

**Town of Keene Bi-Monthly Board Meeting  
November 29th, 2022  
5:30 P.M. Keene Valley Library  
MTG #28 Res. #323-#331**

**Board Members Present :** Joe Pete Wilson Supervisor, Robert Biesemeyer Deputy Supervisor, Christopher Daly, David Deyo, & Teresa Cheetham-Palen(arrived 5:36) Council Members

**Board Members Absent:** (none)

**Town Counsel Present:** (none)

**Town Officials Present:** Reginald Whitney, Highway Superintendent, Savana Li, Water ,Superintendent

**Members of the Public Present:** Roger Preston, Jim Bernard, Lissa Goldstein

**Meeting Called to Order** at 5:31 by Joe Pete Wilson

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approve minutes:**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TOWN BOARD MINUTES  
RESOLUTION NO.: 323,2022**

INTRODUCED BY: David Deyo WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION  
SECONDED BY: Robert Biesemeyer RESOLVED, that the Regular Town Board minutes from November 10th, 2022, the Public Hearing minutes from November 10th, 2022 and the Public Hearing minutes from November 17th, 2022 are accepted and approved.

Duly adopted this 29th day of November, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Wilson, Mr. Biesemeyer, Mr. Daly, Mr. Deyo

NAYS: (none)

Absent at time of vote, Ms. Cheetham-Palen

**Privilege of the Floor:**

Mr. Wilson introduced Jim Bernard who was here to give us an update on the Farmers Market Wi-Fi. Mr. Bernard thought it would be a good idea to bring the board up to speed because probably not everyone knows that this was even going on . The history of Verizon cell service started to deteriorate about 3 seasons ago, vendors couldn't do credit card transactions reliably, it was hit or miss. I think the summer before last I got

a quote from Adk Tech for spreading Wi-Fi across the whole Farmers Market and the quote was \$6,700 and nobody was interested in that kind of money and that would have been with commercial grade equipment and also they would have maintained it. So we had to find a cheaper way so I proposed we do it with consumer grade Wi-Fi equipment and it worked ok but there were problems. First thing we had to do was have a Slick account, then we had to install a consumer level device that did point to point communication from Holt House to the little pole we put on the electric panel in the field. That worked well, the problem was with distributing the Wi-Fi signal to all the area. For light of that Dave Newthway volunteered his time, he does this professionally so he knew what he was doing and I was learning a lot. By the end of the season we did kind of get it to work but we are still not happy with a couple things. Number 1 is the coverage, it's not getting the coverage out there that is a problem, it's all the phones that have to get the signal back to the antenna so they vary all kinds of devices so we started with adding 1 antenna then 2. I am thinking we now need 3 to have the coverage we want. We need someone now to support it. Either the Farmers Market has to appoint people or to hire someone to support such a system. I've started asking people if they wanted to support it, I asked Adk Tech, and Slick if they would take it on, I don't think they are interested because no one is getting back to me. So I don't know what we are going to do at this point.

There are a couple things I want to run by the board and one is to bury ethernet cables from central location to 2 or 3 locations in the field.

Mr. Wilson said we have to coordinate with Roger and Savana.

Mr. Deyo asked are you looking for our blessing? You would be handling this?

Mr. Bernard stated yes they would be handling this.

So the other thing is the enhancement. If we were to make a proposal to benefit those using the area, would the board consider this a reasonable thing to do?

Mr. Wilson said the Occupancy Tax money is supposed to be used for bettering your community and I think this sounds like it would fit.

Agreement was made to work on the proposal and then come back to the board and we will probably approve it.

Mr. Bernard then went onto the Solar on the highway garage. The project was totally funded with State money. The system is a 23 kilowatt system. April 2019 was the first full month. I was looking over the data and it has generated about 80,000 kilowatt hours, in general it runs around 20,000 kilowatt hours a year which is a little lower than I expected. Only other thing would be if someone on the town staff became educated on it. I would be happy to train someone on this.

Mr. Wilson asked if anyone would want to do this.

Ms. Cheetah-Palen said it kinda goes with the energy audit stuff she is on.

## **Old Business :**

- Covid updates-nothing specifically on Covid

Mr. Wilson asked that we start thinking of getting dates for Organizational Meeting and maybe moving back to the Town Hall for our meetings.

- Water #1: Mr. Wilson said waiting until 2023 to do our bond and hopefully our

FEMA money will come in. Just a heads up if our money doesn't come in by Dec 31st WD #1 will be <\$10,000 > to end the year.

