

Bi-Monthly Town of Keene Board Meeting  
March 28th, 2023  
5:30 P.M. Town Hall  
Meeting # 7  
Resolutions #106-112

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

**Absent:** Dave Deyo

**Town Officials Present:** Reginald Whitney, Highway Superintendent, Anna Whitney, Town Clerk

**Members of the Public:** Jody Whitney, Kim Smith, Jane Haugh

**Call to Meeting to Order** at 5:32 by Joe Pete Wilson

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MINUTES  
RESOLUTION NO.: 106-2023  
INTRODUCED BY: TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN WHO MOVED FOR  
ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY  
RESOLVED** that the Monthly Town Board minutes from March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 are  
accepted and approved.

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**Privilege of the Floor:** Jane Haugh spoke as Chair of the Keene Diversity Advisory Committee (KDAC). We had an exercise on Saturday along with members of the Onondaga Nation and a group called Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON), it was very well attended with 28 people from across the region. KDAC will not have a meeting in April. In May we will take up the issue on how

to enter into relations with the Mohawk who were the original people of the Adirondacks. We ask any members of the board to please attend the meeting.

## **Old Business:**

- **Water Districts:**

WD#1: Joe Pete stated things are going smoothly operationally. Teresa asked to be reminded where we are at with the budget because I know we got some money, so what is left for WD #1 to pay back. Joe Pete said with receiving the ARPA and the FEMA money WD #1 has paid everything back to the General Fund.

WD#2: Joe Pete said Lane is coming in May to do the test well. Roger, Craig, Savana and I have been down there doing site work, we now will ask the Highway to help get things ready for the equipment. We are still working with the school on the lease.

- **Library Roof:**

Joe Pete stated the inside is completed, Derrick went down to look at it this afternoon and I haven't heard back from him but in his previous inspections things have been good. Now for the roof, I would like to recommend and I know Bob wants to discuss this, but I would like to proceed with Tri-County. We have the estimate, which they added in disposal, but we took care of it before so that will come off and we provide the materials as well so it is just their labor charge. OK the floor is yours Bob.

Bob said right out of the gate I want to make sure with Bradly this is correct.

Joe Pete said we have \$21,000 left of the grant.

Bob stated he believes there is still some outstanding invoice. He thinks we are close to \$90,000. Bob wants to check with Tri-County and make sure they are paid in full to where we are right now. Bob stated he doesn't want to approve this tonight, I talked to Aaron and there is still somethings we need to do, we need to get a new water line there before we can open it. Aaron also needs bookshelves and a few other things. I also don't think it would be an end of the world if at least we get a seconded bid for the roof.

Teresa asked Bob what his concern is with the estimate.

Bob said he thought Bradley told him \$9,000 just labor but this estimate is labor and materials. It was then brought to Bob's attention the estimate for only labor is \$8640. Bob then said he misread it.

Teresa said now that this estimate is what was discussed do we still need a seconded bid?

Bob said he would like a seconded bid.

Joe Pete stated his concern is it is leaking on both sides, we need to replace this in a timely manner, we don't want to damage the work we just completed.

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE UP TO \$8640 FOR ROOF REPAIR**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 107-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: JOE PETE WILSON WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER RESOLVED** that the Town Board authorize up to \$8640 for labor to repair the Library roof. The Town will provide the materials and the disposal of old materials. We have one week to award a company with this job.

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**RESOLUTION TO CHANGE CAPTURE THE FLAG TO TUESDAY EVENINGS INSTEAD OF WEDNESDAYS**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 108-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve Youth Commission to change Capture the Flag from Wednesday nights to Tuesdays

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

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

**NAYS:** None

- **Volunteer Fire & EMS Local Property Tax Exemption:**

Joe Pete said we left it open ended at last meeting. Do we have any questions for Jody? Are there concerns?

Teresa asked how many people this may involve, 40?

Jody said he spoke with Rusty and they do not believe it will be quite that.

