

May 8, 2018

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 7:00 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Michael J. Buysse, Jerry D. Smith and Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Members of Council. Also present were: 5 Residents, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, Deb 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. 117 – 18

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Notes from the April 10th Bid Opening, the Notes from the April 10th Workshop, the Minutes of the April 10th Town Board Meeting, the Notes from the April 18th Bid Opening and the Minutes of the April 24th Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting, as presented. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Wilson offered Privilege of the Floor; there were no questions or comments.

Mr. Wilson asked the Board if they wanted to continue work on the Employee Handbook now, later in the meeting or schedule another workshop. He said there was still work to be done on the travel plan and the health insurance.

The Board discussed times and settled on scheduling a workshop to be held before the June Town Board Meeting, on Tuesday, June 12th, at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Wilson said he had some good news about the Water District #2 repairs saying that Senator Betty Little was going to help the project out with funds totaling \$125,000. He said the next step is to get the well driller in. He said that Todd Hodgeson from Essex County DPW said the District will be able to take advantage of a discounted rate since the well driller has three Towns to work for and they can schedule them all at once.

He also said that Keene Central School gave their permission for the Town to proceed while they are preparing the lease.

Mr. Biesemeyer gave an update on the Gulf Brook project. He said with the money earmarked from FEMA and the hold up with the signing of the easements that he had talked to and suggested to Erik Sandblom that he come over and discuss the project in person, individually, with those landowners who have not signed. He said he spoke with Mr. Sandblom about his fear of losing these funds and said Erik assured him that wouldn't happen. He said Erik has agreed to come over to discuss the project individually with the landowners and then have a group meeting.

The Board agreed to have this done soon; Mr. Biesemeyer said he would get back in touch with Mr. Sandblom and get this set up.

Mr. Wilson spoke about how high the water had gotten behind the library during this weekend's storm saying it went up to the bridge on Route 9N and right back down again.

Resolution No. 118 – 18

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that permission be given for Matt Dunne to use the Holt House for his annual guitar workshop from Sunday, July 29th through Saturday, August 4th. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Buysse.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 119 – 18

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board cancel their Bi-Monthly Town Board Meetings held the last Tuesday of the month for May, June, July and August. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Buysse.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The next discussion was in regards to the recruitment and retention for fire and EMS members. Mr. Wilson said the fire departments are finding it harder and harder to find volunteers to respond to emergency calls.

Discussion revealed that Keene has 5 EMTs and Keene Valley has 6.

It was mentioned that some Towns have gone to paid days and it was possible that Keene and Keene Valley may eventually have to jointly do this.

Mr. Biesemeyer agreed this is a problem saying that the population in New York State is dwindling.

Mr. Wilson said he has thought about giving free dump tickets to volunteers or to offer a 50 cents per hour increase to Town Employees who serve.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said it is hard for the young people to stay here and afford the housing.

Melissa Eissinger, who happened to be present, informed the Board about the Crary Organization in Elizabethtown that offers scholarship awards to graduates with family members that serve.

Barbara Strowger informed the Board that 14 young people had just graduated from a Wilderness EMT training.

Ryan Hall said there were 5 graduates when he graduated in 2009 and he is the only one left.

This discussion brought forward a discussion regarding affordable housing.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that what he sees as the Achilles heel for affordable housing is that those that qualify to buy in can never sell their investment for a profit.

Tom Both did not agree with Mr. Biesemeyer's understanding.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen also stated that some equity could be earned.

This affordability issue brought up the paying of high taxes.

Barbara Strowger said an announcement was made at the last School Board Meeting about how well the school is doing and how many out of district students they have paying tuition.

Mr. Biesemeyer made it clear that he is a "total supporter" of the school.

Mr. Both said the affordable housing project is not as bad as it seemed making it sound like it could start moving forward again.

Mr. Wilson said this all comes back to needing a Master Plan.

Mr. Wilson introduced the next subject saying that he would like to see the part time laborer position made full time.

When asked how many general laborers there are; Mr. Wilson said there is Ryan Hall, 1 other full time laborer and 1 part-time laborer.

When asked, Mr. Hall said that summer and winter are both busy with a lot of work dumped on them in a short period of time. He said he proposes making the part time position full time. He said with the mowing it takes two people 30 hours a week to keep up and he has had a lot of work getting the water system back on board with the Department of Health. He said it takes two weeks to flush the hydrants and there is valve work on the hydrants that takes another two.

Mr. Wilson also mentioned that they help out with the cemeteries and that Marcy Field will now need an attendant on Sundays. He said there will be revenue coming in from the new fees to use Marcy Field and with Sheila Ferebee out on medical leave through June and then coming back part time, there will be extra money in that fund also. He said for future years the difference between part and full time would be \$8,000 to \$10,000 depending on benefits.

Mr. Buysse said he was not in favor of creating another full time position; Mr. Biesemeyer agreed saying he would rather hire another part time person.

Mr. Smith, who was in favor of hiring this position, asked Mr. Hall how many hours a week he works; Mr. Hall said he works 44 on a light week and that his average week is more like 55 to 60.

Mr. Wilson mentioned Meredith retiring and Sheila being out on medical leave.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked what full time would cover.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he hates to make it full time saying that after you hire someone full time, the position would be there forever.

Mr. Smith mentioned there were things not getting done like the cleaning of the community center.

Mr. Biesemeyer again said you can't get rid of a full time position after you hire someone.

Mr. Buysse questioned whether the last full time position had been replaced.

No decision was reached at this time.

The next topic discussed was the Keene Archives. Mr. Wilson said that he was working with the new Keene Historical Society and the Town Historian, Janet Hall, to create some rules of operation for the Keene Archives and the position of the Town Historian to include when the Archives is open and how to access the records.

Mr. Both spoke about the consolidation of Town archives and the need to offer announced hours to visit the archives.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested incorporating 2 hours per week for the Town Historian to be available to the public.

Ellen Estes supplied the Board with a final report for the 2018 Tax Collection season. This report has been attached to these minutes.

Mr. Wilson said he had a personnel issue and a legal issue that would require holding an Executive Session.

Mr. Biesemeyer said these issues would need to be defined more asking if the legal issue is the AMR lawsuit; Mr. Wilson said yes and said that the personnel issue was an employee requesting a leave of absence.

Resolution No.120 – 18

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a motion and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue and a legal issue as defined above. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes

Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes

Mr. Buysse: Yes

Mr. Smith: Yes

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes

The Town Board and Town Attorney entered into Executive Session at 7:50 PM.

The record should show that Michael Buysse came out from Executive Session at 8:00 PM.

Resolution No. 121 – 18

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 Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Board reconvened into regular session at 8:10 PM.

Mr. Wilson stated that no decisions had been made.

Resolution No. 121 – 18

Mr. Biesemeyer offered Resolution No. 121 – 18, a Resolution to Amend the 2018 Budget, and moved its adoption. This resolution, in its entirety, has been attached to and made a part of these minutes. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 122 – 18

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the amendments to the January, February and March Supervisor's Monthly Financial Statements and have them placed on file with the Town Clerk. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 123 – 18

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the following bills be approved for payment. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Multi-fund vouchers numbered 306 to 333, totaling \$71,246.95, as follows;

General Fund	- \$57,751.22
Highway Fund	- 11,491.25
Library Fund	- 250.34
Water District #1	- 1,602.38
Water District #2	- 151.76

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if the annual donation to the AuSable River Association had been made yet for 2018. Ms. Estes said she thought it had but would check on it tomorrow.

Resolution No. 124 – 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 Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
May 10, 2018

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