

September 8, 2020

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 7:00 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 were: 14 or 15 Residents, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Debra Whitson, Town Attorney and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Resolution No. 155 – 20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town Board approve the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held August 11, 2020, as presented. 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

Mr. Wilson offered Privilege of the Floor.

Steve Bowers said he had questions about the Race Resolution adopted at the last meeting saying it seems complicated.

He said it states that a Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be formed to produce rapid response procedures and asked who the enforcement would be.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said that Monique Weston was working on forming a Committee.

Mr. Bowers said the resolution talks about a lobby group and asked who was paying for the training.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she disagreed saying they are not lobbying.

Mr. Bowers said the resolution says the Committee will review Town of Keene policy; again, Ms. Cheetham-Palen disagreed saying that the Town Board would do that.

Mr. Bowers said he was curious whether the Town Board Members feel there is racism.

Mr. Wilson explained that the Board Members would retain control of any policy.

Mr. Bowers responded that the way it's written is confusing.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen told Mr. Bowers if he was interested in joining the Committee to contact Monique Weston.

The first item on the agenda was a Corona Virus Update.

Mr. Wilson said the Board of Supervisors had been given an update on the outbreak at the Essex Center in Elizabethtown. He said the long turnaround times and the number of false negatives had been a problem.

He said there were 4 new cases in recent days but said it looks like they are through the worst of it.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he heard that the Company that runs the Essex Center uses the Park Motel. He said a lot of the Elizabethtown residents are saying there is not a lot of supervision at this housing center and violations are occurring.

A comment was made that this company also run a facility in Glens Falls and it's worse there.

Mr. Wilson said the State oversees nursing homes and that a State investigation is being done. He said the local Public Health has no authority.

He said that Essex County, along with a few other Counties, are working to get Trudeau Institute to gear up for rapid testing.

When Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked who does the contact tracing, Mr. Wilson said Essex County does.

Deb Whitson asked if it was true that a County Employee from Social Services had tested positive.

Mr. Wilson said that an Essex County Employee that lives in Clinton County had tested positive and that the 2 Counties were coordinating the contact tracing.

(discussion continued)

Mr. Wilson asked the Board if they felt it was worth providing WiFi under the pavilion to give the kids an outdoor, covered area to work.

Mr. Deyo suggested not spending the money to hook up saying there are a lot of businesses in Town that provide internet that can be used from vehicles outside.

The discussion on internet started a discussion regarding cell service not being as good as usual.

Mr. Wilson said that Verizon has an agreement to cut trees and maintain their equipment and that they were supposed to be here in July and still aren't.

He also said that AT&T is planning to come into the area.

The next update was given on the Transfer Station.

Mr. Wilson began by saying that bulky days were still on hiatus.

He also said the Town of Keene will be replacing the zero sort recycling with the self-sort recycling that goes with the County system. He said there will be bins for #1 & #2 plastics, glass, aluminum cans and a cardboard trailer.

Mr. Wilson said Ryan Hall will follow up on when this will begin.

When asked, Mr. Hall said the Town should save about \$2,000 a month by switching back to the County system.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen questioned what all this would mean when the regulations on composting began.

Mr. Wilson said that would be in a couple of years and explained to those present that New York State is planning to require that all food waste will have to be recycled.

Mr. Deyo asked with this new recycling saving \$24,000 a year, which he said should balance the budget, he asked if the Town could go back to being open 5 days per week.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that was not a bad idea.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen said she thought it was too soon.

Ms. Whitney suggested waiting for right now to be sure the Town saves \$2,000 per month.

Mr. Wilson said he thought that was a drastic action.

Mr. Deyo asked if they felt that more feedback was needed.

Resolution No. 156 – 20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board authorize going back to the old Transfer Station hours, which was being open 5 days per week. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Before voting on this resolution, more discussion was held.

Bronson Lawrence said that in his line of work the Transfer Station being closed 3 days a week was a significant inconvenience.

Mr. Wilson explained that the extra day closed also gave Roger and TJ time to compact the recycling which results in saving on the expense of transportation. He went on to say there was rational to this.

