

Joseph P. Wilson Jr, Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Deputy Supervisor
TOWN BOARD MEETING
April 13th,2021
5pm
Community Center Pavilion

Board members present: Joseph P Wilson Jr., Supervisor,
Teresa Cheetham-Palen, David R. Deyo, Jennifer G Whitney.
Highway Superintendent, Scott Smith
Water Superintendent, Ryan Hall
Town Clerk, Cori-Anne Favro
Town Residents also present.

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.
First in person meeting since Covid began.

RESOLUTION 94-21

Ms. Cheetham-Palen made a motion to accept the minutes of both the March 9th and March 30th board meeting, this was seconded by Ms. Biesemeyer.

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Privilege of the floor:

Ms. Cori-Anne Favro asked if she were to organize a Town of Keene road clean up day in honor of earth day, would the town be willing to take the collected garbage at the transfer station for no cost. It was agreed upon that it would be okay for this to happen. Cori-Anne would coordinate with Mr. Hall for drop off locations for bags of garbage. Cori-Anne is going to make a social media campaign to let people know about the days and details via nextdoor keene and facebook.

Mr. Wilson: First item of business is the Covid 19 update. How can we get more people to get vaccinated? The vaccination pace has seemed to have stalled. We are at 30% for the county and the clinics are having to return vaccines. How can the town board get more people out and get vaccinated? What can we do as a board?

Mr. Biesemeyer: I think we should stick to our other business, it's more of a personal stance on vaccines. I've gotten both of my vaccines. We just need to talk to people, but I think it's just a personal choice of people.

Mr. Deyo: I think we just encourage everyone we talk to, do the best we can. I've gotten both of mine as well.

Mr. Wilson: Well we just need to get it so it's safer, we have a lot of event requests.

Ms. Whitney: We have been putting out the clinics and such out on social media. Do we know a demographic of the people that aren't getting it?

Mr. Wilson: No not really, we have been doing good up here but it seems to be stalling.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: I think just talking about it as much as we and continue to get the word out.

NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS: Community Master Planning committee

Mr. Wilson: The committee would like to have 2 separate meetings to discuss the plan and allow the board and public to ask questions and hear from the committee. The suggested meeting dates are April 26th at 5pm and April 28th at 5pm. The report will be broken into 2 parts.

Carolyn Peterson: These meetings will give the opportunity to community members to discuss with the committee.

Mr. Wilson: Today on the planning board meeting I spoke with Larry House about this.

Mr. Deyo: The report was very detailed, what else are we going to learn from these meetings?

Ms. Peterson: This meeting honors the people that worked on this report. I would rather have the leaders of those work groups answer questions that board members or community members may have.

Mr. Deyo: Not to disrespect the work everyone did, I don't have any more questions. The report is really detailed. I hate to have more meetings just to have more meetings.

Mr. Wilson: I think the meeting will be more for the Town residents.

Mr. Deyo: Well that makes more sense, it was made to seem like it was just for the board members.

Susie Doolittle: I think the meeting would give members of the public to ask candidates there feelings on each item in the report.

Mr. Wilson: Okay so the meeting will be 5pm on April 26th and April 28th outside. If the weather is bad we will push to another week.

Next item of business: Presentation by Jim Bernard Clean Energy Communities.

Mr. Bernard: Asked if under the 2017 if the CEC group could operate under that resolution that was passed then. Round 1 recruited a group of volunteers that did not use any town funds. Mr. Bernard went into explaining the process and projects that took place in 2017 with solar ray and how it produced about \$5000.00 worth of electricity. There are now a few panels that are not working correctly, which calls into question that someone needs to be monitoring these projects in the future. The ANCA representative Nancy Bernstein contacted the team to alert us that there is a new round coming out called the leadership round, featuring 5 year programs that are well funded. Explanation of the points system was presented.

Mr. Biesemeyer :What the time frame would be to achieve the 3000 points mark?

Mr. Bernard: This calendar year.

Ms. Whitney: If you were awarded the grant what kind of projects do you plan on completing?

Mr. Bernard: More energy saving projects.

Mr. Biesemeyer: Build more solar.

RESOLUTION 95-21

Motion to continue to resolution that was made in 2017 to continue to work as CEC group made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Whitney.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: YES

Mr. Biesemeyer: YES

Ms.Cheetham-Palen: YES

Mr. Deyo: YES

Ms.Whitney: YES

RESOLUTION 96-21

Motion made to Adopt the updated snow removal policy made by Mr. Biesemeyer Seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Ms. Susie Doolittle: I don't see any reason to sand Market street.

Mr. Smith: It is a safety issue, we do have to keep the roads in a safe condition.

Ms. Doolittle: I think it's sanded everytime the snow flies.

Mr. Wilson: We are trying to reduce the use of salt, I think we are down to 10%.

Mr. Smith: We use 9% salt.

Ms. Whitney: It's a high traveled road with the school and buses.

Mr. Smith: We will look at it next year and see if we can cut back some, if we can, we will.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: YES

Mr. Biesemeyer: YES

Ms.Cheetham-Palen: YES

Mr. Deyo: YES

Ms.Whitney: YES

Next item of business, Mr. Scott Smith presented the 284 agreement- which allows general repairs money \$68,000.00, had a roll over of \$162,000.00. There are a few projects that the Highway would like to do.

Ms. Whitney: There was some talk about the Ausable road and Styles Brook road.

Mr. Smith: It was not on my plan for this year. The plan for this years is Adirondack street to the intersection of Johns Brook road and to do this we will use CHIPS money. I may need to grind it down and then pave, but most of this will be covered under CHIPS.

Ms. Whitney: When would this project take place?

Mr. Smith: After school ends, and it would only take a few days to get it completed. Scott reminded the board that he still needs signatures for the 284 agreement and it would be at the Town hall.

