

Joseph P. Wilson Jr, Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Deputy Supervisor
Budget Workshop
October 7th, 2021
6pm
Community Center Pavilion

Minutes of the Special Meeting Budget Workshop held Tuesday, October 7th, 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 Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Jennifer Whitney and David R Deyo. Cori-Anne Favro, Town Clerk.

Mr. Wilson Called the budget Workshop to order at 6:00 PM

Mr. Wilson explained that they now have a copy of the tentative and the preliminary budget. The job tonight is to review this and at the board meeting on Tuesday we will review the preliminary and schedule our public hearing.

Budget information presented by Mr. Wilson:

-By resolution on Tuesday night we need to make a capital reserve account for Water #1.

-Water #2 the budget is set there, it's good for this year but next year it will need significant re-working.

-Water #1 Hydrants.

Ms. Whitney had questions about the raise in hydrants with an increase for \$700.00, the fire district would like a map of all the hydrants and the flow and how the fire district is being billed.

Mr. Wilson explained that diamond maps should be able to provide that data, and the flow may need to be checked. Savana and Mr. Wilson is going to meet tomorrow to go over this. Savana will be in touch with Ms. Whitney. Ms. Whitney will provide the list of hydrants there are questions on.

Ms. Favro asked if this was correct, showing no raise in the water rents in 2022?

Mr. Wilson yeah, we are going to have to raise them and I don't know how much we are going to have to do because we don't know how much the projects are going to cost us yet.

Mr. Biesemeyer: Are there any major projects planned? Because we can't move forward with projects until we budget for it. So just making sure we won't be throwing any surprises on to the water users.

Mr. Wilson: No, the projects we have budgeted have increases in equipment line in both districts is about \$11,000.00. We have some small projects The WIIA Grants came out with market rate interest loans and 30% grants. I am hoping there is a federal stimulus package. So it's in our best interest to wait on rates because we don't know what's going to happen. If we raise the rates now, it's conjecture.

Page 1: The justices personnel line I added \$14,692.00 as a placeholder for the part time court clerk in personel. This will need to be discussed Tuesday night.

Ms. Whitney asked if that should be a separate line item?

Mr. Wilson stated it starts to get confusing adding a bunch of other different lines.

Chris Becker came to the meeting stating that the urinal in the mens room was running and would not shut off. The meeting was paused.

It was discussed that for consistency that all deputies and clerks should have a separate line to not cause confusion on personnel services.

Ms. Whitney asked about Line 74 for Clerk to the Supervisors pay, we hired the new Clerk to the Supervisor at the same as the retiree?

Mr. Wilson stated we will need to talk about hourly pay for positions at the next meeting, and we are going to need to raise pay.

Mr. Deyo stated that we need to be careful about how much we are just raising pay so quickly, that other departments will want increased wages.

Ms. Whitney asked about code officer pay, it was pointed out that this pay was raised way more than 3%.

Mr. Wilson stated that this is not a pay raise, but to pay for more hours.

Mr. Whitney stated that she is concerned with his office hours because she is getting a lot of complaints that he is never in the office.

Mr. Wilson stated that yes people complain but we are paying him enough hours. He is just 2 days a week.

Ms. Whitney stated when she was in the Town Hall today that 2 people came in looking for him. Shouldn't he hold set desk hours and then go out in the field at other times?

Mr. Wilson stated that if we want him to do that then we need to pay him.

Ms. Whitney questioned what we were paying him for then?

Mr. Wilson stated no, he is here on Tuesday and Thursdays but he is out in the field.

Ms. Whitney argued that she had people state that she had people trying to get a hold of the code officer for over a month and he will not return calls and is not in the office.

Mr. Wilson stated that his solution to that is to make the code officer a full time job.

The board disagreed.

Mr. Wilson suggested that the board look at the planning board meeting minutes. It's over an hour long and Keene is just too busy. We are asking him for 20 hours a week, but it seems like we are expecting him to work 30-35.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated that as a board we should make sure he adheres to posted set office hour times. So people will know he is supposed to be there.

Mr. Wilson stated then people will complain that site visits are not being done. We can't micromanage him and tell him when and where he needs to be.

Ms. Whitney disagreed and said we are supposed to micromanage him a little, the town is paying him and it's not too much to ask to just have 2 hours a week posted that he will be at the town hall. Mr. Biesemeyer agreed, and said it was not unreasonable at all. People would be able to know when they could go see him and talk to him at the Town Hall.

It was then discussed about building permits being given out before they were approved by the planning board by the board members. This is something that they were going to look into and needs to be discussed at a public board meeting because the board felt that this was a flow of work issue with the planning board.

Ms. Whitney asked about the historian line and that would the Keene Valley Library just for this winter or forever?

Mr. Wilson said that was only temporary.

Next topic was the DEC reimbursement, Ms. Whitney asked in 2020 what revenue line did those funds go under?

Mr. Wilson stated that the DEC Smart Growth grant that was awarded never paid out in 2020 due to covid.

Ms. Whitney, asked when we do get money from the DEC what line in the revenue will that go under.

Mr. Wilson explained that nowhere, because it's a reimbursement it will just go back into Hiker Parking. Because we are spending the money and we get reimbursed. So it's not a revenue line.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked about the Town Clerk line about the rise in personnel services from \$22,000.00- \$30,000.00.

The board agreed to keep it at \$30,000.00 for 2022.

Page 8: Line 22 sales tax another payment came in, this was raised on estimated revenue.

Hiker Parking Line 287 based on revenue: This was raised to \$70,000.00

Line 302: This will bring our revenue up to \$60,000.00

No changes in Library and no changes in highway

Cemetery was discussed and that because of the unknowns of the new cemetery no changes would be changed to the budget for cemetery for 2022.

Summary Page:

We are \$14,000 under the cap and I purpose that we add \$10,000.00 to the transfer station contractual so that we can do some improvements there that makes it safer and able to be run by one attendant. I didn't add the \$10,000 yet. Teresa and I are working on a plan with drawings to share on Tuesday night (10/12/21).

Mr. Deyo stated yes, we do need to do something, but \$10,000.00 won't do it. I do think we should start putting some money aside. I am okay going forward and working on a plan, and I think we should set aside the \$10,000 and ear mark it for the transfer station.

Mr. Biesemeyer was concerned that the \$10,000 would be squandered if we went ahead and put the cart before the horse. The landfill really requires a big picture.

Mr. Wilson stated that the detailed conversion that the board will have on Tuesday 10/12/21, so you are good with setting aside the money for the transfer station.

Mr. Deyo reiterated that like Bob said we really need to come up with a good plan and not waste \$10,000.00.

Mr. Wilson compared North Elba's transfer station budget to Keene, and Mr. Biesemeyer stated that its not a good comparison for budgets.

RESOLUTION No. 226-21

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Wilson who moved its adoption. Be it resolved, that the Town of Keene Board has completed all business and will adjourn at 6:50 PM. This resolution was 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 at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted Cori-Anne Favro, Town Clerk

10/17/2021