

November 10, 2020

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 4:00 PM, at the Town Pavilion. 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, (who attended via telephone). Also present were: Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Mr. Wilson stated that Ms. Whitney was unable to be present tonight and said she has changes for the October minutes and asked to table the resolution approving them for now.

Mr. Wilson stated since there was no public present, there was no need for privilege of the floor.

Mr. Wilson said the first item on the agenda is a Corona Virus update.

He said that Franklin County is increasing exponentially in cases and said Clinton County was too.

He asked that everyone continue to take this pandemic serious.

He asked the Board Members how they felt about going back to using Zoom for Town Board Meetings. He said he has a microphone camera now, so if the Board wants to sit together to video meetings for the public they can.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen and Mr. Deyo both agreed to going back to using Zoom.

Mr. Wilson suggested that supervisors for the highway and general fund crews go back to making plans to go back to shift work if conditions warrant it.

Mr. Deyo stated it was okay to plan ahead but suggested not over reacting. He told Scott if he needs help making plans to reach out.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked Mr. Wilson how the required Pandemic Plan was coming;

Mr. Wilson said he has been working on it but it isn't due until April 1st.

Resolution No. 195 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board amend Resolution No. 147 – 20, the Town of Keene Anti-Discrimination Resolution by removing "will create" a Diversity and Inclusion Committee... and replacing it with "will support the creation of" a Diversity and Inclusion Committee...

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

Mr. Wilson gave a brief update on the changes to the 2021 Budget discussed at the last Meeting of the Board;

- He said he had the \$10,000 discussed added into the Contingency, and
- He said in order to add the 3% discussed to the Supervisor and Town Boards salaries would require another Public Hearing and another Legal Notice saying it would be better to catch up next year.

Mr. Biesemeyer agreed saying to let it go this year. He went on to say that he had replied to Seymour Preston's comment to the Minutes on Nextdoor Keene.

Mr. Wilson went on to say the Budget is really all set and the Board would meet on Thursday, the 19th, at 6:00 PM, via Zoom, for Final Revision and Adoption.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Hall for an update on the Water District No. 1 repairs.

Mr. Hall said he thought they planned on being done in the river tomorrow or Thursday but said they had a little touch up on the sides to still be done.

Mr. Wilson stated that they were coming in with this project ahead of budget and time.

Mr. Wilson said that he and Mr. Hall were meeting with Laura at the Transfer Station on Friday to work out a plan for crowding in the cardboard trailer.

Mr. Wilson stated that Ms. Cheetham-Palen is working with the school on a video showing how to recycle.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she had asked for a timeline for this video and explained that Sam Baldwin was making it as his Senior Project.

The next discussion was the Financial Agreement for the Backhoe.

Resolution No. 196 – 20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, the Town Board approve Resolution No. 196 – 20, a Master Lease Purchase Agreement Resolution.

This resolution, in its entirety, has been attached to and made a part of these minutes.

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. Deyo initiated the next discussion by asking where they stand on a shared services agreement for this backhoe.

Mr. Smith said there had been some discussion about an agreement for \$9,000 per year but thought it had been denied.

Mr. Deyo said he thought this agreement depended on the highway position that was in jeopardy. He asked for confirmation from Mr. Smith that his crew would dig and bill the other funds for payment when necessary.

Mr. Biesemeyer said the practice has always been on a pay as needed basis saying he felt this was a cleaner way to share services.

Mr. Smith stated that \$9,000 per year was money for his highway budget.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if there was an agreement; Mr. Wilson answered negatively saying there's a practice that doesn't work.

He stated this proposed agreement would share the cost of the equipment and break down the barrier saying it would be more structured.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked what could be clearer than pay on an as needed basis.

Mr. Deyo stated that way the highway uses their own equipment.

Mr. Wilson stated that shared services saves money.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that's restructuring not sharing.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Hall for his thoughts; Mr. Hall said he has 7 different lines to pull funds from saying that \$9,000 per year would give the other funds 25% ownership for the life of the backhoe.

Mr. Deyo stated that he was trying to get this straight.

Mr. Wilson stated that an emergency would take precedent.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if there was a problem with the way it's been done for years.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said the present agreement doesn't seem consistent.

Mr. Smith said he sees the upside, but said he loans the other funds equipment all the time without charging.

Mr. Hall said they've been charged in the past.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if there's a way to modify an agreement for more than 1 piece of equipment.

Mr. Wilson said he felt with an agreement it would be written down and spelled out and would benefit all departments.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he thinks it makes a simple way of sharing equipment convoluted; he said he thinks the only problem is a lack of communication.

Mr. Wilson told Mr. Biesemeyer that he could be in charge of the scheduling when Mr. Hall needs to use equipment.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if this is a frequent problem; Mr. Hall responded that when he needs an operator it gets ugly.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked Mr. Hall "Don't you go to Scott and say you need equipment and an operator?"

(continued)

Mr. Hall said that works until the guy in the cab gets moody.

Mr. Deyo stated that Ms. Cheetham-Palen may be right and it may need to be clear in writing.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen agreed to having it clear in writing and said that then it would be a disciplinary issue.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested that Mr. Hall call Mr. Wilson, Mr. Smith or one of the Board Members is there's a problem with an operator.

Mr. Wilson suggested that he, Mr. Smith and Mr. Hall sit down and come up with a plan while they are working on the equipment lists for the liability insurance renewals.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen suggested bringing their plan to a Board Meeting for review. She said she understands that they are all hard working people and they need to work together and said that childish behavior is not going to be tolerated.

Mr. Biesemeyer said where you have a work force there is always the occasional problem.

Resolution No. 197 -20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Notice of Retirement submitted by Ellen Estes for November 30th, 2020. 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 stated that he was going to need to add an Executive Session for personnel to the agenda saying he had received notes from the Town Attorney.

Resolution No. 198 – 20

Mr. Wilson offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. 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 Supervisor and Town Board entered into Executive Session at 4:44 PM.

Resolution No. 199 – 20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board reconvene into regular session. 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

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 4:50 PM.

Mr. Wilson said that Susan Whitney had asked for a Blanket Resolution for Transfers of Funds for closing out the 2020 Fiscal Year.

Resolution No. 200 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve a Blanket Resolution for Transfers of Funds for the closing out of the 2020 Fiscal Year. 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. 201 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen 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 Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Multi-Fund Vouchers Numbered 704 to 744, totaling \$24,802.86, as follows;

General Fund Bills	- \$13,014.16
Highway Fund Bills	- 5,957.03
Library Fund Bills	- 1,797.26
Water District No. 1 Bills	- 291.63
Water District No. 2 Bills	- 3,742.78

Resolution No. 202 – 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. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

This meeting was adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
November 12, 2020

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