Bob stated his biggest concern is it is unfunded mandate, so what it does is shift the burden from one sector to another sector of our tax base. I am ok giving Volunteer Fire & EMS with 2 years of active service a 10% reduction. There are 2 conditions that I am not on onboard with and the first one is you get it the 10% reduction for life after 20 years of service and the second is the reduction is transferable to the surviving spouse.

Teresa asked if it had to be the 20 years?

Jody said you have options. Both departments decided to go with 2 years, the 20years of service, and the surviving spouse.

Chris stated he is in favor of all elements across the board. I think it is the right thing to do and secondly the cost spread to tax payers is considerably less than if we have to pay for Fire and EMS coverage. To me this makes perfect sense.

Joe Pete said the process is to formally introduce the law. Before we do that the Districts should have their how to qualify their people ready to go. I am in favor of adopting this the way it's written.

Kim Smith stated she had information from the tax standpoint. I have more knowledge of the taxes that would come off. If the Town passes the law it comes off the Town line, if the Fire Districts, which it sounds like you already have, so that comes off the Fire line, and the other one that can be passed is the Highway.

Jody excused himself for interrupting but there are 4 lines, County, Town, School, and Fire if I remember correctly.

Kim asked if we are talking about just the Town line or the Town and Highway line? The Town tax line is \$1.70 per 100,000, the Highway line is \$1.90, and the Fire is around \$0.90. Does the Town pass for the Highway and for the Town?

Chris stated the Highway is not a taxing jurisdiction, the Town is the taxing jurisdiction. It is the Town, School and the County that have to pass it.

### **New Business:**

- **284 Highway agreement draft:**

Reggie said he hopes by the next meeting he will have pricing of asphalt but he presented the roadwork he would be doing this year.

- **Road permit April 30<sup>th</sup> Elizabethtown Community Hospital fundraiser:**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ROAD PERMIT FOR APRIL  
30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 109-2023**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approves the road permit for April 30<sup>th</sup>,  
2023 for the Elizabethtown Community Hospital fundraiser.

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**Executive Session: None**

**Budget Resolutions:**

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

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2023 BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 110-2023**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board amend the 2023 budget as follows:

**General Fund** to increase the State Aid Emergency Disaster Work Line  
#A3960.01 by \$3,469.71. The Town of Keene received FEMA  
reimbursement money for Holt House Well Pump.

To increase the Hiker Parking Line #A1720.1 by \$20,863.58. The Town  
of Keene received an ACH payment from DEC for the Stewards.

**Highway Fund** to increase the State Aid Emergency Disaster work line  
#DA3960.03 by \$21,616.13. The Town of Keene received FEMA  
reimbursement money for debris removal town wide, app cert  
completed work roads.

**LIBRARY FUND** to increase Fund Equipment Line #074102.06.002.00 by \$87,199 and to increase the State Aid Educational Capital Project line #327.6 by \$87,199. The Library Fund received a grant from State Education Dept. for Library project.

**SW#1 Fund** to increase the State Aid Emergency Disaster Work Line #SW#1 3960.07 by \$150,515.05. The Town of Keene received FEMA reimbursement money for the Ausable River crossing water main repairs from the Halloween Storm.

**Safety Path Fund** to increase the Culture and Recreation line #2089.16 by \$23,600. The Town of Keene received a grant from the ADK Foundation-George and Jane McClelland Fund to support the Keene Valley Safety Path.

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**Supervisors Report:**

**Audit Bills:**

**RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE VOUCHERS 2023-258 THROUGH 2023-308**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:111-2023**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve the following bills and prepaid bills for payment.

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 2023-258 through 2023-308, totaling \$80,377.83, as follows:

General Fund Bills \$15,277.31

Highway Fund Bills \$34,596.26

Water District #1 \$2,019.36

Water District #2 \$736.82

Library \$27,748.08

Duly adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS:**

**Adjourn:**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 112-2023**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESMEYER 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 6:18P.M.

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

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

**NAYS:**

Anna Whitney  
Town Clerk  
Town of Keene