

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 16th day of August 2023, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

John Frary	Supervisor	Michael Livingston	Council Member
Ed Newcombe	Council Member	Connie Elen	Council Member
Andrew Fenton	Council Member	Barbara Creazzo	Town Clerk
Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent	Bill Chambers	Building & Codes
Charles B Nash	Town Attorney	Dan Moyer	Dog Officer

Members of the community present: Janice Brabaw, Kelly Davis, Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator, Ginger Thomas, and Jordan Deleel.

Members of the community attending via ZOOM: Darccy Matthews

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

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

Michael Livingston moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board, held on July 19, 2023, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Ed Newcombe and adopted unanimously.

Actions

1. Obtain quotes for an audit regarding the supervisor's financial records.
2. Clerk to determine the number of dogs licensed within the township and how many are altered versus non-altered. **Completed 08/02/23.**
3. Continue to address hamlet ditching.
4. Contact National Grid regarding pole outlets. **Completed 08/02/23.**
5. Volunteers for 250-Year Celebration.

Public Forum:

Dan Moyer, Dog Control Officer for the town of De Kalb, addressed the board regarding the new laws which will be implemented in 2024 and 2025. These new regulations are going to be costly and will shut down small municipality kennels in the north county. Some of the new regulations include: HVAC systems, the floor must be at least 60 degrees in temperature, if a dog remains in a kennel for more than 30 days, it must be examined by a veterinarian, any dog that is not spayed or neutered must now be done before it can be placed for adoption, it must also be vaccinated, each dog must have a minimum of 20 minutes of socialization per day, the kennel must be sound proof, floors must be finished with an epoxy resin, etc.

Mr. Moyer is asking each municipality he provides a service for to plan on a \$1,200 - \$1,500 one-time fee to help defray the cost of bringing his kennel in to compliance with the new regulations. It will cost approximately \$31,000 to comply. He also informed the board that the annual kennel fee will also see an increase.

He also informed the board that he continues to work on the dog enumeration and is currently covering County Route 17. The enumeration will continue until all areas of the township have been completed. Some people are being very helpful, while others are refusing to provide any information.

There are six unlicensed dogs in a house on Caroline Street, which all were loose one day after knocking out a window fan. The dogs were rounded up and returned to the son of the homeowner. Now they refuse to answer the door.

Answered another dog call on Caroline Street regarding a dog barking constantly as it was tied up and tangled in bikes. Spoke to the owner regarding the situation.

Larry Denesha

-Sale Tax continues to increase slightly over last year at this time.

-A few years ago, the legislature body agreed to develop an unappropriated fund balance equivalent to 15 % of the over-all budget. It has now been achieved.

-We are now in the process of preparing the new budget. It looks as if there will be another year (6 in a row) where there will be a slight decrease in property tax.

-The county will be paving an additional 10 miles this year at a total cost of \$1,200,000. The highway department has 573 miles of road to maintain throughout the county.

-In the process of establishing a Capitol fund balance of \$1,000,000, as the future of the Medically Assisted Treatment Program in the Jail is mandated by the State with no monetary assistance.

-Solid waste fees are increasing by another \$3 per ton in tipping fees.

-Recycling fees have also increased substantially.

-Passed a resolution to let out bids for updating the Public Safety Complex.

-The Town of De Kalb's portion of the Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Apportionment for 2024 is up to \$3,957 and the total for the town will be \$31,055.

-ARPA Funds, which have been administered by IDA, have issued funds of \$2,500 for a small business here in town, as well as \$250,000 toward the upcoming sewer improvements.

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.

Constance Elen made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the Clerk's account, seconded by Michael Livingston. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Clerk Report: Barbara A Creazzo

A total of \$1919.65 was collected for the month of July with the town retaining \$1014.25 of the collection. The breakdown is as follows: NYS DEC received \$879.40, town \$15.60 for licenses, NYS Ag & Markets \$26, town \$90.50 for dog licenses, the town received \$794.95 in building permit fees, \$80 for Certified Death Certificates, \$22 for a Genealogy Search, and \$11.20 for copies made.

Deputy Clerk, Wanda Law, did not work any hours during the month of July.

Water and Sewer Collections for the month: water fees collected were \$1,339.39 and sewer fees were \$2,033.02.

