

September 11, 2018

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, September 11, 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: Approximately 15 Residents, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and invited everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution No. 166 – 18

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, August 14, 2018, 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

Privilege of the Floor was offered.

Robin Lawrence was present and said she had concerns about the cemeteries.

She began by saying that the cobblestone steps at Norton Cemetery are in disrepair and that someone elderly could get hurt.

She said she has seen the cemetery look better saying especially on Memorial Day when they had a family burial.

She said she had pictures taken at Fairview Cemetery of stones in disrepair. She said some stones are in 3 pieces saying she finds this to be disrespectful. She stated that some of these stones belong to Civil War Veterans and that we owe them the respect of taking care of these cemeteries.

She said that the sidewalk into the Town Hall is in disrepair and is extremely dangerous. She mentioned the cracks in the sidewalk at the Community Center saying that Senior Citizens use that building and could get hurt.

She asked when the water storage tank was last cleaned saying she has noticed a weird taste and suggested it be cleaned. She said she had talked to Ryan Hall and he said he doesn't think it has been cleaned in 2 years.

She said Ryan Hall has been working on fixing fire hydrants in Keene saying prior to that there were no hydrants in Keene that worked.

Mr. Wilson said there were a lot of people here tonight and there was a lot of business to get to and asked Mrs. Lawrence to wrap it up. He said that the Board is having a contractor come in to fix the sidewalk at the Town Hall saying money has been budgeted for that.

Jessica Hartley asked what the status was on the Jackson Road work.

Scott Smith, the Highway Superintendent, said the highway crew have been working on sloping the banks and ditching. He said they planned to hydro-seed next week, but said he would check to see if they can do it sooner. He said they may have areas that will need some erosion mats to hold the banks.

Ms. Hartley asked if signage would be added, Mr. Smith said it's a possibility.

Mr. Smith spoke about adding socks filled with wood chips to slow the water down saying this could be done using grant money from Soil and Water.

Melissa Eissinger thanked Mr. Smith.

Mike Hartson asked Scott Smith if he had missed a message regarding the closing of AuSable Road for paving. He said he couldn't get in when he went to work.

Mr. Smith apologized for the confusion.

Mr. Wilson told the Jackson Road residents that were present that Jackson Road would be closed for a few hours on Thursday morning because a drilling rig would be there checking material in the brook for the Gulf Brook Phase 3 Project. He said a public meeting will be held in early October to review that project with the residents from Jackson Road.

Robin Lawrence said she would just like to say that she has no problem with Ryan Hall saying he is the one of the best employees that the Town has had working here in a long time.

The first discussion under old business was the water rent reduction request from Kathy Gagnon on her Cedar Run Office Building.

Ms. Estes explained that her request was that in the Real Estate Business, two half bathrooms equal one bathroom, she was asking to have her building that contains two half bathrooms be charged as one.

Mr. Biesemeyer pointed out that the water rents are not charged out by bathrooms. The Board discussed this matter briefly and agreed to stay consistent and make no changes.

The next discussion was regarding the issue with Water District #2 needing a second production well.

Mr. Wilson said that a Request for Proposal for drilling a new well had been put out to bid and one response was received from Layne Christensen Co.

It was explained that meetings have been held with a hydrogeologist and Todd Hodgson, a County Engineer and both are in agreement of suggesting that the Town drill an 8-inch test well that can be converted to a production well.

Mr. Biesemeyer gave some background saying that a second production well is mandated by the New York State Department of Health. He said the plan is for the drillers to drill a sand and gravel well which can become the primary well with the current well becoming the secondary well. He explained that even with all the leaks that have been found and fixed, the production of the current well is down from its former production.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that Mr. Wilson is working on securing grant money to cover the cost of the well which will benefit the users of that District who support that "Special District". He also said that the Hydrogeologist selected the spot for drilling. He said the District is slowly coming into compliance.

Resolution No. 167 – 18

The Town Board adopted Resolution No. 167 – 18, a Resolution Awarding Keene Valley Water District #2 Bid. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution No. 168 – 18

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at Mike Hartson's request, he be given permission to use the Holt House and Marcy Field on Saturday, September 15th for their 11th Annual Keene Hill Climb Reunion. 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. 169 – 18

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the August Report of Water Rents Collection as submitted by the Water Rent Collector. This report, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes. 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 introduced Aaron Miller, the Director of the Keene Public Library, who was here to give a presentation.

Mr. Miller said he would like to give a quick review of the last 7 or 8 months.

