

October 8, 2019

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, October 8, 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, Jerry D. Smith and Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Members of Council. Also present were: 10 residents and guests, 1 Newspaper Reporter, 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 those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution No. 207 – 19

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Notes from the Budget Workshop held Tuesday, September 10th, the Minutes from the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, September 10th, the Notes from the Budget Workshop held Tuesday, September 17th and the Minutes from the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, September 24th, be accepted 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.

Jennifer Whitney asked the Board if the speed limit on the lower portion of the Alstead Hill Road could be lowered to 25 miles per hour.

Mr. Smith said he thought 25 miles per hour was too slow.

Scott Smith said that part of Alstead Hill Road is County Road and he would have to check with them to see how this is done.

Donna Reed Austin asked if there was anything new with the Assessor; Mr. Wilson said an Executive Session would be held later in the meeting to discuss this issue.

The first topic on tonight's agenda was hiker parking and how to handle it on Columbus Day Weekend.

Mr. Wilson began by saying that this past Saturday was the busiest day this summer for hiker parking; he said it was in the top 3 busiest ever. He said people were tearing down no parking signs and that he had 4 cars towed that were blocking an intersection. He said the Town does not have the staff needed to handle this amount of hikers and that Ms. Cheetham-Palen and Mr. Biesemeyer had helped him out.

He said the Town needs to get geared up for next Saturday (Columbus Day Weekend). He said he told Bob Stegemann, at DEC, that he needs help. He said he has a meeting with DEC tomorrow.

He also said he doesn't have a bus driver for Saturday.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated it is hard to plan for the spikes in activity.

Mr. Biesemeyer mentioned using the oval on Marcy Field for additional parking when the Farmers' Market is not running; Mr. Wilson responded that the problem is not running out of room to park saying it's people parking where they are not supposed to.

Mr. Buysse asked if the County can help with a shuttle; Mr. Wilson explained that this route does not fit into their criteria such as running a route between Lake Placid and Wilmington.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested using a small bus; Mr. Wilson said he doesn't have enough drivers.

Mr. Wilson went on to say that the only solution is to have "boots on the ground" to educate hikers on options for parking, where to hike, etc.

Mr. Biesemeyer cautioned policing.

(continued)

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said the roads are not safe with cars parked on both sides, she stated that rescue vehicles would not be able to get through. She seemed confused that DEC had closed off parking without providing alternate parking.

Mr. Wilson said that not everyone trying to park are a problem, but said a few “bad actors” parking in intersections is all it takes.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if a sign could be put up at the beginning of Johns Brook Lane, so when the parking lot fills people don’t keep going up there to check; the response was that this is already being done.

Mr. Wilson again stated that the only thing that works is to be out early in the morning, like about 6:30.

Molly Lawrence asked about using volunteers and trail stewards; Mr. Biesemeyer said the Adirondack Chapter of the ADKs may have volunteers who would help out.

Ms. Lawrence also suggested offering alternate hikes; Mr. Wilson said he does this all the time.

Mr. Wilson stated that people don’t come prepared and then someone needs to problem solve for them, he said he needs two people in St. Huberts and 2 people in Keene Valley. He said the problem is the volunteers need to be trained.

Mr. Buysse stated that these volunteers shouldn’t need training for one weekend.

Mr. Wilson said he would ask DEC for help.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she would volunteer at Marcy Field.

Mr. Wilson said he just wanted to discuss this issue with the Board and have them start to think about the liability end of the problem. Again, he said he would ask DEC for some help at the hot spots.

Mr. Biesemeyer said maybe the Town needs to think about charging for parking at Marcy Field, in addition to the shuttle, to raise the funds needed to hire more staff.

Mr. Wilson also said that on Saturday, there were still 32 hikers in the woods when the shuttle finished for the day at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Wilson said he had applied for a Smart Growth Grant that could be used to get trained professionals on the ground.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated the Town may need to secure another shuttle and driver; Mr.

Wilson said he tried to hire a shuttle service but said there are none left in the area.

Willie Janeway seemed to agree with Mr. Wilson to secure funding and come up with a plan for next year. He agreed this won’t work without boots on the ground.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated that this is a multi-organizational issue and said it’s lacking comprehensive planning.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that more shuttles require more funding.

Mr. Wilson closed this discussion by stating that having a steward at Marcy Field to help out the hikers leaves the public feeling they had a good experience.

