

January 14, 2020

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 7:00 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen and David R. Deyo, Members of Council. Absent: Jennifer G. Whitney, Council Member. Also present were: 5 residents, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Deb Whitson, Town Attorney and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 and invited everyone present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked for a correction in the Minutes of December 10th, he said his statement during the discussion about the Essex County Fairgrounds was that "these fairgrounds were a complete loser".

Resolution No. 50 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held December 10th with the preceding correction and the Minutes of the Bi-Monthly and End of the Year Town Board Meeting held Monday, December 30th as presented. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Abstained (not present at that meeting)
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

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

Mr. Wilson said Scott and Vinny McClelland were present to talk to the Board about a connector path proposal.

Vinny McClelland began by giving the history of the Safety and Recreation Path planned and approved in 1996.

He said when the path was built across Marcy Field, the Sullivan's, who own the adjoining parcel, did not want to have it cross their property thinking it would go right through the middle. He said they have now agreed to allow a 3-foot wide path on an easement right at the edge of the DOT right of way allowing the section of path on Marcy Field to connect with the Hulls Falls Road. He said the Sullivan's will want to have shrubs and a fence along the path.

Mr. McClelland said that he would like to volunteer to help raise the money and that his family is prepared to donate money to start the fund raising.

Mr. Deyo and Mr. Biesemeyer both agreed this was a good idea.

Mr. Wilson said this could be part of a bigger plan, he said the money could be used toward a match for the smart growth grant for trail building.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he would rather see the safety path accomplished by its self.

Mr. McClelland said he could put together a budget for this project saying that the first year it would just be a mowed path.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked who will own the path and who is responsible for the liability insurance.

Mr. McClelland said it was his understanding that the Town would have a 10-foot easement and the insurance would be put under the Town's insurance.

Resolution No. 51 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town move forward with the McClelland's proposal to construct another section of the safety path across the Sullivan's property connecting the Marcy Field path to the Hulls Falls Road. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the Little Johns Brook Flood Mitigation. He said he had gotten an email from the County regarding the Halloween Storm. He said there is a meeting next week at which time he will submit a claim.

Mr. Wilson said that he and Ms. Cheetham-Palen had met with the Au Sable River Association and had pointed out problems along the river which had all been denied; he went on to say that nothing happens quickly.

Mr. Wilson said the Planning Board had made a recommendation for the vacancy on the Planning Board. He said there had been a lot of interest and that they had recommended Travis Gagnon.

Resolution No. 52 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that on the recommendation of the Planning Board, the Town Board appoint Travis Gagnon to the vacancy on the Planning Board for the term to expire December 31, 2025. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Deyo.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

Ryan Hall gave an update on an issue at Water District #2. He said he had found the leak in the tank, he said it is inside the tank about 2 feet off the intake. He also said he has discovered there is no warranty on the tank. He said that repairs are still in the planning stage.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if there is a bladder that can go inside or if replacement would be necessary.

Mr. Hall said there may be some fixes; he said he is looking into them.

When asked when this would be fixed, Mr. Hall said not this spring, but next spring.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked how much he thought it would cost; Mr. Hall said maybe \$20,000.

Mr. Wilson said this project was rolled into the budget of the entire Water District #2 project. He said he is looking for grants and low interest loans.

Mr. Hall said to be on the lookout that there is still a water leak somewhere in the district.

Mr. Hall informed the Board that the Sanitary Survey had been performed on both water districts and had had no violations.

Mr. Hall also informed the Board that he needed to have them approve the 2020 Standard Operating Procedures for both Water District #1 and #2.

Resolution No.53 – 20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve Mr. Hall's 2020 Standard Operating Procedures for Water District #1 and #2. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

Resolution No. 54 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that at their request, the East Branch Friends of the Arts be given permission to use Marcy Field for their annual Kite Festival on Sunday, June 21st. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Deyo.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the Transfer Station.

He said that PESH had dropped by and the transfer station was cited for missing barriers. He said that 42" barriers need to be added in front of the compactor and metal bins. He said that although the Town owns the transfer station, the County owns the equipment so they are going out to bid to have barriers built in multiple transfer stations in the County.

Mr. Hall said he had met with the fence company who told him that we can have 10-foot gates installed at the compactor and the metal bin but we will not be able to have them open.

Mr. Wilson stated that once PESH finds violations, they will keep coming back.

Resolution No. 55 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter Executive Session to discuss 1 personnel issue and 1 ongoing legal issue. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

The Town Board and Town Attorney entered Executive Session at 7:29 PM.

Resolution No. 56 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board reconvene into regular session. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Deyo.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 7:56 PM.

Resolution No. 57 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board rescind the October resolution extending William and Sheila Ferebee the Town's Medicare Reimbursement Part B. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

Resolution No. 58 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board deny the request from William Ferebee for Medicare Reimbursement Part B for himself and Sheila since they do not meet eligibility. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

Resolution No. 59 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board deny the request from Kent Wells for Medicare Reimbursement Part B for himself and Melissa since they do not meet eligibility. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Deyo.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

Resolution No. 60 – 20

The Town Board adopted Resolution No. 60 – 20, a Resolution Approving Assessment Settlement. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution No. 61 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town Board approve the following 2019 and 2020 bills for payment, including those that were prepaid. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Wilson.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

Multi-fund Vouchers for 2019, Numbered 937 to 972, totaling \$57,886.21, as follows;

General Fund Bills	- \$36,111.53
Highway Fund Bills	- 15,524.14
Library Fund Bills	- 475.44
Water District #1 Bills	- 1,669.25
Water District #2 Bills	- 4,105.85

Multi-fund Vouchers for 2020, Numbered 1 to 32, totaling \$131,504.10, as follows;

General Fund Bills	- \$66,705.98
Highway Fund Bills	- 44,583.97
Library Fund Bills	- 111.70
Water District #1 Bills	- 998.95
Water District #2 Bills	- 19,103.50

A discussion followed the audit regarding a bill for Youth Commission from Bear Essentials for soccer jerseys.

Mr. Wilson stated that this one sale was probably over the line item amount for the whole year.

The Board agreed that the sale had been made so it was a “done deal” that would need to be paid, however, Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she wasn’t sure that the Youth Commission Board understands their spending and felt that they needed to be made aware of it.

The Board agreed.

Scott Smith said he had spoken to the Board about getting estimates for buying a new back-hoe; he said he had gotten a couple prices.

He said if he bought one this year there would be no payment in 2020 and he would be making the last payment on one of the trucks this year.

Mr. Wilson asked how many payments there would be on a back-hoe; Mr. Smith said 3 years, he went on to say that their current back-hoe is 20 years old.

Mr. Smith said he would keep getting information.

Resolution No. 62 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, 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
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	Yes
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	Absent

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
January 17, 2020

Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman
Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Councilwoman
David R. Deyo, Councilman
Jennifer G. Whitney, Councilwoman