

# 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2021, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

|               |                        |                    |                      |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| John Frary    | Supervisor             | Michael Livingston | Board Member         |
| Ed Newcombe   | Board Member           | Connie Elen        | Board Member         |
| Wayne Holland | Highway Superintendent | Andrew Fenton      | Board Member         |
| Bill Chambers | Building & Codes       | Barbara Creazzo    | Town Clerk/Collector |
| Charles Nash  | Attorney               |                    |                      |

Members of the community present: Brenda Thomas, Jordan Deleel, and Larry D Denesha  
Members of the community attending via ZOOM: SLC Sheriff Deputy Greg Matthews, Barbara Stransky, Anna Trombley, Ginger Thomas, Ellen Scales, and Rachel Hunter

Supervisor Frary opened the meeting at 7:05PM

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Frary, 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 March 17, 2021, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston and adopted unanimously.

## Actions

1. Supervisor Frary will contact Sheriff's department for road/street patrol. **Completed 3/30/21.**
2. Clerk to advertise new closing time for Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 1PM to take effect June 1, 2021. **Have started but will not become official until June 1, 2021.**
3. Supervisor Frary to request a new copy of January through March budget report. **Done**
4. Supervisor Frary to inform the De Kalb Fire Chief, Josh Fry, of the request from the Town of Hermon for prior notification of water and notification after fires if municipal water was used. **Meeting was held and regular use of water will continue with notifications.**
5. Distribute 130-page report to board members upon receiving it. **Have received and placed in mailboxes.**
6. Begin application process for 0% interest loan for wastewater project. **Ongoing to completed.**
7. Continue process for USDA grant toward purchase of new truck. **Ongoing to completed.**
8. Superintendent Holland to continue to investigate long lasting options for the Limekiln Road bridge.
9. Reverse the position of the fire hydrant located on US 11 going south.

## Public Forum:

Members of the community attending via ZOOM expressed their concerns over the traffic safety on Caroline Street. Concerns are the speed of vehicles, but mainly the driving of 4-wheelers, side by sides, dirt bikes, go-carts, golf carts, etc. on the road/street. These vehicles are reported to have multiple riders with no helmets. They also will run up and down the road/street at all hour's day and night. The residents also have concerns for the safety of younger children who play near, or sometimes in the road, due to the lack of sidewalks to ride their bicycles.

Deputy Greg Matthews addressed questions regarding these concerns. He encouraged people to call the Sheriff's department at 315-379-2222 with complaints, and these calls can be anonymous. He will also ask that the department make some patrols through the area in question, (Caroline, Wells, and Ridge Streets). The question was asked if pictures or videos of the offenders could be taken, and the answer was yes. If under aged children (16 years), are driving these vehicles on the road/street, their parents can be ticketed.

The wetness of the local playground, Pipeline Park, was also discussed. Supervisor Frary, and Highway Superintendent Holland, have been discussing the ordering of matts for under the swings, tires to be buried under the teeter-totter ends, a supply of woodchips to be brought in, and how to best do some drainage work to the entire play area, as it is mostly clay and holds the

water. Lighting at the playground would also be beneficial, and would it be possible for the town to create a walking path for members of the community to use.

Brenda Thomas addressed the members of the board, as she is beginning the process of establishing a 501C3 Non-profit Startup, *Wind the Mind*. While this is in the beginning phase, she is visiting local town meetings, to glean information as to what some of the needs are in the surrounding area. As Ms. Thomas progresses with her startup, she will be providing more information to the municipalities regarding her business.

Jordan Deleel indicated the fire department has started a dialog regarding the possibility of doing some tile work on the ball field because of the wetness. Perhaps the department and town could work together to have the entire area tiled. This will be an ongoing discussion until a decision has been made.

Mr. Deleel told the board that he will be coaching a couple of baseball teams this year at the firemen's field. There will be a port-a-potty on site which will only be usable during practice and games.

Supervisor Frary stated the town has also planned for a port-a-potty to be placed at the playground.

