Regular Monthly Town of Keene Board Meeting

January 14th, 2025

5:30 P.M. Town Hall

Meeting # 3-2025

Resolutions #56

**Board Members Present**: Joe-Pete Wilson Supervisor, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough, Council Members

**Absent**: Robert Biesemeyer

**Town Officials Present:** Ann Whitney Town Clerk, Reginald Whitney Highway Superintendent, Emily Whitney Dog Control Officer

**Town Counsel Present:** Bryan Liam Kennelly, Esq

**Members of the Public**: Martha Allen, Ann Hartson, Carter Gill, Stephen Hall, Barb Dumas, Doug White, Yvette Tillmen, David LeClair, Sydney Brown, Ben Stechschulle, Noreen McCarthy, Andrew Wadsworth, Jill Bassett, Jeanie Cross

**Call to Meeting to Order** at 5:48 P.M. by Joe Pete Wilson

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 19, 2024 END OF YEAR, JANUARY 2ND, 2025 ORGANIZATIONAL, AND JANUARY 2ND, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 56-2025**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has approved the End of Year Meeting, the Organizational Meeting, and the Special Board Meeting.

Duly adopted this 14th day of January 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES:** Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Ann Hough, Joe Pete Wilson

**NAYS**: None

**ABSTAINED**: Christopher Daly

**Privilege of the Floor:**

**Town Operations**

* **Town Clerk**:

Ms. Whitney asked if anyone had any questions with her monthly report. She stated she is in the busy time of tax season, a report will be provided at next meeting.

* **Highway Department**:

Mr. Whitney asked to make a purchase of a slide for the van they purchased from Building and Grounds for the Steam Jenny. It will make it much easier to handle.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2,000 LB BED SLIDE**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 57-2025**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has approved the purchase from Plattsburgh Spring for $2,200 for a 2,000lb bed slide.

Duly adopted this 14th day of January 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 45TH ANNUAL DOC LOPEZ RUN FOR HEALTH**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 58-2025**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene approves the annual Doc Lopez run on Sunday April 27th, 2025.

Duly adopted this 14th day of January 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

* **Water Department**:

**Town Discussion of Old Business:**

* **Farmers Market Agreement for 2025**

Mr. Wilson explained that Liam is working on the draft but urged the Board members to send any comments to Liam.

* **Community Center**

Ms. Hough wanted to let everyone know we want to start on the Community Center this year.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GOING OUT FOR RFP’S FOR ENGINEERING**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 59-2025**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene approve going out for RFP’s for engineering to evaluate the Community Center.

Duly adopted this 14th day of January 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**New Business:**

* **Annual Audit of the Books:**

Mr. Wilson wanted to remind Board Members the Departments have their books out for review this week**.**

Mr. Wilson had a new item he just received. He asked if we wanted to approve an advertisement in the Keene Central School Yearbook.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A HALF PAGE AD IN THE KEENE CENTRAL YEARBOOK**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 60-2025**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene approve the purchase of a half page ad for $75.00 in the Keene Central Yearbook.

Duly adopted this 14th day of January 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**Local Law Process:**

* **Local Law #1 of 2025:**

Mr. Wilson stated he will start by giving Liam and Board members a chance to reply to what the public brought to us in the Public Hearing.

Mr. Kennelly said 8C maybe it should float alone. Maybe we make it its own section, section 16. We will just move it.

**RESOLUTION TO CHANGE 8C TO ITS OWN SECTION**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 61-2025**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene approve the edit of 8C to its own Section, Section 16.

Duly adopted this 14th day of January 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

Mr. Wilson then added we have been working on this for two years. There has been a lot of input to this. Deanna and Barb brought up a separate issue than the leash law related to dog housing. This is a real crisis; we are working on this at the County level. We are looking at the County to help develop some housing. He believes this Leash Law would help with this.

Yvette Tillman asked if we use the SPCA?

Mr. Wilson stated they will not contract with us anymore.

Noreen McCarthy asked how many dogs are we really housing, is it one per month while we look for the owner? Is there some other way than having ever dog on a leash? When she looks at the DCO report, it does not add up. The other part that is concerning is that we are going to euthanize dogs.

Mr. Wilson stated we are not giving ourselves authority to euthanizing dogs.

Mr. Kennelly stated the only thing that really changes is the leash part and pooper-scooper part. This is about pooper-scooper and leash law. Nothing in this law is a radical law.

