

**Presentation of 2025 Tentative Budget
Special Meeting
October 1st, 2024 5:30 p.m.
Keene Town Hall
Resolution 266 through
268-2024**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Town Supervisor, Robert Biesemeyer, Ann Hough, Christopher Daly, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Council Members

TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Savana Li Water Superintendent, Anna Whitney, Town Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:

Bill Ferebee, Charles Lashway, Cindy Caner

CALLED MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:30 p.m. by Joe Pete Wilson

Moment of silence for all the people in the southern zone suffering the great devastation, asked for by Mr. Lashway

PRESENTATION OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET: Anna Whitney, Town Clerk, presented a certified copy of the 2025 Tentative Budget to each Town Board Member.

Mr. Wilson explained this morning the insurance broker came and we were informed the increase will be 23% on Medicare. He used 15% for the Tentative Budget, this means additional \$24,000 a crossed all the funds. There will be remaining funds; he suggests using the remaining funds from the Health Reimbursement Account to offset this increase.

Mr. Daly asked if the HRA would be fully funded for 2025?

Mr. Wilson said yes it will. What is left at the end of the year goes back into fund balance. In the General Fund, we have a new account, Highway we need to replace equipment. Using the unexpended fund balance keeps us under the Tax Cap. In the past, all our new money has kept us under the tax cap but this year that isn't the case, we have to cut something to stay under or we can use the unexpended fund balance to keep us under the tax cap.

Mr. Lashway asked if maybe employees could pay some to keep cost down.

Mr. Wilson explained we have changed our Health Insurance Plan and they do pay part of it, the new Health Care Insurance has actually saved us.

Mr. Daly asked after Medicare is added what is the total amount that we are taking from the Fund Balance.

Mr. Wilson stated \$62,000 total. The choice is to use the fund balance or override the Tax cap.

Paused meeting at 5:45 for Public Hearing Local Law 2 of 2024

Resumed 5:47 P.M.

Mr. Wilson explained that going with the higher deductible insurance three years ago we made a huge savings.

Ms. Palen asked if the Youth Commission line would be ok.

Mr. Wilson stated it was way over budget this year but they are changing the scheduling, which should help with most of this.

Mr. Lashway said maybe we should ask for things. Asked if they ever went to American Legion for money for youth commission.

Paused Meeting at 6:01P.M. For Local Law 2 of 2024

Resumed 6:05

Mr. Wilson pointed out a positive item is Highway is making the last payment of \$12,500 on a Bond so that will help next year's budget.

Paused Meeting at 6:14 P.M. For Public Hearing Local Law 3 of 2024

Resumed 6:19

**RESOLUTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL
ISSUE**

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 266-2024

**INTRODUCED BY: TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN MOVED FOR ITS
ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH**

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene entered into Executive Session
at 6:20 P.M.,

Duly adopted this 1ST day of October 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Joe Pete Wilson

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 267-2024

INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN

RESOLVED that the Town Board of Keene return from Executive Session at 6:46 P.M.

Duly adopted this 1ST day of October 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: Christopher Daly, Ann Hough, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Robert Biesemeyer, Joe Pete Wilson

NAYS: None

Mr. Ferebee stated that for a number of years there was a bench at the corner of Market and Adirondack , it was picked up by the Town in the Fall and put back in the Spring. A few years ago, the bench never was put back and then on clean-up day his wife and himself mowed it, bought a bench and put it there in memory of her mom. Bill stated about 8 days later they went down and the bench was gone.

He then said there has been some money stolen from the little Sugar Shack in the Valley. He explained he realized this was not a Town issue but he wanted the Board to be aware of it.

Mr. Ferbee then commented the building looked great. He then wanted to mention the flower box has sat out there on the ground is rotted and maybe we could remove it.

Mr. Ferebee then asked a question, has the policy changed that salary employees and hourly employees accrued time off differently or the same?

Mr. Wilson said leave time is all the same.

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

RESOLUTION 268, 2024

INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: ANN HOUGH

RESOLVED that the Town Board has completed all business and hereby adjourns the Special Meeting at 6:51 P.M.

Duly adopted this 1st day of October 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Biesemeyer, Ms. Cheetham-Palen, Mr. Daly, Ms. Hough

NAYS: none

Town Clerk

Anna M Whitney