

April 9, 2019

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 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 and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council; Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Member of Council, joined the meeting by speaker phone. Also present were: 15 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. 109 – 19

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and the Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 (via speaker phone) |

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

Mr. Wilson stated that a time to finish the Annual Audits for the Town Justices and Supervisor's 2018 books needed to be scheduled. He asked the Board if they preferred the Bi-Monthly Meeting at the end of the month or the next Town Board Meeting. Everyone agreed the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting would work best.

Resolution No. 110 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that permission be given for Eliza Twichell, Sid Miller and Amanda Miller Harrington to use the Holt House as their venue, Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, to participate in the Open Studio Tour. 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 (via speaker phone) |

At the request of the Town of Keene Youth Commission Board the following staff appointments were made for the Summer Program.

Resolution No. 111 – 19

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the following 3 returnees, Haley Potter Garno be appointed Counselor (possibly Director), Emily Whitney be appointed Water Safety Instructor/Counselor and Caitlin Lopez be appointed Counselor and 1 new appointee, Alyssa Summo be appointed Counselor. 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 (via speaker phone) |

Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, asked the Board for a resolution declaring the highway's old low band radios surplus with permission to sell them through an equipment auction.

Resolution No. 112 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board declare the highway's old low band radios surplus and give Mr. Smith permission to sell them at auction. 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 (via speaker phone) |

Mr. Smith, Highway Superintendent, asked the Board for permission to purchase a new equipment trailer saying their old one is 19 years old.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked how much this would cost.

Mr. Smith said \$5,000 to \$6,000 for a regular trailer or \$9,000 to \$10,000 for a deck-over-the-wheels trailer. He said this purchase would not affect the budget saying he would use money made in 2018 selling surplus equipment.

Resolution No. 113 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that Mr. Smith be given permission to purchase a new equipment trailer using 2018 surplus equipment funds. 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 (via speaker phone) |

The next item discussed was the Johns Brook Bridge Project.

Mr. Wilson began by giving an update; saying there is a pre-construction meeting on Thursday at the County; he said this is a County project and said that Luck Brothers was awarded the contract. He said a start date has not been pinned down yet, so the garden parking lot is currently open; he said once construction starts the hiker traffic will be by shuttle only. He said he drove through Mulligans Pass and it is still too icy and soft to begin using as the alternate route; he said this is what is making the start date unpredictable. He said a temporary water line will have to be put in for the time of the construction. He said the goal is to have the bridge done by the beginning of August and for construction to be over by the end of August.

Ryan Hall, the Water Superintendent, gave a brief update on the temporary water line saying there will be 2 short shut downs for the switch over and back from the temporary line; He said the fire hydrants will not be available on these two days.

Mr. Wilson said that the goal is to get this construction done as fast as possible saying the work can be done faster without a temporary bridge; he said a temporary bridge would double the time of construction.

He said at the last Town Board Meeting action was taken to have No Parking Zones; he said that Central Garage would be towing. He said the message is "don't park and walk through"; he said he is trying to get the message out that the only way to the garden parking lot trailheads is the shuttle.

He said that is the basics in a nutshell.

Donna Reed Austin asked if the sheriff would be writing tickets; Mr. Wilson stated if cars block the travel lane or driveways, they will write tickets.

Rusty Hall, Keene Valley's Fire Chief, asked who makes that decision; Mr. Wilson said the residents can call the Town Hall or take a picture and call the police or sheriff.

Mr. Hall asked what will happen if cars park near the no parking signs asking if they will be towed; Mr. Wilson stated that he will be doing a lot of patrolling.

Mr. Wilson also stated he has highway cones for resident's driveways.

(discussion continues)

Mr. Wilson informed those present that DEC is prohibiting any roadside parking from the Roostercomb Parking Lot to Chapel Pond. He said the Town Board is going to need to add no parking to the roads in that area naming St. Huberts Road and the Ausable Road. He said the town is going to need to be aggressive.

Bunny Goodwin asked about using the school parking lot; Mr. Wilson said no saying that the neighbors don't like that because their lawns get used as bathrooms.

Tom DuBois asked why a temporary walking bridge was not a good idea; Mr. Wilson said he already answered this and went on to say this would require dynamiting the boulder on Johns Brook Lane; he stated that it was not feasible.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that it would also require getting easements to cross private properties.

Mr. DuBois questioned the easements; Mr. Biesemeyer stated that he didn't think the property owner would like it and again stated it's not feasible.

Mr. DuBois asked what would happen with hikers that come out late; Mr. Wilson responded that it's just a couple of months, that it's not forever and suggested the hikers change their hiking schedule to other mountains during this short time.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that he was sure that a lot of hikers would get caught off guard.

Ryan Hall stated that it would create just as much work to build a pedestrian bridge as the main bridge.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that there is nowhere to put a pedestrian bridge.

Cynthia Ayers asked how anyone will know if hikers drive through the temporary access; Mr. Wilson said it'll have to be watched.

He said Paul Smith's College has a volunteer program and he is hoping to have volunteers at the Holt House to help hikers with information.

Mr. Biesemeyer also pointed out that the approach to Mulligan's Pass is confusing.

Mr. Wilson said the signs would be stern; he said there would be no detour signs. He said he is exploring having the shuttle running to Baxter Mountain and Hurricane Mountain.

