

May 12, 2020

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held remotely on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 7:00 PM. The following Town Board Members participated; Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, David R. Deyo and Jennifer G. Whitney, Members of Council. Also participating were; at least 2 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 7:00 PM.

Resolution 112 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held April 14th, 2020 and the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held April 30th, 2020, as presented. 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

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

Mr. Wilson said the first item for discussion on the agenda was a CoronaVirus Update. He began by informing the Board that the 7 Counties in our Region had met 6 of the 7 requirements for reopening. He said the one requirement that was not met was the numbers needed of people being tested. He said that Essex Co. Public Health had tested all the residents in the Senior Nursing Homes today. He said he would be sending all essential employees of the Town for testing and would encourage all Town employees, including Board Members, to call Elizabethtown Hospital to schedule an appointment to have the test. He said they have a drive thru station set up. He said Adirondack Medical Center will soon have a clinic in Keene.

He said the Control Group, which includes Shaun Gilliland, Jim McKenna and various DEC Representatives were meeting today and he was waiting to hear any new information from them.

He said he was hosting a remote Business Re-opening Meeting on Thursday night. He said there wasn't much to share right now except the need to get the Region's testing numbers up.

He said the Region needs an Executive Order from the Governor to lift the pause. He said there are currently a lot of question marks.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he understands that 3 NYS Regions have been opened saying these openings are by phases. He said curbside retail is in Phase One and retail is in Phase Two. He said Phase One is very limited.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that he had listened to Dr. Fauci testify and said that the public will still be maintaining precautions like masks and social distancing for a while. He said he was sure most people understood that.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen referred to this as the "new normal".

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that in our area, we will need to be careful of people coming into the area as it opens up, such as people coming to hike, etc.

Mr. Wilson agreed saying that was a good point. He said he has been working with a sub group to the Community Planning Committee saying they have been pushing the message of the importance of wearing masks, etc.

Mr. Biesemeyer commented that he had seen Mr. Wilson checking the speedboard for the current traffic data.

Mr. Wilson said he would like to be able to compare hard numbers from this data.

Mr. Wilson said another aspect of the CoronaVirus is going to be the impact on budgeting. He said he just got a report from the County Treasurer saying the sales tax numbers are down 25%; the Board seemed to respond that they thought it would be worse.

(continued)

Mr. Biesemeyer said the Town will need to target the State for help saying the only source the Town has is property tax.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she had the feeling that the local retailers are beginning to seem on edge.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Town is losing revenue like hiker parking and stated that the transfer station was already an area of concern. He said he has been trying to get some sense of the budget saying that next year's budget was going to be tough.

Mr. Deyo asked if there would be a hiker shuttle bus at all this summer; Mr. Wilson said he can't put the shuttle on the road with a driver until it's safe to transport 200 hikers per day, he went on to say he doesn't foresee this happening.

Mr. Deyo asked where the hikers would park, asking if they would park at Marcy Field and walk the extra miles or asking if the Town was going to discourage hiking.

Mr. Wilson said he is trying to get the word out that there are limited parking and services in Keene; he said he is hoping to spread the people out. He said he is hoping to have Front Country Stewards saying that is the only strategy.

Mr. Deyo commented that the problem with that is the Front Country Stewards will deplete the budget and there will be no revenue from hiker funds.

Mr. Biesemeyer commented that the budget wouldn't be as severe this year as it will be in 2021.

Mr. Wilson said he met with the Youth Commission Board about the Summer Program saying that the State is supposed to have guidance but seems to be in a holding pattern right now. He said if there is a program, it will be radically different than in the past.

Mr. Biesemeyer commented about relocating to the School and walking to the Country Club to swim.

Mr. Wilson said at this point he just doesn't know.

Mr. Wilson again offered Privilege of the floor; there were no questions or comments.

Mr. Wilson asked Ryan Hall to give an update on Water District #2.

Mr. Hall said the 1-day job, sealing the leak inside the water tank, had taken 2 weeks. He said it was done and needed to cure for a couple days saying that he would start filling the tank on Thursday and it would go back on line by Saturday.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked what the cost of this was; Mr. Hall said he didn't have the exact figure, but thought it was right around \$15,500.

The next discussion was in regards to the Highway's 284 Agreement.

