

# 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 20th day of March 2024, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

Jordan Deleel	Supervisor	Michael Livingston	Council Member
Connie Elen	Council Member	Kelly Davis	Town Clerk
Andrew Fenton	Council Member	Absent: Ed Newcombe	
Bill Chambers	Building & Codes	Wayne Holland	

Members of the community present: Larry Denesha: SLC Legislator, Chris Stransky-HD PeeWee, Mark Newcombe, Charlene Johnson-Allen, Jeanne Peacock.

Supervisor Deleel opened the regular meeting at 7:00 PM.

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

Constance Elen moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board, held on February 21, 2024, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Andrew Fenton and adopted unanimously.

## Public Forum:

### Chris Stransky, HD PeeWee

- Chris introduced himself as the coordinator of the Hermon DeKalb Youth PeeWee Association. He has applied and been awarded a grant for:
  1. \$1600 shed to house and store equipment; balls, bats, etc.
  2. \$7341 to purchase new gear for boys and girls aged pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

In order to receive the funds, Chris needs to list someone to facilitate the monies. Hermon was going to be listed but is unable to at this time due to the nonexistent town board. This grant needs to have someone (DeKalb) put out the funds to begin with, have receipts turned in and then wait to be reimbursed around the end of December 2024.

-Supervisor Deleel made note that the PeeWee association has no monies. Some kids pay, others do not but no one is turned away. Some kids have equipment, others do not. Purchased equipment will be used for both towns programs.

-In 2023, 107 children signed up. The \$20 sign up fee covers the t-shirt and hat for the child. \$1600 was spent on hats & shirts, \$40 on two senior scholarships, \$240 on umpire fees (\$20/game) \$50 to the Massena league fees.

- The shed would be placed in the Rec Park in Hermon and will be covered by insurance once on site. DeKalb covers the insurance on the kids.

-Community members would also like to add soccer to the program this summer to increase the outreach of the PeeWee program.

Motion was made by Michael Livingston, seconded by Andy Fenton, to cover costs of the purchases and be the point person for the grant to reimburse. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Motion by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to use town credit card to make the purchases necessary for equipment up to \$7341 and wait for the grant reimbursement. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes

### Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator

- Resolution was passed to buy a new patrol car to replace the one involved in an accident last year.
- SLC received a grant from homeland security for a backup generator at the DMV building.
- Passed a resolution to support a 5-hour free from social media on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Passed a resolution between the SLC highway and the Franklin Co highway, in a co op agreement, to purchase road salt. This agreement will put the price of the road salt at less than the state bid price. This agreement has saved \$100,000 per year for the last 10 years.
- Passed a resolution asking Governor Hochul to increase CHIPS funding and to not cut it as proposed.
- Proposed changes to the state agency AIM (Aid to Municipalities). The state was going to cut the program completely, but did not as it will be funded through the state sales tax collection.
- \$2.4 billion has been allocated to support efforts in NYC to safely manage asylum seekers.
- 7.6 million people are currently covered by Medicaid, which is 39% of all the people in NY state at a cost of \$100 billion.
- There have been two meetings with officials about reducing the speed at the intersection of Route 11 and the East DeKalb Road since the recent fatality. The senators have been given all the information to push for the reduction in speed by school.

#### **Charlene Johnson-Allen**

- Stated her concerns about the safety and potential hazard of the large tractor trailers from the sale barn parking along Route 11 right at the 4-corner intersection in town. This occurs mostly on Mondays & Thursdays, which are sale days, but the trucks are parking in front of a no parking sign, blocking actual driveways and causing issues with vehicles trying to pull off CR 17 onto Route 11 due to blocked visibility. Ms. Allen has written certified letters to the Sheriffs department, Gouverneur State Police and Ogdensburg State Police. One trooped phoned her to say they couldn't do much about it. She then contacted the county highway department, and they said signs had been posted, why doesn't she use her other driveway exit if the Rt 11 one is blocked by the truck.
- Mr. Denesha also stated that you cannot see around the tractor trailers when they are parked there. He has talked to the state police and asked SLC highway about moving the signs further back, but the SLC highway is worried about losing too many parking spots.
- It's basically an enforcement issue of the signs already posted, and DeKalb does not have a police force.
- Supervisor Deleel will call the county and make a formal complaint on behalf of the town. He also mentioned that the state passed a law where if an unsafe condition was noted and brought to the proper authorities' attention, if that authority does nothing to correct it, then they become liable in the event of a tragedy for failing to address the issue.

