

November 14, 2017

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, November 14, 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 Council. Also present were: 14 Residents, Teresa Cheetam-Palen, Council Member Elect, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent Elect, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Deb Whitson, Town Attorney and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Resolution No. 215 – 17

Mr. Martin offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. 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

Privilege of the floor was offered, there were no comments.

Resolution No. 216 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Final Water Collection Reports for Water Districts #1 & #2, as submitted. These reports, in their entirety, are 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 turned the floor over to Ryan Hall for a brief discussion regarding Water. Mr. Hall talked to the Board about a water connection in Keene Valley that is going to require boring under the road because it is too late in the year to dig up the road and have it patched for snow plowing. He asked the Board if the water law could be changed to allow for non-emergency connections to occur only from June to October. Mr. Smith said maybe he could see May to October; the Board said the window could be adjusted.

Mrs. Estes suggested checking with Deb Whitson regarding how a Local Law is amended.

Mr. Hall said the connection needed now is in soft ground and would be easy to bore. He asked how the charge on this is accessed.

Mr. Martin said it is the Town's responsibility to bring the shut off to the user's side of the road; Mr. Biesemeyer agreed.

Mr. Martin said this would be a good time to check the water law about adding shut offs that don't allow drain backs.

Mr. Hall said he thought municipalities were not allowed to put in drain back connections.

Again, Mr. Biesemeyer mentioned that it is the Town's responsibility to bring water to the other side of the road.

Mr. Wilson introduced Local Law #1 of 2017 saying a Public Hearing had been held at 6:45 tonight.

#### Resolution No. 217 – 17

The Town Board adopted Resolution No. 217 – 17, A Local Law to Provide for an Exemption from Real Property Owned by Veterans Who Rendered Military Service to the United States During the “Cold War”. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Wilson said the next order of business is a proposed resolution of support to increase DEC Ranger Staffing.

Mr. Wilson turned the floor over to DEC Ranger Megan McCone to make a presentation.

Ms. McCone said she was here tonight to make this presentation on behalf of the Police Benevolent Association. She said the PBA is supporting a proposal to increase DEC Forest Ranger Staffing from 135 to 175 Rangers statewide. She explained the reason for this need is due to the staff being stretched thin by an increase in search and rescues, an increase in rangers being sent out west for fires, etc.

Patrick Odell spoke on behalf of the Keene Valley Fire Department saying an increase in DEC staffing would alleviate some of the back country rescues for the Fire Department which relies on local volunteers.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if DEC had entertained the thought of using drones; Ms. McCone said they have 5 in the State and described how they have been used. She said they are utilizing every resource they have available.

Ron Konowitz said he has worked at trailheads on busy weekends giving advice to hikers and said he feels that DEC needs more boots on the ground. He said he fully supports more rangers being added in the High Peaks.

#### Resolution No. 218 – 17

The Town Board adopted Resolution No. 218 – 17, a Resolution Supporting Police Benevolent Association of New York State, Inc. (PBA of NYS) Proposal to Increase Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Ranger Staffing to a Statewide Total of 175. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Jim Bernard said this was interesting because the High Peaks Education Foundation has just begun a program for extensive Wilderness First Aid Training for high school students.

Mr. Wilson took this opportunity to say thanks for the volunteers who helped with the dog waste stations this summer.

He said that the Keene Valley Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club made a donation of \$299 for the purchase of a new station to be placed on the Beaver Trail at the School pond.

Mr. Wilson introduced and turned the floor over to Carolyn Peterson and Dan Mason who were present to explain their proposed resolutions for clean energy to the Board. They said the Committee they are proposing would be a resource for the Town. They said they would be applying for a \$50,000 grant for this benchmarking.

The Town Board followed up with the following 3 resolutions which summarize their proposal.

#### Resolution No. 219 – 17

The Town Board adopted Resolution No. 219 – 17, A Resolution to Establish the Keene Clean Energy Committee. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

#### Resolution No. 220 – 17

The Town Board adopted Resolution No. 220 - 17, A Resolution to Adopt Energy Benchmarking Policy Requirements for Certain Municipal Buildings in the Town of Keene. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution No. 221 - 17

The Town Board adopted Resolution No. 221 – 17, a Resolution to Adopt New York State Unified Solar Permit. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Wilson said that Scott Smith and Ryan Hall had advertised the declared surplus equipment on an internet auction site saying the combined total offered came to \$29,000.

Resolution No. 222 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the high bids on the surplus equipment advertised on the internet site, Auction Internationals, totaling \$29,000. A list of this equipment and the selling prices 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 informed the Board that Bob Rose is interested in leaving his plane in the hanger for the winter. He said Mr. Rose has done a lot of work getting the hangar doors rehung. He said he felt the sum of \$75 per month for the winter months would be fair.

