**Bi-Monthly Town of Keene Board Meeting**

**February 28th, 2023**

**5:30 P.M. Town Hall**

**Meeting # 5**

**Resolutions #88-**

**Board Members Present**: Joe Pete Wilson, Supervisor, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Dave Deyo, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Council Members

**Absent**:

**Town Counsel Present**:

**Town Officials Present:** Roger Preston, Building and Grounds, Anna Whitney, Town Clerk

**Members of the Public**: Kristy Farrell, Jim Bernard, Hannah Smith, Roger Allen, Lissa Goldstein, Ann Hough, Betsy Richart, Julie Sasso, Patrick McSharry, Marcy Neville, Pam Gothner, Jessica Decker, Christopher Smith, Larry House, Kevin Douglas, Tim Rowland, Stephen Hall, Autonios Souris, Mimas Souris, Dan Mason, Fritz Sabbow, Debby Rice, Keith Hall, Tina Preston and several others that didn’t sign in

**Call to Meeting to Order** at 5:30 by Joe Pete

Joe Pete started out with a motion to accept Short Term Rental scheduling public information sessions.

Bob stated before we make a motion I want to make a motion to have the board go through the proposed law together because we haven’t had a chance, we could take this draft that is out there which I think this board has a lot of common ground on.

Joe Pete asked to let him finish because what you are proposing makes sense, but we need to follow the rules.

**RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC INPUT AND DISCUSSION MEETINGS ON THE PROPOSED SHORT TERM RENTAL DRAFT MARCH 16TH, APRIL 19TH, AND MAY 23 AT 7:00**

**RESOLUTION 88-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: JOE PETE WILSON WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY TERSEA CHEETHAM-PALEN**

**Discussion prior to vote**: Bob stated he felt that Joe Pete scheduled dates premature because my problem is that we as a board have not had a chance to go over this draft, it was just dropped in our lap unexpectedly at one meeting so if we could have one workshop so we can go through the draft law to figure out what we agree on and what we feel needs to be removed.

Joe Pete said we can schedule a workshop prior to the first public discussion on March 16th.

Bob said the 16th is too quick.

Dave felt we needed to do what Bob suggested and meet to go through the draft prior to the first public discussion.

Joe Pete said there is nothing in the motion saying we can’t do what Bob is saying.

Teresa stated the dates are just options put out there so we all need to look at our schedules and see what works. I have a conflict on the 16th but I am happy to make a workshop work before the first date.

Joe Pete asked to

**AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO MOVE THE FIRST MEETING TO MARCH 23rd, SECONDED MEETING APRIL 26TH, AND THIRD MEETING MAY 23RD ALL AT 7:00 p.m**

**RESOLUTION 89-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY JOE PETE WILSON WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN**

**Discussion prior to vote:** Joe Pete said let’s check our calendars and see if March 9th at 10:00a.m. works for a workshop

Bob said 10:00 does not work but 1:00 p.m. would.

Joe Pete said ok this works March 9th at 1:00 p.m. here at the Town Hall, now I do want to let the public know that they are welcome to come but this is strictly a workshop for the board and there is no public comments or participation.

Bob asked if we can go back to the May date and move that to early June for those that are gone until Memorial Day, maybe they could then make at least one if scheduled after that.

Joe Pete said ok how about June 3rd at 11:00a.m., it’s a Saturday.

Joe Pete asked if the audience had anything before we took a vote.

Betsy Richart asked about the statement on the agenda the second page, it says the process to adopt a local law then takes place over two months from the time the local law is officially introduced, do we have an official introduction ?

Joe Pete said no we do not.

Mel then stated her only thought is for the people that read these minutes, it is very dis concerning of the level of non-cooperation in the leadership of our Town. The minutes do say when board members walk out, I guess we are getting to see that. A town this size with basically a lot of good intensions I expect better behavior from the board, I expect to see it, feel it, and hear it and I didn’t just see it, feel it or hear it in this battle for power. I wonder how will this ever be settled, it’s such a sensitive issue. I feel I have the right as a taxpayer to ask for this. Please this is a huge issue.

