

Joseph P. Wilson Jr, Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Deputy Supervisor
TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 8th,2021
6:00pm
Community Center Pavilion

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held Tuesday, June 8th, 2021 at 6:00 PM, at the Town of Keene Pavilion. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer and David R. Deyo, Councilmen, Teresa Cheetham-Palen and Jennifer G. Whitney, Councilwomen. Also present were: Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, and numerous town residents.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

RESOLUTION No. 140-21

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved to its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town of Keene board accepts the meeting minutes from April 13th, April 27th, May 11th, May 25th, 2021. This resolution was seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen. The board members will vote to approve each of the minutes individually due to absence from some meetings.

April 13th, 2021 minutes. The following clarification and correction needs to be made. Ms. Whitney stated that when she was asking about the Ausable Road she was inquiring about the road being purchased and it was not actually purchased, those changes will be made to the minutes to reflect that.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes

Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes

Mr. Deyo: Yes

Ms. Whitney: Yes

April 27th, 2021 meeting minutes. The following clarification and correction is needed: On page 5 Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated that the following correction on her statement about the hiring of the Supervisor's clerk was to be changed to "as a trial period and then review how that is going and re-assess." The following changes will be made to the minutes.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes

Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes

Mr. Deyo: Yes

Ms. Whitney: Yes

May 11th, 2021 meeting minutes needed no changes or corrections.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes

Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Abstain (Absent from that meeting)

Mr. Deyo: Yes

Ms. Whitney: Abstain (Absent from that meeting)

May 25th, 2021 meeting minutes. The following correction of clarification is needed: Mr. Wilson stated that the wording on page 8 about the transfer in water funds needs to be changed from Indepartmental to interfund transfer. The following changes will be made.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes

Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes

Mr. Deyo: Yes

Ms. Whitney: Yes

Mr. Wilson then offered privilege of the floor to the guest at the meeting.

Pete wanted to express that as a member of the HPAG (High Peaks Advisory Group) he wanted everyone to know that they were not in favor of the parking delineator stakes along route 73. He expressed that the important part of making changes is to make sure that the right people are in the room when decisions are being made, and more Town representation is important moving forward.

Ms. Cori-Anne Favro asked the board if there were plans to have a port-a-john placed at the town beach across from the Holt house this year. It's quite dangerous trying to cross the busy route 73 with a child to take them to the bathroom. Mr. Wilson responded that we usually do have one at the beach and he will look into getting that taken care of.

Mr. Rusty Hall, the Keene Valley Fire Chief spoke in follow up to an email he sent to the Town Board regarding the recent EMS call they had to a home in Keene Valley that involved an Air B and B rental and intoxicated underage individuals. This event held the crews up for over 3 hours. He was inquiring if the board had plans to move forward with more regulations on Air B and B's. Mr. Wilson responded that they would be getting to that information further down in the meeting.

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the Town's 2020 AUD progress, since last meeting we were advised it was delinquent. Mr. Wilson stated the 2019 AUD hold up was on the comptroller's side. He stated that Susan answered the questions they had and it was still just pending with them. It's now accepted and now Susan can work on the 2020 AUD.

Old Business: The draft of the Town of Keene Strategic plan is in front of the Town Board tonight for adoption.

RESOLUTION No. 141-21

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved to its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town of Keene board will adopt the Town of Keene Strategic Plan, and with the plan to review each topic area to move forward. This motion was seconded by Ms. Whitney.

Mr. Deyo questioned what the word adopt actually entails. He wanted to know if it was adopted that the board would be tied to complete everything in the plan word for word.

Mr. Wilson explained that the word adopt means it makes it an official Town Plan and it helps when the Town of Keene works to apply for grants. Mr. Biesemeyer suggested that we may use the word accept instead of adopt so that it does not seem like we must follow this plan exactly step by step.

Mr. Wilson explained that using the word adopt or accept every action is still going to need board approval. This is just a roadmap, no laws will automatically be passed, no money will be spent by just adopting it. Ms. Deb Whitson also agreed with this statement and stated that, It's just an aspirational framework.

Many town residents spoke up and thanked fellow committee members and the town board for taking the steps forward to adopt the strategic plan. It was also emphasised that they hope that the board plans to start to move forward with the plans.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that the board represents many silent residents and needs to take all community members' thoughts into consideration when planning and going forward.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes

Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes

Mr. Deyo: Yes

Ms. Whitney: Yes

Celebration of a unanimous vote took place.

