

March 31, 2020

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 5:30 PM, using zoom remotely, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The following Town Board Members participated: Joseph P. Wilson, Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, David R. Deyo and Jennifer G. Whitney, Members of Council. Also present was: Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 5:29 PM.

Mr. Wilson began by saying that he had just gotten the settlement refund amounts for settling the AMR Tax Lawsuit Settlement. He said that the amount due for this suit will be 2 payments of just under \$23,000 each with the first payment being due now and the second payment able to be deferred for 2 years. He also said the refund due for the Ganoë settlement is \$1,428.47.

When asked if these would be paid from a reserve, Mr. Wilson said they have to be paid from fund balance saying they have to come out of the tax levy.

Mr. Biesemeyer said this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> suit since 1980 and he was happy it was finally resolved saying that settling out of court had been well worth it.

Resolution No. 97 – 20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board authorize a refund of just under \$23,000 to settle the tax assessment lawsuit with the AMR and a refund check of \$1,428.47 to Charles Ganoë. 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:	Yes

The next item on the agenda was the Community Center Project. Mr. Wilson said he had followed up with AES who said, in writing, that they would deliver plans and drawings suitable for the Town's submission with future grant applications.

Resolution No. 98 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board award the consulting bid for the Community Center Project to AES. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Whitney.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The next item on the agenda was regarding the Transfer Station.

Mr. Wilson said, as previously discussed, the Town Board needed to adopt a resolution to combine the cardboard and the zero-sort into one compacting bin.

Mr. Deyo went on to explain that doing this would allow the attendant to compact more returns into a single bin.

Resolution No. 99 – 20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board authorize combining the cardboard and the zero-sort into a single compacting bin at the Transfer Station. 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:	Yes

Mr. Wilson stated that the Bulky Days scheduled for April will need to be postponed until the social distancing for the Coronavirus Pandemic has ended.

Mr. Deyo agreed and suggested trying again in the fall. He suggested that with the new gate that has been installed in front of the compactor, that the Town refrain from accepting bulky items such as mattresses until the next Bulky Days.

Mr. Wilson stated this policy would have to be made clear and he said that Ryan Hall is working on a way to limit the size of refuse.

Mr. Biesemeyer said it would be interesting to hear from whomever (PESH) mandated the gate in front of the trash compactor as to why this was being mandated. He said he goes into multiple transfer stations and ours seems to be the only one with one. He said something just doesn't seem right.

Mr. Wilson said PESH went to every transfer station in Essex County and he told Mr. Biesemeyer that he has the letter that the Town received. He said for now, the Town is stuck with how it was designed saying maybe the Town would have to do a redesign if the County system comes in.

Everyone seemed to agree that at this time Bulky Days would be postponed and the size of refuse would be limited.

The next discussion was regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic which Mr. Wilson said is still developing. He said he communicates regularly with the ambulance squad, County Health Department and the Town Health Officer.

Ms. Whitney said that she, Marie and Ms. Cheetham-Palen had been working as a Storm Preparedness Group and have switched their efforts over to the current situation. She said that Jody Whitney would like to have an EMT and a driver on call, 24/7, saying they are working to raise funds. She said each department, KFD and KVFD, would need approximately \$7500 per month, more depending on the number of calls. She said they have raised \$5,000 so far.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen informed the Board that Melissa Eissinger called and told her that the Adirondack Foundation may be able to help.

Mr. Deyo asked how these funds would be used; Ms. Whitney explained that they would be used to compensate the individual who signs up to cover, she said it will pay \$5.00 an hour while on call and \$20.00 an hour while on a call.

Ms. Whitney said any left-over funds would be used to purchase PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for the future.

Mr. Deyo again asked and it was clarified that these funds would come from private donations.

Mr. Deyo offered a good luck; Mr. Biesemeyer stated that it's a good cause and he would be willing to contribute.

Mr. Wilson stated that everyone is doing a good job.

Mr. Wilson said he had declared a State of Emergency on March 28<sup>th</sup>. He said he had attended a pre-meeting today. He said this would allow the Town to submit for reimbursement of emergency related expenses when this is over.

Ms. Whitney asked if she had heard that the County had declared that the Town would not be getting funds for the Halloween Storm; Mr. Wilson explained that the funds for that storm were for private individuals and not for public entities.

Mr. Deyo asked if the statement that Ms. Cheetham-Palen had put together from the Town Board would be going out; Ms. Whitney and Mr. Biesemeyer said they had seen it and would like to see it posted on Nextdoor Keene.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen reminded the Board that all emails between them would be subject to being foiled.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she had received a request and asked if the plans for Stewart's could be viewed by the public. Mr. Wilson said he would scan and post the Planning Board Minutes on Nextdoor Keene.

Mr. Deyo stated that the Planning Board cannot treat a project such as this new Stewart's differently from any other projects. He stated that the Town Board needed to let the Planning Board make their decision.

Mr. Wilson agreed, stating that there is a clear division of authority.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that a full SEQRA review was not necessary; he said this decision is in the Planning Board's court. He said he had been at one of the Planning Board Meetings where this project was discussed saying the Planning Board had handled it professionally. He also said neighbors had been present, including Heather Coffin, who would be impacted the most.

Next was a discussion about paying the bills.

Mr. Wilson confirmed that Mr. Biesemeyer would come in tomorrow at 9:00 AM to sign vouchers and Mr. Deyo would come in at 11:00.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if they needed to be authorized by resolution; she said she wanted to be sure this process was done procedurally.

It seemed to be agreed to adopt the resolution for audit at the next Town Board Meeting.

Ms. Whitney asked if anyone had noticed the sign at the building next to Dartbrook South saying it looks a lot like the Town signs and could be confusing.

Everyone said they would look.

Ms. Estes stated that this sign had been approved by the Planning Board.

Mr. Wilson said he thought it was fair game for the Town Board to look at it.

Resolution No. 100 – 20

Mr. Deyo 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 Ms. Whitney.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk  
April 2, 2020

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