Resolution No. 223 – 17

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that permission be given for Bob Rose to use the hangar space on Marcy Field at a cost of \$75.00 per month for the winter months. 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

Mr. Wilson said he had the answer to why the publicity line of the budget was increased \$2500. He said it is a grant from ROOST and that it goes in on the revenue line and will then be spent on the town maps, so it is a wash.

Mr. Biesemeyer spoke on behalf of the Library Board of Trustees, he said as everyone was probably aware, Marcy LeClair is retiring from the position of Library Clerk after 25 years. He said the Board received 10 applications for the position and it had been a very tough choice picking her replacement. He said it was the final choice of the Library Board to appoint Aaron Miller saying he had an unbelievable resume. He said Mr. Miller is a 1987 graduate of Keene Central.

Resolution No. 224- 17

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that with the recommendation coming from the Library Board of Trustees, the Town Board appoints Aaron Miller as the new Town of Keene Library Clerk. 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

Mr. Wilson said that he needed authorization to buy a couple new pieces of equipment. He said that the General Fund trailer had broken in half and their sander doesn't work. He said the sander would cost \$800 to fix and money was budgeted for a new one in 2018.

He said Mr. Hall got quotes on a trailer which will cost \$5,000 and that he was getting quotes on a sander which would run about \$4,000 to \$5,000.

He said these could be purchased now with no impact on the budget using the money collected from the surplus equipment.

#### Resolution No. 225 – 17

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board give authorization for the purchase of a new trailer and a new sander. 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

Mr. Martin said he thought now was a good time to inform NYS DOT that as a safety factor, the Town is requesting curbing for both Hamlets. He said in the past, the superintendent preferred the flat sidewalks for plowing; he said he feels for pedestrian safety there should be curbs.

Mr. Biesemeyer said in the past one side of the street was not curbed to accommodate on street parking.

Mr. Martin said the Town should make the State mindful of the concern saying he would like to see a letter sent bringing this matter to their attention.

Mr. Smith asked if the Town would have a bus for the Senior Citizen's December shopping trip.

Mr. Wilson said he wasn't sure saying the current bus broke down in Elizabethtown on the last trip and he hasn't heard from the County on whether it can be fixed.

He said when this happened a Notice to Bidders was sent out for the purchase of a new van to replace that bus.

#### Resolution No. 226 – 17

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approves advertising for the purchase a 15 passenger van to replace the current hiker shuttle bus. 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

Mr. Smith again asked if there would be a shopping bus in December.

Mr. Wilson said he was hoping to hear from the County about the bus saying we may need to borrow one for December.

#### Resolution No. 227 – 17

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter into Executive Session to discuss a Legal issue and personnel. 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 and Deb Whitson entered Executive Session at 7:48 PM.

Resolution No. 228 – 27

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

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Wilson said no decisions were made in Executive Session.

Resolution No. 229 – 17

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Supervisor's Monthly Financial Report for July and have it placed on file with the Town Clerk. 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

Resolution No. 230 – 17

Mr. Biesemeyer offered Resolution No. 230 – 17, a Resolution Transferring Funds. This resolution, in its entirety, is 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. 231 – 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. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 642 to 715, totaling \$114,048.23, as follows;

General Fund	- \$56,836.89
Highway Fund	- 49,186.49
Library Fund	- 1,575.79
Water District #1	- 1,650.52
Water District #2	- 4,798.54

Mr. Biesemeyer initiated the next discussion.

He asked when the End of the Year and the Organizational Town Board Meetings would be held.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the December Bi-Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> would serve as the End of the Year Meeting and the Organizational Meeting would be scheduled for Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Ron Konowitz said he missed Privilege of the Floor and asked if he could speak. He suggested that since the Forest Preserve Amendment on the ballot had passed allowing 250 acres of State Land to be used, that the Town should adopt a Resolution of Support for a bigger parking lot.

Mr. Buysse said this is a work in progress and questioned what to do about an over usage of the trails that may occur.

Mr. Biesemeyer said this was an issue that was addressed at the meeting Mr. Wilson recently hosted; he said more parking means more people and more people means a need for more parking.

Mr. Konowitz said he felt a bigger parking lot would increase safety by not allowing parking on the roads.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested working on the suggestion of alternate hikes as areas fill up.

Mr. Wilson said he is working on that.

Resolution No. 232 – 17

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. With all business having been transacted, this meeting be adjourned. 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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk  
November 21, 2017

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