

Town of Keene – Regular Town Board Meeting

April 28, 2026 #8

5:30 PM – Town Hall

Vouchers: 337–372

Resolutions: 125–138

Abstract #7

Board Members Present

Joseph Pete Wilson, Supervisor, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

Absent:

Teresa Cheetham-Palen

Town Officials Present

Robyn Shumer, Town Clerk, Ryan Hall, Highway Superintendent, Savana Li, Water Superintendent

Town Counsel: Not Present

Call to Order

Supervisor Wilson called the meeting to order at **5:30 PM**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 125 – Approval of April 14, 2026 Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

All in favor. **Carried.**

Privilege of the Floor

None.

Town Clerk Business

- A request for mowing of the Community Center fields was received from Sarah Knapp. The Town Clerk read the request into the record. Supervisor Wilson will follow up regarding scheduling (weather permitting), and the Town Clerk will report back to Ms. Knapp.
- The Town Clerk noted that the previously approved Albany training was not attended.
- The Board was asked to reserve **July 7** for KVLA's annual gala.
- The Town Clerk shared a positive experience with Next Door Keene, including an offer to post information on behalf of residents.

Resolution 126 – Discussion Regarding Cemetery Matter (Jack Eppler)

Motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Hough.

Motion denied.

Highway Department Update

- Approximately **40% of road sweeping** has been completed.
 - Surplus equipment has been sent to auction; offers will be presented at the next meeting.
 - The department is evaluating the purchase of an excavator with a grinder head. A rental this summer will be applied toward purchase if pursued. Estimated cost: **\$160,000**.
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Water System Updates

- A billing issue has been resolved.
 - Open houses were held: Keene (4 attendees) and Keene Valley (11 attendees).
 - A new motor and pump have been received and are scheduled for installation on Thursday.
 - The existing motor will be sent for rehabilitation.
 - Bids for well drilling close **May 1 at 2:00 PM**.
 - The Northern Borders Grant remains under review; Ms. Whitney and Supervisor Wilson will follow up regarding status.
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Old Business

Resolution 127 – Adoption of Updated Community Enhancement Fund Guidelines

Motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Hough.

All in favor. **Carried.**

Community Enhancement Fund Grant Awards:

Resolution 128 – Borealis Singers Grant (\$800)

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

All in favor. **Carried.**

- Keene Diversity Initiative – \$3,000 (approved at prior meeting)

Resolution 129 – East Branch Friends of the Arts Grant (\$1,000)

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

All in favor. **Carried.**

Resolution 130 – Our Story Bridge Grant (\$1,000)

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

All in favor. **Carried.**

Resolution 131 – Keene Central School After-School Program Grant (\$4,000; excluding salaries)

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

All in favor. **Carried.**

Supervisor Wilson will assist in identifying additional funding sources.

Resolution 132 – Little Peaks Grant (\$7,400; non-salary expenses)

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer.

Mr. Daly opposed. **Carried.**

New Business

- The Board discussed scheduling a strategic planning meeting to recruit volunteers for a steering committee and define focus areas.
- Previous committee topics included: recreation, affordable housing, town roads and culverts, and volunteer fire/EMS sustainability.
- The site law review plan is expected from consultants.
- A workshop will be scheduled to prepare comments on the Visitor Use Management Report distributed last month.

Executive Session

Resolution 133 – Enter Executive Session

Motion made by Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Mr. Biesemeyer at **6:19 PM**.

All in favor. **Carried.**

Resolution 134 – Return from Executive Session

Motion made by Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Ms. Hough at **6:29 PM**.

All in favor. **Carried.**

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

Additional Business

Resolution 135 – Transfer of Funds

Motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Hough.

All in favor. **Carried.**

Resolution 136 – Remove March Supervisor Report from Table

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Mr. Daly.

All in favor. **Carried.**

Resolution 137 – Approval of Online Bill Payments

Motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Hough.

All in favor. **Carried.**

Resolution 138 – Audit and Payment of Vouchers

Motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Hough.

All in favor. **Carried.**

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Hough.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at **6:31 PM**.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Shumer

Town Clerk, Town of Keene

Town of Keene
Abstract of Claims

April 28, 2026
Town Board Meeting

Abstract #7, 2026

Voucher #'s 337-372
Res. No. 125-138

Department	Prepaid Vouchers	Unpaid Vouchers	Total
General	\$0.00	\$27,597.66	
Highway	\$0.00	\$24,454.62	
Library	\$0.00	\$1,055.91	
Water District #1	\$0.00	\$2,646.97	
Water District #2	\$0.00	\$1,660.50	
Roost Enhancement Tax	\$0.00		
HRA	\$0.00		
Total:	\$0.00	\$57,415.66	\$0.00

To the Supervisor,

I certify that the vouchers listed above were audited by the Keene Town Board on April 28, 2026 and allowed in the amounts shown.

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

4.28.2026