

Town of Keene – Regular Town Board Meeting

February 10, 2026

5:30 PM – Town Hall

Vouchers: 106-150

Resolutions: 71-82

Board Members Present:

Joe Pete Wilson, Supervisor; Teresa Cheetham-Palen; Ann Hough; Robert Biesemeyer

Absent: Christopher Daly

Town Officials Present:

Robyn Shumer (Town Clerk); Ryan Hall (Highway Superintendent); Savana Li (Water Superintendent)

Town Counsel Present: Bryan Liam Kennelly, Esq.

Call to Order

The regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Supervisor Joe Pete Wilson.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 27, 2026 meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion: Made and seconded.

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

Privilege of the Floor

No members of the public were present for Privilege of the Floor.

Town Clerk Business

- Resolution to pay all bills was made by Joe Pete; bills were reviewed, signed, and approved; Teresa Palen, Ann Hough and Joe Pete all approved, Bob abstained*
- A request was received from Lynn Shenier and Nyman Peters, non-residents of Keene, requesting permission for green burial in the Town cemetery.

- Discussion followed regarding cemetery policy, residency requirements, limited space, and past precedent.
- Resolution INSERT # regarding cemetery approval: The Board determined the applicants did not meet eligibility requirements.

Action: Request denied unanimously.

The Town Clerk will draft a letter explaining the decision.

- The Town Clerk requested approval to attend New York State Town Clerks Association annual training in Albany.
- Conference fee: \$562
- Lodging: \$155 per night (3 nights anticipated)

Motion: To approve travel and training expenses.

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

Highway Department Update

- Discussion on procurement options for a new tandem axle dump truck, including stock truck versus custom chassis and body build.
 - Supply chain delays and financing implications were reviewed.
 - Additional information pending receipt of updated quotes.
 - New grader delivered.
 - Purchase price approximately \$334,000 before trade-in.
 - Trade-in discrepancy identified; staff working with vendor to resolve.
 - Grader purchase funded through CHIPS and departmental funds, consistent with asset management planning.
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Communications / Cell Tower Lease Update

- Ongoing negotiations regarding a potential conversion of an existing lease to an easement.
 - Discussion included access issues, DOT easements, cell service reliability, and financial implications.
 - No action taken; negotiations ongoing. Any financial decisions will return to the Board for approval.
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Water System Updates

- Booster station issues due to freezing temperatures were discussed.
 - Temporary repairs completed; one pump currently operational.
 - Rebuild option being explored; one resident impacted seasonally.
 - Water infrastructure funding updates provided; state funding progressing, federal environmental review ongoing.
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Resolutions

Resolution 1: Keene Fire Department water usage rate

- Establishes yearly high-traffic water usage rate.
- Eliminates hydrant rental fee.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Resolution 2: Keene Valley Fire Department water usage rate

- Establishes yearly high-traffic water usage rate.
- Eliminates hydrant rental fee.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Resolution 3: Amend Keene Water Law, Subsection 7

- Adds reporting requirements for hydrant usage (Sections 7.5 and 7.6).

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Resolution 4: Amend Keene Valley Water Law, Subsection 7

- Adds reporting requirements for hydrant usage (Sections 7.5 and 7.6).

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Old Business

- Correction to organizational meeting action regarding Deputy Supervisor salary.

Motion: To return the Deputy Supervisor salary to \$500.

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

New Business

Annual audit of Town books discussed; scheduling to be coordinated.

The Supervisors Monthly Report was approved.

Financial Matters

- 2025 operating statement reviewed.
- Transfers approved within:
 - General Fund
 - Highway Fund
 - Library Fund
 - Water Fund
- 2026 year-to-date operating statement reviewed.
- Transfers within the General Fund approved.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Shumer
 Town Clerk
 Town of Keene

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		Town of Keene		
		Abstract of Claims		
		February 10, 2026		
		Town Board Meeting		
	Abstract #2 ,2026			Voucher #'s 070-0

Department	Prepaid Vouchers	Unpaid Vouchers	Total
General	\$0.00	\$115,452.36	\$115,452.36
Highway	\$0.00	\$7,592.01	\$7,592.01
Library	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Water District #1	\$0.00	\$2,995.16	\$2,995.16
Water District #2	\$0.00	\$119.73	\$119.73
Roost Enhancement Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
HRA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$0.00	\$126,259.26	\$126,259.26

To the Supervisor,

I certify that the vouchers listed above were audited by the Keene Town Board on 2.10.26

February 10, 2026

and allowed in the amounts shown.

You are hereby authorized and directed to pay the claimant the amount opposite his name.

2.10.2026

	Robyn Shumer, Town Clerk		Date	

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