- He said the 2018 visits are up 25% over 2017.
- He said circulation was up 47% this year.
- He said computer and wifi usage were up.
- He said he has enrolled the Library in the CEFLS “Rotating Collection” program.
- He said he has worked on cleaning out collections to make shelf-space for incoming books.
- He said he has been working on the children’s section.
- He said he has been working with the archive material that has been brought to the Library.
- He said he has been collaborating with the Keene Valley Library on their Local History Project.
- He said he has installed air conditioning for comfort and to preserve the books.
- He said he has increased the social media presence using Nextdoor Keene and Facebook.
- He said he is working on getting MPLC Umbrella Licensing to hold movie nights and has established a “Supporters of the Library” group.

The Board thanked Mr. Miller for all his work.

Mr. Wilson informed the Town Board that the Planning Board had referred some violations to the Town Board. He said that 6 foot fences have been installed on the north and south side of the coffee shop in Keene Valley. He said this fences have been installed by two different property owners.

He said these fences were over 4 feet in height and were built with no permits, he also said the “bad” side is facing out.

John Hudson, who happened to be present, said that State Law doesn’t require permits for 6 foot fences or under.

Ms. Estes pointed out in the Site Plan Review where it states “Agricultural fences and those less than four feet in height do not require permits”.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated that the builders didn’t comply and she felt they should have to take them down or redo them to comply.

A woman in the audience stated that these fences create a hazard when backing out of the parking lot.

Mr. Hudson stated that the Town Board has the right to issue a stop work order on fences still under construction saying the Town Board can direct the Code Officer to issue a stop work order.

Mr. Biesemeyer, Mr. Buysse and Ms. Cheetham-Palen all agreed that seemed reasonable.

Mr. Wilson said he would direct the Building Code Officer to take action to rectify this issue.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested checking with the Town Attorney on the legalities.

Mr. Hudson also said that the Site Plan Review Law states that building must conform to the area.

Mr. Wilson said he was also looking for guidance from the Board regarding the request from the Keene Fire Department regarding their proposed sign.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she was not in favor of an internally lit sign.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he was not sure the firemen were “gong ho” about it either.

Mr. Buysse said he has no problem with it.

When asked the size; Mr. Wilson said the proposed sign is 3½ x 5 foot, internally lit. He explained that public information, like “accident ahead”, could be advertised on it.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she thought allowing it would set a bad precedent.

Mr. Buysse responded that it could be used for community service.

Mr. Smith said it might be okay if it was a little smaller.

Mike Hartson stated that Stewart’s across the street had to remove their internally lit sign.

(resolution following)

Resolution No. 170 – 18

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board opt to follow the regulations regarding signs as set forth in the Site Plan Review Law. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Wilson turned over to Ryan Hall to speak to the Board.

Ryan Hall said he would like to replace the old silver “public works” truck. He said he would move the stainless steel body from the silver F250 to a new 3500 Chevy or F350 (saying the specs have been written to fit both).

Mr. Wilson said that Mr. Hall has a good strategy for payment.

Mr. Hall said the Town can get a purchase lease that would pay for this truck over 4 years.

Mr. Wilson said that Mr. Hall could get the “hard” numbers together for the budget.

Resolution No. 171 – 18

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board give authorization to Mr. Hall to go out to bid on a new 1 Ton Pick-up. 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

Resolution No. 172 – 18

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at the request of the Youth Commission Board, the Town Board appoint Carrie Haviland to the Youth Commission Board to finish the unexpired term ending December 31, 2020, left vacant by Jessica Kelly’s relocation. 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

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she has been working with the Energy Committee and would continue to work with them on developing a streetlight policy.

Mr. Biesemeyer and Mr. Buysse said that sounded good.

Resolution No. 173 – 18

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel. 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 Town Board entered Executive Session at 8:02 PM. Mr. Wilson asked Ryan Hall to join them for part of this meeting.

Resolution No. 174 – 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 Town Board reconvened into regular session at 8:25 PM.

Resolution No. 175 – 18

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved the adoption for Resolution No. 175 – 18, 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. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 176 – 18

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the following bills for payment, including those that were prepaid. 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

Multi-fund vouchers numbered 571 to 611, totaling \$85,923.26, as follows:

General Fund	- \$52,290.04
Highway Fund	- 27,978.64
Library Fund	- 1,078.32
Water District #1 Fund	- 1,879.87
Water District #2 Fund	- 2,696.39

Resolution No. 177 – 18

Mr. Buysse offered a motion and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at the Highway Superintendent's request the following items be declared surplus and authorization be given to auction them off:

- 8' Swenson Stainless Steel Sander
- 11' Viking Cives Wing w/Arms
- (11) Dump Truck Rims
- Approximately 250 Gallon Fuel Tank
- (2) 14' Sander Chains

The surplus items and high bids to be accepted have been attached to and made a part of these minutes. 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

Resolution No. 178 – 18

Mr. Biesemeyer 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. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
September 17, 2018

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