

October 5, 2020

Minutes from the Special Town Board Meeting held on Monday, October 5, 2020, at 6:00 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 was: Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He said tonight's meeting was to approve the 2021 Tentative Budget and to discuss some revisions to the Preliminary Budget.

Mr. Wilson said the salary for the Town Clerk needed to be discussed.

Ms. Whitney said she had sent a survey to other Towns and said the average salary for a Town Clerk/Tax Collector was \$21,800.

Mr. Deyo suggested rounding that salary at \$22,000; everyone seemed to agree.

Mr. Wilson said that he had cut \$58,000 out of the General Fund budget.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if Mr. Smith was still trying to cut \$60,000 out of the Highway Fund budget; Mr. Wilson confirmed he was.

Mr. Deyo said he had questions about the Hiker Parking budget.

Mr. Deyo asked what the money spent under Personal Service in the Hiker section this year was spent on; Mr. Wilson said it had been Front Country Stewards and Bus Drivers.

Mr. Wilson said there was no guarantee that the \$22,000 in next year's budget would be spent on bus drivers and stewards and explained that the stewards were the same thing as the parking lot attendants used to be.

Mr. Deyo said he didn't think this needed to be spent.

Mr. Wilson went on to explain that revenue from the parking lot and funds from the occupancy tax fund this line; he said no money comes from tax dollars.

Mr. Deyo commented that the parking in Keene Valley had been horrible the last couple of weekends.

A brief discussion regarding expanding the Marcy Field parking lot and charging to park there and at the Roostercomb lot pursued.

Mr. Wilson said to do that he would need someone on duty, a Summer Manager.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he agrees with expanding the parking on Marcy Field; Ms.

Cheetham-Palen stated the Board has to be careful how Marcy Field is used.

Ms. Whitney also said charging could occur at the Owls Head Parking Lot when that happens.

Mr. Wilson said he would like to keep that budget line set at \$22,000 for now.

Ms. Whitney asked about cutting the donation to the Keene Valley Library.

Mr. Deyo stated that KCS which has a \$6,000,000 budget donates \$3,000, he suggested matching them.

There was a brief discussion regarding having 2 libraries in the same Town; Mr.

Biesemeyer spoke about how the Town's small town library sometimes offers special services to individuals in need.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen commented that Paul Martin always spoke highly of the Keene Valley Library's Archives.

The Board agreed to leave the KVLA's donation at \$6,000.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked why there was \$23,000 in Unexpended Balance on the Summary Page.

Mr. Wilson explained that this is one-time only for the final AuSable Assessment Settlement payment.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if there is a decent balance left there.

Mr. Wilson said there was; he explained there isn't a certain percentage that can be kept in that fund, but said a "responsible balance" can be.

Mr. Biesemeyer reconfirmed that the only work left on this budget is for the Highway Fund to come up with a \$60,000 cut saying the only place this can happen is in Personal Service.

The Board discussed different strategies with Mr. Wilson saying if they did not use overtime or worked in shifts this may be possible.

The Board briefly discussed cutting the bottom line and having Mr. Smith work with that. Mr. Wilson said that he, as Budget Officer, can set the budget.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he would talk to Mr. Smith.

Mr. Wilson said he is deeply concerned about the back-hoe purchase. He said that CHiPs will be paying 80% of the money spent; he said he is trying to work with Mr. Smith on this purchase. He said that Mr. Smith is talking about financing the balance of the back-hoe and starting a lease on another new truck. He said there is a lot of open ended stuff there.

There was a brief discussion about reducing the size of the highway crew and who the last hire was.

Mr. Biesemeyer, again, said he would speak to Mr. Smith about the payroll. He also said that he guarantees there are lots of jobs available in the construction field.

Resolution No. 176 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board adopt the 2021 Tentative Budget as submitted by the Town Clerk. 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

The Board discussed Thursday night's meeting scheduled for 6:00 PM to file the Preliminary Budget, as revised, with the Town Clerk.

It was agreed by the Board to meet at 5:00 PM at the pavilion to allow a little extra daylight time.

Resolution No. 177 – 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. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
October 7, 2020

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