

Town of Keene
2026 Budget Meeting #1 Workshop
5:30 P.M. September 9, 2025

Pledge

Town Board: Joe Pete Wilson, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Ann Hough, Christopher Daly

Town Staff: Reginald Whitney Highway Superintendent, Savana Li Water Superintendent, Ann Whitney Town Clerk, Ryan Hall Highway

Mr. Wilson started the workshop,
Our tax cap for 2026 is \$2,168, 560
The new money we have is \$57,987

We have not received our new insurance rates for 2026. Based on the news from the State, Joe Pete will calculate the Tentative Budget at 15% to give us a working number, which we can adjust as we get the actual increases.

Mr. Wilson had a few items he wanted to ask the Board and if everyone agrees, he will use the figures to put into the Tentative Budget to give us a place to start.

1. Health Care 15%

2. State Retirement +15%

3. Cost of Living Adjustment: 3%. Joe Pete stated this is not set in stone but if Board members are ok with this he would use this figure to draft the Tentative Budget.

4. Youth Commission cost increases for 2026 \$12,000, increase of children.

Ms. Hough asked if this was for everything or just salaries.

Mr. Wilson stated just salaries.

Mr. Daly asked if they are working on a sliding scale, fee schedule.

Mr. Wilson stated we do have to look for some kind of contributions from families to help support this program.

5. Highway Fund;

Increase boot/clothing from \$150 to \$200

Raising the amount of comp time employees can earn. Mr. Wilson explained the Highway currently does this but have a cap of time they can build. This would save on the overtime paid out.

6. New line item: Ambulance Service transition to paid; contribution \$10,000.

Mr. Wilson explained that we are transitioning it paid staff. Part of the reason this is important the County is supporting the EMS services and doing a matching program.

7. Mr. Wilson ended with the fact we will use Fund Balance again this year to balance the budget, last year we used \$38,000, this year we will definitely need to do this to stay under the tax cap.

Town Clerk,
Anna Whitney