

August 8, 2017

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, August 8, 2017, at 7:00 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Paul R. Martin, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Michael J. Buysse and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Town Counsel. Also present were: 6 residents, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Debra Whitson, Town Attorney and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

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

Resolution No. 177 – 17

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, July 11th, as presented. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Privilege of the Floor was offered.

Wes Whitney was present to express concern about the “hiker” parking lot beside the grocery store in Keene Valley. He said that people come in there as late as midnight, are loud and spend the night. He said that overnight parking has been a problem saying that one example was 4 vehicles that came and parked there every night and left during the day. He said they put up clothes lines, had tables and chairs and a campfire. Mr. Biesemeyer said he has seen campers along the river, he said this has definitely become part of a bigger problem.

Mr. Martin said that originally the sign at the parking lot said “No Overnight Parking”. He said it needs a new sign.

Mr. Whitney said he is concerned for his mother’s safety and the woman next door, stating that they have back doors.

Mr. Wilson said that Joann Whitney was here to speak about new signs.

Mrs. Whitney said that she is a Member of the Upper AuSable Community Association, formerly the Keene Community Trust. She said the organization works on projects that enhance the quality of life in Keene. She listed some of the projects they have worked on, naming the parking lot, the Community Post Office and more, she said they are now focusing on having the Community Post Office’s parking lot paved.

She said the organization recognizes the problem, saying 1 issue is the lack of signage indicating no overnight camping. She said another issue is that the parking lot is underutilized to alleviate street parking. She suggested new universal signage, suggesting that everyone recognizes the white P on a blue background as parking. Sizes for a sign was discussed; lighting was also discussed, solar was mentioned as being inexpensive and lighting well.

Mr. Buysse suggested being sensitive to the neighbors when planning lighting.

Tom Both pointed out that with a sign stating No Overnight Parking or No Camping, Troop B would drive by and check the lot.

Mr. Wilson said the Troopers don’t deal with parking unless it blocks driveways or hydrants. He said they don’t write tickets because they get thrown out.

Mr. Biesemeyer said DEC can write tickets; Mr. Wilson said they won’t.

Mr. Martin told Mrs. Whitney that with the UACA working on raising funds for paving, he thought the Town could take care of the proposed sign and lighting.

Mr. Wilson said the sign will be planned to be visible while not being an eye sore.

Resolution No. 178 – 17

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town shall have a new No Camping/No Overnight Parking sign made and installed at the municipal parking lot in Keene Valley. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Buysse.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Wilson offered the Board the information that since June 19th, 320 lbs. of dog waste has been removed from the stations on the Hulls Falls walking loop.

Mr. Martin asked if a station had been put in the center of the circle at the airport, he was answered that there is one there.

Mr. Wilson gave the Board an update on a Planning Board issue that was referred to the Town Board by the Planning Board. He said that it has been turned back over to the Planning Board and that the Town Attorney has reviewed the information and has outlined options that the Planning Board can use in making their decision. He said they will address the issue at their meeting on Thursday, September 7th.

Mr. Martin said it is his suggestion that the Highway should enforce no structures being built in a road's right-of-way.

Mr. Biesemeyer agreed that this issue should not be handled by the Town Board and he said the Planning Board has a good handle on it.

The next discussion was in regards to Water District #2.

Mr. Wilson started by saying that Water District #2 was still on a use restriction, he said that with usage and leaks the level was still low.

He turned the floor over to Ryan Hall to explain.

Mr. Hall said he is getting to the end of the problem with leaks saying they have found quite a few leaks on Beede Road but are still looking for more. He said the problem is that the District is producing negative levels during the day. He said some of the leaks they have found are summer lines that will be shut down soon and fixed by the owners before next season.

Mr. Wilson said the Town is still waiting for the consultant to schedule the site survey to locate the best location for a back-up well.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked how to figure out the cost.

Mr. Wilson said the estimate for this project is \$230,000 to \$250,000. He said it includes bringing the equipment up to date.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he can't understand how it can be that expensive, he said the Board has had discussions and that guesstimations have been made.

There was discussion regarding where the best location or aquifers would be.

Mr. Biesemeyer felt that paying \$50,000 for an educated guess was a lot.

Mr. Wilson said that the last Supervisor returned an unused balance of money back to EFC, and because the water rents have not been changed to reflect this return, the water rents for that District will not change. He said the amount that will need to be borrowed will be less than the amount that was returned.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he thought there was about \$100,000 already available.

Mr. Wilson said there is money in reserve.

Mr. Hall said he thought the worst case scenario would be \$230,000. He said they are looking for a location in a separate aquifer on the edge of the School's property.

Mr. Both said he thought a second aquifer would be great considering the history of contaminated wells that the Town has had.

Mr. Martin suggested letting the hydrogeologist do his work.

Mr. Wilson gave a brief FEMA update saying he just signed the last of the paperwork for the 3 properties that were bought out, he said now he is just waiting for the deeds.

He also said that snow removal costs are going to be 87% reimbursed for the spring snowstorm known as Disaster #4322.