A member attending via ZOOM asked when the town wide pickup date will be. Drop off days at the town barn will be May 13<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 4pm and May 15<sup>th</sup> from 8am to noon. The town wide pickup will be scheduled in the fall.

It was also asked how many tires will be accepted and the answer is two and they must be free of rims. It was asked if the town would increase the number to 4 or 6. Supervisor Frary stated the members of the board would discuss this question more, later in the meeting.

Larry D Denesha

-COVID, there were 21 new cases today, with 144 active cases. While 144 seems a large number, a month ago for this same time, there were 540 active cases. There has been a total of 7,068 cases documented for St. Lawrence County and there has been 293,000 plus people tested during this past year.

-Vaccination cards need to be saved and should not be laminated, as there will most likely be a need for a booster sometime in the future. The card will help to keep track of what type of vaccination has been received and the dates of such. The card is something that you should have with you if you do any traveling. A photo or photocopy of the card is also a good idea just in case the original is lost. At this time, it is thought that Pfizer and Moderna vaccinations will be effective for a minimum of 6 months and hopefully for 9 months to a year or more. A booster may need to be administered at a later time.

-At the Legislator's full board meeting on April 5, 2021, a Resolution was brought forth and passed, for the speed reduction on US Highway 11, a quarter mile prior to the Hermon-De Kalb Central School and a quarter mile past the school. This will help to assist the town's Home Rule request, to the New York State Senate, and Assembly, for the request of the speed reduction.

-The DANC internet highspeed survey will continue until April 30, 2021. To date, 1,500 individuals have completed the survey. Of this number, 11% have no internet access at all, and 34% are unable to purchase the speed they need, as it is not available to them. If you have not completed the survey, please do.

-The bridge in Degrasse, on County Route 27 will be refurbished this summer. The estimated closure of the bridge will be from June 1 to November 30, 2021.

-Also at a full board meeting, the Legislators passed a Resolution to contract with Franklin County for road salt, at a cost of \$72 per ton. This is a savings over the State, bid which was \$19 more per ton. Last year, the county purchased 11,000 tons of road salt.

-The Legislators also passed a Resolution to establish and promote professional retention by offering assistance with further education to employees.

-Word has been received that 100 million in additional CHIPS money for 2020-2021 has been approved by the State. Also, the extreme weather money is being restored.

-Sales Tax for the first quarter is more than last year at this time. The total collected this year was \$15,516,556.97 versus \$14,554,594.51 last year.

**Financials:**

Constance Elen made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the clerk's account and tax account, seconded by Michael Livingston. The vote of motion; Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Town Clerk Report: Barbara Creazzo

Seven hundred four dollars was collected during the month of March, with the town retaining \$612.14 of the collections. The breakdown is as follows: from DEC license sales the town kept \$4.14 and NYS DEC received \$70.86, the town received from dog licenses, \$75 and NYS Ag & Markets received \$21, the town also was able to retain the following collections: building permit \$420, Certified Death Certificates, \$50, copies made, \$37, Fax sent \$1, Planning Board \$25.

Water and Sewer collections: water collections received \$7215.50, and sewer collections received \$76023.30.

Taxes for the month continue to come in at a steady rate, as 84.04% of the total warrant has been collected.

Deputy Wanda Law worked 12 hours during the month.

Have been updating the Town's website as calendar events are added as they are received. Monthly Board Minutes are now up to date, and Local Laws have been added for the past ten years. If anyone has anything they would like to have include, just let me know and I can add the information.

Supervisor Frary distributed to each member; a copy of the monthly financial report received from the accountant. He encourages each person to review the report and let him know if they have any questions or concerns. For the ending of the first quarter, the town is in good shape.

The town received \$68,000 from the county today for snow plowing.

**DANC Report:**

-Water & Sewer monthly report, water metered was a total of 725,500 gallons for March with an average daily flow of 23,403 gallons. A total of 6 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. The full report includes all daily flow charts and graphs. Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections, and maintenances were completed as required. Collected and submitted to Converse Laboratories, one random distribution sample for bacteriological testing, and the result was satisfactory. Water meters in the system continue to be repaired as appointments are made.

