

Town of Keene
Joseph P. Wilson, Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Deputy Supervisor

TOWN BOARD MEETING

December. 22, 2020

5:30pm Via ZOOM (recording available)

The following board members were present: Supervisor Joseph P Wilson Jr., Members of council: Robert M. Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen , David R. Deyo, and Jennifer Whitney.

Town Clerk: Cori-Anne Favro

Water Superintendent: Ryan Hall

Highway Superintendent: Scott Smith

Residents in Attendance:

Farrah Whitney

Vikki Michallos

Tonya Lackey

Girl Scouts from Keene Troop 4212

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson Call to Order: 5:34pm

Privilege of the floor:

Tonya Lackey- Girl Scouts Video Presentation. Children introduced the video. A citizen's Scientist which began a take action project. 3 minute video provided. The video was all about making sure you throw away your garbage and better placement on trash bins. The ideas for putting up no littering signs and some trash bins that may be needed.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if there were specific areas where trash bins may be needed? Kids answered the community center.

Mr. Deyo stated that back in the 80's there were more trash bins, but people started to abuse the cans. So we need to keep that in mind.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated that Maybe we can hang up, leave no trace signs to align with the front courty stewards and the adirondack programs.

Girl scouts asked if they could make some signs for this effort and it was decided that it was a great idea. Thank you girl scouts for your efforts in this task.

OLD BUSINESS:

Corona Virus Update:Mr. Wilson: Continuing to have a rise in numbers in the county. 28 cases over the weekend and it's still really something we need to continue to be vigilant about. Mask wearing in this town is going well, and we need to continue.

Transfer Station: Enforcement policy, Cardboard operations, updated signage.

Mr. Wilson stated that Ryan has ordered a bunch of signs to help with sorting at the transfer station and we have input from Debra Whitson on creating an implementation on a town policy and want "Customers that don't comply will be issued a warning, and after that warning customers will be banned" Something to that effect.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated concerns that if people are banned from the dump that people would put things in the woods or not properly dispose of garbage.

Mr. Deyo Stated that he thinks that the one person they had a problem with is resolved and doesn't think that we will have problems on a larger scale.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated if it's a blanket statement to all the public then it's meant for everyone, not for just that one person.

Mr. Wilson added that for employee safety we need to have policies in place for the future.

Mr. Deyo stated that he thinks putting a sign up will be good to have something in writing.

Ms. Whitney asked if we would be just posting the new rules at the transfer station or should this be other places to make sure everyone is aware.

Mr. Wilson replied that Signs will state customers are responsible for sorting trash etc then we will have the policy in place about the warnings. This will give the attendant a little bit of backstop if problems arise. We will put it on our website, this meeting minutes and we can put it on a sign at the actual dump.

Resolution No. 205-20

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town of Keene will place a notice to all that use the transfer station will be made aware of this policy and better signage will be placed.

This resolution was seconded by Ms. Jennifer Whitney.

Roll Call Vote:

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

There was a cardboard trailer update from Mr. Hall: Currently we are working on getting a shipping container. This would be just for cardboard, 40 yard and only cardboard. Other recycling items will just go in the tractor trailer. It will be cleaner and easier to drop off just cardboard. We have a lot more cardboard than some towns.

Mr. Deyo added I think that plan sounds good and we should go ahead with that plan.

Mr. Wilson added he would like to thank Roman Karzian, who made a great recycling guide which will be on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Water Districts:

Town Resident Vikki Michallos stated her concerns about her water bill of \$1017.50 annually. She stated her residence is currently categorized as a 2 rental unit, but they have moved into full time in 2018 and there has not been any short term rentals since. She is asking the board how to correct so that it's no longer commercial property and how it can be changed to residential. Also would they be eligible for a refund for the past 2 years?

Mr. Deyo stated that he knows that it's no longer a short term rental but, it's showing that it is still a rental online so that is why they kept it as commercial status.

Ms. Michallos stated that yes it's probably still online showing as a rental.

Mr. Wilson added that we (Town of Keene) are obligated to bill as commercial if the property is still advertised as a rental property. We can adjust the bills once everything is updated.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that he was comfortable taking Ms. Michallos word that they are no longer renting out their property.

Mr. Wilson followed up that Ms. Michallos should take down the rental advertising on all sites and we will change their category going forward.

Mr. Hall moved on to the next topic of the water billing cycle. He stated that he has heard from a lot of people that they don't like the 1 x a year billing and they don't like it in July. Mr. Hall would like to know the board's opinion. Mr. Hall added People don't like that they are getting billed for a whole year at once. People don't like that it's once a year also with real estate transactions. He thinks it's more difficult and has gotten a number of questions on this.

Mr. Biesemeyer clarified with a question " If someone doesn't pay their bill do we shut their water off??"

Mr. Deyo Asked Is the billing done by Cori-Anne, the new clerk?

Ms. Favro: No I wasn't appointed for that.

Mr. Biesemeyer then asked, who sends the water bills out?

Mr. Wilson replied that Donna Reed Austin was the water biller and she quit. Cori-Anne is just the collector. This brings up another question, we need to plan on how we are going to do this. It could raise the cost if changed to bi annually. I think we need to think about this more and gather more data and come back on this question.

Ms. Favro added that she called and spoke with The Village of Lake Placid and got information on the water billing process they use, along with information on their billing software.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered that maybe we offer a payment plan split or all in one pay, Ms. Favro agreed and stated we have something similar with the real property taxes.

RESOLUTION 206-20

Mr. Deyo offered that the board tables all water billing changes until we gather more information.

Mr. Deyo withdrew the motion so more people could comment.