Mr. Wilson reported that CHiPs highway funds have not been used since 2015. He said the Town has a balance of \$200,000. He said he would like to submit for reimbursement of the \$39,000 for the highway truck that is on order, everyone agreed to this request.

Mr. Wilson informed those present that the Highway Superintendent is retiring on September 1st.

Mr. Biesemeyer said it has come to his attention that during a June discussion regarding the Owls Head Trail relocation issue, the Minutes reflected the Board's interest in relocating it on Route 73. He said the main point of that resolution should have been that the Town Board does NOT support its relocation to the Molly Nye Road. The Board agreed to adopt a new resolution clarifying this addendum.

Resolution No. 179 – 17

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board add the following addendum to Resolution No. 157 – 17, a resolution in support of moving the Owls Head Trailhead and parking lot to the property owned by the Stipps on Route 73 adjacent to the Owls Head Rustic Furniture Store, to add that the Town Board DOES NOT support relocation of the Trailhead and parking lot to the Molly Nye Road. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The next discussion was in regards to the hiker shuttle.

Ryan Hall said he has looked into the purchase of a 10 to 15 passenger van on State Contract to replace the current hiker bus. He said as a requirement to public transportation, the old bus would have to be kept for the handi-capped since a van would not be handi-cap equipped.

Mr. Wilson explained that the current shuttle has had \$4,000 in repairs done in the last year and a half.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested going back to Betty Little.

Mr. Wilson said he had and there was nothing available.

Mr. Buysse asked if the County or State ever auction off busses.

Discussion reverted to the parking problems along Route 73. Mr. Biesemeyer said the Governor's Office should be in on this discussion saying that Chapel Pond to Lake Placid is a problem. This problem was briefly discussed.

Mr. Wilson said there is \$15,000 reserved for replacement of the hiker shuttle, he said that is 40% of the cost. He said he would like to see if the difference can be found in the 2018 budget.

Mr. Both suggested looking into a rural transportation grant and speaking with a representative.

Mr. Wilson said he has written an editorial for the Adirondack Explorer and is waiting for it to come out.

Mr. Wilson said he has spoken with a landowner on Johns Brook Road who is willing to lease the Town 1 acre of land for the next 10 years to be used as a parking lot.

The Town Board advised Mr. Wilson to go to the next step and have a look at what work would need to be done, get a contractor's estimate and see what the landowner wants in return.

The next discussion was in regards to land that is for sale adjacent to Norton Cemetery.

Mr. Smith said that this 42-acre parcel borders the cemetery, the highway garage and the Towns "old spring". He said the selling price on this parcel is \$129,000.

Mr. Martin stated that the land beside the Veteran's Memorial is for cemetery expansion.

(continued)

Mr. Smith said he is also looking toward being able to expand the land around the highway garage.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he was not in favor of making this purchase.

This led to a discussion regarding contaminated water at the highway garage and the need for a salt shed.

This will be further discussed with the Highway in January.

The next discussion was in regards to the upcoming budget schedule.

The Board discussed and agreed to Monday, September 11th as a date to hold a budget workshop and the regular meeting for September, due to the conflict with Primary Day on the 12th.

The Board agreed to the rest of the Budget Calendar as made out following last year's schedule.

Resolution No. 180 – 17

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve a Highway Permit for the Keene Valley Fire Department to hold their annual Remembrance Run on Saturday, September 9th and waive the fee for this charity event. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Board was supplied with a Report for Water Collection for July.

Resolution No. 181 – 17

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, at the request of the property owners, the private way leading off Old Sugar Way to the Scovell property, be named Scovells Way. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 182 - 17

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Resolution No. 182 – 17, a Resolution to Amend the 2017 Budget, has been attached to and made a part of these minutes. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 183 – 17

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Resolution No. 183 – 17, a Resolution Transferring Funds, has been attached to and made a part of these minutes. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Buysse.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Wilson told the Board he had personnel and litigation to discuss in Executive Session.

Ms. Neville, who was present at the meeting, said there are rumors around Town about an assessment matter and she asked if it could be discussed.

Mr. Biesemeyer said no, that the status cannot be discussed.

Ms. Whitson explained that the property owner has filed a petition to the Supreme Court which preserves them the right to move forward.

Mr. Biesemeyer explained that the Town is currently negotiating with the landowner.

Resolution No. 184 – 17

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Town Board and Ms. Whitson entered Executive Session at 8:11 PM. Mr. Buysse joined in for part of this session.

Resolution No. 185 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board reconvened into regular session. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 8:55 PM.

Mr. Wilson said the Board discussed legal and personnel issues and no decisions were made.

Resolution No. 186 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Supervisor's Monthly Financial Statement for June 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. Martin:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Yes
Mr. Smith:	Yes

Resolution No. 187 – 17

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

(bills listed on next page)

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 479 to 519, totaling \$42,226.35, as follows;

General Fund	- \$18,982.47
Highway Fund	- 20,097.01
Library Fund	- 1,048.01
Water District #1	- 724.13
Water District #2	- 1,374.73

Resolution No. 188 – 17

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. Martin.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
August 17, 2017

Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor
Paul R. Martin, Councilman
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman
Michael J. Buysse, Councilman
Jerry D. Smith, Councilman