

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 15th day of March, 2017, at the Town Hall, DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

John Frary	Supervisor	Harold Lowery	Councilman
Michael Livingston	Councilman	Rae Ann Davis	Councilwoman
Jody Hamilton	Highway Superintendent	Ed Newcombe	Councilman
William Chambers	Code Enforcement Officer	Barbara Creazzo	Town Clerk

Supervisor Frary opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Harold Lowery moved that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Board, held on the 18th day of January, 2017, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston, and adopted unanimously.

Actions from February's meeting

1. Provide a copy of the Solar information packet for Ed Newcombe. **Completed 02/23/17**
2. Supervisor to sign and have notarized, 3 copies of the Gouverneur Rescue Squad contract and return two copies. **Completed 02/16/17**
3. Supervisor to amend audit response and send to Comptroller. **Initial response has been sent.**

Members of the Community:

Mark Deaver, Gouverneur Vol. Rescue Squad	Elia Filippi, Resident
Larry D. Denesha, SLC Legislator	John Stransky, Hermon Vol. Rescue Squad
Krista Carrow, Hermon Vol. Rescue Squad	

Public Forum:

Larry D. Denesha

- SLC has hired Paul Baxter, as Risk Manager, and he started March 6, 2017. Mr. Baxter will be visiting each Town Board and Highway Department, to introduce himself, as well as, become familiar with those he will be coordinating with. A focus of his, will be to conduct Safety Audits for both the County and Towns. Mr. Baxter has already reached out to the various municipalities to introduce himself and to share contact information.

-County Legislators held a meeting with Kenneth Blankenbush and Addie Jenne to discuss increasing the amount of monies the County and Towns receive of CHIPS. Approximately 5 billion is collected annually from driver fees for New York State. Of this amount, only 2 billion of this goes to improving or maintaining the highway infrastructure. Therefore, 3 billion is diverted to non-highway entities. Because of this meeting, it is anticipated more monies will be available through CHIPS.

-SLC has recently agreed to a 3-year contract with ProAct for a prescription plan package. It is projected that this new contract will be a savings of \$945,000 or 10% of the current cost per year.

-SLC is currently looking at a new health insurance provider, which is Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. By converting to this new provider, the County could see a cost savings of between 2.2 million and 4.3 million without a decrease in coverage.

-The bridge over Beaver Creek, on County Route 17, is slated to have the demolition work started at the end of this month, depending on the weather. The new bridge will be completed by the end of summer.

-The bridge over Tanner Creek, on County Route 20, will also be replaced during the summer.

-As of April 6th, the New York State Police will no longer be dispatching from within St. Lawrence County. All State Police dispatching will be occurring from another county, as part of Shared Services. In preparing for this change, the Legislators approved the filling of one dispatch position, as it is anticipated there will be more calls for them to handle.

-Proposed budget cuts in the Governor's budget includes a \$93,000 cut to SLC New York Connects Program. This program helps the elderly to navigate the Medicare and/or Medicaid System when eligible, as well as, other programs they may also be eligible for. Mr. Denesha ask the Board, if they would pass a resolution in support of no cuts to this program, as the elderly are already in many cases, in a disadvantaged state.

-Mr. Denesha expressed his appreciation to the Highway Department for their recent participation in repairing the recent waterline break. He stated, "Once the crew stated the repair, they did not stop until it was 100% completed. They worked through the cold and wet without breaks until the waterlines could be reopened".

Elia Filippi

-Voiced he would like to share his concern about any money that is being spent on St. Henry's. He would like to see the town investigate the feasibility of sharing Court Services with the Town of Hermon, as they already have a new court facility. If the town puts money into a facility for the court, he would prefer to see a new facility built, instead of money going into an old building.

Mr. Filippi also expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Highway Department, for the great service they have provided during this most recent storm, as well as throughout the year.

Hermon Volunteer Rescue Squad

John Stransky and Krista Carrow

-Discussed how there is really no one during weekday day-time hours to answer ambulance calls. There had been an understanding with 911 Dispatch, that, if a call was received during this time frame, they were to simultaneously call for the nearest squad. Several months ago, this plan was changed by the dispatch department. There is now a generic procedure for all squads. The first call is sent, if there is no response with 2 minutes, another call is sent. If there is no response after the second call, in 3 minutes a mutual aid call is sent. If need be, this procedure is repeated until there is response from a squad.

-Due to the increase amount of time that is required for EMTs at any level, it is becoming more difficult to get volunteers. Hermon squad is experiencing a low in membership at this time; however, they do have some new recruits in training.

-The squad works closing with DeKalb's First Responder Team, and the squad is very thankful for all the assistance Naomi Drake provides them.

-During the past year, they received 80 calls to DeKalb. Of that 80, 20 resulted in transporting. This does not mean they only responded to 20 calls, it means that some type of assistance had been requested. Of the 20 transported, 15 were classified as emergencies.