John Hudson suggested having a Dead End sign or a Road Temporarily Closed sign at the end of the Mason Young Road; Mr. Biesemeyer said this was a good idea.

Rusty Hall said for the Fire Department it is all about safety; he suggested that those using this access should practice their backing up skills saying there is only a certain number of pull offs in case they meet bigger emergency vehicles.

Mr. Hudson questioned using volunteers with radios; Mr. Wilson stated that the road is too long and said that is why they are not using lights.

Mr. Wilson also stated there won't be a place on the other side of the access to leave a car.

Henrietta Jordan asked about the design of the new bridge; Mr. Wilson said it will be precast cement and will be wider than it is now for larger vehicles.

Tom Dubois mentioned various hiking websites that he hasn't seen the information on; Mr. Wilson said he has put it out there.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested getting a list of sites from Mr. DuBois; Mr. Wilson asked Mr. DuBois if he could send him the press release to post to these sites; Mr. DuBois agreed to do this; Mr. Wilson said he appreciated that.

Donna Reed Austin asked if the new bridge was a two lane bridge; Mr. Wilson said it was.

Rusty Hall asked Mr. Wilson to let the Fire Department know when the access road opens so the Department can practice.

The next discussion was in regards to Hiker Parking for Route 73 south of Keene Valley.

Mr. Wilson began by stating as he had said, DEC and DOT will not be allowing roadside parking from Chapel Pond to Keene Valley; he said this will be enforced by Rangers, Troopers and Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Wilson said he is concerned this will push cars onto Town Roads to park saying he would like to post St. Huberts Road, AuSable Road, Evergreen Lane and Dunham Lane with No Parking. He went on to say that No Parking signs have to be every 200 feet to be legal.

John Schuller, AuSable Club Manager, was present and said the Club will support this resolution and are willing to buy the posts and signs if the County will put them up. He also said his men will keep a check on the no parking areas for towing.

(discussion continues)

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution to post AuSable Road and St. Huberts Road as No Parking; however, discussion continued with no action at this time.

Elizabeth Davidson Derr questioned the parking during Church Services in St. Huberts; a discussion followed that the residents will understand that.

Tom DuBois stated that if hikers see parking on the road, watch out.

John Schuller stated that DOT may not get this going until into July or August.

Tom DuBois said the DEC press release announced no parking from Roostercomb to Roaring Brook Falls; Mr. Wilson said that was a mistake, that it goes to Chapel Pond.

Tom DuBois asked if the Roostercomb parking lot could be striped, saying this would allow more cars to park.

Donna Reed Austin asked if there was only 1 shuttle; Mr. Wilson said he had explored Ground Force for more shuttle but found they had gone out of business.

He said he has been struggling to get drivers for 12 hour days, 7 days per week.

Henrietta Jordan asked what kind of license is required to drive the shuttle; Mr. Wilson stated that a school bus endorsement was needed.

Ryan Hall went on to explain the different endorsements.

Mr. Wilson went on to say that no one wants to do it; he said there is no simple answer.

Tom DuBois stated that the State's idea for parking has been to have centralized parking with shuttles.

Mr. Wilson said he thinks he is making progress.

Ellen DuBois said this may be where the Uber option comes in.

Tom DuBois stated that these changes are making it more dangerous saying that more people will be walking on the roads in traffic.

Tony Goodwin stated that that is not a Town of Keene problem.

Cynthia Ayers asked why the Town doesn't close the garden parking lot for 6 weeks;

Mr. Wilson stated that the Town has a signed agreement with DEC to run it.

Henrietta Jordan pointed out that the garden parking is a short term problem while the lack of hiker parking is a long term problem.

Mr. Wilson said the Town is going to start working on a new Community Master Plan and this can be part of it.

Ms. Jordan stated that there is no solution that doesn't receive negativity.

#### Resolution No. 114 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board give authorization to post the AuSable Road and the St. Huberts Road as No Parking zones. 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 (via speaker phone) |

#### Resolution No. 115 – 19

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter Executive Session. 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 (via speaker phone) |

The Board Members, Town Attorney and Ryan Hall entered Executive Session at 7:55 PM.

Ryan Hall and Michael Buysse exited Executive Session at 7:58 PM.

Resolution No. 116 – 19

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.

Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes  
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes  
Mr. Buysse: Yes  
Mr. Smith: Yes  
Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes (via speaker phone)

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 8:05 PM.

Mr. Wilson stated that no decisions were made.

Resolution No. 117 – 19

Mr. Buysse 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. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes  
Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes  
Mr. Buysse: Yes  
Mr. Smith: Yes  
Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Abstain (via speaker phone, since she hasn't seen them)

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 200 through 252, totaling \$74,781.92, as follows:

|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| General Fund Bills              | - \$21,160.11 |
| Highway Fund Bills              | - 9,140.96    |
| Library Fund Bills              | - 1,742.05    |
| Water District #1 Bills         | - 735.02      |
| Water District #2 Bills         | - 14,633.85   |
| Salt Shed Capital Fund Bills    | - 27,309.02   |
| Gulf Brook West Capital Project | - 60.91       |

Mr. Smith asked if there was a Supervisor's Report; Mr. Wilson responded no.

Resolution No. 118 – 19

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 (via speaker phone)

This meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk  
April 12, 2019

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