

September 24, 2019

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, September 24, 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, Councilmember. Also present were: Ellen DuBois, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Mr. Wilson turned the floor over to Ellen DuBois who was present on behalf of the East Branch Friends of the Arts.

She began by saying that in 2015, the Adirondack Action had provided the Town with 12 street banners showing the work of 24 local artists. She said that EBFA was willing to facilitate more, she said they would supply the banners to promote local artists and supply the hardware. She said all the Town would need is to supply the personnel to hang them.

Ryan Hall asked if the length of these banners could be changed or reset, explaining that the length of the last ones kept them from being interchangeable with the Town's seasonal banners.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked for clarification asking if the Town already had 12.

Ms. DuBois said yes, this would be in addition to the 12 they already have and said she would check into having them made longer.

The Town Board was in agreement to accepting these banners and thanked Ms. DuBois.

Ryan Hall gave an update on Water District #2.

He said the new well is up and running. He said it is working manually on the control system. He said he needs to change the chemical feed and that the pumps from 1999 need to be replaced. He said when everything has been installed this system will eventually be self-regulated.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if the water line under the Johns Brook Bridge had been switched over; Mr. Hall said it had.

Mr. Hall stated that the tank exam will began early in October.

There was a brief discussion about the well that the Department of Health refers to as a redundant well.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Hall if he still had the machine; Mr. Hall responded that he still had the machine and said the landscaping is done and put together, he said top soil would be added in the Spring.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked about the water rates being increased saying someone had asked her; Mr. Wilson said that would be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr. Wilson said the Johns Brook Bridge would be done tomorrow by 3:00 and opened to traffic. He said Luck Brothers will then begin the clean up on Mulligan's Pass.

He said the Garden Parking Lot will open Friday.

Mr. Wilson handed out a third draft of the 2010 Budget and said he would like to do another review of it especially the water budgets.

- Scott Smith said there was an error in the Highway Budget on page 9; he said the total on the Machinery Budget says \$391,898.41 and the figures add up to \$150,000.
- Mr. Wilson said the Betty Little Library Funding, line 3840 (\$1300) would no longer be available and would be removed.
- Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if the Board had stayed with the 3% salary increases; Mr. Wilson said so far, saying he is still in the process of working on the tax cap figure.
- Scott Smith said the CHiPs revenue on page 10 should be \$174,112, the same as the Capital Outlay on page 9.
- Mr. Wilson explained to Ms. Cheetham-Palen how the amount for the Mortgage Tax Revenue on page 8 was reached.

- The Board briefly discussed the revenue earned by the sale of transfer station punch cards being raised due to the increase in tipping fees.
- Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked why the Assessor Contractual was increased; Mr. Wilson said that the Assessor suggested that \$5000 be added toward next year's reval.

The next discussion was in regards to the Water District No. 1 budget.

Mr. Wilson said the big addition was the extra \$30,000 to Equipment Contractual for the replacement of a pump and the redevelopment of the well and new controls.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hall explained that redevelopment of the well means scoping out the well while the pump is being replaced; he said this is routine maintenance that hasn't been being done.

Discussion continued on how to get this \$30,000 out of the budget so it wouldn't raise the water rents.

Mr. Wilson discussed taking a loan for this \$30,000 which could be paid off in two years using the money that is now being received from AT&T for the new cell tower; he then said a better idea may be to borrow \$45,000 for 3 years and pay it off the same way and get both pumps replaced and wells redeveloped at the same time.

Mr. Wilson said he proposes to:

- Borrow \$45,000 to replace the pumps and recondition the wells and pay this back over 3 years,
- Reset the ad valorem tax to cover the \$44,000 debt, and
- Reset rent to cover operating cost and start a Capital Savings with ½ the \$50 savings.

He said he would get some better numbers.

The next discussion was in regards to the Water District No. 2 budget.

Mr. Wilson said he had Mr. Hall add \$315,000 to cover the work for another new well and the controlling equipment.

He said he is proposing that the debt service fee be raised from \$230 per year up to \$285 to \$300 per year, an increase of \$55 to \$70. He said doing this would put the operating costs back to real operating costs.

Mr. Wilson said he still wants the chance to work on this budget more with Mr. Hall; he said he wants to apply for the WIIA Grant / Loan.

Mr. Buysse mentioned this discussion could start people again asking to have their water metered.

In discussing the work that still needs to be done in Water District No. 2, Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked whether Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hall have a total project figure or just a guess.

Mr. Hall said it's a rough number, but it's estimated at \$300,000.

Mr. Wilson said that Mr. Hall had done an amazing job containing expenses; he said although this seems terrible, it could have been a catastrophe. He said he really needs time to tally these numbers up.

Scott Smith said he had an item he would like to discuss with the Board. He said he would like a resolution to add Fairview Way back to the Town's Inventory of Roads. He said they had always maintained this .16 of a mile circle around the cemetery, keeping it graded in the summer.

Jerry Smith asked if the Town had a right-of-way and asked how many of the people living there had signed off. Scott Smith answered that they had all signed off.

Scott Smith went on to explain that this road had inadvertently been left off the inventory.

Resolution No. 195 – 19

Mr. Buysse offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board adopt a resolution to have Fairview Way added back onto the Town's Inventory of Roads. 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

Resolution No. 196 – 19

Ms. Cheetham-Palen 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. Buysse.

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 6:50 PM

Resolution No. 197 – 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 7:00 PM.

Mr. Buysse informed the Town Board that he can't make it to the next couple of Youth Commission Meetings and asked if there was someone that could fill in. He said the meetings are on the 2nd Monday of the month and said it's a very active board.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Buysse to send him an email of the dates and times.

Resolution No. 198 – 19

Mr. Buysse 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 Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 652 to 692, totaling \$52,318.06, as follows:

General Fund Bills	- \$23,588.67
Highway Fund Bills	- 15,243.45
Library Fund Bills	- 441.90
Water District No. 1 Bills	- 620.57
Water District No. 2 Bills	- 1,547.93
Salt Station Capital Fund	- 10,875.54

Resolution No. 199 – 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. Buysse.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
October 1, 2019

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