Joe Pete thanked Mel.

Pam Gothner asked, it’s my understanding this proposal was presented to the board two meetings ago, is that correct?

Joe Pete said yes

Pam asked Bob why didn’t you ask to get together to go over this then and why wait until now?

Bob said he tried at that meeting.

Keith Hall asked what are the issues this is supposed to correct?

Joe Pete said this is why we want to have a public meeting dedicated to the draft law so we can have those discussions, that is the point to have these meetings.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board schedule public input and discussion meetings on the proposed Short Term Rental Draft with the first meeting March 23rd at 7:00 p.m., second April 26th at 7:00 p.m. and the third on June 3rd at 11:00 a.m. location for first two are the Town Hall and the third to be announced.

Duly adopted this 28th day of February, 2023 by the following Roll Call Vote

Christopher Daly – yes

Dave Deyo -yes

Tersea Cheetham-Palen – yes

Robert Biesemeyer – yes

Joe Pete Wilson – yes

**Approval of Minutes:**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING REGULAR MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION: 90-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER**

**RESOLVED** that the Regular Town Board minutes from February 14th, 2023 are accepted and approved.

Duly adopted this 28th day of February 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES:** Robert Biesemeyer,Teresa Cheetham-Palen, David Deyo, Christopher Daly, Joe Pete Wilson

**Nays:** None

**Old Business:**

* Water Districts Projects:

WD#1: We did follow through and use the ARPA money to pay back part of the loan Water #1 has to the General Fund as we are still waiting on FEMA

WD#2: I just got the bids back and I would like to make a motion to approve Layne Christensen Company

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LAYNE CHRISTENSENCOMPANY WITH THE BID FOR THE DRILLING**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 91-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

**Discussion** **prior to vote**: Bob asked to abstain because he didn’t get to look them over. I just want to say we will have to spend out of pocket before we get a bond or anything about $80,000 correct.

Dave then stated from there we can seek to get funds from there.

Joe Pete stated Senator Gillabrand just launched her congressional spending initiative and water infrastructure and I am trying to apply for that.

Bob stated after this test well, we get results of what we need to produce and then know what this will cost.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve Layne Christensen Company the bid for the drilling of the test well is accepted and approved.

Duly adopted this 28th day of February 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES:** Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Christopher Daly, Dave Deyo, Joe Pete Wilson

**Abstained**: Robert Biesemeyer

* Farmers Market Community Enhancement Fund Request

Lissa and Jim are here to bring back the discussion to use the Community Enhancement Fund . Some of the Board Members wanted some clarification on what the Enhancement Fund can be used for. You cannot use it for Special Tax Districts, Town Operations, or to pay down debt. In a nutshell you can use it for Parks and Recreation, Facility improvements, anything that goes to enhancing your local economy, your public recreation.

So the proposal Lissa and Jim offered us does qualify for this.

**RESOLUTION TO UN TABLE THE REQUEST FOR $5,000 FOR THE FARMERS MARKET WI-FI**

**RESOLUTION 92-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: DAVE DEYO WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY JOE PETE WILSON**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve the request for $5,000 to continue the improvements to the WiFi at Marcy Field is accepted and approved.

Duly adopted this 28th day of February, 2023 by the following vote:

**Ayes**: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Dave Deyo, Christopher Daly, Teresa Cheetham-Palen

**Nays**: none

Eric Sawczyn ask what the oval is topped with, is it safe for your dogs? Also asked if we could asphalt an area for people that want to rollerblade?

Joe Pete said he would like to pull together a group of residence to help come up with ideas and thoughts on what to do at the Community Center.

Eric said maybe put concrete in the skating rink.