Mr. Daly wants to draw everyone’s attention to Emily’s report. Her very good summary of what the surrounding town’s leash law is, the Town of Jay, Ausable, Wilmington, North Elba, North Hudson, Elizabethtown, the Village of Lake Placid all have a leash law. This is not out of the ordinary, other towns around us have done this.

Ms. Hough commented she lives on Grismill where everyone walks his or her dog. 99% of the owners that go by my house are very responsible. She asked to meet in the middle and maybe have a place where they can be off leash.

Mr. Gill stated he came from Atlanta Ga. where they allowed places his dog could be off leash. He asked if we would create a facility where he can go with his dog so it can go off leash if this law passes. I think it hurts people if you do not let them enjoy the outdoors. He hopes we meet half way so there is a place where we can have our dog off leash.

Ms. Dumas stated she does not think everyone disagrees with the law, she thinks the concern is the Town will over step the authority if the owner is in complete control that you would take them to court.

Mr. Wadsworth stated you do have responsible dog owners but dogs do have a mind of their own.

Mr. Hall stated he knows the Town has to be prepared for the worst and that is what we are looking at but the Town does not act like that.

Ms, Cheetham-Palen stated she has struggled with this from the beginning. The thought of people not being able to ski with their dog. She also sees the other side being a cyclist and a runner, she picked her route to avoid where the dogs were that were loose. She also stated that we do have to find some middle ground. This law is to give Emily some recourse so that we prevent really bad situation.

Ms. Whitney asked how many people have dogs and with that how many are licensed. Licensing is a State Law. It is only $6.00 for neutered and spayed or $13.00 for unneutered or spayed.

Ms. McCarthy said you have a law you have to enforce it, you cannot have a law and not enforce it.

Mr. Wilson stated we are trying to provide more safety for dogs and the community. We are trying to provide the DCO a tool for public safety.

Mr. Whitney stated that control to one person may not be control to another person. A dog part way down my driveway is not in control but to the owner of the dog it might be.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW 1 OF 2025**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 62-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: JOE PETE WILSON WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

**Discussion**:

Mr. Wilson feels the Leash Law is the first step then we decide time and place for off leash, but still under control.

Mr. Wilson stated section 6 gives the Town authority to set places for dogs to be allowed off leash.

**Rollcall Vote:**

**Joe Pete Wilson- Aye**

**Teresa Cheetham-Palen-Nay**

**Ann Hough-Nay**

**Christopher Daly-Aye**

**The Resolution does not pass as written**.

Mr. Daly asked Liam to be clear this is not the end of it, we can make revisions if we elect to, re-introduce this, hold a public hearing and then reintroduce.

Mr. Kennelly said yes.

Mr. Wilson propose to schedule another Public Hearing on February 25th to revisit this.

**RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 25TH, 2025 AT 5:30 FOR LOCAL LAW 1 OF 2025**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 63-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: JOE PETE WILSON WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene set a Public Hearing February 25th, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. for Local Law 1 of 2025 Comprehensive Dog Control Law.

Duly adopted this 14th day of January 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**Budget Resolutions:**

* **Resolution to Transfer Funds:**
* **Resolution to amend the 2024 budget:**

**Supervisors Report:**

. **RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER 2024 SUPERVISOR REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 64-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: JOE PETE ANN HOUGH BY TERESA CHEETHAM-PALEN**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene accept the December 2024 Supervisors Report.

Duly adopted this 14th day of January 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**Audit Bills:**

**RESOLUTION TO PAY THE ONLINE BILLS**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 65-2025**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve to pay the online bills.

Duly adopted this 14TH day of January 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE VOUCHERS 1 THROUGH 54**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 66-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY TERESA CHEETHAM-PAEN WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve the following bills and prepaid bills.

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 1 through 54, 2025 totaling $37,641.10 as follows:

General Fund Bills $16,566.06

Highway Fund Bills $8,982.99

Library $471.40

Water District #1 $3,162.39

Water District #2 $3,177.51

Community Enhancement Fund $1,239.95

Youth Commission $600.00

Duly adopted this 14TH day of January 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

**Adjourn:**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 67-2025**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has completed all business and hereby adjourns the Regular Meeting at 7:04 P.M.,

Duly adopted this 14th day of January 2025 by the following vote:

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

**NAYS**: None

Ann Whitney

Town Clerk

Town of Keene