-Sewer wastewater that was treated for the month was 2,309,000 gallons with a daily average flow of 74,484 gallons. There were no SPDES permit violations. The full report includes all daily flow charts and graphs. Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections, and maintenances were completed as required. RBC motors continue to be reversed for approximately one hour per day.

The Development Authority of the North County has prepared the Town of De Kalb's NYS Department of Health Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) for 2020. (A copy of this report will be mailed to each water customer with the next water billing.)

The video taping of all sewer lines has been completed and a full report will be available for next month's meeting. There have been areas identified where repairs will be recommended. This inspection provides both video and still pictures of the affected areas.

Supervisor Frary has met with Supervisor Perry, for the Town of Hermon, and Chris Stransky, Water Operator, for the town, to discuss the letter the board received last month regarding the curtailing of water usage by the hamlet of De Kalb. Any questions or concerns were discussed, and fire hydrant usage will continue as in the past. Supervisor Frary also met with officers of the De Kalb Volunteer Fire Department, to discuss water hauling. They have agreed to only haul water for swimming pools on the weekend and notification will be provided to both Supervisor Frary, and Water Operator Stransky, prior to hauling.

**Highway Department Report: Wayne Holland 3/17/2021 – 4/21/2021**

-Ditching on the Pooler Road Extension to improve drainage from roadway.

- Hauling stone from Hanson, approximately 1,000 tons have been hauled.
- Sweeping of roads and intersections town wide have been completed.
- Cold-patching as needed.
- Fixing and replacing signs as needed.
- Unharnessed trucks and have serviced.
- Starting to haul gravel for mulch.
- Started working 10-hour days April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Mark Newcombe began working on April 5<sup>th</sup> for the spring, summer, and fall.

Mark White, Superintendent of Schools, for Hermon-De Kalb, and Eric Warner, bus driver, approached the town about a school bus turn-around on Tanner Street. The homeowners of 4 Tanner Street were approached regarding the turn-around for the bus and snowplow. An agreement was reached, and signature obtained, for a portion of their property to be used. The town highway department will install a culvert, and necessary stone for the turn-around.

Superintendent Holland asked the members of the board to sign the Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds for the Town of De Kalb, in the amount \$175,000 for general repairs and may be expended for general repairs upon 75 miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet, and boardwalks or the renewals thereof. This Agreement was signed by all members.

Supervisor Frary recently received a telephone call regarding the road name and 911 information for the De Kalb Kelly Road. A person residing on the road, was concerned regarding the name. In researching the background information, the De Kalb Kelly Road, in the Town of De Kalb, was renamed as such approximately 22 years ago. This name change occurred due to confusion which occurred during a house fire on the road. Subsequently, the location was confused with the Kelly Road in the Town of Canton. To add to the confusion, homes on each of the two roads have a Rensselaer Falls mailing address. The homeowner has been informed of the appropriate naming of the De Kalb Kelly Road in the Town of De Kalb and should be referred to as such.

Superintendent Holland presented to the members of the board, the quotes he had obtained for the proposed new truck. This truck is scheduled to replace the 2001 truck.

Andrew Fenton motioned for the purchase of a 2022 International HV-513 6x4 Chassis, at a total delivered price of \$118,852.00. This motion was seconded by Constance Elen. The vote of motion; Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Supervisor Frary continues to work on the application for the USDA Grant which can be used toward the purchase of the truck. He has received verbal confirmation the purchase process can begin prior to the completion of the application, as the application is 34 pages long. At this time, we have a DUNS number. He is working on a SAM registration.

Supervisor Frary has been contacted by the Teamsters to begin the new contract bargaining process. A date will be set.

Supervisor Frary, Superintendent Holland, and Code Officer, Bill Chambers, and Legislator, Larry Denesha, attended the St. Lawrence County Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting on April 20, 2021. All thought it was a well conducted meeting and look forward to participating in future meetings. Paperwork will be forthcoming for review.

**Code Officer Report: Bill Chambers**

Nine permits have been issued since the last meeting, with a project cost of \$65,550 and a fee amount of \$1,275.60. To date, 10 permits have been issued for a project cost of \$95,550 and fee amount of \$1,534.80. The permits issued are as follows: 1 mobile home, 1 garage, 1 re-roofing, 5 storage sheds, and 1 addition.