- Water #2: Mr Wilson stated he is still working with Clyde from Hydro Source ,

had a meeting with him yesterday and he didn't show up so it wasn't very productive. I was able to talk to the community resource staff that was a part of that meeting on how we will roll out our project. I dug more into the do we do a test well or just go with a production well and it turns out there will be some broader strategic and funding qualification on drilling a test well and to give you a heads up drilling a test well counts as engineering and planning and something we can do without DEC and EFC approval. If we go straight to production well we need to have all our funding in place first , have it all signed off on. I asked Hannah and Rob from the Community Resource to prepare a presentation for us and so we can ask questions, they have done this funding before. Oh and here is another piece, we were denied our WIIA Grant . Right now we are looking at 100% loans and interest bearing so we are going to apply for WIIA again but that's about a year away.

Mr. Biesemeyer said I think we need to have a serious conversation about whether or not we spend \$150,000 on a test well.

Mr. Wilson said that is why I want Hannah and Rob to come because there is more than just the test well, also waiting to hear back from DEC if we have to do metering, I am waiting to hear what their stance is on the test well.

Mr. Biesemeyer said if we have no funding we have to cut this down to bare bones, whatever the Health Dept requires is what we have to do.

Mr Wilson says that is why I am waiting to hear back from DEC if they will say we won't qualify at all for any funding if we don't do a test well.

Ms. Cheetah-Palen asked why we got rejected.

Mr. Wilson said he hasn't received the letter yet but Anna Reynolds will be getting it to him.

## **New Business:**

- Mr. Wilson said after reviewing the budget with Real Property we have the wrong summary sheet, all numbers are correct but when copying, the old sheet got put in. We will get this corrected and redistributed.

- HSA Health Insurance:  
Mr. Wilson stated he needs a

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH CHAMPLAIN NATIONAL CHECKING  
ACCOUNT FOR THE HSA DEDUCTIBLE PAYMENTS**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 324,2022**

INTRODUCE BY Ms. Cheetham-Palen WHO MOVED FOR ITS  
ADOPTION

SECONDED BY : Mr. DEYO

Resolved, that the Town Board approves the new checking account to be established at Champlain National Bank for the HSA deductibles.

Duly adopted this 29th day of November by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Wilson, Mr. Biesemeyer, Ms. Cheetham-Palen, Mr. Daly,  
Mr. Deyo

NAYS: (none)

Mr. Wilson said he wanted to let us know because our decision was made late to switch over Ashley and he are putting together a packet for all employees and retirees to plan ahead for prescriptions and co-pays and save receipts and we are including a reimbursement form so we can get it taken care of if you have any expenses before the debit cards come.

**Executive Session :**

**RESOLUTION FOR THE TOWN BOARD TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE  
SESSION RESOLUTION NO.: 325,2022**

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Deyo WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: Ms. CHEETHAM-PALEN RESOLVED, that the Town Board went into Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

Duly adopted this 29th day of November, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Wilson, Mr. Biesemeyer, Ms. Cheetham-Palen, Mr. Deyo,  
and Mr. Daly

NAYS: none

**RESOLUTION TO RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION  
RESOLUTION NO.: 326,2022**

INTRODUCED BY: Supervisor Wilson WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: Mr. Deyo RESOLVED, that the Town Board is returning

from Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. and entering into Regular Session with no decisions being made.

Duly adopted this 29th day of November, 2022, by the following votes:  
AYES: Supervisor Wilson, Mr. Biesemeyer, Ms. Cheetham-Palen, Mr. Deyo,  
Mr. Daly  
NAYS: none

**RESOLUTION TO MAKE NEW HIRE IN THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
ELIGIBLE FOR FAMILY INSURANCE FROM START OF EMPLOYMENT  
RESOLUTION NO.: 327,2022**

INTRODUCED BY: Supervisor Wilson who moved for its adoption  
SECONDED BY : Ms. Cheetham-Palen

Resolved, that the Town Board approves the resolution to make the new hire in the Highway Department eligible for family health insurance.

Duly adopted this 29th day of November by the following vote:  
AYES: Supervisor Wilson, Mr. Biesemeyer, Ms. Cheetham-Palen, Mr. Daly,  
Mr. Deyo  
NAYS: (none)

**RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE PAY SCALE FOR THE WATER BILLING  
AND WATER COLLECTION TO A STIPEND OF \$2,000 FOR EACH  
POSITION**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 328,2022**

INTRODUCED BY: Supervisor Wilson who moved for its adoption  
SECONDED BY : Mr. Daly

Resolved, that the Town Board update the pay scale for the Water Billing and Water Collecting to a stipend of \$2,000 for each position.

Duly adopted this 29th day of November by the following vote:  
AYES: Supervisor Wilson, Mr. Biesemeyer, Ms. Cheetham-Palen, Mr. Daly,  
Mr. Deyo  
NAYS: (none)

**Budget Resolutions:**

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS IN THE GENERAL FUND,  
HIGHWAY FUND, SW#1, AND SW#2  
RESOLUTION NO.: 329,2022**

INTRODUCED BY: Supervisor Wilson who moved for its adoption  
SECONDED BY : Ms. Cheetham-Palen

Resolved, that the Town Board approves the following transfers in the General Fund, Highway Fund, SW#1 and SW#2.