Ms. Whitney asked ,will the board need to appoint a new water biller/ Collector for 2021?

Ms. Biesemeyer asked how the pay was set up for water billers and collectors.

Ms. Favro shared the numbers from the 2020 organizational meeting on pay for billers.

Resolution was seconded by Ms. Whitney to table the Water billing changes.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: YES

Mr. Biesemeyer: YES

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: YES

Mr. Deyo: YES

Ms. Whitney: YES

Mr. Hall brought up commercial water sales and that the town should really begin doing this. What needs to be done on a sale, needs to be an out of district sale price. Suggestion is 5 cents per gallon, for any commercial sales happening in 2021.

Mr. Hall presented the example of: a pool company comes and they are buying water from the town, for a pool that is out of the water district. Right now we are gifting water but if they are out of the district they really should be paying for water. We have a meter that can be placed on hydrants so that when water is taken it can be tracked and then billed. In 2020 we have given out 35,000 gallons of water, so it's picking up as new construction and things are picking up.

Mr. Deyo stated he wanted to talk more with the other board members and then we can make a decision.

Ms. Cheetham Palen disagreed and stated that it needs to be gone over now.

Ms. Whitney asked for another example other than pools.

Mr. Wilson stated that there has been a private contracting company with a huge vac truck all week getting water from the hydrant outside the town hall for work they are doing somewhere in town. Many times companies like this will ask for a bill but we don't have one to give because we weren't set up to meter and charge out commercial use water.

Mr. Biesemeyer said he thinks its a good policy so we should start charging

Mr. Deyo stated that now that it has been explained he is more on board with it.

Mr. Wilson added that maybe the Highway department should be paying for usage as well?

Mr. Biesemeyer disagreed and stated I don't think we should be charging the highway department.

Mr. Hall added that the water department does pay the highway for certain things and it may just wash out.

Mr. Wilson added from an auditing standpoint it is cleaner to charge the highway and vice versa. He asked Mr. Scott Smith how he felt about that.

Mr. Smith stated that sounds good and the highway will just get the meter when we know we are going to be using the water.

Mr. Wilson agreed that we are properly managing the funds

RESOLUTION 207-20 Presented by Ms. Cheetham-Palen to start charging all commercial use water 5 cents per Gallon, by using the meter and begin billing.

Seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: YES

Mr. Biesemeyer: YES

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: YES

Mr. Deyo: YES

Ms. Whitney: YES

2.Road ownership: Interbrook Way

In Regards to Interbook Way: Mr. Wilson stated the following. The town has an easement, because of the surface water source, We don't have an obligation to service or maintain the road. One property owner has asked if the town will maintain, plow, salt and sand. But since it's not a town road then we do not do it. A few years ago the town did pave the lower half and Ryan plows it once in a while. I feel we should do what we did with fairview way. I think the property owners should request that we adopt it.

Mr. Deyo stated, I think we should have Scott and Ryan and decide about it

Mr Biesemeyer asked what section would we (Town of Keene) be taking over? The whole thing or just a section?

Mr. Hall Stated, The part from Johns Brook to the parking lot of the Edmonds house.

Ms Cheetham Palen asked if that property is within the hamlet?

Mr. Wilson stated no.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen added that because the hamlet is an area that we are hoping people build and use. I guess it's up to Scott and make sure the road meets minimum standards.

Mr. Scott Smith stated It does not make sense to me, there is only 1 house up there.

Mr. Hall stated that the water department no longer needs to access anything on that road, but they did in the past. But the tanks are no longer needed.

Ms. Whitney stated that it's her understanding that since we don't need to get there then I don't think we need to take it over or maintain it.

Mr. Deyo Agreed and stated that now he sees it more clearly.

RESOLUTION 208-20 Ms. Whitney presented the town of Keene to cease all maintenance/ care of Interbrookway.

Seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: YES

Mr. Biesemeyer: YES

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: YES

Mr. Deyo: YES

Ms. Whitney: YES

4. Star Renewal: Governor issued an Executive order to waive the form. See attached executive order.

RESOLUTION 209-20 presented by Mr. Biesemeyer to waive the paperwork for this year's STAR Renewal based on executive order.

Seconded by Mr. Deyo

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: YES

Mr. Biesemeyer: YES

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: YES

Mr. Deyo: YES

Ms. Whitney: YES

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

General Fund

to increase Appropriation Line #A99509.1 Transfer to capital by \$20,000.00 to reflect the new Capital Reserve set up for the ROOST Enhancement Fund.

to increase Appropriation Line #A99509.1 Transfer to Capital by \$5,000.00 to establish another shuttle Reserve Fund not originally in budget for 2020. Transfer from C.L.A.S.S

to increase Appropriation Line #SW1 083204.07.004 by \$192,718.53 and to increase #SW083202.07.002.00 by \$7281.47 to establish a loan from the General fund, total amount of loan, \$200,000.00 while waiting for F.E.M.A. to reimburse for damages done by the Halloween storm of 2019.

RESOLUTION 209-20 To make transfers presented by Mr. Biesemeyer.

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 210-20 presented by Ms. Cheetham-Palen to audit the bills.
Seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: YES
Mr. Biesemeyer: YES
Ms. Cheetham-Palen: YES
Mr. Deyo: Abstained
Ms. Whitney: Abstained

Board Members Report

Ms. Whitney reported that the GoFund me money as received from the Tree project.

RESOLUTION 211-20 to adjourn was presented by Mr. Deyo at 6:45
Seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer

Roll Call Vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT: 6:45pm

Cori-Anne Favro, Town Clerk
December 28th, 2020

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