Regular Monthly Town of Keene Board Meeting

May 13, 2025

5:30 P.M. Town Hall

Meeting #11-2025

Resolutions #144-154

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

**Town Officials Present:** Ann Whitney Town Clerk, Savana Li Water Superintendent

**Town Counsel Present:** Bryan Liam Kennelly, Esq

**Members of the Public**: Roger Allen, Glenn (with BETA)

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 8TH BOARD MINUTES & APRIL 10TH WATER WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 144-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: ANN HOUGH WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has approved the April 8th Monthly Minutes & April 10th Water Workshop Minutes.

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**ABSTAINED**: Teresa Cheetham-Palen

**Privilege of the Floor:**

**Town Operations:**

Mr. Wilson wanted to share with everyone the nice thank you received from the Keene Central School for the ad the Town did in the yearbook.

* **Town Clerk**:

Ms. Whitney asked if anyone had any questions with her monthly report.

Ms. Whitney explained that she turned the warrant into the County, all balanced.

* **Highway Department**:

Mr. Wilson met with FEMA today. The July storm is submitted and working on the August storm. FEMA has had 2 phases of laying off staff. The team the Town works with said we will get the July storm money. The August storm, Styles Brook, we hope will get in the system and trying to get the preliminary estimate for the bridge. Joe Pete wanted to update everyone that things are unfolding in a way no one can predict.

* **Water Department**:

Mr. Wilson stated we do not have anything new on the cell tower.

**Town Discussion of Old Business:**

* **Community Center:**

Mr. Wilson stated he has not had any contractors get back to him on an estimate for the Community Center. Joe Pete did get an estimate from KAS for pre-renovation asbestos and mold assessment. This is required by Federal and New York State rules and regulations prior to renovation of a structure.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE QUOTE FROM KAS, INC.**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 145-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has approved the quote of $3,670 from KAS, Inc.

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

***Attachment # 1-112025***

Mr. Biesemeyer feels we need to have a workshop to decide what the Board wants to do to move forward. Once we decide then see if we are going to save the building or tear it down. If we are going to save it then we get the engineering report, if we decide to tear it down then we do not need engineering.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked how we decide this without a cost comparison. The question the Committee had, was what is the cost.

Ms. Hough wanted to remind everyone that surveys went out and 80% wanted to save the building.

Mr. Biesemeyer said we need to look at the short-term, after the KAS report we can see what it can be used for.

* **Site Plan Review Law Revision Process**

Mr. Wilson explained that Tina is making copies of the current Site Plan Review Law for all the Board members to review. Once everyone has had a chance then it will go to Liam.

* **Water District II**

Mr. Kennell explained he is working on the easement, which is the last piece for the bond**.** We have everything else set up for the bond. Two big issues: the easement went from 3 to 5 acres and removed some of the language requiring the engineering specs. We cannot get engineering specs until we get the easements.

**New Business:**

* **Community Enhancement Fund Awards**

Ms. Hough presented the applications:

1. East Branch Community Trails Development is requesting $10,000
2. Keene Central School After School Program is requesting $6,000
3. Keene Youth Commission Nordic Program is requesting $5,000
4. Little Peaks Preschool & Early Childhood Center is requesting $5,176.55

Ms. Hough explained we normally do $22,000 in the spring and $22,000 in the fall. Ann explained we could reject one or reduce the amounts they receive, or we also could grant all the requested awards and reduce the fall amount given.

Mr. Daly asked what the cash on hand in the account is.

Mr. Wilson said we budgeted $44,000.

***Attachment # 2-112025***

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ALL REQUESTS AND REDUCE THE FALL AMOUNT BY THE OVERAGE OF $4,176.55**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 146-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: ANN HOUGH WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has approved: East Branch Community Trails $10,000, Keene Central School after School Program $6,000, Keene Youth Commission Nordic Program $5,000, & Little Peaks Preschool & Early Childhood Center $5,176.55.

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

Glenn with East Branch Community Trails came and wanted to announce on June 7th they are having a celebration 11-2. This year there will be two new trails open.

* **Time Clock Policy**

Mr. Wilson stated he provided a draft of the policy and would like everyone to review it and we will discuss and approve at May 27th meeting.

* **Library Repair Project**

Ms. Cheetham-Palen explained Adirondack Heat Pumps has started. When Teresa applied for this grant, she asked if we could use any remaining for electric landscaping equipment, she is now working on that request.

**Local Law Process:**

**Executive Session:**

**RESOLUTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE CEMETERY**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 147-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR**

# ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene entered into Executive Session at

6:29 P.M. for cemetery negotiations,

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**RESOLUTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WHERE NO**

**DECISIONS WERE MADE**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 148-2025**

# INTRODUCED BY: TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene return from Executive Session at 6:50 P.M.

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**RESOLUTION TO SET BURIAL FEES TO $800 FOR A TRADITIONAL FULL BODY AND $400 FOR A CREMATION**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 149-2025**

# INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY TERESA CHEETHAM-APALEN

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene set burial fees at $800 for a traditional full body and $400 for a cremation, all fees are to be paid to the Town of Keene.

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**Budget Resolutions:**

* **Resolution to Transfer Funds:**

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 150 -2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: ANN HOUGH WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has approved the transfer of funds as follows:

Within the General Fund:

$3,388.04 out of 1990.04 Contingency CE

$3,388.04 into 1620.02 Buildings EQ - KPL septic

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

* **Resolution to amend the 2025 budget:**

**Supervisors Report:**

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 2025 SUPERVISOR REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 151-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene accept the April 2025 Supervisors Report.

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**Audit Bills:**

**RESOLUTION TO PAY THE ONLINE BILLS**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 152-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY R WHO CHRISTOPHER DALY MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve to pay the online bills.

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE VOUCHERS 296 THROUGH 373**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 153-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH**

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

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 296 through 373, 2025 totaling $31,964.59 as follows:

General Fund Bills $90,832.12

Highway Fund Bills $41,395.69

Library $1,452.71

Water District #1 $2,908.55

Water District #2 $7,576.15

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**Adjourn:**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 154-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has completed all business and hereby adjourns the Regular Meeting at 6:55 P.M.,

Duly adopted this 13th day of May 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

Ann Whitney

Town Clerk

Town of Keene