Mr. Smith gave an overview saying this is the agreement used for spending the funds from general repairs and CHiPs. He said the areas he has listed for this year is Hill Top Lane and the end of the Molly Nye Road. He said if the funds are not available, he won't do the work. He said the Town pays the bill and then the State reimburses them.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that was a catch 22 saying he was afraid there would be no funds for reimbursement this year.

Mr. Smith said that Jim Dougan at DPW thinks there will be a 75% reimbursement but Kenny Whittemore thinks there will be nothing.

Ms. Whitney asked if the money could be spent on sidewalks; Mr. Biesemeyer and Mr. Smith seemed to agree that you can't saying that sidewalks fall under the general fund.

Mr. Wilson said he would look into that but said there was the chance that reimbursements wouldn't be available.

Mr. Wilson suggested the Board sign Mr. Smith's agreement, having it contingent upon the reimbursement funds being available.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked that the projects not be started until the reimbursements are ironclad at 100% reimbursement.

Resolution No. 113 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board sign the Highway's 284 Agreement to Spend Highway Funds, with the projects being contingent upon availability of 100% reimbursement. 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

Mr. Wilson again offered Privilege of the floor, there were no questions or comments.

Mr. Wilson said that was all the items on the agenda and asked the Board if anyone had anything else.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said that she had sent an email to NYSEG on February 13th regarding the 10 streetlights for removal. She said she didn't hear anything until today saying the woman she deals with at NYSEG had just read the email.

She said the information she received was that having the lights switched over and having new lights put in would have a 11 or 12-month payback, but said the removal of lights would take 5 years or more to get the payback.

She asked the Board which option they prefer.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if it was an option to put everything on hold for a year and asked what the estimates were.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she didn't have the numbers with her but said she would check. She suggested going through with the replacement lights except for the 1 broken light near Carolyn Peterson's residence on Hurricane Road.

Mr. Deyo suggested continuing to move forward with the replacements saying it still may take months; Ms. Cheetham-Palen agreed.

She said the Board can discuss it again when the agreement comes saying she would have the cost broke down for both options.

Ms. Whitney asked if the County could restripe the crosswalks at the school and by Cedar Run Bakery.

Mr. Wilson said the one near the school was on a Town road and could be done but the one by Cedar Run on the State road cannot. He said that he can't get anyone to bid to put in crosswalks on the State road since it involves curb cuts.

Mr. Deyo questioned painting them on with white paint.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she had done some research on "complete streets", I believe she said this was a law in the early 2000s which addresses walkability and safety. She said she thought there was a part in it about when Main Street is a State Highway.

There was a discussion about using raised paint on the Town road; Mr. Wilson stated that the raised paint is expensive.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he didn't want to get involved with crosswalks saying that if someone got hurt, the Town could be held liable.

Mr. Wilson said the ones on the State road can't be put back since they didn't fit in with the law, but said the one at the school could be improved.

Resolution No. 114 – 20

Ms. Whitney offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the following bills, from the Town Board Meeting held April 30th, be accepted as presented. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Deyo.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Biesemeyer and Ms. Cheetham-Palen abstained since they had not signed them.

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 245 to 265, totaling \$62,526.71, as follows:

General Fund Bills	\$41,870.87
Highway Fund Bills	16,396.25
Library Fund Bills	31.69
Water District #1 Bills	1,366.09
Water District #2 Bills	2,861.81

Ms. Cheetham-Palen and Mr. Biesemeyer said they could come in tomorrow to sign tonight's bills which will be approved at the next meeting.

Mary Lawrence sent in a message asking for a "Children at Play" sign to be installed on Adirondack Street.

Mr. Wilson responded that he was reluctant as a Town to do this saying he didn't feel that is the most effective measure and said that it would just be one more sign to be run over and require repairing, he said private individuals could do it though.

Mr. Smith said that due to liability for the Town, he had been instructed by the Town's Insurance Co. to remove the Town's "Children at Play" signs.

Mr. Wilson went on to say that the crosswalk signs in Keene had caused 2 accidents so he would have to decline this request.

Mrs. Lawrence asked if there were any streetlights on Adirondack Street to be removed; Ms. Cheetham-Palen responded that there were not.

Mrs. Lawrence asked about Bulky Days; Mr. Wilson responded that with this Virus going on, it can't be done safely. He also said it's very costly and the transfer station budget is already overspent.

Resolution No. 115 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer 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. Deyo.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
May 15, 2020

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