New Business:

The Library:

Mr. Biesemeyer: A letter was sent to the board from the Code officer Derrick Martineau, after the report came back from the engineer. The building needs major structural repairs and roof. In 2009 the Methodist Church gave the library \$20,000.00 with the restriction that only the interest could be used. I spoke with Bill Riley and he authorized the use of the full \$30,000.00 to be used for repairs of the building. We want to see if the library board would want to spec out something to get an engineering stamp so that the plans can go out to bid.

Mr. Deyo: So we are waiting to see what the library board wants to do?

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Another concern was also the septic right?

Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes, but this could be updated and deemed an improvement.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: So there is a way to get around putting in a new system?

Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes Derrick would have to approve it.

Mr. Deyo: Yes, I have seen this on the planning board as well, because many people in Keene live along the river.

Mr. Biesemeyer: Hopefully the drawing up the plan would not exceed \$1,000.00.

Mr. Wilson: Okay it sounds like we have a plan with the library.

Next item of business: Event request on town property.

Mr. Wilson: With the Corona virus there is a limit of 200 people with mask and social distancing. You all got a copy of the current request in your mailboxes. We have Kite Fest Sept 25th and also the flaming leaves requested on Sept. 25th. So we will have to work with them on rescheduling one of them. Also nothing can be done in conjunction with the farmers market.

Ms. Whitney: Are we all covered with liability on these events?

Mr. Wilson: As long as we are requiring safety protocols be written and followed. A form will be created and sent to the Town Clerk so that she can submit to all event requests.

RESOLUTION 97-21

Ms. Whitney presented the motion to approve the presented events as long as they follow state guidelines and present safety plan. Seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: YES

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

NOTE: Mr. Biesemeyer presented that he spoke with Mr John Schuler from the Ausable Club, who was asking about the fireworks. The expected attendance for that event is over 400 people. The board decided that the fireworks should not be held again this year due to covid-19 concerns and that crowd size is outside the scope of NYS protocol.

Next item of business: Cemetery

Mr. Wilson presented that he received the wetland map from Kevin Hall surveyor. A copy of this was sent to the board members. We need to decide if we are going to commit to this expansion and take on another 6 acres of cemetery land. Do we want to not expand and get out of the cemetery business?

Mr. Biesemeyer: I think we are obligated because of the land trade we did.

Mr. Deyo: I think we also need an idea of cost before we make a decision like that.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes, I think we need the next step.

Mr. Wilson: Okay I will get a number from Kevin Hall to see a price on expansion.

Mr. Biesemeyer: Is there any county or state help with this? Money to help offset the cost of cemeteries?

Mr. Wilson: No, this all falls on the town. We do sell about 6 deeds a year, so the demand is there. I'll get thoughts on pricing from Kevin Hall.

RESOLUTION 98-21

Motion made by Mr. Deyo to approve the new private road to be names the Mountainscape Way, seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Discussion on this:residents wanted the road to be named Mountainscape Trail, but the way the road naming is set up that all of these driveways are named WAY. That is the uniform naming structure the town has set up and we will continue with that for the 911 road system.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Next item of business: North Country Chamber of Commerce Membership.

Ms. Whitney: The cost of the annual membership is \$212.00 They offer help with insurance marketplace, discounts and other perks. It may benefit businesses in towns, I am not sure on all the final details. I did research and many towns in the area are a part of this.

Mr. Deyo: I think we join for 1 year and if we don't see any benefits then we dont join the next year.

Ms. Whitney: I will reach out to the Chamber and get more information and bring it back to the next meeting and we can decide then.

Next item of business: Community Enhancement Fund

Ms. Whitney: I reached out to ROOST to get more information on this. I see in February we received an additional \$15,000.00 on top of the \$20,000 we already received. What are we using these funds for?

Mr. Wilson: It has to be used for tourism and enhancement by law.

Mr. Deyo: What about using the funds for a parking kiosk at the hiker parking lots, that would be tourism and helping the town.

Mr. Biesemeyer: I think we should add the kiosk.

Mr. Wilson: Well we have the hikers just pay once for the shuttle and not parking.

Mr. Biesemeyer: We have to look at this permitting system at the AMR. Its going to funnel more people into the town lots. We need to charge for upgrades we are going to need to do, and plan on expanding the shuttle.

Mr. Deyo: Well lets atleast plan on getting the kiosk at the garden lot where we already charge for parking. The kiosk with credit cards will be easier for people.

Mr. Willson: We need to get permission from the land owners at the garden lot.

RESOLUTION 99-21

Motion made by Mr. Deyo that we install a parking kiosk at the garden hiker parking lot once permission is granted by the land owners. Mr. Biesemeyer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: YES

Mr. Biesemeyer: YES

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: YES

Mr. Deyo: YES

Ms. Whitney: YES

The town board went into executive session at 6:38 pm and walked into the field.

RESOLUTION 100-21

Motion presented by Mr. Deyo to return to regular session meeting at 6:42pm, this 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

RESOLUTION 101-21

Motion to To add \$600.00 Appropriation Line #A073104.01.004.00 Youth Commission Contractual to reflect Stewart's Holiday Match Donation proposed by Ms. Whitney, seconded by Mr. Deyo.

Roll Call Vote:

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

RESOLUTION 102-21

Motion to accept January and February's Supervisors reports made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Mr. Deyo.

Roll Call Vote:

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

RESOLUTION 103-21

Motion to audit the bills made 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 104-21

Motion made by Ms. Whitney that all business has been conducted and resolved, meeting to be adjourned at 6:48pm seconded by Mr. Deyo.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Meeting Adjourned 6:48pm

Cori-Anne Favro, Town Clerk
4/19/21