

Town of Keene – Regular Town Board Meeting

May 12, 2026 #9

5:30 PM – Town Hall

Vouchers: 373-402

Resolutions: 140- 153

Abstract #8

Board Members Present

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

Absent:

Christopher Daly

Town Officials Present

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

Town Counsel: Bryan Liam Kennelly

Call to Order

Supervisor Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Resolution 140 – Approval of April 28, 2026 Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.

All in favor. Carried.

Privilege of the Floor

None.

Town Clerk Business

- The Board discussed the use of dried flowers or rice paper confetti at outdoor events. A review of the Cemetery rules and Marcy Field rules will be reviewed before a final decision is rendered.

- KVLVA sent a thank you note for the Town's annual donation.
- The Keene Valley Library Association will host KOM for a strategic plan review at 7:00 PM. Notice to be posted on Next Door Keene.
- The Keene Library Board will meet Friday at 5:00 PM to discuss financial oversight.

Resolution 141 – KVLVA Community Program Funding Request (\$1,000)

Request to support the August 13, 2026 community event marking the end of the summer reading challenge, with anticipated attendance of 75–100 people.

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.
All in favor. Carried.

Highway Department Update

- Items are listed for auction.

Resolution 142 – Authorization for Highway Superintendent to Accept Highest Bidder

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.
All in favor. Carried.

- Dig Safe training was completed by Highway, Water, and Buildings & Grounds staff. Renewal will be required next year.
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Water System Updates

- Three well drilling bids closed on May 12, 2026.

Bid review summary:

- Amber Water Pros – Score: 29/100; no rotary rig provided.
- Manosh – Score: 77/100; bid amount \$281,000; no project schedule provided.
- Layne – Score: 93/100; detailed schedule provided; rotary rig available; bid amount \$323,000, consistent with AES estimate.

Resolution 143 – Award Well Drilling Contract to Layne

Motion made by Ms. Cheetham-Palen, seconded by Ms. Hough.
Mr. Biesemeyer abstained.
Carried.

- Water billing is proceeding.
 - Motor and pump installation has been completed.
 - The previous motor will be sent for rehabilitation.
 - Savana Li will attend the Water Conference next week.
-

Old Business

None.

New Business

Resolution 144 – Assessor Travel Approval

Approval for assessor travel and certification training expenses up to \$1,500.

Motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Hough.
All in favor. Carried.

- Supervisor Wilson reported that the DOT Traffic Safety Study Grant had been stalled for six months. Following outreach to the Governor’s representative, the process resumed.

Resolution 145 – Acceptance of DOT Traffic Safety Study Grant (\$100,000)

Motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Hough.
All in favor. Carried.

The Town Clerk will provide required paperwork with the raised seal. The Town will retain engineers to complete the study.

- The Town’s insurance company completed its annual audit and identified electrical deficiencies at the transfer station involving transformers, breakers, wiring to the three-phase box, and related electrical service.

Resolution 146 – Award Transfer Station Electrical Repair Project

Proposal received from Nick Peppe in the amount of \$22,888.

Motion made by Ms. Cheetham-Palen, seconded by Ms. Hough.

Mr. Biesemeyer reported an additional estimate from Fonzy would be obtained the following day.

Resolution amended to authorize the Supervisor to award the project to the lowest compliant bidder by noon Thursday.

All in favor. Carried as amended.

- Ryan Hall will accompany Mr. Biesemeyer for the site visit.
- The Declaration of Independence will be read aloud at Community Day.
- Supervisor Wilson will make calls regarding the purchase of a large tree for Marcy Field.

Executive Session

Resolution 147 – Enter Executive Session

Motion made by Ms. Cheetham-Palen, seconded by Ms. Hough at 6:03 PM.
All in favor. Carried.

Resolution 148 – Return from Executive Session

Motion made by Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen at 6:26 PM.
All in favor. Carried.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

Additional Business

Resolution 149 – Transfer of General Funds

Motion made by Ms. Hough, seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.
All in favor. Carried.

Resolution 150 – Approval of April Supervisor’s Report

Motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Hough.
All in favor. Carried.

Resolution 151 – Approval of Online Bill Payments

Motion made by Mr. Biesemeyer, seconded by Ms. Hough.
All in favor. Carried.

Resolution 152 – Audit and Payment of Monthly Invoices

Motion made by Ms. Cheetham-Palen, seconded by Ms. Hough.
All in favor. Carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Ms. Cheetham-Palen.
All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM (**Resolution 153**)

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Shumer

Town of Keene
 Abstract of Claims
 May 12, 2026
 Town Board Meeting

Abstract #10, 2026

Voucher #'s 373-402
 Res. No. 139-152

Department	Prepaid Vouchers	Unpaid Vouchers	Total
General	\$0.00	\$21,593.25	
Highway	\$0.00	\$2,928.33	
Library	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Water District #1	\$0.00	\$765.01	
Water District #2	\$0.00	\$1,039.24	
Roost Enhancement Tax	\$0.00	\$4,789.90	
HRA	\$0.00		
Total:	\$0.00	\$31,215.73	\$0.00

To the Supervisor,

I certify that the vouchers listed above were audited by the Keene Town Board on May 12, 2026 and allowed in the amounts shown.

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



 Robyn Shumer, Town Clerk

5.12.2026

 Date