**Regular Town of Keene Board Meeting**

**March 16th, 2023**

**10:00A.M. Town Hall**

**Meeting # 6**

**Resolutions #99-105**

**Board Members Present**: Joe Pete Wilson, Supervisor, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Council Members

**Absent**: Dave Deyo, Teresa Cheetham-Palen

**Town Counsel Present**:

**Town Officials Present:** Savana Li, Water Superintendent, Reginald Whitney, Highway Superintendent, Roger Preston, Building and Grounds, Anna Whitney, Town Clerk

**Members of the Public**: William Tansey, Jody Whitney, Stephen Hall, and Tina Preston

**Call to Meeting to Order** at 10:14 by Joe Pete Wilson

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING BI-MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION: 99-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER**

**RESOLVED** that the Bi-Monthly Town Board minutes from February 28th, 2023 are accepted and approved.

Duly adopted this 16th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES:** Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Joe Pete Wilson

**Nays:** None

**Privilege of the Floor:**

**New Business:**

* Volunteer Fire & EMS Local Property Tax Exemption

Joe Pete introduced representatives from both Fire Departments. They are here to talk about the opportunity to reward and thank our Volunteer Fire and EMS staff by passing local law for a property tax exemption.

MOTION MADE BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER TO OPEN THE DISCUSSION OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE & EMS LOCAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY.

William Tansey gave the presentation on the purposed law. New York State Legislator introduced the Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) 466-a back in the 90’s, in December 2022 it was extended to include all towns not just Westchester County. What this means, as a taxing district the Town of Keene has the ability to opt in to this 466-a. It would grant volunteer firefighters & EMS up to 10% of the assessed value of such property. Such exemption shall not be granted to an enrolled volunteer, unless:

* The applicant resides in the town which is served by volunteer fire company;
* The property is the applicant’s primary residence;
* The property is used exclusively for residential purpose;
* The applicant has been certified by the fire company as an enrolled member between 2-5 years. (The certification procedure and minimum term is to be determined by the local law.)

A volunteer who serves in a town where he does not reside cannot receive an exemption.

This 10% applies to all the taxing districts lines, meaning each line has to decide if they will opt in for the deduction. Town, Fire, Water, School, and County tax lines. One line can opt in and another may not.

The link below will take you to the state site explaining this law.

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/research/property/assess/manuals/vol4/pt1/sec4_01/sec466_a_2022.htm>

Joe Pete asked Bill to send his memo and the draft for the local law so the board can review it and then discuss it at the March 28th meeting.

**Old Business:**

* Water Districts Projects:

WD#1: Our FEMA payment arrived. We used our remaining ARPA funds so between the two of them we just about paid back our loan from the general fund. We are out of the red.

WD#2: Prepping will be starting for the test well.

* Town Hall Flooring Project:

Joe Pete stated that they need to close the Town Hall on Friday March 31st and Monday April 3rd for this installation.

* Library Update:

We have spent just under $51,000 on supplies and labor. Here is some more positive news, when Bob and Jill Bassett arranged to cash out the CD we have about $21,000 in Champlain National savings, should we move this into our Library reserve ?

Bob stated we should talk to Aaron because he believes he and Karen are working on some more grants.

Joe Pete stated if we get a grant that requires a match we have this on hand that we can use.

* Town Hall Heating Project:

Joe Pete stated we are waiting for NYSEG to do the power drop so we can put the 200 amp service in.

Bob explained the plan is to go with a propane fired boiler, a generator, and 2 heat pumps. If for some reason we had to go with an electric boiler and 2 heat pumps, then 200 amp service is marginal so maybe if not much more we should go with a 400 amp service.

Joe Pete asked Bob to ask Al Smith how much more the 400 amp service then we could decide.

**Back to New Business:**

* Keene Youth Commission would like to host Capture the Flag on Wednesdays from 6-8:15 at Marcy Field

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE KEENE YOUTH COMMISSION TO HOST CAPTURE THE FLAG**

**RESOLUTION: 100-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve Keene Youth Commission to host Capture the Flag on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:15 at Marcy Field.

Duly adopted this 16th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES:** Christopher Daly, Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer

**NAYS:**

* ROA Calendar for Assessor and Town Clerk

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RECORD OF ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR THE SOLE ASSESSOR AND TOWN CLERK**

**RESOLUTION: 101-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve the Record of Activities for Timothy D Gay Jr, Sole Assessor and Anna M Whitney, Town Clerk.

Duly adopted this 16th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES:** Christopher Daly, Joe Pete Wilson, Robert Biesemeyer

**NAYS:**

Joe Pete informed us he and supervisor from Jay and Essex are working with Dan Stec to try and put more pressure on the state about our poor cell service.

Joe Pete has not heard anymore from Verizon about lowering our lease payment.

Joe Pete wanted to let us know we haven’t received any applications for stewards, I am actively trying to recruit some. I just wanted to let the board know I am struggling.

**Budget Resolutions:**

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

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2023 BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION: 102-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

**RESOLVED** to increase the transfer to capital line #SW9950.9 by $4,372.00 to be transferred from unallocated funds. The $4,372.00 is being brought over from unallocated funds to balance out SW#2 expenditure and revenue lines. The SW#2 expenditure and revenue lines will now equal $241,950.00.

Duly adopted this 16th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Joe Pete Wilson

**NAYS**: None

**Supervisors Report:**

* January

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE SUPERVISORS REPORTS**

**RESOLUTION: 103-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

**RESOLVED** to accept the January 2023 Supervisors report, accepted and approved as presented, and placed on file with the Town Clerk.

Duly adopted this 16th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Joe Pete Wilson

**NAYS**: None

**Audit Bills:**

**RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE VOUCHERS 2023-212 THROUGH 2023-257**

**RESOLUTION: 104-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

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

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 2023-212 through 2023-257, totaling $114,723.69 as follows:

General Fund Bills $80,687.48

Highway Fund Bills $3,442.32

Water District #1 $780.07

Water District #2 $6,278.70

Library $21,437.62

Roost Enhancement Tax $2,097.50

Duly adopted this 16th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Joe Pete Wilson

**NAYS:**

**Adjourn:**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

**RESOLUTION: 105-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has completed all business and hereby adjourns the Regular Meeting at 11:00 A.M.

Duly adopted this 16th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Joe Pete Wilson

**NAYS:**

Anna Whitney

Town Clerk

Town of Keene