-It is estimated that each time the ambulance leaves the station, \$1,000 is generated in cost. Of this \$1,000, very little is realized in payback, either through individual health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid.

Gouverneur Volunteer Rescue Squad

Mark Deaver

-1480 calls were received for the past year. Of that number, 57 were in the township of DeKalb, and of that number, 8 could not be responded to, due to not having an ambulance available. An advantage that Gouverneur has over Hermon, is the fact they have paid personnel available 24/7. This certainly makes response time for them much quicker.

ANCA – Clean Energy Community, was going to have a representative at the meeting; however, due to the weather, this will be rescheduled.

Financials: John Frary

A motion was made by Rae Ann Davis and seconded by Ed Newcombe, to accept the Justice Clerk Audit as presented. Carried 5 Ayes

A motion was made by Harold Lowery and seconded by Michael Livingston, to accept the Town Clerk Audit for Water and Sewer accounts as presented. Carried 5 Ayes

The Board reviewed the monthly budget report for the month of February. There are a couple of questions that Supervisor Frary will clarify with the accountant. The first is why does a negative show for Fines & Forfeited Bail. The second is why the Fire Protection-Contractual does not show in one line of budget, but does in another. These will be clarified by the next regular meeting.

Town Clerk Report: Barbara Creazzo

-February was a slow month, as only \$186.50 was received by the clerk. Of this amount, \$23.62 was remitted to the NY DEC, and \$27.00 to Ag & Market for Animal Population Program.

Therefore, the town coffers received a check for \$135.88. One dollar and 38 cents was from the sale of a fishing license, \$94.50 for dog licenses, \$18.00 for a building permit, \$20.00 for Certified Marriage licenses, \$1.00 for copies and \$1.00 for a fax.

-Water and Sewer collections were also low for February, as it was the 3rd month in the billing cycle. The Water District received \$283.60 while the Sewer District received \$209.29.

-Taxes received for February totaled \$265,622.72. Final payment to the Supervisor was \$62,663.46 which brings the total to \$662,663.46 received for the year. The SLC Treasurer has received \$435,465.05, of which \$5,363.12 was in surcharge payments. At the end of February, 69.78% of the taxes for 2017 have been collected.

-Second Notice for unpaid taxes will be sent soon. The Board is asked to make the decision of the fee charged for second notices.

A motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Rea Ann Davis, to set the Second Tax Notice Fee at \$2.00. Carried 5 Ayes

Review of 2016 yearend report with Nick Eels, along with 2017 monthly and year to date reports, as well as setting a meeting to respond to the recent audit will be held March 21, 2017 starting at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb Town Garage located at 2810 US Highway 812. Mr. Eels was scheduled to attend tonight's meeting, but need to reschedule due to the weather.

Water/Sewer Report:

DANC

Water-On 02/07/17, the water meter at the Hermon WWTP stopped working. A new meter was ordered and installed, but an accurate report of the water treated cannot be provided for February. A total of 2 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced.

-Daily visual inspections of the water plant were completed, and a random sample was collected and submitted to Converse Laboratories, and it received a satisfactory grade.

-Water meters were read on February 22nd and 23rd.

Wastewater – A total of 865,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of February, with an average daily flow of 30,893.

-There were no SPDES permit violations.

-Daily operations tests and visual inspections were completed.

-Weekly and monthly inspections of blowers, pumps, and process equipment were also completed.

-On 02/21 & 22/17, the pump at Family Dollar was repaired because of mop strings plugging the pump.

Assessor: None for this month

Code Officer: William (Bill) Chambers

-Slow beginning to the year, as only two permits have been issued. This is expected to change once the weather changes.

-Attended annual training during the previous week. Some changes are anticipated for the year, but nothing drastic.

Highway Report: Jody Hamilton

General update

-Trucks #9 & #7 have had repair work completed.

-Replaced the water pump for the well at the Town Garage.

-Have filled some pot holes and worked on some dirt roads, taking care of pot holes.

-Continue to cut brush as weather permits.

Departmental Safety

Wayne Holland and Scott Eggelston recently attended a Dig Safe seminar.

Proposed 2017 road work

-DeKalb Kelly Road, 1.1-mile pave and apply binder \$104,006.00

-Jeffers Road, 1.6-mile apply binder \$82,733.00

-River Road, 1.2-mile grader shim \$47,271.00

-Pooler Road, ½ mile apply binder \$24,354.00

-Total project estimate is \$258,604.00

It is estimated the total cost will be \$36,000 more than we will receive in CHIPS monies.

Worker's Compensation Claims Liability, as of December 31, 2016: John Frary

-The SLC Worker's Compensation Fund is a municipal risk sharing pool, that administers and insures worker's compensation claims for employees of all the participants. The total outstanding liability for the risk pool is \$28,900,000 as of December 31, 2016, (this represents an increase of \$100,000 from 2015). The accumulated reserve (cash) for this liability is \$6,830,893.89, leaving a balance of net liability in the amount of \$22,069,106.11 (this is an increase of \$651,206.08 from 2015). DeKalb has the following listed:

Percentage: 0.68885, allocation of liability: 199,077.65, allocation of accumulated reserve: 47,054.61, and net liability: \$152,032.04.