#### **Mark Newcombe**

- Wanted to know if he was working full time for the summer as he does want to. Supervisor Deleel said that he would discuss it with Wayne Holland but didn't foresee any change to the work schedule.

#### **Jeanne Peacock**

- Ms. Peacock lives at the top of the hill going to Hermon and is very concerned about the large pick-up trucks popping over the hill and the safety of the kids walking the road as we get into spring, Sprinkles opening up, the pizza shop opening, etc. There is a sidewalk there, but the county hasn't been there in the past three years to clean all the sand out and make the sidewalk accessible. She has called and asked every year, but they never follow through. Ms. Peacock is asking if she does the work, could the town come remove the dirt and debris as she has no way to get rid of it. Supervisor Deleel said that the town would be by to see what can be done.
- Ms. Peacock is also concerned with how fast these trucks are traveling over that hill. Who can she call to ask if a flashing light or sign be installed. Since it is a county road, they would have to install either item. Supervisor Deleel said he would try to talk to the Deputy Chief and see if they would increase patrols in the area.

#### **CPA Firm**

- Angela Gray met with Supervisor Deleel, and she is to get back to him with a monthly fee as well as numbers for a 5 year contract.
- Gray & Gray is able to do everything we are already getting from Hoffman & eels, it will just take some time to transfer all the accounts over.
- So, does the town stay with Hoffman & Eels until next month or start to transfer now?
- Constance Elen stated that the board had put a three-month time limit on finding a new accountant and that we need to move forward. Gray & Gray need to give us a price and if necessary, the board may need to meet to discuss before the next meeting.

- Supervisor Deleel will set up a meeting with Ms. Gray and get a price as soon as she is available as it is a super busy time for accountants.

**CBNA Account**

- Supervisor Deleel has confirmed that that program is no longer in existence and the funds remaining can be transferred into the general fund. There is approximately \$30,000 in it, a portion of which could be used to settle the issue with Jeff Matott's well.

**Jeff Matott's well**

- Supervisor Deleel is meeting with Greenhill well drilling on Sunday to get a quote for a new well. He believes the town is looking at \$10-12,000. He would like to offer Mr. Matott a lump sum for the well expense in return for a legal document, prepared by Mr. Nash, where Mr. Matott would sign off on any and all future claims concerning his water quality and well. Board discussed and approved offering up to \$12,000 to Mr. Matott.

**Water District**

- The water district needs more users, so some of the money could be used to encourage non users to get online. The town could set an amount per household that could be a grant or loan. Duck Brown helped put the system in, so he is familiar with the set up.
- Letters of interest could be sent out.
- There are different people in houses that originally refused to hook into the system, the new owners may want to get into the district.
- Mr. Nash voiced concerns about a very small part of the community using around \$18,000.
- Mr. Denesha reminded the board that the money was originally to be used for economic development and that the water district is a small part of the town. We need to consider if the new customers will be able to pay the water bills.

**Other options**

- Could we set up a grant or loan program that businesses could apply to?
- The board needs to come back next month with ideas on how to use these funds to benefit the town through the most people.

**Town of Hermon**

- No Update: No Supervisor in place and no names of potential council members available.

**Supervisor Deleel:**

**Financials:**

Michael Livingston made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the Clerk's water & sewer accounts, seconded by Constance Elen. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Andrew Fenton made the motion to accept the Town Justice Report, seconded by Constance Elen. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

**Clerk Report:** Kelly Davis

- A total of \$316.20 was collected for the month of January with the town retaining \$271.70.
- Property tax collection is at 77.57%as of 3/20/2024.

The monthly financials were signed off on by the council after reviewing the documented expenses.

**Sewer Update:** BAN is being renewed and signed.

**Water Update:**

Water meter upgrade grant from the state has not been awarded yet.

