

Town of Keene  
2025 Budget Meeting #1 Workshop  
5:30 P.M. September 10, 2024

Pledge

Town Board: Joe Pete Wilson, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Robert Biesemeyer,  
Christopher Daly

Town Staff: Cindy Caner Clerk to the Supervisor, Reginald Whitney Highway  
Superintendent, Savana Li Water Superintendent, Ann Whitney Town Clerk

Mr. Wilson started the workshop,  
Our Tax Cap for 2025 is \$2,110,573  
The new money we have is \$77,762

We have not received our new insurance rates for 2025. He calculated the tentative budget for this draft using a 15% increase to give us a working number, which we can adjust as we get the actual increases.

We need to discuss the following items in order to prioritize our budget.

1. Paying the Accounting Firm for annual audit. We can estimate cost for now.  
This is the only new item in the General Fund.

Mr. Biesemeyer suggested maybe \$10,000.

Mr. Daly agreed to go with that.

2. Cost of Living Adjustment: 3% or 5%.

Mr. Biesemeyer said to start with 3% and see where we end up.

3. Youth Commission cost increases for 2024 need to be planned for 2025.

Mr. Wilson stated we were over budget, \$37,500 and spent a little over \$51,000.  
We had to do overtime due to late pick-ups by parents; we have to keep the ratio  
kids to consoler.

Ms. Hough stated they talked about staggering the consolers to prevent this.

Mr. Daly asked about the increase that was given mid-year.

Mr. Cheetham-Plan asked for a break down in pay and expenses.

Ms. Caner is going to do that, then come up with a number.

Mr. Daly feels we should revisit the Farmers Market Agreement, rate increase. Mr. Wilson said in our November meeting we should have it in place and get this handled before the start of the season.

#### 4. Highway Fund

Mr. Wilson stated this isn't necessarily looking at the budget sheet, it is what is facing the Town.

##### a. Bridge replacement

Mr. Whitney explained to replace the temporary culvert on Styles Brook it will be \$1,000,000. When this is done the county will take it over.

Mr. Wilson explained we are working to qualify for FEMA and if we qualify, they will pay 75%.

##### b. Equipment replacements

Mr. Whitney explained he is still waiting on a tandem that was scheduled this year; he will not be getting it. This then brings up another thing, we should order another Tadem. Ideally, this would be in a rotation.

Mr. Daly asked to get an accurate Fund Balance.

Mr. Daly asked if you Bond something and then get FEMA could you pay that to the Bond.

Mr. Wilson said yes you could.

##### c. Long Term Resiliency Plan

Mr. Whitney stated they have identified some areas that have reoccurring problems. We would like to have someone look at these areas and give us some advice.

Mr. Wilson believes we give this list to AES, they visit those sites, they identify engineering solutions for each site, and then we break them down into groups. First would be the group we can apply for grants, second would be Capital Projects we can budget for and the third would be when things get damaged we don't return it to its current position, we have it engineered to what it should be repaired to so it won't blow out again.

Mr. Daly asked if we were on track for the new revaluation.

Mr. Wilson stated yes we are on track.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked about the Community Center.

Mr. Wilson stated that was asset Management.