Work agreement with county:

Once again, this year, SLC has asked the Town of DeKalb, to pass a resolution, which holds harmless the County, their officers, directors, partners, representatives, agents and employees, from and against any and all claims, suits, liens, judgements, damages, losses and expenses, including legal fees and all court costs and liability, etc.

A motion was made by Rae Ann Davis and seconded by Ed Newcombe, to pass Resolution #4, Holding Harmless the County of St. Lawrence for Providing Service for 2017.

Supervisor Frary, Councilmen Lowery, Livingston, Newcome, and Councilwoman Davis, unanimously voted yes.

Shared Services Agreement Between NYSDOT and the Town of DeKalb:

This signed agreement, allows needs on our Highway System to be addressed without having to wait for paperwork to be processed or an Emergency Declaration to be enacted by the Governor. The agreement can be for either a 2-year time span, or a 4-year time span. The previous agreement expired on 01/19/2017.

A motion was made by Ed Newcombe and seconded by Harold Lowery, accept and sign the agreement for a 4-year time span. Carried 5 Ayes

Annual 5k Fun Run/Walk:

-The National Honor Society of Hermon-DeKalb Central School, will be sponsoring the Demon Dash 5K Fun/Walk on May 6, 2017. They are requesting the Town's assistance with closing a portion of the East DeKalb Road from the school to the intersection of County Route 17. The road will be closed for approximately 2 hours. The run/walk will begin at 9:30 AM and participants are expected to be done by 11:30 AM.

Supervisor Frary, has asked Highway Superintendent Hamilton, to contact the appropriate people and let them know the Town will assist as needed.

Old Pioneer Cemetery:

Supervisor Frary has received a bid to mow the cemetery; however, the Highway Department will have the summer work crew do the mowing.

Communication:

-Insurance information for the Pee Wee baseball program has been provided to the school for this year.

-County/town-the governor plans to hold \$16,000 of AIM monies hostage, if the towns and country does not develop a state-wide sharing plan for services.

-Local Law committee, continues to be on hiatus at this time.

-St. Henry's update, the hazard survey was completed on 03/14/2017 and the report should be available by the next regular board meeting.

-Supervisor Frary continues to search for a possible boat launch site along the Oswegatchie. The two sites that have been discussed in the past, are not available. One, the county could not grant us right of way to accommodate a launch and the other, the property owner was not receptive to the idea.

-Resolution for opposing senior citizen funding cuts. As mentioned earlier, during Legislator Denesha's report, Governor Cuomo has proposed cuts to senior citizen programs;

A motion was made by Rae Ann Davis and seconded by Michael Livingston, to pass Resolution #3 -Opposing Funding Cuts to Senior Citizen Programs. This resolution passed with a unanimous vote, as Supervisor Frary, Councilmen Lowery, Livingston, Newcome and Councilwoman Davis, all voting in favor of the resolution. A copy of this resolution will be sent to the districts representatives.

-LED lighting for the hamlets of DeKalb Junction and Bigelow, Supervisor Frary, has been discussing the possibility of upgrading the current lighting systems to LED lighting. The initial cost of the upgrade is \$5092.11. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

-Received a Thank You, letter from the DeKalb-Hermon Senior Citizen Club, for the \$1,850.00 contribution they received to enhance senior activities.

-The Town has received a copy of the Municipal Shelter Inspection Report, which was completed on 02/09/2017. This report is for Dan & Maria Moyer Dog Shelter Services, as they provide this service to the Town. All areas inspected, where satisfactory.

A motion was made by Harold Lowery and seconded by Rae Ann Davis, to approve payment of the bills, as entered on Abstract # 3-2017
Carried 5 Ayes

A motion was made by Rae Ann Davis and seconded by Michael Livingston, to adjourn.
Carried 5 Ayes

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara A. Creazzo
Town Clerk

ACTIONS FOR 03/15/2017 BOARD MEETING

1. Notify SLC Treasure's Department, the Board has approved a \$2.00 Second Notice Fee for all unpaid Tax Bills that will be mailed at the end of April. **Mailed 03/21/17**
2. Sign and return Resolution #4 Holding Harmless the County of St. Lawrence For Providing Service For 2017. **Mailed 03/24/17**
3. Sign and return NYS DOT Shared Service Agreement for a term of 4-years. **Mailed 03/24/17**
4. Sign and mail Resolution #3 Resolution Opposing Funding Cuts to Senior Citizen Programs to district representatives and the Governor. **Mailed 03/21/2017**
5. Highway Department to make appropriate contacts for the Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk road closure.
6. Continue to gather information regarding lighting up-grade.
7. Mail signed contracts to Hermon Volunteer Rescue Squad for the year 2017. **Mailed 03/21/2017**