

May 30, 2017

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 5:30 PM at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, II, Supervisor, Paul Martin, Michael Buysse and Jerry Smith, Members of the Council. Absent: Robert Biesemeyer, Councilman. Also present: Betsy Richert, Suzie Doolittle, Bunny and Tony Goodwin, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent and Donna Reed Austin, Acting Secretary.

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM and invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wilson began by meeting by presenting Betsy Richert. Ms. Richert introduced herself saying that she was a Keene resident and at a previous town board meeting Meghan Wellford from Keene Central School had presented a dog waste proposal to the Board and thanked the Board for agreeing to purchase two dog waste stations to be placed at Marcy Field (close to the Farmers Market) and another at the Keene Central School playground. Ms. Richert continued by saying that she wanted to further the cause and was presenting a Pilot Proposal at no cost to the town for two additional dog waste stations. These waste stations were privately purchased and donated by the Whitson and Tansey Law Firm and located at the Adirondack Medical Ctr. parking lot behind the Mountain Health Center and another on Gristmill Road at the Walton Bridge. Ms. Richert offered to service these two additional waste stations on a weekly basis from June until October. Mr. Buysse questioned whether dogs were allowed to be on the school property where one previously approved waste stations would be located and Mr. Wilson said that the school has agreed to maintain it so it didn't appear to be a problem. Mr. Smith asked what would happen after October and Ms. Richert said that was a "good question". Mr. Wilson felt that the stations could go into storage. Mr. Wilson also indicated that he would gather information regarding various designs of waste stations as the one currently located at Marcy Field collects water and another type would be less problematic. It was agreed that disposal of the used bags would be brought to the landfill with no charge for disposal. Ms. Richert indicated that with this Pilot Project she would provide data on labor, maintenance and overall station use for future project implementation. She, however, felt that the data for the Gristmill Road side might not be accurate due to the road closure on Hulls Falls Road. There was further discussion regarding hiker waste and Mr. Goodwin said this was a "big issue" and referred to "Charmin flowers" being found on tops of mountains. Mr. Martin agreed that this was an on going problem and maybe bags should be given out. Mr. Goodwin said that in Henry's Woods in Lake Placid where dog disposal stations are located there are often bags of waste tied to trees. He felt that education would improve the situation and encouraged people to dispose of waste properly but that we could only expect "improvement, not perfection".

Mr. Wilson offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved that the Pilot Program with two new donated waste stations be approved. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Buysse.

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Mr. Wilson     | Yes    |
| Mr. Martin     | Yes    |
| Mr. Biesemeyer | Absent |
| Mr. Smith      | Yes    |
| Mr. Buysse     | Yes    |

The next topic of discussion was presented by Suzie Doolittle regarding the sanding of sidewalks in Keene Valley, particularly on Market St. She inquired as to how sanding of sidewalks on residential streets could be changed. She said that there was this gray black sand thrown 5 ft. into her flower beds and asked if the sanding trucks could just sand the center of the street. Mr. Buysse asked if she had spoken to the Highway Superintendent and she said that she had. Mr. Buysse said that he has found sand on his porch from the state trucks. Ms. Doolittle said that during the last storm (on a Sunday) that her street was plowed and sanded twice and there was no reason for that. Mr. Martin said that this has been a problem for many years and possibly another way to approach it would be to cut back several feet from the lawn and fill with stones. Mr. Buysse felt that the stones would be on the right of way and pose a problem with plowing. Mr. Wilson advised the Board that he had done a tally of snow removal in a 24 hour period and the cost was over \$30,000. This averaged to \$1250. hr. He further indicated that we "need to find a balance". Mr. Martin said the fact that this was now brought up, that it should be discussed with the Highway Superintendent. Mr. Wilson agreed and would put on the agenda for September to address the problem.

Ms. Doolittle also said she had a completely different subject to inquire about. She asked if a group of people could get together to discuss what they envisioned for the town in the next 30 years. This could be a "think session". Mr. Martin indicated that this was done 12 years ago and the report was on file at the Town Hall.

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that the new parking lot attendant started work last weekend and he is doing a good job and has proved his worth. He indicated that he would keep track of all costs associated with running the parking lot and shuttle to see if the rates are appropriate. He felt the shuttle and parking system should be self-supporting and not draw on the town funds to cover personnel, bus maintenance, supplies, bus replacement and unemployment payments. With the bus inspection due in August with the possibility of the bus not passing inspection, he said the time to start planning for a bus replacement is now. Mr. Martin said that when the final tally is in, he feels that more money will be brought in than in the last few years. Mr. Wilson said that \$10,000. has been set aside for a replacement bus but that would not cover a new bus. There was a brief discussion regarding unemployment insurance for season employees and Mr. Wilson said that until 3 or more employees are eligible, the

town won't need to pay it. Mr. Wilson said he was working on a credit card machine for collecting hiker fees. Mrs. Goodwin indicated that there still continues to be parking on both sides of the road at Johns Brook where "no parking" signs are located. Mr. Wilson indicated that the Forest Rangers could write tickets and tow vehicles. Mr. Goodwin said that years ago there was a town ordinance prohibiting parking from Johns Brook to the Garden parking lot. He thought that printing up a paper that resembled a ticket might deter parking. Mr. Goodwin said he would carry the parking concerns of the town to an upcoming meeting in Albany with the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee.

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that there is a search for a full time attendant for the transfer station and a number of local applicants have applied for the job already. He feels by the end of the week he can begin interviews and welcomed any member of the Board to join him in interviewing. Once a candidate has been selected, recommendations will be made to the Board.

