

October 29, 2019

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, October 29, 2019, at 5:30 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Jerry D. Smith and Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Members of Council. Absent: Michael J. Buysse, Member of Council. Also present: 1 Resident, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

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

The first item discussed was the solar sign which will be displayed at the transfer station to advertise the solar array at the Highway Garage.

Mr. Wilson began by saying there are two choices of where to display this sign, he said one is the side of the transfer station and the other is on the shed over the compactor. Jim Bernard said the original plan was to have it displayed behind the railing on the approach to the transfer station, he said at this location, the array on the garage would be visible.

Mr. Wilson said that location couldn't be used because there is the possibility that the landfill membrane is in that area; Mr. Biesemeyer suggested digging down with a shovel to see if the membrane is present there.

Mr. Bernard said he wasn't picky about where the sign goes as long as it's visible. He said on the front of the compactor, to the right side of the opening is fine. He said this shouldn't be a complicated place to hang it.

Mr. Smith and Ms. Cheetham-Palen both suggested the entrance of the transfer station near where the plow is.

Mr. Wilson said he thought the front of the compactor was best, everyone agreed this was fine.

Mr. Bernard stated that the sign, the design of the sign and the mounting would cost about \$1,000, leaving \$1,400 from the Energy Committee's grant, he asked the Board if there was another energy project that this money could be spent on.

The Board discussed this and suggested that Mr. Bernard and the Energy Committee make a selection from the projects they would like to see completed.

Resolution No. 218 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered Resolution No. 218 – 19, a Resolution to Settle Assessment Litigation. This resolution, in its entirety, has been attached to and made a part of these minutes. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The next discussion was in regards to a request to lower the speed limit on the County portion (the lower portion) of Alstead Hill Lane to 25 mph.

Mr. Biesemeyer and Mr. Smith both said 25 mph is too low.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said if drivers see 25 mph they will go 45 mph, if they see 35 mph they will go 55.

Mr. Wilson said that the County will have NYS DOT perform a study and they may not recommend 25 mph.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked Ms. Cheetham-Palen a couple of times "Do you think posting 25 mph and having it enforced is a good idea?"; Ms. Cheetham-Palen answered him, "yes".

(resolution following)

Resolution No. 219 – 19

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board request that Essex County lower the speed limit to 25 mph on the County portion of Alstead Hill Lane. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Wilson.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution No. 220 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board appoint Richard Maxwell to the position of Sole Assessor for a six-year term expiring September 30, 2025. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Maxwell will be paid a salary of \$20,000 and the Town of Keene will contribute $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost of his health insurance to the Town of Crown Point. He explained this insurance is split by the 4 Towns that Mr. Maxwell assesses for.

The next discussion was to schedule the End of Year/December Bi-Monthly and the Organizational Town Board Meetings.

Everyone agreed to the End of Year/December Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting being held Monday, December 30th at 5:30 PM and the Organizational Town Board Meeting being held on Thursday, January 2nd at 5:30 PM.

Resolution No. 221 – 19

Mr. Smith offered Resolution No. 221 – 19, a Resolution to Amend the 2019 Budget. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked how much money Water District #2 has borrowed from the General Fund; Mr. Wilson said with this \$20,000, the total they have borrowed is \$120,000.

The Board briefly discussed the \$200,000 that is coming from Betty Little; Mr. Wilson said it is supposed to happen soon, he will stay on that office.

Resolution No. 222 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board authorize a blanket resolution for the remaining transfer of funds for 2019. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Wilson explained to the Board that Susan Whitney had supplied the Board with incomplete Supervisor's Monthly Financial Statements for July and August, that are not ready yet for adoption. He said they do not reconcile, but are being supplied for some of the other information.

Mr. Smith said there is a van parked on Adirondack Street near the AuSable Inn that has been there for a long time. He said it belongs to someone who lives at the Noonmark and works at the AuSable Inn.

Mr. Wilson said the Town has no laws regarding this until snow removal begins.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked Ryan Hall if the new well at Water District #2 is running and connected.

Mr. Hall said it is connected and pretty much up and running though he still has a little work to do on it.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if another well needs to be drilled.

Mr. Hall said yes, explaining that well #1 is losing production.

Mr. Wilson said he had met with AES and that they are willing to apply for a Rural Water Planning Grant for basic engineering planning. He said it is a \$30,000 Grant, of which the Town pays \$7,000. He said AES will not charge for applying for the grant as long as they are hired to do the engineering if the grant is received. Everyone seemed fine with this.

Mr. Wilson said that AES is skeptical that this water project can be done for \$800,000, they estimate it will be closer to \$2 Million.

Mr. Hall spoke about the work being performed in-house; Mr. Wilson stated that the District had saved a lot of money performing in-house work on the current well.

Mr. Hall gave an update on the tank at Water District #2.

He said next week or the week after, he plans to drain the tank and do an internal investigation to see what is wrong. He said if the problem is inside, the Town will repair it themselves while it is drained. If the problem is outside, the repair will be made next spring.

When asked about the changes in water rates Mr. Wilson said that the ad valorem for Water District #1 is a tax based on the properties assessment. He said this may go up a little, since in the past, the water rents have subsidized this payment. However, he said the water rent amounts for operating will go down a little saying it would be a pretty even exchange.

He said the amount collected on each parcel in Water District #2 for debt will go from \$230 to \$280 since this payment was also subsidized from water rents collected. He also said the basic rate for water rent for a residence will go down from \$425 to \$400.

Resolution No. 223 – 19

Mr. Smith 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 Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 739 to 773, totaling \$264,028.45, as follows;

General Fund Bills	-\$ 23,219.21
Highway Fund Bills	- 212,760.14
Library Fund Bills	- 319.43
Water District #1 Bills	- 1,708.02
Water District #2 Bills	- 6,526.53
Salt Station Capital Fund Bills	- 19,495.12

Resolution No. 224 – 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:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

This meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
October 31, 2019

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