

October 13, 2020

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 4:30 PM, at the Town Pavilion. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, David R. Deyo and Jennifer G. Whitney, Members of Council. Also present were: 2 Residents, 2 Highway Department Employees, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Deb Whitson, Town Attorney (arrived late) and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Resolution No. 180 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the Notes from the Budget Workshop held September 8th, the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held September 8th, the Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting held September 10th, the Notes of the Budget Workshop held September 15th and the Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Town Board Meeting held September 29th, all as presented. 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

Privilege of the floor was offered.

Brett Guerin was present and said he would like to get some answers. He said that although he may be planning different employment for the future, he had nothing set in stone, currently, for a change of employment.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Board would answer his questions.

Mr. Smith, the Highway Superintendent, said he may have jumped the gun, saying that he thought the Town Board wanted the decrease in the Highway Budget to go through Personal Service.

Mr. Smith said he had a question about the Highway Budget regarding line 367, Medical Insurance.

Mr. Wilson explained this line saying that this amount, the \$134,100 was a fixed amount that would not change, he went on to say that the amount on this line was put into this year's budget incorrectly.

Mr. Smith said that he was prepared to make other cuts to the Highway Budget to keep Brett on.

Mr. Biesemeyer said this had all been a misunderstanding, he said he thought that Brett was planning on leaving his position. He asked the Board how they felt about restoring this position, saying he is in favor of it, unless there was someone who was willingly going to leave.

Mr. Wilson stated that there had been a buy-out offered, or new revenue could be used against this budget. He said he had suggested changing the department to shifts or taking a two-week furlough.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked again if there was a conscientious to restore Brett's position.

Ms. Whitney stated that she didn't feel the Board had cut it.

Mr. Deyo stated that if Mr. Smith would like to cut other things to keep this position he was 100% in favor of not cutting it. He stated that Mr. Wilson's email had sounded like Brett was planning to move on.

Mr. Wilson stated that it was Mr. Smith's responsibility to make the necessary cuts and stated that he had to keep the budget moving. He said "We picked it up because we were running out of time", but said it was not too late to make changes.

Mr. Guerin questioned the \$20,000 in hiker parking.

Mr. Wilson explained that that money comes from revenue explaining the shuttle fees and funds received from the State.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked for a confirmation that the State funds were \$88,300 over a 3-year period; Mr. Wilson confirmed that.

Mr. Wilson spoke about the 2% occupancy tax saying it needs to be used for promotion or managing tourism.

He said this looks like a big expenditure but is revenue positive for the Town.

Mr. Wilson said he has a serious concern about the highway back-hoe purchase. He said this purchase had been approved prior to Corona and said he thinks the order should be canceled. He said the original plan was to purchase it with CHiPs funds.

Mr. Smith said his first plan was to finance it and that his second plan, before the cut to CHiPs funds was to use them.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Smith what that does to his next phase of purchases; Ms.

Cheetham-Palen seconded that question saying the Board can't make decisions until they see the numbers.

The Board discussed having some concrete numbers for the next Town Board meeting in two weeks; Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked Mr. Smith to have an asset management plan ready for that meeting.

Mr. Wilson informed those present that the Governor had signed legislation requiring public employers to create a pandemic response plan. He said he is working on a draft and said it needs to be adopted by the Board by April 1st, 2021. He stated that the Fire Departments and School are also working on one.

Mr. Wilson informed those present that there are 3 new cases of Corona at the Lee Apartments in Moriah, he said there are 50 people there being quarantined. He said everyone has to continue to be careful.

Mr. Wilson gave a brief update on the Water District #1 water main repair project saying that AES and the Au Sable River Association are working on it. He stated that the ARA is applying for grant funds.

Mr. Hall said hopefully the permits will be done shortly and with any luck the project will be finished by Thanksgiving.

Mr. Wilson said that the switch over to self-sort at the Transfer Station has started. He said the cardboard will be switched over soon. He went on to mention the need for a re-design.

Mr. Hall spoke about needing labeling that can be removed from the bins for transportation.

Mr. Wilson said that Laura is doing a good job explaining the changeover saying that is very time consuming.

Mr. Biesemeyer explained how the home program for no-sort by Casella works.

Mr. Smith said he needed another resolution, with more specific wording, to add Fairview Lane back into the Town's road inventory.

Resolution No. 181 – 20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve adding Fairview Lane back onto the Town's road inventory. The Town Board acknowledges responsibility for maintenance and repair of Fairview Lane from County Road #69, 0.17 miles easterly, back to County Road #69. This lane will be open to the public, further, that the Town Board accepts legal responsibility for this lane. 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

Resolution No. 182 - 20

Ms. Whitney offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the high bids for the 3 Town signs placed on Auctions International. She said high bid for the brown and yellow sign was \$2,550, the high bid for the sign with the hiker was \$1,525 and the high bid for the “not so good” hiker sign was \$220. 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

Mr. Wilson suggested this money be used for Community Beautification projects.

Ms. Whitney said it was brought to her attention that a brown and yellow “Home of the High Peaks” sign was hanging on Angie and Russ Cook’s house. She said she called them and they said it was washed down in a flood and agreed to give it back to the Town if it was displayed instead of sold.

The Town Board discussed displaying this sign on the Holt House.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that Lanse Stover told him that his mother, Nancy Stover, had originally come up with the slogan “Home of the High Peaks”.

Mr. Wilson suggested displaying the sign at the Holt House with a plaque stating that Nancy Stover came up with this slogan.

Mr. Wilson explained that the Town had received a warning from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets that they did not have a suitable dangerous dog facility.

He said that the County is working with the SPCA to get their facility up to regulation and that in the meantime, the Eagles Nest Veterinary in Plattsburgh was willing to be the Town’s site for a retainer of \$500.

The Board all seemed to be in agreement; Mr. Biesemeyer said he thought the Dog Control Officer took care of this.

Mr. Smith said that voucher number 647 for airport mowing was incorrect; the Board opted to have it removed and resubmitted correctly at the next meeting.

Resolution No. 183 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer 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. Deyo.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Multi-Fund Vouchers No. 630 to 666, totaling \$38,963.88, as follows;

General Fund Vouchers	- \$17,163.33
Highway Fund Vouchers	- 6,639.03
Library Fund Vouchers	- 141.41
Water District #1 Vouchers	- 14,838.81
Water District #2 Vouchers	- 181.30

Mr. Deyo said that he would be requesting an Executive Session during the next Town Board Meeting, he said he had talked to Ms. Whitney.
The Board discussed how to do this and asked him if he was ready to do it now; he said he was.
It was agreed to do it now.

Resolution No. 184 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board enter Executive 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:	Yes

The Town Board and Town Attorney entered Executive Session at 4:57 PM, by taking a walk out into the field.

Resolution No. 185 – 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. Whitney.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Town Board reconvened into regular session at 5:31 PM.

Resolution No. 186 – 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

This meeting was adjourned at 5:32 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
October 15, 2020

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