Regular Monthly Town of Keene Board Meeting

February 11th, 2025

5:30 P.M. Town Hall

Meeting #5-2025

Resolutions #76-83

**Board Members Present**: Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough, Robert Biesemeyer , Council Members

**Absent**: Joe-Pete Wilson Supervisor

**Town Officials Present:** Ann Whitney Town Clerk, Reginald Whitney Highway Superintendent

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

**Members of the Public**:

**Call to Meeting to Order** at 5:30 P.M. by Teresa Cheetham-Palen

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 28TH, 2025 BI-MONTHLY BOARD MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 76-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has approved the January 28th, 2025 Bi-Monthly Minutes.

Duly adopted this 11th day of February 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES:** Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Ann Hough, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly

**NAYS**: None

**Privilege of the Floor:**

**Town Operations**

* **Town Clerk**:

Ms. Whitney asked if anyone had any questions with her monthly report. She stated she has met the Town Warrant and now working on the County Warrant.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated she loved the clerk’s reports.

* **Highway Department**:

Mr. Whitney stated they are almost done with the transfer of equipment to the van and it is going to be great.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen wanted to say she saw one of people plowing and she asked if this is one of the new trucks, they said “no I just waxed it”. She was super impressed how they take care of their equipment in the middle of plow season.

Ms. Hough added we got some applause for our sidewalks this week as well.

* **Water Department**:

Ms. Li was absent but Mr. Kennelly wanted to let the Board know he has circled back to the water pump lease with the school, we are making progress. He then explained Keene Valley Fire Department has redlined the hydrant agreement and should have the updated agreement in March.

**Town Discussion of Old Business:**

* **Annual Audit of the Books:**

Tabled

**New Business:**

* **Youth Commission Program Update**

Ms. Hough explained that Tina and Cindy came to the last meeting and they gave a very good run down on the hiring paperwork process and how purchase orders work. Ann added that Tammy is leaving and Bronson will be taking over as Treasurer all purchasing will be going through him. Ann stated they are really trying to stay within the budget. She wanted to add, Lilly is amazing, with the grant she received, the ski program went from 22 skiers to 48 because of the grant.

* **Award Heat Pump Contract for Library**

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated we had several proposals. She explained they went back and forth in the review process. In the end, High Peaks Heat Pumps hit everything that was needed**.**

**RESOLUTION TO AWARD HIGH PEAKS HEAT PUMPS WITH THE CONTRACT FOR THE LIBRARY**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 77-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene has approved High Peaks Heat Pumps contingent of receiving a clean proposal with the upgraded equipment and upgrade to the electrical service to 200 amps.

Duly adopted this 11th day of February 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES:** Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Ann Hough, Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly

**NAYS**: None

**Local Law Process:**

* **Leash Law Discussion of Off Leash Locations**

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked if anyone had anything with the draft Liam has just sent to us.

Mr. Biesemeyer would like to eliminate section 13 with the maximum fine and the maximum 15 day jail time. He does not want the jail time.

Mr. Kennelly stated the problem with removing that is you do not have any consequences if the person does not comply with what was asked of them.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated it is in our current law; we are carrying over old law into this.

Mr. Daly asked why when the current law was done was it ok to have the fines and the jail time.

Mr. Kennelly stated if the order were not followed, the Town Attorney would have nothing to do to enforce this. He states we need something in there in case there is a court order so we can pursue this if they do not follow the order.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated that if this law does not pass the harsh previsions are in the current law; she stated people need to realize they are currently living under these laws.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen stated in the draft it states that the Board can create areas where the dogs can be off leash. She stated if we name places in the law and those places do not work out we have to go through all this again to change it.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated people are concerned of locations of where they can let their dogs off leash.

Mr. Daly stated if we want to designate areas by resolution then that is fine but because of the reasons outlined, we cannot put them in the law.

Mr. Biesemeyer stated all the people he has talked to support the idea that dogs will be on leash in the Hamlet areas. Defining the areas strictly on leash.

Mr. Daly stated the Beta trails, Town Trails, Jackrabbit would be good locations.

Ms. Hough agrees with the Town Trails, and with Bob on Hamlet areas.

Mr. Kennelly stated right now in the draft it gives the Board the freedom to create off leash areas on Town property.

**Executive Session:**

**RESOLUTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 78-2024**

**INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR**

# ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene entered into Executive Session at

6:55 P.M. for personnel,

Duly adopted this 11th day of February 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough, Teresa CheethamPalen

**NAYS**: None

**RESOLUTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WERE NO**

**DECISIONS WERE MADE**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 79-2024**

# INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY ANN HOUGH

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene return from Executive Session at 7:15 P.M.

Duly adopted this 11th day of February 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough, Teresa Cheetham-

Palen

**NAYS**: None

**Budget Resolutions:**

* **Resolution to Transfer Funds:**

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 80-2024**

# INTRODUCED BY: CHRISTOPHER DALY WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION SECONDED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER

**RESOLVED**, that the following transfers be approved**:**

Within the **General Fund:**

$6,720.00 out of 3297.25 State Aid Records Grant

$6,720.00 into 1410.4 Town Clerk CE (Payment for records retention)

Within the **Highway Fund:**

N/A

Within the **Library Fund**:

N/A

Within the **SW#1**:

N/A

Within the **SW#2**:

N/A

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

**Supervisors Report:**

. **RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2025 SUPERVISOR REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 81-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of Keene accept the January 2025 Supervisors Report.

Duly adopted this 11th day of February 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Christopher Daly, Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Ann Hough, Robert Biesemeyer

**NAYS**: None

**Audit Bills:**

**RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE VOUCHERS 93 THROUGH 130**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 82-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY ROBERT BIESEMEYER WHO MOVED FOR ITS ADOPTION, SECONDED BY CHRISTOPHER DALY**

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

Multi-Fund Vouchers numbered 93 through 130, 2025 totaling $124,545.32 as follows:

General Fund Bills $103,134.27

Highway Fund Bills $14,588.29

Library $1,536.52

Water District #1 $31,503.53

Water District #2 $2,788.63

Roost Enhancement Tax $994.08

Duly adopted this 11th day of February 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough

**NAYS**: None

**ABSTAINED**: Teresa Cheetham-Palen

**Adjourn:**

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 83-2025**

**INTRODUCED BY: ROBERT BIESEMEYER 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 7:19 P.M.,

Duly adopted this 11th day of February 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES**: Robert Biesemeyer, Christopher Daly, Ann Hough, Teresa Cheetham-

Palen

**NAYS**: None

Ann Whitney

Town Clerk

Town of Keene