

February 13, 2018

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at 7:00 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Michael J. Buysse, Jerry D. Smith and Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Members of Council. Absent: Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman. Also present were: Approximately 15 Residents, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Kent Wells, Town Justice, Deb Whitson, Town Attorney and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution No. 71 – 18

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Minutes of the Organizational Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, January 2nd, the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, January 9th and the Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting and Annual Accounting of Employees and Officers held Tuesday, January 23rd, as presented. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Absent
Mr. Buysse:	Yes
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Mr. Wilson read a letter received from Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States honoring this community's Tommy Biesemeyer as a member of the U.S. Olympic Team in PyeongChang, South Korea. This letter has been attached to these minutes.

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

Resolution No. 72 – 18

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Annual Audit performed on the Court Documents for 2017 as presented by Kent Wells, Town Justice. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Absent
Mr. Buysse:	Yes
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Dan Mason introduced 5 members of the Keene Energy Committee that were present and listed two more that were not.

Mr. Mason spoke on behalf of the Keene Clean Energy Committee saying that the Committee has been approved by NYSERDA and saying that Keene has been certified as a Clean Energy Community and is eligible for a \$50,000 grant.

He spoke about the process of picking projects to be approved. He said after team consideration and voting, the team recommended the following 3 projects to be done:

- Solar Power will be installed for the Community Center, Town Hall and Library
- Energy Audits will be performed on all Town buildings
- LED Lighting will be installed in Town buildings

Carolyn Peterson reviewed the resolution selecting projects for grant funding that is being presented to the Town Board for their approval.

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Resolution No. 73 – 18

The Town Board adopted Resolution No. 73 – 18, a Resolution Selecting Projects for Grant Funding. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board thanks the Keene Clean Energy Committee for all their hard work.

The floor was then turned over to David Craig who gave a presentation on the “Dark Skies” and light pollution.

He said he is interested in astronomy and said he often invites people to join him at Norton Cemetery to view the stars through his telescope.

He said he is proud of the night sky and is afraid it is going to disappear if some kind of light pollution ordinance is not enforced. He said he would like to raise public awareness on this issue saying that harsh lights are a problem and that this issue affects a lot of things including birds. He talked about street lights and how lights can be shielded.

On his laptop he showed a colorized schematic map of the area showing the effects lighting has in the night sky and said that in the last 3 years there has been an increase in light pollution. He said he just wants to make people aware of it to think about it.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said that first time customers are always “blown away” by the night sky when they arrive at her business.

Dan Mason said he supports science but said it would be helpful to determine what measures light pollution uses.

Mr. Craig suggests going to nightsky.org and looking at the section on measures of light pollution.

Tom Both said this is where the Site Plan Review Law comes in and said the Planning Board should be interested in this issue.

Deb Whitson said that the streetlights on Beede Lane are on all night long and she hates them saying she doesn’t think they’re needed.

Mr. Mason, who is on the Keene Clean Energy Committee, said that the Town of Keene has 132 streetlights.

There was a brief discussion about the exterior lights that were added at the school during their construction project, including required regulations.

Mr. Wilson said the Planning Board does not enforce lighting and should start; Ms. Estes assured him that they do enforce lighting.

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the Community Center DASNY Grant.

He said the \$100,000 has been approved; he said he felt the first step was to have the Code Enforcement Officer take a look at what needs to be done for electrical, heating, wiring, plumbing and mold and moisture removal. He said after this is done, the items will need to be prioritized to get started.

He said the process is to have the work done and submit the invoices to get paid. He said that local contractors could be used, it does not include prevailing wage.

Mr. Wilson said the Board is still discussing the usage fee at Marcy Field.

He said that Dick Crawford from the Farmers’ Market has contacted Bob Biesemeyer.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said that the most it would cost an individual vendor is \$2 per Sunday.

Mr. Wilson said he looked online and even with this increase the vendors are still within the average range of \$20 to \$25 per Sunday for a rural market. He said he had talked to a local vendor who didn’t think it was too much.

Mr. Wilson explained that the Board had passed the schedule of fees to allow for a Town Employee to be present to help with the parking, to referee situations and to keep the toilet paper stocked.

He said currently, the taxpayers are paying for the expensive port-a-pots required for the market to operate.

He said to be fair to the Farmers’ Market he was looking to charge only during the July, August and part of September markets and said that would decrease the fee from \$2550 to \$1650.

Mr. Buysse and Mr. Smith said they thought that was fair.

(continued)

Mr. Wilson said he felt the market had grown and needs to be managed, he thinks it will be a better experience if there is a Town Employee present. Charlotte Lichtenberg, who is familiar with the market, said that sometimes they need someone to control the crowd at the entrance.

Resolution No. 74 – 18

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption.

Be it resolved, that the following budget amendment be made to the 2017 Budget;

- to increase Appropriation Line DA#51302.03.002 by \$11,550.50, and

Be it resolved, that the following budget amendments be made to the 2018 Budget;

- to increase Appropriation Line A#99509.01 Transfers to Capital Projects (Bus purchase) by \$31,800.00 to reflect surplus Hiker Parking Fees collected, and
- to increase Revenue Line A#1720.1 Parking Lots and Garages by \$31,800.00 to reflect surplus Hiker Parking Fees collected.

This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Absent
Mr. Buysse:	Yes
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

The next discussion was in response to a Marcy Field request.

Mr. Both explained that the Keene Historical Society would like to have a re-enactment of the first air mail flight on Saturday, May 19th.

Resolution No. 75 – 18

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at their request, the Keene Historical Society be given permission to use Marcy Field and the Holt House on Saturday, May 19th. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Absent
Mr. Buysse:	Yes
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

A FOIL Request received by the Town of Keene was given to Deb Whitson, Town Attorney, for her advice on responding.

The next discussion involved the skating rink. Mr. Wilson asked the Board if they want to spend money on the structure to improve the conditions during up and down weather such as we have been having.

Ryan Hall said a liner was put in after Tropical Storm Irene, he said the surface is flat now with a pitch for drainage in the summer.

Mr. Wilson said that the Youth Commission Skating Party is Sunday, February 25th and that the 10-day forecast doesn't look good for ice.

Mr. Buysse asked if it could be rebuilt if we got snow. He spoke about a liner with bumpers that the Youth Commission Committee has looked at.

There was a brief discussion regarding how the ice is made.

Resolution No. 76 – 18

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved it adoption. Be it resolved, that the following bills be approved for payment, including those that were prepaid. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Absent
Mr. Buysse:	Yes
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 82 to 132, totaling \$81,768.13, as follows;

General Fund Vouchers	- \$68,572.29
Highway Fund Vouchers	- 10,216.00
Library Fund Vouchers	- 1,304.41
Water District No. 1 Vouchers	- 323.12
Water District No. 2 Vouchers	- 1,352.31

Resolution No. 77 – 18

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 Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Absent
Mr. Buysse:	Yes
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
February 16, 2018

Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilperson
Michael J. Buysse, Councilperson
Jerry D. Smith, Councilperson
Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Councilperson