

September 10, 2019

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 7:00 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, Councilman. Also present: 7 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 7:03 PM and invited everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution No. 187 – 19

Mr. Smith offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Town Board Minutes of August 13th, as presented. 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

Privilege of the Floor was offered.

Carolyn Fish asked for an Assessor update; Mr. Wilson said the Town Board would be discussing applications in Executive Session.

Tom Both said that Slic customers had had a bad weekend saying that there had been television channels out over the weekend. He also said that channel 6, the local access channel, has been inoperable for the last 8 or 9 months.

Carolyn Fish said that when she called to complain, Slic told her that no one had called but her. She said there has been a recent service increase saying she is not going to pay until things began working again.

Mr. Wilson said that early on the Town had tried to work with Slic and they didn't seem interested in working with the Town.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he thinks that is because there is no future in cable television. He thought an increase in rate and fewer channels sounds like an industry problem saying that Slic never painted a rosy picture for cable.

Donna Austin asked the Town Board for their support.

Mr. Wilson suggested that patrons keep track of the problems and file their complaints with the Public Service Commission.

Mrs. Fish said she has a friend in real estate who said there had been someone else interested in purchasing KVVU who was ready to purchase a house in Keene until they found out that the taxes on the assessed value wouldn't be lowered even though the house listed for \$700,000 was being purchased for \$399,000. When this sale did not go through they did not pursue purchasing KVVU.

Mr. Wilson again suggested that customers submit their complaints to the PSC.

John Hudson wondered if Verizon would be interested; Mr. Wilson said he thought the area was too small to attract large providers.

Mr. Hudson asked if a Representative could be invited to come to a Town Board Meeting to talk to the public.

Ron Konowitz said public comment is open regarding the Sentinel Wilderness options for the Pitchoff Mountain trail. He said he is concerned about Alstead Hill Lane saying one of the options is to build a parking lot on Alstead Hill Lane and reroute the Pitchoff trail to the Jack Rabbit Trail. He said the better option is to go in and out from the parking lot with the portable toilet on Route 73.

Mr. Wilson stated that there has been no active discussion of the Alstead Hill option and said the Town Board would shut it down if it comes up.

The first update discussed was in regards to Water District #2.

Mr. Wilson handed the floor over to Ryan Hall who said he has buried the conduit saying the new well is tied in but currently has no power. He said it should be up and running by the end of the month.

Mr. Hall also said the water line has been placed under the Johns Brook Bridge and hooked in on both sides and disinfected. He said it will probably be ready for use the middle of next week.

Mr. Wilson said little progress has been made with the Betty Little Grant; he also said the District has been saving a lot of money by doing the work in house.

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the Phase 2 portion of the Gulf Brook Project.

He said that Reale Construction had come in as low bidder at \$2,438,000. He said this includes construction of the Bucks Lane Bridge and stream work downstream from there. He said tree cutting would be performed this winter with the bridge and stream work to begin in the Spring.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Jackson Road issue to which Mr. Wilson said that the area has stabilized.

Tom Both asked if any work would be done on the Route 9N bridge; Mr. Wilson said no, other than excavating underneath it.

Mr. Wilson gave a very brief update on the Johns Brook Bridge project saying construction is moving ahead and that the bridge should open the last week of September.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she hadn't gotten any further feedback from the Board regarding the streetlights.

Mr. Wilson said he had some, he said that the property owners on Holt Road want that light left and that the Sappahs' don't care if the broken one near them is removed.

Mr. Smith said a couple could be moved off Market Street and he asked if the Board could overrule the property owner on Holt Road.

John Hudson suggested following what the policy calls for; seems it calls for leaving it since it is in the Hamlet, though Ms. Cheetham-Palen said the one there right now is very bright and the new one wouldn't be as bright.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he thought enough time has been given for responding.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if it should be put to a vote now; the Board opted to wait until the final revision is complete before voting.

Mr. Wilson said the first thing under new business is the August Water Rent Collection Report submitted by Donna Austin, the Water Rent Collector. This report has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Ms. Austin said she had just sent out second notices for unpaid water rents and would collect until the end of September.

The next discussion was about the Fall Bulky Days.

The Board and Ryan Hall discussed when in October to schedule this; Ryan Hall said he would check with Serkil to see if October 16th, 18th and 19th works and to use October 23rd, 25th and 26th as the back-up.

