

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

TOWN BOARD MEETING

January 26th, 2021

5:30 pm 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 G. Whitney.

Town Clerk: Cori-Anne Favro
Water Superintendent: Ryan Hall
Highway Superintendent: Scott Smith

Residents were present.

The Chairman Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Mr. Wilson opened the meeting by offering the resolution to accept the meeting minutes from the following meeting dates.

Dec. 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
Dec. 22, 2020 Bi-Monthly Board Meeting
Jan 4, 2021 Organizational Meeting
Jan. 14, Special Board Meeting

RESOLUTION 63-21

Ms. Cheetham-Palen moved its adoption. Be it resolved that the town board accept the meeting minutes listed above. 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

Ms. Cheetham-Palen did ask if we had decided on the upcoming water billing process from the minutes in December and Mr. Wilson replied that we are still working on formulating a plan.

Privilege of the Floor: NONE

Mr. Wilson moved on to old business.

He gave a report on the Corona Virus. From Public health the biggest issue is the limited supply of vaccines that we are getting and regional control planning is pushing to get more vaccines in this area. The residents of Keene will have to travel to Plattsburgh or Potsdam right now for a vaccine as there is no local supply or clinics. Only 8.4% of Essex county has been vaccinated. 90% is herd immunity. Our staff with the Town is doing well with social distancing, at this point we are still staying on the current plan.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked if there anywhere people could turn to for help to get scheduled for a vaccine?

Mr. Deyo stated there are places you can call like Kinney Drugs.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen has reached out to Bob Andrews and is waiting to hear back from him.

Mr. Biesemeyer is hoping people will turn to us (the town) for help if they need help.

Mr. Wilson stated let's have the elderly call the Essex county office for the aging. They can help them get registered. Also going to talk to Arron Miller, to set up a way to have a person come in and do the appointment with them and maybe do some community outreach.

Discussion continued and the plan moved forward to working towards a community program we could run through the libraries.

Next Mr. Hall gave information on the water district 1 well pump replacement. Mr. Hall stated, Last week we had a well pump failure of well pump 2 in Keene. It was starting to get old and we planned to do a repair before this happened but the cost of the river project cut into the funds. The new pump was ordered yesterday a Holland pump and it was \$5000, and \$1100 and wiring is looking like another \$1000 and waiting on a quote from the Drill Truck from Parker Water. We are looking at \$21,000.00 estimated total project.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that there really is no discussion needed, that it has to be done.

Ms. Whitney asked if there was a backup source, if the pump was down how was it working?

Mr. Hall replied with: we have 2 wells and both run together. Per DOH standard we have to have 2 wells running at once.

Mr. Wilson pointed out that the pump that is remaining as running is also the same age of the one that has failed, and we will need to start planning on maintenance and repairs for pump 2.

Mr. Wilson then went back to old business stating that there is going to be a 5% cut to state aid, there is also another change. The state is now shifting the aid payments to the county and then the county will pay to the towns. The county will be cutting as well, the impact of covid is continuing to the state budget, county and state.

Mr. Biesesmeyer stated that Lobbyists are working on getting the federal government to keep a line in the stimulus package to help state governments . Hopefully that will reduce the impacts.

New Business:

Mr. Wilson presented information on Marcy Field. He stated that Marcy Field was really busy this summer and we also have had a lot of requests to plow and sand and salt. So I think we do need to start planning now for a new plan going forward with the field. We should have no more cars on marcy fields unless it's permitted by the town for things like the farmers market. I also don't think the town should plow it, I think most of the parking should be parking at the Holt house and possibly putting up a gate to keep cars off the field and the circle.

Ms. Whitney stated that she completely agreed that we should not have vehicles on the field, and asked if we are still going to have someone plow the circle.

Mr Wilson stated he could inform *him* The volunteer to stop plowing the circle.

Mr. Deyo doesn't want to put anymore work on the town guys or park and rec either to take over plowing this.

Ms. Whitney asked if there will be damage to the grass because of the plowing?

Ms. Cheetham-Palen also added that we don't want salt and sand, due to pollutants. But will people slip and fall if it's plowed and not sanded?

Mr. Wilson: We need to check with our insurance agent and Ms. Whitson and get together for our next step of where to go with the plowing of the field for walking. Mr. Wilson also added that all plowing will be halted until we speak with the town Lawyer. He will get information and we can put together our plan moving forward.

Mr. Wilson moved on to the next order of business which was the Code officers Audit. Which needs to be rescheduled again since we did not get the books from the code officer.

Mr. Wilson presented the next item of business which is the question of plowing off the field on Palens Property (Rock and River) So people could park near the Jackrabbit trail for cross country Skiing access. I am proposing that it is plowed for parking by the Town of Keene Highway. It would be used just for the holiday weekend. This was done in the past possibly 2017 when Gary Manley was Highway Superintendent.

Mr. Deyo stated it's a slippery slope when we start plowing private property and roads, like what we discussed last month with Interbrook.

Mr. Palen town resident stated that he is worried about the amount of Traffic and I would like to keep the parking available for residents. He is hoping if they donated their land to the Town with opening a parking lot and be able to keep it open.

Mr. Biesemeyer: I think after listening to Mr. Palen I think this is different from the interbrook road. I think It would benefit the residents.

Ms. Whitney I dont think this is different from Interbrook Way.

Mr. Wilson in 2017 when we did it last we did take heat from some residents.

Mr. Deyo stated that we do need to check with Deb and I would like to hear from Scott Smith as well with his thoughts.

Mr. Smith I remember doing it before and I don't think it will be hard to do it again.

Mr. Palen stated that the next 3 weekends are going to be crazy. People are going in and using our bathrooms and such. It's crazy. We need a long term solution. We are hoping that it's a short term solution. We hope the DEC will take the offer of donation easement of our property's lower lot and turn it into public trail parking. **CORRECTION** CF/ Town Clerk 3/25/21

Mr. Deyo I think we need to get an email chain and speak with Ms. Whitson to go any further on a decision.

Ms. Whitney I think we will be able to make a choice quickly once we hear from Ms. Whitson.

Mr. Wilson I have been taking notes and putting together an email for Ms. Whitson.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen wanted on the record that she is abstaining from this whole conversation since she is the property owner that was in the discussion.

Ms. Whitney: The skating rink is looking good and the hours can be found on facebook.
The website will be up and running April 1st
The Tree will stay lit till March thanks to East Branch Friends of the Arts.

Mr. Deyo asked will all the hours and days of the dump and such be updated? And Ms. Whitney replied yes.

Mr. Deyo brought up the possibility of having a 3 way light at the intersection of Adirondack street and 73. He spoke with Mr. Hall about it. Mr. Hall did speak with some people and was gathering information regarding this.

More information is being gathered on a possible solution to slow traffic in the Town of Keene.

Ms. Cheetham-palen gave an update on the steering committee. She is putting together all the reports and we will have a report for the board.

RESOLUTION 64-21

Be it resolved that the bills that we audited last meeting are approved. Motion made by Ms. Whitney, seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Ms. Whitney: YES

Ms. Favro Brought up that she has not audited the bills yet before they were sent. Mr. Wilson stated we will work on a better workflow going forward.

Resolution 65-21 to adjourn the meeting presented by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by dave.

Mr. Wilson: YES

Mr. Biesemeyer: YES

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: YES

Mr. Deyo: YES

Ms. Whitney: YES

Meeting was adjourned at 6:26pm

Cori-Anne Favro

Town Clerk