

Town of DeKalb Board Meeting

At a regular meeting of the Town Board, of the Town of DeKalb, St. Lawrence County, New York, held on the 19th day of April 2023, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

John Frary	Supervisor	Michael Livingston	Council Member
Connie Elen	Council Member	Andrew Fenton	Council Member
Barbara Creazzo	Town Clerk		

Council Member, Ed Newcombe, was absent due to work.

Members of the community present: Sean O'Brien, Kelly Davis, Janice Brabaw, Larry Denesha, Rebecca Bascom, and Scott Fenlong

Members of the community attending via ZOOM: Ginger Thomas

Supervisor Frary opened the regular meeting at 7:03 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Frary, followed by a moment of silent prayer and/or reflection.

Andrew Fenton moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting, of the Town Board, held on March 15th, 2023, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston and adopted unanimously.

Actions

1. Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor to sign resolution paperwork for Community Bank. **Completed 03/16/23.**
2. Superintendent Holland to receive 3 quotes for new truck and order as agreed. **Completed.**
3. Highway department to develop maintenance documentation form.
4. Water district to develop water turn-on and shut-off application form. **Completed 3/22/23.**
5. Contact National Grid to install five new outlets for pole decorations.
6. Two AEDs to be ordered. **Completed 3/21/23.**

Public Forum:

Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator

-Passed a resolution supporting two bills sponsored by the City of Ogdensburg, one in the Assembly and the other in the Senate, requiring the New York State to pay taxes on land that is owned by the state, not in use, and not on the market for sale.

-The new Ogdensburg City Manager, Chief of Police, and Chief of the Fire Department attended a meeting night of the Legislators, to introduce themselves and to open a dialogue for good communications.

-Passed resolution to use 3 million of the ARPA monies to assist with the expansion of broadband in St. Lawrence County.

-Will soon know the amount for Worker's Compensation for each town, as it has not been finalized.

-Medication Assisted Treatment plan, which is mandated by the State, for incarcerated individuals who wish to receive opioid addiction treatment, has already cost the county \$150,000 for the year. Last year, the state provided \$120,000 for treatment and no money this year. There are 116 incarcerated currently and 60 are in the program. Seventy-five percent of the incarcerated are there due to drug related charges.

-Passed a resolution for the Chair to sign a contract for all Code Enforcement Officers to receive training on the detection of lead in homes. Approximately 75% of the homes in the county are considered vintage; therefore, have the potential to contain lead paint.

-Continuing to work on an exemption for Volunteer Fireman and Rescue workers, for a 10% reduction on their property taxes. The only concern with this is not every volunteer is a property owner. There is a reduction on income tax, but this may be eliminated if a new law is passed that does away with it. I would like to see it be either or option, as there can only be one option used.

Rebecca Bascom asked the board if there were any grants available for renovating historical buildings in the town. The response is there is nothing the town has to offer; however, she could contact Patrick Kelly, head of St. Lawrence County IDA. Mr. Kelly will know what is available for grants.

Sean O'Brien, Undersheriff, introduced himself to the board, as he is running for the position of Sheriff.

-Is married with 3 children and resides in the Town of Oswegatchie.

-He and his wife own 2 businesses in Ogdensburg.

-Graduated from OFA and has 20 years of service with the department.

-Wrote a grant for and received tablets for the officers to use. One of the challenges the department is dealing with is the increase in calls that have a mental health component to it. One of the improvements that has helped is the use of tablets that allow the officer to be able to do facetime with a mental health clinician while face to face with the individual who is in crisis. This is helping to eliminate the need to transport the person to Claxton Hepburn for evaluation.

-Have worked to speed up the process of obtaining pistol permits.

-Would like to establish an Emergency Response Team, now that swatting is occurring, if a Response Team is summoned, must wait hours before one arrives in St. Lawrence County.

Janice Brabaw

-Provided the board with a copy of what has occurred at the De Kalb Revitalization Committee meetings. There is a very detailed copy, as well as a shortened version. Some ideas are as follows:

-Establish one event calendar for the town.

