

March 26, 2019

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 5:30 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 was: 1 Resident, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

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

Mr. Wilson began by giving an update on the Johns Brook Bridge Project.

He said the project is out to bid with the bid opening at the County on Friday with the plan to award the bid next Monday.

He said that right now there is still a foot of snow and ice on the alternate route around the bridge, he said that construction should start as soon as that's gone.

He shared the Press Release he has issued regarding hiker parking for the Spring and Summer saying the new bridge should be open by the end of July and construction should be finished by the end of August. He said he has the Press Release on the Town's website and plans to update the information daily once the shuttle begins to run. He said right now he has shuttle drivers to cover Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and maybe Sunday.

Tom Both, who happened to be present, said the Adirondack Mountain Club may help shuttle their own hikers that have reservations at Johns Brook Lodge; Mr. Wilson seemed to agree saying he has been in touch with them.

Mr. Wilson said he has been in contact with the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST, the local visitor center) regarding help in getting the word out.

He said people will not be able to walk across the bridge and said he plans to tow vehicles left in no parking zones, blocking driveways, etc.

Mr. Buysse asked whether Roy Gilmore was coming back in his capacity of hiker parking attendant; Mr. Wilson said that's up in the air and said he has also spoken to Paul Davis to see if he's interested in a couple days per week.

Mr. Wilson said it would be nice if there was someone at the Holt House to give out information; he also said Paul Smith's College may be forming a volunteer steward program.

Next, Mr. Wilson gave a Gulf Brook Project Update.

He said the funds for the project have been committed and officially assigned to this project for phase 2, then phase 3 of the same Project and anything left over will go to the Beede Brook Project.

When asked how much the grant is Mr. Wilson said \$4.2 Million. He said he is currently working with the County Attorney and the Governor's Office for Storm Recovery.

He said due to the timing, the Bucks Lane Bridge was probably all that would get done this Summer.

The next update was about the Salt Shed Project.

Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, said he was thinking about the colors; he said he would be using the same colors as the highway garage.

When asked Mr. Smith said that Brennan, the Contractor, would supply the excavator for prepping the site and Mr. Smith would provide the operator.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if the size of the shed had been reduced; she was told it had been and would be 110 feet x 80 feet.

Mr. Buysse said he had shared a request from the Youth Commission Board with the Town Board some time ago and said he believed action had not been taken on it. He said the Youth Commission Board would like to change their By-laws from having one Chairman to having two Co-Chairman. He said they would still have a Vice Chairman.

Resolution No. 99 – 19

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Youth Commission be given permission to change their By-laws to establish the positions of Two Co-Chairman. 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

Resolution No. 100 – 19

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption.

Be it resolved, that at their request, the Keene Valley Fire Department be allowed to use the Holt House and surrounding area as the staging point to kick off their Remembrance Run on the morning of September 22nd.

Be it also resolved, that the Keene Valley Fire Department be given permission to obtain a Highway Permit for the same event.

This resolution was seconded by Mr. Buysse.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 101 – 19

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at their request the North Country SPCA be given permission to use the Holt House and area around it for their annual “Paws Cause” event to be held on Friday, July 14th. 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

Ms. Estes gave the Board the Anticipated Water Rent Lists for Water Districts #1 and #2 and asked the Board to look them over and see if they see any changes that should be made.

She said she had a few questions; one about a retail and office building in Keene, one about a possible new apartment in Keene Valley and one that is requesting a credit for property not owned by her last year.

Mr. Both was present to make a proposal to the Board regarding new “welcome” signs to be placed at the entrance to the Hamlets of Keene and Keene Valley.

He said it has been found that this kind of signage has a calming effect and slows down traffic.

Mr. Both shared the history of the old signs and discussed his proposal for replacement signs.

He said the cost of 5 – 5 x 5 cedar sign posts would be \$200 and metal signs saying “Welcome to Keene” and “Welcome to Keene Valley” could be made by the Essex County Sign Shop fairly inexpensively.

He said he felt this was an inexpensive way to start and later there was the possibility of changing them.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she thought this was a good idea.

Mr. Buysse said the Board has talked about new signs a few times.

Mr. Smith said Mr. Ferebee had once suggested having signs in French; the Board seemed interested.

The Board agreed for Mr. Both and Mr. Wilson to proceed with this plan and for Mr. Both to go ahead and order the cedar sign posts.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she can't make next month's meeting on April 9th and asked if it could be rescheduled to April 3rd.

Ms. Estes said she didn't think monthly statements would be in for vouchering that early in the month; everyone including Ms. Cheetham-Palen said that was fine, she said she would try to make it back for the 9th.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen shared the second draft of the Street Light Policy she has been working on.

She said she had made a change on page 2, going from 4 lighting districts down to 3; she said she had originally used the APA land use development map to come up with them. She asked the Board Members to look them over and see if they make sense to them.

She said she would give them a link to a program that shows where the streetlights are, saying there a 5 lights on Gilmore Hill and one on Nature Way, which is a private drive. She asked the Board Members to send her notes on which lights they felt should be removed. The Board discussed a couple other lights that are on private ways.

Resolution No. 102 – 19

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Supervisor's Monthly Financial Statement for January, as presented, and have it placed on file with the Town Clerk. 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

Resolution No. 103 – 19

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. This resolution, a Resolution Transferring Funds, 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:	Absent
Mr. Buysse:	Yes
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Wilson how the Betty Little Grant was coming along; Mr. Wilson said the funds have been committed and he is working on the contract.

Mr. Wilson said he needed a resolution to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal issue.

Resolution No. 104 – 19

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter Executive Session to discuss a legal issue. 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 Town Board entered Executive Session at 6:19 PM.

Resolution No. 105 – 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. Buysse.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 6:23 PM.

Resolution No. 106 – 19

The Town Board adopted Resolution No. 106 – 19, an Assessment Settlement Resolution. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Buysse asked if all the 2018 Audits of Elected Officials had been performed; a brief discussion followed. It was discussed that Kent Wells had submitted a report of receipts and disbursements and Susan Whitney had left a report which the Board was unaware of. It was decided that the two Town Justices and the Town Supervisor’s records had not been audited to date. Mr. Wilson said the two Justices and his Clerk would be asked to be present at the next Board Meeting with their records.

Mr. Wilson said that he had three candidates scheduled for interviews on Monday and Tuesday afternoons for transfer station attendant if any Board Members wanted to be present.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said the “Turn on the Switch” would be happening on Thursday at 4:00 PM for the solar array at the transfer station if anyone wanted to be there.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she applied for a grant to purchase 3 electronic spreader control systems to measure salt usage on highway trucks, she said the Town got one. Installing it on the truck was discussed.

Resolution No. 107 – 19

Mr. Buysse offered a motion and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve payment of the following bills, 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 171 – 199, totaling \$51,774.47, as follows:

General Fund Bills	- \$30,618.23
Highway Fund Bills	- 16,552.92
Library Fund Bills	- 90.07
Water District #1 Bills	- 388.77
Water District #2 Bills	- 650.74
Salt Shed Capital Fund	- 3,473.74

Resolution No. 108 – 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 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 6:30 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
March 29, 2019

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