The town has been notified of a possible 60 mega-watt solar installation in Bigelow. Due to the size of the installation, all negotiations will be done through St. Lawrence County IDA. The town will, however, receive permit fees if approved.

### **Communications:**

-There will be a LWRP ZOOM meeting tomorrow at 4:30PM, so will have a report for next month.

-Have received an offer on the St. Henry property.

The board went into executive session at 8:55 PM for discussion per motion of John Frary and seconded by Michael Livingston. Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes. Executive session ended at 9:05PM per motion of Andrew Fenton and seconded by Michael Livingston. Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

A purchase offer of \$10,500 has been offered for the property at 27 Gibbon Street, which is known as St. Henry's Church.

A motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Andrew Fenton to accept the purchase offer of \$10,500 for the property at 27 Gibbon Street, with the understanding the buyer knows there are certain stipulations in the deed, that prohibits the property from specific uses. This motion also gives Supervisor Frary the authority to sign all pertinent documentation as required for the sale. The was a roll call vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Supervisor Frary will sign the purchase agreement of \$10,500.

-No word on the previously approved solar projects but expect work to begin soon.

-Installation of the new LED streetlights is moving forward and may be completed by the end of the summer.

-The historical building has now had Spectrum Internet Service installed. The new phone system hopefully will be in place there and throughout the town buildings shortly.

-Have not heard back from the architect regarding the property next door. Did contact Mr. Turnbull to set up a possible date for looking at the property, and he stated the property has been sold, as he had not heard back from the town.

-Have now contacted Brooks Washburn to begin dialog regarding the possibility of constructing a new building that will meet the NYS Court System Regulations and accommodate the Town's needs as well.

-Received a letter from Rosemarie Edward regarding the shooting off fireworks within the hamlet of De Kalb. While the members of the board clearly understand her concerns, it would be unlawful to enact a town law that restricts the use of fireworks in just the hamlet. Also, when such products are readily available for sale throughout the state, again the logistics of enforcing such a law would be futile. Ms. Edward also asked, if the town could limit the number of tires that property owners can have on their property when not safely stored to prevent water accumulation, which in turn promotes mosquito breeding. The members of the board again, understand her worries, as the number of tires on private property is a concern. However, this is an on-going matter that would be almost impossible to regulate successfully.

-As indicated earlier in the minutes, the question was asked if the town would increase the acceptance of old tires from two (2) to four (4) or possibly six (6). At the current time, it cost the town \$7 to dispose of each tire that it takes to the transfer station. The number of tires that will be accepted will remain at two (2).

-Supervisor Frary received a newsletter from *Advocate Drum*, Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization. This newsletter informs the public of recent events occurring at Fort Drum.

Supervisor Frary asked the members of the board to begin thinking of possible uses for the COVID Recovery Fund money that the town will be receiving. The money cannot be used to lower taxes nor can it be used toward pensions. Perhaps ideas can be presented for some of the playground ideas that have been discussed at tonight's meeting.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Constance Elen, to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract #4-2021. The vote of motion; Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

A motion was made by Ed Newcombe and seconded by Michael Livingston, to adjourn. The vote of motion; Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00PM

Respectfully submitted by  
Barbara A. Creazzo  
Town Clerk

#### Actions

1. Explore drainage options at the playground, possibly with the fire department.
2. Install mats under the swings. **Ordered and received.**
3. Install tires under the teeter-totters.
4. Install woodchips around various areas of playground.
5. Explore the possibility of installing electricity at the playground.
6. Explore the possibility of constructing a walking path at or near the playground area.
7. Mail copy of Annual Water Quality Report with next water bills.
8. Install bus turn-around on Tanner Street. **Completed.**
9. Order new truck. **Done.**
10. Continue to work on USDA grant for truck.
11. Set date for union negotiations with highway department.
12. Supervisor to sign purchase agreement for 27 Gibbon Street.
13. Begin dialog with Brooks Washburn regarding possible new town building.