

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 July, 2017, at the Town Hall, DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

John Frary	Supervisor	Rae Ann Davis	Councilwoman
Michael Livingston	Councilman	Ed Newcombe	Councilman
Jody Hamilton	Highway Superintendent	Barbara Creazzo	Town Clerk
Charles Nash	Attorney		

Supervisor Frary, opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Rae Ann Davis, moved that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Board held on the 21st day of June, 2017 as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Ed Newcombe and adopted unanimously.

ACTIONS from June's Meeting

1. Send signed copy of **Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds**, to Donald Chambers, Superintendent of St. Lawrence County Highway Department. **Completed 06/26/2017**
2. Set date for negotiations.
3. Review Risk Assessment Recommendations.
4. Send Charles Nash a copy of Town Law # 1 of 1975, Providing requirements of notice before any civil action for damages or injuries can be maintained against the Town of De Kalb or the Town Superintendent of Highways or against any improvement district of the Town. **Completed 06/26/2017**
5. One hundred eighteen-acre contemplation.

Community members attending: Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator

Public Forum:

Larry Denesha

-SLC has hired Jonnie Dorothy, for the position of Human Resource Director.

-The tax extension was been passed in Albany during a special session.

-Legislators have begun the task of developing the next budget, at this time, there is really nothing to report.

-At the June 6th meeting, the Legislators discussed the possibility of imposing a monthly 30 cent surcharge on each wireless communication device. They will hold a Public Hearing prior to the final vote. This surcharge would go toward funding and updating the Emergency Services for St. Lawrence County. New York State already collects \$1.30 per phone for this purpose. Mr. Denesha states he will not be voting in favor of the surcharge. However, he believes it will pass.

-Mr. Denesha is reminding all townships in his district, of the letter that was sent informing towns, that re-levy is for unpaid taxes, and not for such expenses as demolition cost of condemned buildings, mowing properties, etc.

-The Office of the Aging has closed the meal program at the Edwards senior housing. The attendance has been extremely low for some time. The program has moved to the Gouverneur Community Center, where it will be serving many more people on site. All home deliveries will continue as they have been, as well as delivering to the Edwards housing site.

-Every three years, the County must readdress the setting of the allocation algorithm for the SLC Self-Insurance Plan Participants. It is now time for 2018, 2019, and 2020's to be set. In the past, the algorithm has been based on taxable assessed value of real property and a three year average of experiences as percentages of the allocation, in which the percentage is currently fifty percent real property and fifty percent experience. This formula has been reducing the amount the taxable assessed value of real property over time, as real property value has nothing to do with experience, risk and/or the rate of accidents. An allocation formula, using risk and experiences

based rating, places more emphasis on safety in the work place and should provide a truer formula that is more appropriate. With the new formula, the Town of De Kalb will realize a decrease of 29%, which will be a \$9,386 reduction in cost to the Town.

-The second quarter for Sales Tax collection is up, as was the first quarter. This is a real positive for the County, since it is reported that Jefferson County's Sales Tax collection is down for the second quarter in a row.

-The Bass Tournament will be held this coming weekend, and it always brings in a great deal of revenue for the County.

-This coming year's Tax Cap is set at 1.84%.

-Beaver Creek Bridge should be opened by the first week of August.

Financials:

A motion was made by Rae Ann Davis and seconded by Ed Newcombe to accept the Justice Clerk Audit as presented. Carried 4 Ayes

A motion was made by Ed Newcombe and seconded by Michael Livingston to accept the Town Clerk Audit for Water and Sewer accounts as presented. Carried 4 Ayes

Clerk Monthly Report:

-Monies received by Clerk, and dispersed to agencies and the Supervisor, are as follows: DEC received \$437.44, and the Town, \$25.56, Dog Licenses, Ag & Market received \$75 and the Town, \$237, Building Permits, the Town received \$700.20, Marriage License, NYDOH received \$22.50 and the Town, \$17.50, Certified Death Certificates, the Town received \$20, Copies and faxes, the Town received \$3.80. A total of \$1,539 was collected and of that, \$1,004.06 was remitted to the Town coffers.

-The Water District received \$7,155.34 and the Sewer District received \$7,874.97 for the month of June.

-2017 monthly and year to date financials were distributed to Board Members and were reviewed. There were no questions or concerns. They also reviewed and signed the reconciliation for the month of June.

DANC: Water District & Sewer District Report

Water District

-A total of 765,400 gallons of water were metered in the month of June, with an average daily flow of 26,393 gallons. A total of 7.5 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. Daily visual inspections occurred, a random distribution sample for bacteriological testing was collected and submitted to Converse Laboratories. The test result was satisfactory. The Controls Engineer calibrated and verified water storage tank low and high alarms were working properly. The low alarm has been set to 15 minutes (allows filling of water tank without calling out alarm), and the high alarm delay is set to 5 minutes. The new chlorine pump was wired into the Act-pac.

Sewer District Report

-A total of 932,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of June, with an average daily flow of 31,067 gallons. There were no SPDES permit violations. Daily operations tests and visual inspections were completed at the plant, as well as, the Family Dollar Store. Monthly inspections and maintenance were completed. Additional service outside of the base contract involved restarting the RBC. Daily flow charts and other graphs for each district is included in the monthly report.

