per minute. He said they have fixed 3 or 4 small leaks, saying there is still one big leak on a private line near the Country Club. He said with the summer lines off the quantity is doing okay.

Mr. Mascarenas said the funding for this new project would be simple saying that with the retired \$1.7 million reducing the debt payment and without changing the rate to the water users, the extra money could pay down this new loan.

Mr. Hall spoke to the Town Board about a few things he and Todd Hodgson felt the District is in need of –

- Another set of chemical feed pumps
- a flow meter for in the line of the replacement well, and
- an auto dialer device that would alert him to problems.

Mr. Ferebee asked Mr. Hodgson if he thought he would be able to get the hydrogeologist to a Board Meeting; he answered that he would.

The Board thanked everyone for coming.

Mr. Ferebee informed those present that tomorrow night would be his last meeting, Monday would be his last day in the office and he would begin his new position working for Environmental Facilities Corporation on Wednesday, November 30.

Mr. Ferebee informed the Board that an insurance check had been received for \$4617 for the electrical issue that Water District #2 had had, he said the Town has a policy with \$1000 deductible.

Mr. Ferebee said he had talked to the Town of Jay Supervisor, who reported back that his Board declines contributing anything toward the cost of the zero sort at the Keene transfer station. Mr. Ferebee explained that any users coming from the Town of Jay pay to get rid of their garbage by purchasing punch cards but the Town of Keene taxpayers pay to have the recycling removed.

The Board discussed options for how this could be handled, there will be further discussions about how to put a sticker system into effect for non-resident recycling.

Resolution 229 – 16

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter Executive Session regarding personnel. 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

The Town Board and Deb Whitson, Town Attorney, entered into Executive Session at 7:08 PM.

After a fair amount of time, Ellen Estes was invited to join the Board in Executive Session.

Resolution No. 230 – 16

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. Buysse.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 8:07 PM.

Mr. Ferebee read his letter of resignation from his position as Supervisor, effective Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, to the Board.

Resolution No. 231 – 16

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept Mr. Ferebee's Letter of Resignation and have it placed on file with the Town Clerk. This letter, in its entirety, has been attached to and made a part of these minutes. 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. 232 – 16

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept Voucher # 737 for payment. 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 only voucher submitted tonight was Voucher # 737, from the General Fund, in the amount of \$390.00. This voucher will be added to the abstract for November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Resolution No. 233 – 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 8:11 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk  
December 1, 2016

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