

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 17th day of August 2022, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

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

Members of the community present: Mike Solsberry, Saint Larry's Bar and Grill, Mark Deavers, Gouverneur Rescue Squad, Joh Stransky, Hermon Rescue Squad, Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator, Tom Jasikoff, Tanner Creek Farm, and Eric Graham, Taxpayer

Members of the community attending via ZOOM: None

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

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 July 20, 2022, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Ed Newcombe and adopted unanimously.

Andrew Fenton moved that the minutes of the Informational Solar Meeting, of the Town Board, held on July 27, 2022, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston and adopted unanimously.

Actions

1. Move \$40,000 from General Fund Balance to Long-term Capital Reserve Fund.
2. Continue to work toward obtaining SAMs number.
3. Close out streetlight's paperwork.
4. Complete last of safety list items.
5. Post road signs along River Road as appropriate.
6. Continue to address drainage issue along ditch through the hamlet.

Public Forum:

Mike Solsberry, Saint Larry's Bar and Grill, addressed the board and requested their support and no objection for his establishment to temporary provide beer, wine, and cider at an upcoming event at the Tanner Creek Farm.

Mark Deavers, Gouverneur Volunteer Rescue Squad, provided an update regarding the number of calls the squad had already responded to this year. The number is up significantly and along with this, the fuel cost has also risen significantly. Also, the request for transports to Albany and Rochester have increased, adding more strain to the squad both financially and staffing wise. Any increase the board will be able to provide in the budget for 2023 will be greatly appreciated.

John Stransky, Hermon Volunteer Rescue Squad, also addressed the board regarding the financial strains his squad is dealing with. Currently, they provide one paid EMT during the weekdays but are looking at increasing this coverage from 8 hours to either 10 or 12-hour shifts. Also looking to add a paid driver, as this position is difficult to cover during the day. Mr. Stransky provided Supervisor Frary a budget request that will be discussed during the budget planning process.

Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator

-COVID report from Public Health is now once a month. For the month of July, 719 cases were reported, but it is suspected that positive home test are under reported. The positive percentage per 100,000 for SLC is currently at 7.6% and the state is 8.7%. To date, there have been 200 COVID deaths for the county. The vaccination rate for the county continues to lag at 61.6% behind the state's 77.7% vaccination rate.

-Legislators passed a resolution for the fuel management system for the new satellite sites. They will be using the same system as the one in Canton. The company providing the system is out of Clayton, NY.

-Also passed a resolution to purchase a camera security system which will be installed by Barkley's Safe & Lock Co. While the system will be a little over \$15,000, it should help to cut down on the thefts that have been occurring, mainly catalytic converters.

-Approximately 113 properties are slated to go on the tax auction block. Properties can be viewed online, as well as the auction will also be online.

-Workers Compensation for the Town of De Kalb will see a decrease next year. It will go from \$29,862, to \$27,099.

-The 2020-2021 Financial Audit was completed with no findings. County Administrator, Ruth Doyle, and her team, have done an excellent job, and continue to do so.

-Sales tax is projected to be about 30% lower than this time last year. Overall, still doing good with the amounts collected.

-Last year, the county gained about \$525,000 from the delinquent property tax sale after all taxes and expenses were paid. Looking at establishing a blighted property fund using any gains over \$200,000, to go toward this fund. This money would be used to clean up dilapidated properties that either don't sell or get forfeited because of the cost for clean-up. This is only in the planning stages.

Financials:

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

Michael Livingston made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the Water District and Sewer District Accounts, seconded by Constance Elen. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Clerk Report: Barbara A Creazzo

A total of \$1249.10 was collected during the month of July with the town retaining \$745.80. The breakdown of the collections is as follows: NY DEC received \$470.30 and the town \$9.70 for licenses sold, NYS Ag & Markets, \$33 and town \$109.50 for dog licenses, town also received \$589 in building permit fees, \$36.60 for copies made and \$1 for a fax sent. The Water District collected \$544.21, and the Sewer District collected \$861.

Supervisor Frary distributed this month's Year to Date Budget Report for review. There are a couple of budget lines that are either over or nearly over due to increased cost of fuel or other unforeseen expense increases.

Supervisor Frary also distributed a copy of an email received from Nicholas Eells, of The Hoffman Eells Group Accounting. The original email is from Jessica McMillen, from New York State, as she had questions regarding the Town of De Kalb 2021 Annual Financial Report. There are nine (9) questions in all, and Mr. Eells shows his response to the questions in red. Have not heard back as to whether the responses are acceptable.