Code Enforcement Report:

-A total of 15 permits were issued for the month of June. They are: 7 decks, 1 single family home, 1 swimming pool, 1 addition, 1 pole barn, 1 new service (residential), 1 temporary tent, 1 for storage sheds and 1 solar roof mounting (residential). Permit fees for the month total \$638.20 and year to date for project cost is \$70,632.00. A total of 33 permits have been issued thus far for the year, with a total of \$2,155.00 collected in fees and a year to date project cost of \$457,013.00

Highway Report:

-Black topping has occurred for all roads as planned. The Jeffers Road will have a top coat done during August.

-Shoulders are in the process of being cut.

- Hauling sand & gravel for stock piling.
- The brush-hog is waiting for parts to be received, so unable to mow roadsides until it is up and running again. There are 77 miles one way, so when roadsides are being mowed, the miles are doubled, plus maneuvering back and forth adds time and miles. As soon as the gearbox is fixed, mowing will continue.
- The crew has spent 2 ½ days working with the Town of Russell as part of Shared Services. Have also spent time hauling blacktop for the Town of Oswegatchie, again, Shared Services. One crew member has provided Shared Services to the County, as he did grader work on the Beaver Creek project.
- Had a significant washout on the Hitchcock Road and took care of a tree that had been struck by lightning.
- Have spent a couple of days chipping brush for the Village of Richville.
- To date, have used \$145,614.36 of CHIPS money.

Communications:

-National Grid, is requesting that the New York State Public Service Commission approve a proposed increase in its electric and gas delivery service rates. If passed, it will increase approximately by 22.8% in the delivery revenue or 13% increase in total revenues. A residential heating customer using 600 kWh per month, will increase by approximately \$11.23 (21.8% increase on the delivery charge or a 13.9% increase on the total bill). There are 5 planned public statement hearing dates and locations across the state. The nearest to our area is set for July 17 at the Lake Placid Olympic Center, and one set for July 31, at Nottingham High School Auditorium in Syracuse. Comments can also be shared via www.dps.ny.gov website, email Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, at secretary@adsp.ny.gov, or via mail to Secretary Burgess at the Department of Public Service, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350, or by calling 1-800-335-2120.

-Supervisor Frary, updated the Board, regarding the County meetings for Shared Services. He has also been in contact with Mark White, Superintendent, of Hermon-De Kalb Central School. They will be looking at a new fueling station for the buses, and this may be something the Town can join as a shared service.

-Received notice from Association of Towns that explains why they are opposed to the new unfunded mandate law, New York State Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Act (S.1411-b/A.711-b). This Act requires fire districts, fire departments and fire companies to provide a new benefit to eligible volunteer firefighters who develop certain forms of cancer. This recently passed both the state Senate and Assembly. Under the Volunteer Firefighters Benefit Law (VFBL), a volunteer firefighter who can demonstrate that he or she developed cancer as a result of his or her fire service, is currently entitled to medical care and other financial assistance, which is already funded by town taxpayers. While we certainly are thankful and respectful of our Volunteer Firefighters, it will be difficult to adhere to the tax cap while funding two unfunded mandated laws for the same purpose.

-ANCA-Clean Energy Community, we continue to move forward as much as possible to become as green a user of energy, as the town can be.

-Received a very nice Thank you card from Christian Guarino, for the award he received from the Town, following their house fire.

-NYMIR- Prior Notice Law, the Town has had this law in place since 1975. This law states, “No civil action shall be maintained against the Town of De Kalb (hereinafter referred to as “the Town”) or the Town Superintendent of Highways, or against any improvement district in the Town for damages or injuries to person or property, etc.”. Both, the Town Clerk, and Highway Superintendent, will maintain a Prior Notice Documentation Book. The Town will develop a Sign Inventory, which will be reviewed and updated as needed. A sign will be placed at the Play Ground with the word, “recommended”. The Board will continue to work on the recommendations that were previously discussed. Clarified with Attorney Nash, which contracts should have the Hold Harmless disclaimer. The contracts to be included are: Rescue Squads, Town of Hermon for Water, other Town’s Highway Departments, Proposed Bids, etc.

-Blueprints for proposed usage of St. Henry’s has been received. Supervisor Frary, will begin the search for various grants.

-Community Bank, has sent a request for the Town to Amend their existing Third Party Custody Agreement. The Bank has sent 3 copies to be signed and sent to the Community Bank, N.A., c/o Treasury Department.

A motion was made by Michael Livingston, and seconded by Rae Ann Davis, authorizing Supervisor Frary, to sign the Third Party Custody Agreement as written.

Carried 4 Ayes

First budget meeting for the 2018 Budget is set for August 7, 2017 starting at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the De Kalb Town Hall.

First meeting for Contract Negotiations will also be held on August 7, 2017 after the Budget meeting. This meeting is not open to the public.

A motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Rae Ann Davis to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract # 7-2017

Carried 4 Ayes

A motion was made by Ed Newcombe and seconded by Michael Livingston to adjourn.

Carried 4 Ayes

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara A. Creazzo
Town Clerk

ACTIONS

1. Continue to address recommendations suggested by NYMIR. Have sign for Playground made and installed. **On-going**
2. Develop Prior Notice Documentation books (2). **Completed 07/24/2017**
3. Establish a road sign inventory.
4. Continue to explore opportunities for Shared Services. **On-going**
5. Sign Third Party Custody Agreement for Community Bank, N.A. **Completed 07/20/2017**
6. Continue to improve means of green energy for the Town of De Kalb. **On-going**
7. Post with Watertown Daily Times meeting time for first Budget meeting. **Completed 07/01/2017**
8. Post with Watertown Daily Times meeting time for first Negotiation meeting for Highway Department contract. **Completed 07/01/2017**