He went on to say that the Town is losing money with the zero sort system.

Mr. Lawrence asked if the Town knew how long we had been losing money.

Mr. Wilson said it started last year when the Chinese stopped taking the recycling.

He went on to explain that the self-sort through the County is part of the County Contract we already pay for.

He went on to say there had been an unexpected safety and health expense, earlier this year, with the requirement of a \$11,000 fence.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen commented that the County change is still 2 years out.

The Transfer Station Attendant, Laura Holbrook commented that this new system would be a lot of work, she stated that 80% of the people try to recycle and fall short. She said some people even throw garbage in the recycle bin.

Mr. Deyo and Mr. Biesemeyer agreed saying that taking less types of plastic would be a problem for a while.

Mr. Wilson agreed that education would have to be taught.

Someone in the audience suggested that volunteers be used like at the Farmers' Market.

The Roll Call Vote on Resolution No. 156 – 20, written on the previous page was taken.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson:	Yes
Mr. Biesemeyer:	Yes
Ms. Cheetham-Palen:	No
Mr. Deyo:	Yes
Ms. Whitney:	No

There was a brief discussion on whether the Transfer Station would be open or closed tomorrow. It was decided it would be closed due to the short notice.

Mr. Wilson said the next topic on the agenda is the Water Main Repairs for Water District #1.

He informed those present that the Au Sable River Association would be the primary contractor for this project with AES acting as Project Management and Liaison to FEMA. Mr. Wilson explained that with the Au Sable River Association acting as Primary Contractor, the cost would be around \$210,000, he said it would cost a lot more without them.

He said he would be signing agreements next week with both.

Ms. Whitney spoke about the Town getting new signs for the Hamlets and said she would suggest selling the existing sign on Route 73. She asked if it was posted for sale on a municipal auction site, what the bottom price would be.

The Board Members agreed to discuss this matter by email.

Mr. Wilson said that Water District #1 owns 3.4 acres on Spring Way. He said if the Town was to keep this property, money would have to be invested to make it safe.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that once you get rid of it, you can't get it back.

Ms. Estes commented that Carolyn Kiernan should be made aware saying she believed this was former Hickey Family property and they owned all around it.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he would like to look at it.

Mr. Deyo asked if it was an option to use this as a back-up for the Water District.

Mr. Wilson said he would need more information and would get in touch with Carolyn Kiernan.

Ken Borden, who lives on Spring Way, said he would rather the property stayed with the Town.

Mr. Deyo suggested continuing to discuss this with all involved.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Water Rent Collector had submitted her August Collection Report for the Board's information.

A letter requesting use of Marcy Field, September 18th and 19th, for the annual Keene Mountain Hill Climb Reunion was received from Mike Hartson.

Mr. Wilson suggested denying this request saying he has been receiving requests for weddings and permission will lead to more requests.

Resolution No. 157 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the request to use Marcy Field made by Mike Hartson for September 18th and 19th, be denied. 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:	Yes

Mr. Wilson informed those present that all the Towns in the County, including Keene, were given a warning from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets that they are out of compliance in their requirement to have a proper Dangerous Dog Facility, saying that the NC SPCA does not meet compliance and said that Essex County is taking the lead on getting this corrected.

Resolution No. 158 – 20

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board accept the Supervisor's Monthly Financial Statement for July and have it placed on file with the Town Clerk. 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

Resolution No. 159 – 20

Mr. Deyo offered a resolution to adopt Resolution No. 159 – 20, A Resolution Transferring Funds. This resolution, in its entirety, is attached to and made a part of these minutes. 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

Resolution No. 160 – 20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town Board approve the following bills for payment, including those that were prepaid. 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

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 515 to 570, totaling \$93,200.24, as follows;

General Fund Bills	- \$36,964.80
Highway Fund Bills	- 41,975.20
Library Fund Bills	- 381.12
Water District #1 Bills	- 10,676.25
Water District #2 Bills	- 2,988.89
Covid-19	- 213.98

Resolution No. 161 – 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 Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

This meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
September 15, 2020

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