**Transfers listed at the end of the minutes.**

Duly adopted this 29th day of November by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Wilson, Mr. Biesemeyer, Ms. Cheetham-Palen, Mr. Daly,  
Mr. Deyo  
NAYS: (none)

**Supervisor's Report :**

- August & September 2022 tabled until next meeting

**Audit Bills :**

**RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE VOUCHERS #2022-942 through  
#2022-986**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 330,2022**

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Biesemeyer who moved for its adoption

SECONDED BY: Ms, Cheetham-Palen

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the following bills for payment,  
including those that were prepaid.

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 2022-942 to 2022-986, totaling  
\$201,107.03, as follows: General Fund Bills \$131,773.86 Highway Fund  
Bills \$59,360.74 ,Water District #1 Bills \$4,991.37 Water District #2 Bills  
\$4,981.06 Duly adopted this 29th day of November, 2022, by the following  
vote:

AYES: Supervisor Wilson, Mr. Biesemeyer, Ms. Cheetham-Palen, Mr. Deyo,  
Mr. Daly NAYS: none

**Adjourn :**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 331,2022**

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Deyo who moved for its adoption

SECONDED BY: Mr. Biesemeyer

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Keene has completed all  
business and hereby adjourns the Regular Meeting at 6:28 p.m. Duly  
adopted this 29th day of November, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisor Wilson, Mr. Biesemeyer, Ms. Cheetham-Palen, Mr. Deyo,  
Mr. Daly  
NAYS: none

Anna Whitney

Town Clerk  
Town of Keene

## RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Wilson, who moved its adoption

Be it resolved, that the following transfers be approved:

### **Within the General Fund:**

\$937.80 **out** of A#12202.1 Supervisor EQ  
\$937.80 **into** A#12204.1 Supervisor CE

\$523.44 **out** of A#14102.1 Town Clerk/Tax Collector EQ  
\$523.44 **into** A#14104.1 Town Clerk/Tax Collector CE

\$236.06 **out** of A#14904.1 Public Works CE  
\$236.06 **into** A#14901.1 Public Works PS

\$685.18 **out** of A#71504.1 Recreation Facility CE  
\$685.18 **into** A#71501.1 Recreation Facility PS

\$5,351.82 **out** of A#019904.01.004.00 Contingency Account  
\$687.92 **into** A#14204.1 Attorney CE  
\$1,666.85 **into** A#14901.1 Public Works PS  
\$887.73 **into** A#16201.1 Buildings PS  
\$1,230.44 **into** A#16204.1 Buildings CE  
\$348.38 **into** A#16604.1 Central Supply  
\$44.00 **into** A#30104.1 Public Safety – Codes CE  
\$18.90 **into** A#90458.1 Life Insurance  
\$467.60 **into** A#14902.1 Public Works EQ

\$21,666.27 **out** of A#13554.1 Assessor CE  
\$4,233.02 **into** A#14902.1 Public Works EQ  
\$3,699.65 **into** A#16801.1 Data Processing PS  
\$3,424.72 **into** A#30101.1 Public Safety – Codes PS  
\$4,383.57 **into** A#51324.1 Garage CE  
\$1,534.66 **into** A#71104.1 Parks CE  
\$4,390.65 **into** A#73104.1 Youth Programs CE

### **Within the Highway Fund:**

\$300 **out** of DA#51104.3 General Repairs CE  
\$300.00 **into** DA#51404.3 Brush and Weeds (Misc.) CE

**Within the Library Fund:**

N/A

**Within the SW#1:**

\$1,141.92 **out** of SW#1 1028.7 Special Assessments  
\$9,705.00 **out** of SW#1 2142.7 Unmetered Water Sales  
\$90.00 **out** of SW#1 2144.7 Water Service Charges  
\$251.20 **out** of SW#1 2148.7 Interest and Penalties on Water Rents  
\$289.42 **out** of SW#1 2680.7 Insurance Recoveries  
\$11,565.32 **into** SW#1 83204.7 Source Power Pump CE

**Within the SW#2:**

\$728.00 **out** of SW#2 1028.8 Special Assessments  
\$5.50 **out** of SW#2 2142.8 Unmetered Water Sales  
\$1,806.50 **out** of SW#2 2148.8 Interest and Penalties on Water Rents  
\$263.35 **out** of SW#2 2401.8 Interest and Earnings  
\$187.59 **out** of SW#2 2680.8 Insurance Recoveries  
\$2,990.94 **into** SW#2 83204.8 Source Power Pump CE

Date of Meeting 11/29/2022