-Create an "I need...., who do you recommend?" informational tree.

-Create a couple of Mini Libraries.

-Clean-up day.

-Crosswalks for Route 11.

-Town Welcoming signs.

-Planters along Route 11.

-Fall Festival.

A motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Michael Livingston to appoint Janice Brabaw, Kelly Davis, to assist with the design of new Welcome To De Kalb signs. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Supervisor Frary, and Larry Denesha, meet with Ms. Brabaw to discuss ideas the committee has listed.

Financials:

Michael Livingston made the motion to accept the Justice Clerk Audit as presented, seconded by Andrew Fenton. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Constance Elen made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the Clerk's General Account and Tax Account, seconded by Michael Livingston. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Clerk Report: Barbara Creazzo

-Read thank you note from De Kalb Hermon Senior Citizens, thanking the board for the support they give them annually.

Monthly report: Collected \$1,015.30 for the month of March with the town retaining \$949.30.

The breakdown is as follows: Ag & Markets received \$66, town \$205.50 for dog licenses, \$660 for building permits, \$60 for Certified Death Certificates, \$20.80 for copies made, and \$3 for faxes sent.

-Deputy Law did not work any hours during March.

-Water & Sewer: water collected \$6,870.82 while sewer collected \$11,085.34.

-Taxes collected to date amount to \$1,66,266.32 of the \$1,994,344.89 warrant.

-Showed the application for One-Day Marriage Officiant License that clerks must issue upon request. The town will be able to collect \$25 for each application processed.

Supervisor Frary distributed the Year-to-date financial report for review by the board. Line items continue to look good for the first quarter.

Water & Sewer Report:

DANC-a total of 506,300 gallons of water were metered in the month of March, with an average daily flow of 16,332 gallons. A total of 5 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. The full report contains all the daily flow charts. All daily, weekly, and monthly, inspections and maintenance were completed as scheduled. One random distribution sample for bacteriological testing was completed with a satisfactory result.

-A total of 2,271,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of March, with an average daily flow of 73,258 gallons. There were no SPDES permit violations. The full report contains all the daily flow charts. All daily, weekly, and monthly, inspections and maintenance were completed as scheduled. Pulled the E-One pump at the Dollar General Lift Station to clear rags/debris. RBC #1 feed bucket broke and caused issues to the drive unit.

Have received the Bond monies; therefore, EDR will be paid for work completed over the past several years regarding the proposed updates at the sewer plant.

Members of the EDR team were here last week to walk the ditch line from Josephine Street to the sewer plant. They will have their recommendations ready for next month's meeting.

Have received information and bids regarding installation of new water meters. The current meters are rapidly approaching their end of life, as some have begun to fail. Board members were given the written information and need to be ready to discuss it at next month's meeting.

Have not heard anything more on the Lead Service Line Inventory.

Highway Department Report: Wayne Holland (3/15-4/19/23)

- Cutting brush
- Un-harnessing trucks
- Servicing trucks
- Hauling stone
- Cold Patching
- Installing new lights in the barn
- Fixing sewer plant RBC. Buckets needed to be rewelded plus work on the drive unit was completed.
- Sweeping town roads
- New truck is scheduled to be built April 20, 2023, then going to Viking for plow harness
- New excavator is scheduled for May 15, 2023
- A little over 4 miles of blacktop planned but don't know about CHIPS money yet

Dog Control Report: Continuing to provide Mr. Moyer with address and dog owner information.

Code Enforcement Report: Met with two different couples who are planning to build new homes.

Assessor: Tentative Roll will be completed soon and submitted.

Communications:

- ARPA, Peggy Mousaw has completed and filed the Annual Report for the town.
- No new news regarding solar projects.
- Five Christmas decorations have been received to place on power poles come the holiday.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Andrew Fenton to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract #4-2023. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

A motion was made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Michael Livingston, to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara A. Creazzo

Town Clerk

Actions

1. Set up a meeting with Janice Brabaw to discuss DRC ideas. **Completed.**
2. Board to review and be ready to discuss water meter quotes during May's meeting.