

Town of Keene
Joseph P. Wilson, Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Deputy Supervisor
Town Board Meeting
Tuesday February 9th, 2021
7:00pm (Remotely via Zoom)

The following board members present: Joseph P Wilson Jr., Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, David R. Deyo, Jennifer G. Whitney Members of council. Also present: Scott Smith Highway Superintendent, Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, and Cori-Anne Favro, Town Clerk and Tax collector.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Wilson at 7:01 PM.

The meeting began with the offering of the meeting minutes from 1/26/21 meeting for approval.

Resolution No. 63-21

Ms. Whitney offered a resolution and moved its adoption that the meeting minutes be accepted from the 1/26/2021 town board meeting. 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

Privilege of the floor:

Jerry Zimple: I want to thank the town plowers this morning that did not put a lot of snow in her driveway and she hopes it becomes a future policy.

Mr. Wilson then moved to old business and gave an update on Corona Virus. The Keene Valley Library is offering assistance helping people sign up for the vaccination via online portal.. This is

being done through the community outreach. You can call the library and talk to Arron so that he can assist.

Nothing has changed with Covid-19, We are still having a vaccine shortage in this area. We have to continue to be cautious. As for use of town property we are starting to get the spring surge for request for use of the Holt house and Marcy Field. We as a board need to continue to stand on not allowing that. We will continue to keep venues closed and wait for more guidance.

Mr. Wilson also gave an update on the Marcy Field Usage from last meeting. It's covered under our general liability but we should put up some signs stating that it's not sanded and you must walk at your own risk. With it being plowed by a volunteer is the same as another contractor and it does not increase the liability.

Ms. Whitney asked if the Town of Keene needed to have the volunteer provide proof of insurance.

Mr. Deyo added, If Deb is okay with it and Jerry Smith wants to continue then I think we are good with it.

Ms. Cheetham Palen stated that we will want to make sure that we watch the weather. So that when it gets too soft we can close it off. We don't want someone out there driving on the field and sinking into mud and causing damage to the grass and track.

Mr. Wilson Concluded to protect the field we will go with April 1 or spring frost for no Vehicles on the grass. We also have to keep working on the bigger plan with no cars on marcy field before summer arrives.

The other update on parking for the last meeting was also presented by Mr. Wilson. The skier Parking on Jack Rabbit Trail Right now Ed Palen is working with Wade Whitney on getting that field plowed. The Town right now is not taking over plowing for that. We are working on a long term plan to work with DEC to take the Palen's up on the offer of donation of land. So in the short term this will be plowed by a private contractor.

Ms. Whitney asked if there could be signs put on one side of the road so that it would leave space on the road for emergency vehicles etc. so that road is not fully blocked.

Ms. Cheetham Palen stated that Mr. Ned Whitney came up and opened the field for no charge and she thinks that the town members should be aware of that.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that he thinks what Mr. Wilson stated is that parallel plans should continue to work with possibly getting the town and the DEC to come together for a plan to make it a public lot. I think we should continue to keep working on it to be viable for the town and the visitors.

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Smith (Scott Highway Superintendent) and I did a joint call with the DEC and he asked how we could work on getting the DEC to pay the town for the construction of a lot and the upkeep of the parking lot.

Mr. Biesemeyer: Is it reasonable to think that we could go fund me for this project?

Mr. Wilson replied with, "well let's see what the DEC can do. I think we should lean on the DEC to work on state land. We are at the first stages of discussion with DEC but it looks good that possibly we have options and opportunities with the DEC. We will keep you all updated as we get more information on this. "

Next item of business is to accept the audit of the Code Officer Derrick Martineau's for 2020. After books were available for review. Ms. Whitney posed the question of why more bank deposit information was not available, and why collections were so low. Mr. Biesemeyer also added that he needed to see more information as well that \$4900 is ridiculously low. We need to see the size breakdown of the projects getting permits. Ms. Cheetham-Palen and Mr. Deyo also agreed with what Ms. Whitney and Mr. Biesemeyer were stating.

Ms. Whitney made a motion to table again the acceptance of this 2020 Audit. Ms. Cheetham-Palen agreed and stated she would like to see information on what other towns are charging. Mr. Wilson added that he and Mr. Martineau had spoken about this. The planning board and Mr. Martineau are working together to put together different rates.

