

October 3, 2017

Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 6:00 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Paul R. Martin, Robert M. Biesemeyer and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council. Also present: Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk. Absent: Michael J. Buysse, Councilman.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

The Town Clerk gave each Member of Council a copy of the Tentative Budget as filed with her by the Supervisor last week.

Mr. Wilson began by telling the Board that the budget currently stands at \$1,741,840.88 which is \$7,193 under the 2% tax cap.

He said this does not include the requests of \$10,000 for the Keene Valley Library's construction project or the \$2,750 for a Beatlemania Concert.

He said the only issues at this time are Ryan Hall's compensation and the 2 requests mentioned above.

The first discussion was about the Keene Public Library hours for 2018.

Mr. Wilson said that following Marcy LeClair's retirement on March 30th, he put funds in the budget for the next clerk to work 16 hours per week at \$16.00 per hour.

Ellen Estes said the hours may need to be increased to 20 hours per week to be eligible for state aid.

The Board talked about whether enough money was budgeted for that increase in hours; Mrs. Estes said there was leeway in the budget.

Mr. Wilson said again that Marcy's medical insurance may be moved to the General Fund next year.

Next was a brief discussion regarding the Beatlemania request.

Mr. Smith said he could not support this.

Mr. Martin suggested that a "go fund me" page be set up early to fund this.

This started a conversation regarding Marcy Field usage fees; Mr. Wilson said these fees could be used to fund events.

The Board discussed how to charge the Farmers' Market; Mr. Wilson said they currently donate \$500 per year which doesn't cover the cost of the port-a-john. He said it calculates to \$29.00 per event.

Mr. Martin reminded the Board that the Farmers' Market benefits the Town of Keene residents.

Mr. Wilson said he has already informed Dick Crawford that there will be changes next year.

The Board discussed how to set rates without scaring users away from using the Field.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested charging the Farmers' Market \$150 per Sunday.

Mr. Wilson said he thought that was too high; he spoke about restructuring one of the Town employees' hours to have someone present during events.

Mr. Martin said he feels the Keene Valley Library's request has a higher priority than the Beatlemania Concert.

Mr. Wilson asked Ryan how many hours he had getting ready for last year's concert; Ryan said he had 13 hours setting up.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested giving something to the Keene Valley Library Capital Project, but suggested waiting on the amount until the tax cap has been figured out.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Wilson agreed.

Mr. Wilson said the Keene Library budget needs to be finalized with hard numbers first.

The next discussion was in regards to Ryan Hall's compensation.

Mr. Wilson began by saying that the Board has settled on \$52,000 for the Highway Superintendent.

He said the Board was going to discuss a salary for Ryan saying that at the last meeting the Board settled on \$23.39 per hour which would calculate to \$48,651 before overtime.

Mr. Smith said the average in 2016 was \$48,000.

Mr. Martin said \$50,000 was a good salary.

The Board discussed Ryan's overtime.

Mr. Martin seemed surprised by the repairs for the water districts saying they are new. When asked about overtime hours working on problems for the Water Districts, Mr. Hall said that 50% of the repairs are customer repairs and 50% are the Town's compression lines.

Mr. Smith suggested giving Ryan a salary of \$48,000 and a stipend for overtime.

The Board discussed how Ryan's salary between water, plowing and public works would be structured.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested paying Ryan a salary and saying he wouldn't always have to work a 40-hour week.

Mr. Wilson spoke about comp time and said that generally a salary means a 50-hour week.

When asked how much Ryan earned last year, he said a little over \$50,000.

Mr. Wilson said that Ryan had worked hard to save Water District #1 some money. He asked Ryan how much the savings were; Ryan said \$1300 per month.

Mr. Smith suggested a salary of \$49,000.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested a salary of \$49,500, everyone agreed.

There was a brief discussion regarding Ryan's need to keep a 3-month retirement calendar beginning in January.

Resolution No. 207 – 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:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
October 6, 2017

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