

May 19, 2022
Water Workshop

PRESENT:

Joseph P. Wilson, Jr, Supervisor
Robert Biesemeyer, Council Member
Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Council Member
Jennifer Whitney, Council Member
Savana. Li, Water Superintendent
Morris Coolidge, Water License Holder
Kimberly Smith, Town Clerk
Mr. Sandy Elder, Resident

The workshop was held outside at the Keene Community Center Pavilion from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. No resolutions or motions were made. The topics discussed were as follows:

- The Town will need to move forward with the BOND process for both water districts. An immediate concern is the need for repair of the Water District #2 generator. This will be placed on the May 31st meeting agenda.
- Both the Site Plan Review Law and the Water Law need to be revised and coincide with one another. For water billing purposes, definitions of billing categories need to be re-established.
- There is a need for installation of water usage meters. The Water Districts need to use the best practices of monitoring water usage. This usage monitoring will assist with the restructuring of water rates and also will improve the ratings for Bonds, in order to obtain lower interest rates. The DEC needs to know how much water is being used and exactly how many gallons go where. This will also assist with finding leaks in the water system lines or homes.
- The process and charges for water curb turn-ons and shut-offs was discussed. A policy will be included in the water law including proper notification, authorization, and consequences established with property owners being held liable for any damage caused.
- Rate structures and categories were discussed as well as the possibility of billing per gallons of usage rather than flat rates. (once meters are installed) Also differentiating between residential, commercial, and rental properties.
- The Water Superintendent is working on rates for tap service installation for taps on the opposite side of the road. This will consist of calculating the hourly rate that it takes to do the work, as well as the parts, and the possibility of doing directional drilling instead of digging up the road. Once a quote is given to the property owner, they will need to accept the quote and pay the estimate prior to the work being done. This will be either a resolution passed or part of the Water Law.
- No category changes will be made to this cycle of water billing for 2022.

This was the first of several Water Workshops. The next Workshop has not been scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly E. Smith
Town Clerk
Town of Keene
May 19, 2022