Next Ms. Whitney gave a reminder for Businesses ads and town departments to have information for the new town website by 2/15/2021. We are on the home stretch. We are still needing information from businesses if they want to be featured on the website. She also posed the question to the community and the board, "If the owners of the business live in Keene but have a business outside of Keene should they still be able to be listed on the Town of Keene website?"

Mr. Deyo stated he sees it both ways.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered, maybe making it regional business.

Mr. Deyo stated maybe we want to think about this for a few days?

Mr. Wilson added the suggestion of maybe a section under the page "visit these businesses that are in the region owned by Keene residents." Then we cover the taxpayers.

Next Ms. Cheetham-Palen that the recreation group was wondering if we could update things easily like Hiker parking, trail conditions. The group would like to have updated real time information on parking and add a live link to parking updates and trail head information. This sounded great and something we will work on.

The next item of business was the update from Mr. Ryan Hall on the Keene well pump replacement.

Mr. Hall The pump, wire and pipe are ordered and Parker Well Drilling is on standby when things arrive. We are going to see if we can use the Camera from Parker, it's a lot cheaper than Hydrosorce or Lane.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is another example of Ryan working on things and with the county to get things done at a better price. We are able to do things in a more cost effective way.

Ms. Whitney asked if Mr. Hall was still within budget of what you said in the last meeting for this project?

Mr. Hall stated we may be under the original quote.

RESOLUTION No. 64-21

Appointments from the Organizational Meeting Thomas Hickey, Kristy Bassarab

Mr. Biesemeyer offered this resolution and Mr. Deyo seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

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

New Business: Cori-Anne Favro tax collector gave an update on the 2021 tax collection. The town warrant has been met. Even with the postal service delays things have been going well. Thank you to all the taxpayers.

Mr. Wilson presented the topic of sidewalk snow removal. After the last storm we got a lot of unhappy feedback after the last storm when our equipment was down. We need to come up with a snow removal policy and I need feedback from the residents, and the town board.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated "I don't understand why this is changing all of a sudden, why now after all these years are we having problems with sidewalk snow removal?"

Jerilea (RESIDENT) Stated that there is a problem when the snow is pushed back into their driveway it causes problems.

Mr. Wilson said that we want to put together a plan and see what equipment we need to buy and we will put it together the plan and bring that back for input and board approval.

Barbra Stroger (Resident) stated “ I noticed that sometimes the sidewalks are not cleaned before school starts. This needs to be looked at. “

Resolution 65-21 December's Supervisors report DRAFT acceptance.

Mr. Biesemeyer offered the resolution acceptance and Ms. Whitney seconded the motion. There were a few questions after this proposal as followed.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked what the 203 account, why are they all the same?

Mr. Wilson is going to clarify with Susan. Mr. Wilson will talk to Susan and email everyone.

Ms Cheetham Palen also asked what the \$81.62 and \$831.20 ?

Mr. Wilson stated its the interest revenue for the month.

A few questions will be worked out with Susan and Mr. Wilson will follow up via email to the board.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Wilson: YES

Mr. Biesemeyer: YES

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: YES

Mr. Deyo: YES

Ms. Whitney: YES

Next item of business was the proposal to hire a Court Clerk

Mr. Wilson presented that Justice Harral would like the court to hire the Court Clerk. For 10 hours a week at \$25 per hour. He added that we will have to amend our budget to do this and take the funds from what the court generates. If we are taking \$12k a year I think it will be able to happen.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that we cannot do that until the next budget season. That's a lot of money to change. Mr. Wilson stated I think we can cover this with the increased ticket revenue. Mr. Biesemeyer I don't think we can just take from other line items. Discussion continued about the need and the cost of adding a court clerk.

RESOLUTION No. 66-21

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution to approve the hiring of a temporary court clerk, this was seconded by Ms. Whitney

Ms. Whitson added some input and answered questions about the position.

Mr. Wilson stated that we could approve the hiring of the clerk but we need to check the budget and make sure that we will be able to budget for this. This is a stop gap position and we will need to advertise for the full time position once the temporary help has been completed. Approve the temp Court clerk for 2 months after the budget is approved and then the justice will do the full search for a full time position.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Biesemeyer made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Deyo. This session began at 8:21 pm

9:25pm Resumed the Regular meeting.

Resolution 67-21

Mr. Deyo offered the resolution to motion to Audit the Bills, Seconded Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

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

Resolution 68-21

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved its adoption. Be it resolved that with all business having been transacted, this meeting will be adjourned. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Deyo

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm

**Cori-Anne Favro, Town Clerk
February 22nd, 2021**