A letter was received from the Keene Diversity Advisory Committee to the Town Board. Then a member of that committee Zach spoke. He explained that the letter is a position of advice for future permitting that might happen in the future in this area. A filter to run any future planning through this list.

Mr. Deyo asked if this letter had been given to the DEC and the Town Board, or just the Town Board. He explained that the Town has nothing to do with any permitting that happens at the AMR or DEC and the board has zero influence on that.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen added that the idea is that the town has been asked to attend meetings with the DEC and Joe Pete does attend meetings regularly with the DEC. The recreational working group brings recommendations forward to the town and ideas then the Town brings these recommendations to the DEC.

Mr. Deyo stated that it has not been working well.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated well that hopefully it will continue to improve and we will have a spot at the table where we can share our thoughts and our communities' thoughts.

Pete stated that a copy of this has been sent to the DEC, ADK Mountain Club and the Adirondack Diversity Initiative. The AMR has created a focus group on data collection and that group was sent a copy as well.

Discussion continued about the AMR currently and Mr. Wilson thanked the committee for the work on this and it will be helpful in the future.

RESOLUTION 142-21

Mr. Biesemeyer offered a resolution and moved to its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town of Keene board will go into executive session at 6:37pm. This motion 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 143-21

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered a resolution and moved to its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town of Keene board will return to the regular meeting at 6:57pm. This motion 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. Deyo stated that the board made a decision on the selection of the Town Justice. There were a lot of great candidates, and it was a very hard decision to make. The town board appreciates all the applicants.

RESOLUTION 144-21

Mr.Deyo offered the resolution and moved to its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town of Keene board has appointed Barbra Dwyer to the position of Town Justice for the Town of Keene. This motion was seconded by Ms. Whitney.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes

Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes

Mr. Deyo: Yes

Ms. Whitney: Yes

Ms. Whitney announced that the Keene Youth Commission summer program will be happening this year. It will start July 6th and more information about applications will be out soon. She also stated that the Town of Keene is selling Town of Keene stickers and

patches. They are available at the Town Hall from the Town Clerk, each are \$5.00 cash or Check.

Ms. Whitney asked if there was an update on the Assessor's building roofing project?

Mr. Wilson responded with a question to Mr. Hall and asked if he had gotten any response from any Roofers. It was replied with a no, they would not call back. Mr. Wilson is going to call Guy Smith again and Mr. Biesemeyer offered someone's name for a bid.

The next question Ms. Whitney presented was if there was any update on the Cemetery?

Mr. Wilson asked Ms. Favro to give an update on that.

Ms. Favro stated the cemetery board just went through the rules and regulations from 1995 and did the updates. She also stated Joe Pete has been working with Kevin Hall on the price of a survey of the new possible cemetery section and waiting on APA approval for wetlands for the new section. As far as changing pricing we are not at that step yet. The board is also working on a new system for documentation on when people are buried. It's going to be hard to go back into the past to update burial dates etc, but moving forward we will have a more detailed system.

Mr. Wilson stated that he keeps reminding Kevin Hall about the survey proposal and he keeps promising that it will be done soon. Mr. Hall will work on the layout of the plots and we will work from there on pricing.

Ms. Whitney asked her last question, which was asking if there was an update from DEC on the parking kiosk at the Garden.

Mr. Wilson stated he had no updates and as soon as he knows he will let the board know. The information is in Albany and the DEC Lawyers are looking at the set up of charging on state land. He went into detail about how the parking lot and the shuttle are one operation essentially. To build something new that the Town has to follow a permitting process with APA approval and it cannot be sidestepped.

Ms. Whitney asked if the DEC knew about the current parking collection process that is happening?

Mr. Wilson responded that no one can find any original agreement and no one realised it was on state land. It wasn't until the forrester started to review our cooperative services agreement and I looked at the map, and the next day he called.

RESOLUTION 145-21

Ms. Cheetham-Palen offered the resolution and moved to its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town of Keene board has audited the bills and approved payments on Voucher numbers #320-344. This motion 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 146-21

Mr. Deyo offered the resolution and moved to its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town of Keene board has completed all business and the meeting can be adjourned at 7:09pm. This motion was seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Wilson: Yes

Mr. Biesemeyer: Yes

Ms. Cheetham-Palen: Yes

Mr. Deyo: Yes

Ms. Whitney: Yes

Meeting Adjournment at 7:09pm

Cori-Anne Favro, Town Clerk

6/16/21