

May 26, 2020

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held remotely on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 5:30 PM. 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 participating were: Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

There was no one present for Privilege of the Floor.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would try to move this meeting along so anyone interested in attending the School Board Public Hearing at 6:30 PM could make it.

Mr. Wilson said the first item under Old Business would be a Youth Commission Update. He said that the Town of Keene was the only Town in Essex County that was considering conducting their Summer Youth Commission Program.

He said the Youth Commission Board would be meeting tomorrow night to discuss this.

He said if the program is run, the staff and children would have to be Corona tested and daily temperature checks would be required.

He also said that due to the size of the staff, the program may need to be broken into a split shift.

Mr. Deyo said that he was not sure that the Town of Keene should be the "pioneer".

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said due to the size of the staff, she was concerned about what would happen if they got sick. She also said there would be a very stringent cleaning and sanitizing policy and said there would be a lot to it.

Ms. Whitney said she was not comfortable with moving forward and said she would not send her children.

Mr. Deyo said he didn't know what more needed to be said.

Mr. Wilson said the Youth Commission Board was meeting tomorrow night and he felt they should have a chance to discuss it. He said he and Ms. Whitney would be attending the meeting.

Mr. Deyo said it all sounds overwhelming and he doesn't think having it is a great idea.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated that the criteria to have it was a lot and she was not sure it could be met.

Mr. Wilson said the Youth Commission Board will talk it over tomorrow night and he will let the Town Board know what they decide.

The next update was on Hiker Parking.

Mr. Wilson said that last weekend had been busy but manageable. He said that DEC had staff at different parking lots saying it was good to have staff present.

He said the shuttle for this summer can only run if 2 conditions are met, one being that the region gets to phase 4 and the other one is having a safety plan protecting the driver and passengers.

Mr. Deyo said he agreed that the weekend seemed to go okay, he said that no one was parked on the streets and said it looked good going forward.

Mr. Wilson said a few more signs are needed. He said the problem now is that without the revenue from the shuttle there is no funding for Front Country Stewards or port-a-pots. He said he is working on a map to inform visitors and guide them to less crowded destinations.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen questioned whether the Smart Growth Funding had been released; Mr. Wilson stated it hadn't.

Mr. Wilson said he was waiting to see how it's going to go, he said Front Country Stewards would really help and said he will keep the Board posted on the funding.

Ms. Whitney asked if lack of port-a-pots was an issue; Mr. Wilson said that he is pushing the message that there are no facilities available.

Ms. Whitney said she had seen a sign in the Cascades advising hikers to avoid crowded trailheads.

Mr. Deyo stated that that will be an issue at some point.

Mr. Wilson said that DEC is working on funding but said that the Town of Keene does not have the resources in the general fund to pay for port-a-pots. He said he will keep the Board updated.

Next was the Corona Virus Update.

Mr. Wilson said our region is currently in Phase One, he said the metrics for Phase Two has been met for the end of the week. He said that Essex County had done 2001 tests as of today.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked how many positive tests there have been.

Ms. Whitney stated that there were recently two more in Lake Placid.

Mr. Wilson said that today was another day of no new positives for Essex County.

He said he had worked with Essex County and DEC to have a traffic counter installed just South of Town. He said it would be interesting to compare traffic data as it picks up.

Ryan Hall said the only update he has regarding water is a line that is leaking on Church Street. He said he had met with Sheehan Construction about the excavation, backfilling, paving and sidewalk pour saying their estimate is about \$7,000.

Mr. Wilson said the leak was noticed during the winter when it couldn't be fixed and is now picking up speed.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if this should go out to bid or if it was considered an emergency, he said he was okay with Sheehan doing it, he was only questioning policy.

Mr. Hall explained that Sheehan Construction has the County contract.

When asked, Scott Smith said he was not sure how much it would cost to have the highway do the work, he said he didn't mind Sheehan doing it, stating they would do a good job.

Mr. Deyo said if Sheehan was the most economical way to proceed, he was okay with it.

Mr. Wilson instructed Mr. Hall to proceed with Sheehan.

Mr. Hall also stated that he was going to start searching Keene Valley during the night for a water leak.

When Ms. Whitney asked how big the leak was, Mr. Hall said 35 gallons per minute, 24 hours per day.

Mr. Wilson said that Ms. Whitney had 4 Supervisor's Monthly Financial Statements ready for the Board. He said she had December, January, February and March ready but they hadn't been reviewed yet by the Board. He said they would be put into their mailboxes to be picked up and reviewed before being approved at the next meeting.

He also said there is a 2020 Tax Collector Report in their mailboxes that can be presented for discussion next meeting.

Resolution 116 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board re-schedule their End of the Year and December Bi-Monthly Town Board Meetings from December 29th to December 22nd, for reasons of bookkeeping. 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 shared the information with the Board that he had received a Letter of Thanks from John Sargent thanking the Town for working well, through this Corona Virus, with the Au Sable Club. He said the Town supporting the Club had been very much appreciated.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested a reply be sent back stating the Town's appreciation of working together well.

Mr. Deyo agreed saying there was good communication between John Schuler, John Sargent and the Town.

Mr. Wilson said he would pass this message along.

Resolution No. 117 – 20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that \$15,733.93 be moved out of the Contingency Fund and moved into the Assessor's Contractual Fund to fund the Settlements paid to the Adirondack Mountain Reserve. 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:	Yes

Resolution No. 118 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the following bills, from the Town Board Meeting held May 12th, be accepted as presented. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

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

Mr. Deyo and Ms. Whitney abstained since they had not signed them.

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 266 to 288, totaling \$25,381.04, as follows;

General Fund Bills	\$11,485.50
Highway Fund Bills	1,133.18
Library Fund Bills	57.62
Water District No. 1 Bills	5,771.45
Water District No. 2 Bills	5,849.82
Corona Virus Bills	1,083.47

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

Ms. Cheetham-Palen questioned continuing to come in 2 at a time to sign bills with the Town Hall open.

Mr. Deyo suggested keeping it this way for another month.

Ms. Estes asked the Board to be very careful not to miss any with only 3 signers saying when this is over she has a couple flagged that need another signer.

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that it was fine for them to come into the Town Hall to pick up their mail saying they would have to wear a mask but said he would prefer to continue to have 2 signers plus himself for a little longer.

Ms. Whitney asked what the Town Hall hours are; Mr. Wilson responded that due to staffing the Town Hall is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Mr. Smith said that he had two copies of his 284 Agreement that needed Board signatures, he said he would leave it at the Town Hall. When asked about funding, he said he would check again on that with the County.

Resolution No. 119 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen 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

This meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
May 27, 2020

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