PayCheck has begun processing payroll for the Town of De Kalb. The first payroll seemed to go fine. They have been in contact with Supervisor Frary to clarify some questions regarding payroll for the highway department. Highway Superintendent Holland has assisted with answering these questions.

Water & Sewer Reports:

DANC: A total of 738,800 gallons of water were metered in the month of July, with an average daily flow of 23,832 gallons. A total of 3 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance were completed as scheduled. All daily flow charts are included in the full report. One random distribution sample was collected for bacteriological testing and the results were satisfactory. A total of 1,369,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of July, with an average daily flow of 44,161 gallons. Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance were completed as scheduled. All daily flow charts are included in the full report. There were no SPDES permit violations. RBCs continue to run in reverse for one (1) hour each day.

Sewer Update Report: Need to complete the bonding renewal within the next month. Need to gather some necessary documents together for this.

Highway Department: Wayne Holland 07/21/22 – 08/17/22

- Finished putting shoulders on the 3.4 miles of new blacktop.
- Fixing shoulders.
- Cutting shoulders.
- Finished up shared services for blacktopping.
- Mowing roadsides.
- Summer help have painted the gazebo.
- Cutting brush.
- Painting the steps at the townhall.
- New truck has a build date of October 10th.

Still have a small amount of CHIPS money remaining, as \$324,622 was spent on the blacktopping. Thinking about moving it over into the fuel budget, as that is quickly being depleted.

Dog Control: No report

Building and Code: Bill Chambers

- Have received twelve (12) permits to work on.
- EV Energy's architectural designs have been completed for the new building but have not yet been submitted.
- The fire hydrant that is at the south end of the water district on US Highway 11 needs to be turned around, as it has the main valve positioned away from the roadway.
- It looks like the solar projects that are being worked on should all be completed sometime in November.
- Corning's current project is progressing well, and a new phase of the expansion will be let out for bids soon.

Assessor Report: Suzanne Arquette

- Continuing to review deed transfers on a regular basis as they come in, address changes, and keeping up with the Income Verification Program (IVP) to ensure that our Enhanced Star recipients are up to date on the New York State Website.
- Will be reviewing building permits soon and will keep up to date with Bill, as the building permits keep coming in.
- If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Communications:

After a brief discussion regarding the request for the letter of support and no objection for Tanner Creek Farm to host more than twenty-one (21) events that may provide beer, wine, or cider, a motion, was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Andrew Fenton, for the Town Board to support with no objection for Saint Larry's Bar & Grill, of Potsdam, to serve alcohol at an upcoming event. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

After a brief discussion regarding the request for the letter of support and no objection for Tanner Creek Farm to host more than four (4) events that may provide beer, wine, or cider, a motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Ed Newcombe for the Town Board to support with no objection for Tanner Creek Farms, De Kalb to host and serve alcohol at more than four (4) events per year. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

- There are three (3) streetlights that still are not working. Apparently, some lights were sent through with the wrong type of fuse and these need to be replaced. As soon as they are received, Dow Electric will be making the repairs.
- Safety Audit is complete except for creating the MSDS book which is being worked on.
- Have received a Quote Proposal from EDR for the Pipeline Park Enhancement Project. As per the town's Procurement Policy, at least two (2) more quotes will need to be obtained before a selection can be made.

-Supervisor Frary distributed an email from Mr. Denesha, regarding information pertaining to the Affordable Connectivity Program for assistance with the cost of internet access to families in need. This information will be made available on the town's website.

Eric Graham addressed the board regarding how he believes the Dog Control Officers is not doing his job and that there are a lot of dogs within the township that are unlicensed. If he is required to license, then so shouldn't others. Supervisor Frary will speak with Mr. Moyer, the Dog Control Officer.

Budget workshop has been scheduled for September 7, 2022, beginning at 7PM at the Town Hall.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Constance Elen to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract #7-2022 Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

A motion was made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Ed Newcombe, to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara A. Creazzo
Town Clerk

Actions

1. Continue to work on grant applications for the Sewer Plant Upgrade Project.
2. Send letter of support with no objection to Saint Larry's Bar & Grill, of Potsdam. **Completed 8/18/22.**
3. Send letter of support with no objections to Tanner Creek Farm. **Completed 8/18/22.**
4. Seek two (2) more bids for the Pipeline Park Enhancement Project.
5. Post Internet Assistance information on town's website. **Completed 8/23/22.**
6. Supervisor Frary to speak with Dan Moyer regarding unlicensed dogs.