**New Business:**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WILMINTON-WHITEFACE 100 MILE BIKE RACE**

**RESOLUTION 93-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY DAVE DEYO**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve the Wilmington-Whitface 100 mile bike race, accepted and approved.

Duly adopted this 28th day of February, 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Christopher Daly, Dave Deyo, Joe Pete Wilson

**NAYS**: None

* Town Trail improvement Smart Growth Grant:

Joe Pete explained that we had a portion of this for working on the Town Trails and it has been dragging a bit because Beta has had trouble getting the time to work, we had a contract with Beta but they are so busy they cannot put a work crew to it. What I want the boards permission for is to proceed with a new budget to DEC, it will be $3170 for trail consulting, then we need to rent an excavator, need to pay for an operator, need stone, lumber for the bridge, and need to pay our employees to work on it so we are looking at about $28,000 for this.

**RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A NEW BUDGET TO DEC FOR THE SMART GROWTH GRANT**

**RESOLUTION 94-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY DAVE DEYO**

**RESOLVED** to submit a new budget for the Smart Growth Grant to DEC for $28,000

Duly adopted this 28th day of February, 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Christopher Daly, Dave Deyo, Joe Pete Wilson

**NAYS**: None

* April 11th meeting reschedule

**RESOLUTION TO CANCEL THE APRIL 11TH REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**RESOLUTION 95-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: JOE PETE WILSON WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY DAVE DEYO**

**RESOLVED** that the April 11th Regular Town Board meeting is cancelled

Duly adopted this 28th day of February, 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer, Dave Deyo, Christopher Daly, Teresa Cheetham-Palen

**Nays**: None

**Budget Resolutions:**

* Resolution to transfer funds-none
* Resolution to amend the 2023 Budget-none

**Supervisors Report:**

* Keene Youth Commission Account June-January
* Health Savings Account December and January

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE KEENE YOUTH COMMISSION JUNE 2022 THROUGH JANUARY 2023 AND THE HEALTH SAVINGS DECEMBER 2022 AND JANUARY 2023 SUPERVISORS REPORTS**

**RESOLUTION 96-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY DAVE DEYO**

**RESOLVED** to accept the Youth Commission June 2022 through January 2023 and the Health Savings December 2022 and January 2023 Supervisors reports, accepted and approved as presented, and placed on file with the Town Clerk.

Duly adopted this 28th day of February, 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Christopher Daly, Dave Deyo, Joe Pete Wilson

**NAYS**: None

**Audit Bills:**

**RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE VOUCHERS 2023-173 THROUGH 2023-211**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 97-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY DAVE DEYO**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve the following bills for payment including those that were prepaid.

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 2023-173 through 2023-211, totaling $61,713.34 as follows:

General Fund Bills $24,828.13

Highway Fund Bills $18,526.08

Water District #1 $3,046.58

Water District #2 $3,601.14

Library $11,711.41

Duly adopted this 28th day of February, 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Christopher Daly, Dave Deyo, Joe Pete Wilson

**NAYS:**

Dave Deyo had one other thing, maybe it is a clerical error but I think on a lot of these things there is some miscommunication, people are referencing the Master Plan.

Joe Pete said we have a Strategic Plan not a Master Plan.

After looking at what many people were seeing it appears it was from the old website that carried over.

Kristy Farrell would like to confirm the board was in receipt of her letter and it that it will be in the minutes. She would like some answers to her questions.

**Attachment #1**

Eric Sawczyn asked if he could have privilege of the floor having to do with Human Rights, he wanted to know if we really need three or four more meetings that take our private rights away? I have right of use of my property. I would like my letter also put into the minutes.

**Attachment #2**

**Adjourn:**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

**RESOLUTION 98-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY JOE PETE WILSON**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has completed all business and hereby adjourns the Regular Meeting at 6:26P.M.

Duly adopted this 28th day of February, 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, David Deyo, Christopher Daly, Joe Pete Wilson

**NAYS:**

Anna Whitney

Town Clerk

Town of Keene