Mr. Wilson announced that he and Ryan Hall have met with an engineer to survey wells for water district #2 and the next step would be mapping and select potential sites for a new well. He has looked into grant funding but has not found one that fits this project and will explore a bond to pay for this work. The projected cost would be \$250,000. to \$260,000. Mr. Martin expressed his frustration with needing AES and felt we could "do it ourselves" and find our own drillers, etc. Mr. Wilson felt there was no way around it and he would continue to talk with Todd at the County and get ideas of the cost.

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that tests came back on the domestic water well at the highway garage and there is a lot of salt and need a replacement water source. The water can only be used for flushing toilets. Mr. Martin felt a well could be drilled up Shaefer Road. Mr. Buysse suggested going deeper with the existing well and Mr. Hall indicated it was already 300 ft. deep. Mr. Wilson said he would do some more work and have more information at the next meeting.

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that the Youth Commission Board has been fully staffed after a tremendous amount of effort in recruiting an entirely new staff. The slate of appointments is as follows:

Sunny Reed - Director/Lifeguard/RTE \$8,000. for the summer  
 Dylan Juda - Health Director (EMT)/Counselor \$15./hr.  
 Madison Gifford - Counselor/RTE \$12.16/hr.  
 Henry Vincent - Bus driver \$15.22/hr

They are looking for an additional counselor.

The salary increase for the Director was outlined. The proposed Director is also the Lifeguard and RTE and will be developing a new program with entirely new staff. Hopefully this new candidate will be a long-term appointment. The new Director is the most qualified and only person that applied for the position and is a well respected member of the community. The new Director has agreed to perform WSI duties if the Board can find a counselor/lifeguard to fill that role.

#### Resolution 144 - 17

A resolution was offered by Mr. Wilson and moved its adoption. Be it resolved to accept the new slate of Youth Commission Appointments. Any changes to the slate would require approval by the Town Board. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.

#### Roll Call Vote:

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Mr. Wilson     | Yes    |
| Mr. Martin     | Yes    |
| Mr. Biesemeyer | Absent |
| Mr. Smith      | Yes    |
| Mr. Buysse     | Yes    |

#### Resolution No. 145 - 17

A resolution was offered by Mr. Smith and moved its adoption. Be it resolved to make a transfer of \$261.30 out of the Contingency account (A019904.1.4) into the Public Works Personal Service (sidewalks) account (A014901.01.001.00). This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin. *A copy of this transfer is attached and made part of these minutes.*

#### Roll Call Vote:

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Mr. Wilson     | Yes    |
| Mr. Martin     | Yes    |
| Mr. Biesemeyer | Absent |
| Mr. Smith      | Yes    |
| Mr. Buysse     | Yes    |

#### Resolution No. 146 - 17

A resolution was offered by Mr. Buysse and moved its adoption. Be it resolved that the following Budget Amendment to the General Fund be approved: To decrease the unexpended balance used to lower amount to be raised by taxes in the 2017 Budget from \$100,000. to \$62,558.00. This is to correct a formula error in the Excel spreadsheet used to produce the budget. Debt service principal total \$37,442.00 added into the grand total twice. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith. *A copy of this amendment is attached to and made part of these minutes.*

#### Roll Call vote:

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Mr. Wilson     | Yes    |
| Mr. Martin     | Yes    |
| Mr. Biesemeyer | Absent |
| Mr. Buysse     | Yes    |
| Mr. Smith      | Yes    |

**Resolution No. 147 - 17**

**Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved that at the request of the Free and Accepted Masons, they be given permission to use Marcy Field on July 14, 15, 16, 2017 for their annual craft show. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mr. Wilson</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Martin</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Biesemeyer</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Mr. Buysse</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Smith</b>      | <b>Yes</b>    |

**Resolution No. 148 - 17**

**Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved that at the request of Laura Eldred and Melissa LaVallee from Keene Central School be given permission to use Marcy Field to show a movie on an inflatable screen for an upcoming trip to Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales on July 31, 2017 (with rain date of August 1, 2017). This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mr. Wilson</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Martin</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Biesemeyer</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Mr. Buysse</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Smith</b>      | <b>Yes</b>    |

**Resolution No. 149- 17**

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mr. Wilson</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Martin</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Biesemeyer</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Mr. Buysse</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Smith</b>      | <b>Yes</b>    |

**The Town Board entered Executive session at 6:58 PM.**

**Resolution No. 150 – 17**

**Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town Board reconvene in regular session. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Martin.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mr. Wilson</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Martin</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Biesemeyer</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Mr. Buysse</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Smith</b>      | <b>Yes</b>    |

**The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 7:19 PM.**

**Mr. Wilson said no decisions were reached during the Executive Session.**

**Resolution No. 151– 17**

**Mr. Buysse 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. Martin.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mr. Wilson</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Martin</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Biesemeyer</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Mr. Buysse</b>     | <b>Yes</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Smith</b>      | <b>Yes</b>    |

**Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 299 to 339 totaling \$71,689.75.**

**These vouchers are as follows:**

|                                |          |                    |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| <b>General Fund Bills</b>      | <b>-</b> | <b>\$24,904.17</b> |
| <b>Highway Fund Bills</b>      | <b>-</b> | <b>43,325.40</b>   |
| <b>Library Fund Bills</b>      | <b>-</b> | <b>1,305.83</b>    |
| <b>Water District #1 Bills</b> |          | <b>973.73</b>      |
| <b>Water District #2 Bills</b> |          | <b>1,180.62</b>    |

**Resolution No 152 – 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      Absent****Mr. Buysse            Yes****Mr. Smith             Yes**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.**

**Donna Reed Austin, Acting Secretary  
June 7, 2017**

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