Mr. Wilson said in the past there has been a \$5 charge per truck load and asked the Board what they want to do about charging.

Mr. Wilson said that at \$5 a truck load people are not recycling what can be recycled; Mr. Biesemeyer suggested sending unsorted trucks out.

Ron Konowitz said he believes that having these bulky days keeps things from being dumped all over Town; he suggested the Board be careful in how they handle this.

Mr. Hall spoke about how much metal and rigid plastic is dumped during Bulky Days, which is recyclable and accepted all year for free.

Mr. Wilson said the Attendants take a lot of crap and that tensions run high during this time.

Mr. Smith suggested going to 1 Bulky Days per year instead of 2.

Mr. Biesemeyer said his concern with Bulky Days is that people are taking advantage and cleaning out other people's junk and being paid for it. He suggested raising the fee to \$10 to try to make sure people are sorting their recyclables.

The Board all agreed to stay with the \$5.00 charge per truck load this time.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he had taken a request from someone to have the pedestrian bridge seal coated; he asked Mr. Smith if he had any idea how much that would cost, Scott did not. Mr. Biesemeyer said he would get a price.

The Board also questioned whether this would require a permit from DEC.

Mr. Wilson read a thank you note from Deanna Brown thanking the Town for doing so much for the children, including the Youth Commission Summer Camp.

Mr. Wilson said that the Town of Keene is going to be recognized for their pledge to reduce salt at the upcoming Adirondack Champlain Salt Summit.

Mr. Wilson turned the floor over to Tom Both who had submitted a letter of request for the Historical Society.

Mr. Both explained that the Historical Society proposes to take over the Cemetery Advisory Committee and began work on a grant for some grave stone restoration.

Mr. Biesemeyer commented that that makes sense.

Resolution No. 188 -19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board appoint the Historical Society to act as the Cemetery Advisory Committee. 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

Peter Slocum, a Member of the Historical Society, said he would like to encourage people to drop by and meet Bryeanna, the Town's new Historian, during her open hours at the Keene Library.

He also asked the Board if some modifications could be made to the "old" food pantry room.

Mr. Wilson told him he should review the scope of work with Aaron Miller at the Library and get an estimate of the cost.

Mr. Slocum also informed the Board that the Historical Society is interested in applying for a grant to have various historical markers placed in Town.

Resolution No. 189 – 19

Mr. Smith offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 189 – 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:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Mr. Biesemeyer said he is concerned about the over spending for hiker parking.

Mr. Wilson said "You shouldn't have closed the bridge then".

Mr. Biesemeyer stated it's a huge amount of money.

Resolution No. 190 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Revised Supervisor's Report for May 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:	Yes
Mr. Buysse:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Resolution No. 191 – 19

Mr. Biesemeyer 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 Mr. Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Town Board and Deb Whitson, Town Attorney, entered Executive Session at 8:03 PM.

Resolution No. 192 – 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 Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 8:13 PM.

Resolution No. 193 – 19

Ms. Cheetham-Palen 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:	Absent
Mr. Smith:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 582 to 651, totaling \$250,206.04, as follows:

General Fund Vouchers	- \$45,775.24
Highway Fund Vouchers	- 31,057.46
Library Fund Vouchers	- 108.94
Water District #1 Vouchers	- 1,697.61
Water District #2 Vouchers	- 55,141.79
Salt Station Capital Fund	- 116,425.00

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said there were two bills for the solar sign, one to RL Stolz and one to Jim Bernard. She asked for clarification that this was not a duplication of the same charge.

She also said there was an invoice for Charles Segard Excavating and asked what that was for. A discussion followed, where it was explained that this was for ditching that was done in Keene Valley near Mason Young Lane.

Mr. Wilson said that this is a carry-over of maintenance; Ryan Hall explained that for some reason in the past, the Town had put in a culvert behind the hardware store and this seems to be the maintenance to keeping the ditch beyond the culvert open.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen answered that she was curious since this work is being performed on private property.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he was concerned about the consulting voucher for Dan Vincelette.

Mr. Wilson stated that it is the property owner who is slowing things down.

Mr. Biesemeyer said this issue is ridiculous saying the cost was \$7000 the last time he checked. He said it is absurd to engage in these legal fees and suggests calling the landowner to negotiate and end these costs. He said he was not going to sign the voucher (this voucher currently had the three signatures needed for payment).

Resolution No. 194 – 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 8:24 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
September 13, 2019

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