The next item on the agenda was Water District Budgets.

Mr. Wilson said he had scheduled public meetings and advertised them on Nextdoor Keene to review the changes in the Water Budgets. He said he scheduled one in Keene Valley on the 15th and one in Keene on the 22nd. He said he would explain to the public that the debt payments have been restructured and would be going up while the water rents for operating will be going down.

Mr. Wilson handed the floor over to Ryan Hall for another water issue.

Mr. Hall said that Jay Heald is looking into subdividing his property for affordable housing behind Keene Fitness. Mr. Hall said he called the Town of Plattsburgh to find out how to go about putting in a water line for this. He said he was told that approval had to go through the Planning Board and the Town Board. He said his question to the Board is how a new 6” water main with hydrant would be paid for, he asked the Town Board if the Town would pay for it and get paid back by the parcels or if the owner would pay. He explained that the 2” line that feeds the gym, the vacant lot and the existing house would not be large enough.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that the owner would need a private engineer to develop the property. He said the owner should put the line in to the Town standard and then he can have the Town take it over, in a similar fashion to taking over a road. He said this project should not incur a burden for others in the Water District.

(continued)

Mr. Hall said he understands that if it was out of district, but said these 4 parcels will need water from the public supply; Mr. Wilson spoke of obligation.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that the District is not responsible to run a 6" main saying the Town is not responsible for this projects infrastructure. He said he is not in favor of putting this in.

When asked how much this could cost, Mr. Hall said the best case would be \$6,000 with the high end being \$20,000.

Mr. Wilson asked for clarification saying that after the developer installs this infrastructure to the Town's standard, the District will take it over.

The next update was a very brief streetlight review.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she now has a list of streetlights from NYSEG, she said she is working to get them lined up with their maps.

Mr. Wilson asked the Town Attorney what steps the Town can use to get the passwords from the former Town Historian to get access to the Town's laptop.

Mr. Smith asked for time to try again to get them.

Mr. Wilson asked Ms. Whitson to be thinking about a back-up plan.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen mentioned the Town's Computer Audit performed by Ken Hughes and how important it is to have everyone's passwords.

Resolution No. 208 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at their request, the Elizabethtown Community Hospital's Auxiliary be issued a Highway Permit for their annual Doc Lopez Run to be held on March 21, 2020 and to waive the fee.

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. 209 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at their request, Derek Prill and Andrea Roebuck be allowed permission to use the Community Center to hold a Wilderness First Aide Course in November or January, the compensation for the use of this building will be a \$100 cleaning fee. 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. 210 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board file the 2020 Preliminary Budget with the Town Clerk. 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. 211 – 19

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board adopt Resolution No. 211 – 19, a Resolution Transferring Funds. 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:	Yes
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Ryan Hall asked the Town Board for permission to trade the Town's 2015 Chevrolet for a new 2020 1-Ton Cab and Chassis. He told the Board that he has a quote in the neighborhood of \$13,400 for replacement saying that the rough trade in value on the general fund truck is \$18,000.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hall explained that the Town already has a flat-bed for the new truck.

When asked, Mr. Hall said he would keep the plow he has.

When asked, Mr. Wilson said this would come out of this year's budget.

Resolution No. 212 – 19

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that Mr. Hall be given permission to go out to bid on a new 2020 1-Ton Cab and Chassis with the trade in of the General Fund's 2015 Chevrolet 3500. 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. 213 – 19

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter Executive Session to discuss 2 legal issues and 2 personnel issues. 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 Town Board and Town Attorney entered Executive Session at 8:06 PM.

Mr. Buysse was excused from Executive Session at 8:25 PM.

Resolution No. 214 – 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

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 8:31 PM.

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the Assessor issue saying that the Incumbent Assessor had resigned and the Town Board is in the process of filling this vacant seat.

Resolution No. 215 – 19

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town of Keene extend the Medicare Reimbursement to William and Sheila Ferebee as provided by law. 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. 216 – 19

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the following bills for payment. 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

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 693 to 737, totaling \$58,763.99, as follows:

General Fund Bills	- \$28,898.13
Highway Fund Bills	- 19,953.48
Library Fund Bills	- 218.62
Water District #1 Bills	- 261.53
Water District #2 Bills	- 9,413.94
Salt Station Capital Fund	- 18.29

Resolution No. 217 – 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

This meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
October 10, 2019

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