Water system has been using double the number of gallons per day as is normal. After calling in Rural Water of Towns, a huge leak was finally located on the top of the hill near the Town Hall as well as three smaller leaks. This took several days to locate but has been fixed now.

Water with Hermon is on hold until they get a working board back in place. Lead service line inventory is on hold at present.

**Highway Report:** Wayne Holland reports

- Sanding and plowing as needed.
- Installed 80' of culvert pipe
- Some ditching being done
- Cold patching
- Helped locating and fixing the water leak
- Brush cutting and chipping
- To date, hauled 1069 tons of stone for the dirt roads.
- CHIPS money has been received for the skid steer.
- One employee off work as of 3/4/2024 for 2-3 months.

**Dog Control:** Dan Moyer reports

- Two dogs loose on the Risley Road belonging to Dan Garner, owner looking for.
- Checked on vacant house on Caroline St to make sure dogs had been removed, which they had.
- Complaint of dogs running on Welch Rd in Richville, owner was getting.
- Had an inspection of the pound from Ag & Markets. They said that the kennels need to be cleaned better and repairs to them made. A report will be mailed to him.

**Code Enforcement:** Bill Chambers reports

- Had a long week of training in Lake Placid.

\* Points mentioned were:

1. If a live Christmas tree is in a building, then 1" needs to be cut off it to make sure it is alive.
  2. Pushing for residential sprinklers but it's not going to happen right now. There needs to be X amount of water per minute to function correctly and most places cannot meet this standard.
- The current code program will not exist in a couple months and is costing \$5000 per year. A new company called Cloudpermit is Mr. Chambers recommendation to replace the current program. They will cost \$3200 per year with a one-time \$1000 set up fee. They will set up the program and train in its use. They can add it to our website and we would have cloud storage.
  - No new permits are being loaded into the current system as the data will be lost once the new system is in place. Mr. Chambers has allowed people to submit their permit applications with the understanding that they can start building now but will be responsible to obtain and pay for the permit once we have the system in place.
  - There are several new builds currently going on....Dollar General, 2 separate storage facilities, solar project, two new homes.

Motion was made by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to purchase Cloudpermit at the cost of \$4200. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

**Assessor Report:** Susanne Arquette None

**Historian Report:** Bryan Thompson None

**Communications:**

**Pavilion:** Needs to thaw out

**Land on CR 17:** Is not suitable for an alternative habitat for the birds affected by the solar project.

**Youth Insurance:** K & K is our carrier through St. Lawrence Agency. We need to get them an updated list of kids involved in the program.

Motion by Michael Livingston, seconded by Andrew Fenton, to continue to use K & K as the insurance company for the youth program. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

**Veterans' Banners:** The committee may need to have the bucket truck hang the banners.

**250 Year Celebration:** Darcy Waugh is still waiting for more information from the county.

**Other:**

-Mr. Denesha mentioned that the flag poles at the gazebo need to be replaced. The ones there are junk, the pins pop out. They need to be replaced with something simple like a rope and pulley system.

Flag Pole Committee: Larry Denesha, Bill Chambers, Mike Livingston volunteered to work on fixing the flag poles.

**Questions** about the issues we are having with illegal parking on state roads:

-If the town had a constable, are they able to give out tickets and or carry a gun?

-Can the town give out tickets on a state/county road?

Mr. Nash will check into it.

**General Fund Budget Amendment:**

A motion is required to approve the budget amendment as submitted by the town supervisor.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of DeKalb wishes to amend the General A Unassigned Fund Balance to reflect a usage of funds for the Pavilion project.

Appropriations A 917.00 is to be decreased by \$25,399.22 to pay the balance owed to Northern Tier Contracting beyond what was available of ARPA funds. Expense account 1500.00 ARPA-Covid Expense will be increased.

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Livingston and seconded by Councilman Andrew Fenton to approve this General Fund Budget Amendment. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes. Motion carried.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Constance Elen to approve the payment of the bills as entered in abstract #3-2024. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

A motion was made by Andrew Fenton, seconded by Constance Elen, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kelly Davis, Town Clerk

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