DOG Licensing REPORT

2022

Total	Spayed	Neutered	Total	Unspayed	Un-neutered	Total	Total \$	NYS \$	TOWN \$
252	109	89	198	20	34	54	1,557.00	360.00	1,197.00

2023 January through June

Total	Spayed	Neutered	Total	Unspayed	Un-neutered	Total	Total \$	NYS \$	TOWN \$
182	72	65	137	19	26	45	1,157.50	272.00	885.50

Dog licensing charges for altered and non-altered dogs from surrounding townships

Altered	Non-altered	Township
\$5	\$13	Russell
7	14	Canton
10	20	Colton
5.50	13.50	Clifton
5	13	Oswegatchie
5	13	Pierrepont
6	13	Edwards
10	18	Hermon
7.50	15.50	Hammond
5.50	13.50	Fine
6	14	Louisville
5	15	Potsdam
5	10.50	De Kalb
82.5	186.00	Total
6.35	14.31	Average

Supervisor Frary distributed the Monthly Financial Report to the members of the board for review.

Water/Sewer:

-DANC Report this month, has not been received.

-If everything progresses, bids for the Sewer Plant upgrades should be able to go out in October or November.

Meter Proposals have been received from the three companies that presented to Supervisor Frary, Councilmember Elen, Superintendent Holland, and Clerk Creazzo, last month. The quotes are as follows:

	AMR drive by		AMI tower
Sensus Core & Main	55,175.11		126,197.73
Neptune TI Sales	54,453.88 1298 annual fee		53,882.52 2152.2 annual fee
Master Ferguson	64,243.15 1857 annual fee		162,074.15 8525 maintain system

Lead Service Line Inventory, we know that our lines do not contain lead; however, the survey needs to include what is in each structure. Therefore, access to each building that receives water from the district may need to be surveyed, still awaiting clarification.

The last troubled section of the waterline toward Family Dollar, is scheduled to be replaced in September.

Highway Department: Wayne Holland (7/19 – 8/16/23)

-Assisting various towns through shared services with blacktopping.

-Our blacktopping is complete: Risley Road, 1.7 mile completed
Old De Kalb Road, 3/10 mile completed
Childs Road, 1.1 mile completed
Winter Road, 1.7 mile completed

The blacktop cost \$365,807.66. Last year the cost was \$68 per ton and this year the cost was \$54.57. We were able to almost double the amount that was expected to be done this year. I believe this is the most that has been done before in one year.

The new truck is at Viking in Connecticut to be fitted with the plow. They can get it completed there quicker than in Harrisville.

The skidster now has a delivery date in October.

Have only been able to obtain two quotes so far for a new pickup truck. One is \$57,000 and the other is \$53,000. There are no longer State Bids for small trucks.

The installation of the generator at the town barn is almost complete, just a few little things to finish.

Have received two quotes for pouring a concrete floor in the storage barn. The size is 40x80 and the first quote is \$17,700 and the second quote is \$22,700. Will be putting conduit in for utilities to be completed later.

Code Officer Report: William Chambers

- Have received two complaints pertaining to garbage, and both have been addressed.
- The solar projects are starting to be connected to National Grid. Do not have a finish date.

Seventeen permits have been issued since the last report with a project cost of \$484,700 and a total fee amount of \$2,631.55. To date, the project cost is \$976,700 and the fee amount is \$5,632.35. For this report, there are 2 garages, 1 deck, 1 storage shed, 2 additions, 1 septic with new home construction, 1 alteration, 4 single family homes, 2 re-roofing's and 1 new home service.

Communications:

- Have been contacted by Veronica Lamb, teacher at school, who would like to work with the senior class to possibly install "Our Local Heros", banners. Would like to establish a committee to work with her and the students. Janice Brabaw, Darccy Matthews, and Andrew Fenton will be the start of the committee.
- SLC 250th Year Celebration, would also like a committee to work with the County's committee, those who volunteered are: Darccy Matthews, Jordan Deleel, Janice Brabaw, and Constance Elen.
- Pavilion update, would like to have a kick-off celebration for the upcoming construction of the pavilion. Constance Elen has been in touch with Iroquois Gas, who initially sponsored Pipeline Park, and they are willing to donate some monies for park improvements. A committee for the kick-off will consist of Andrew Fenton, Jordan, Deleel, Janice Brabaw, and Constance Elen.
- USDA will be attending a forum on September 7, 2023, at SUNY Canton. This forum is hosted by Assemblyman Scott Gray, and guest speaker will be Brian Murray, Northern NY Area Director for USDA Rural Development.
- Development of the North County will be hosting an open house August 24, 2023, from 4PM to 6PM, at their Materials Management Facility located at 23400 Route 177 Rodman.
- National Grid has been provided the numbers for the power poles that outlets have been requested for. Five more holiday lights will be installed for winter.
- Drainage update: have received a cost proposal and outline for a possible Phase 2 Study to be completed by EDR. The cost is \$8,280 and includes the following:
 - Map development showing improvements and flood areas.
 - Desktop analysis modeling with stormwater detention in the area northeast of Josephine Street and increasing culvert capacities to a 10-year and 25-year storm events.
 - Outline recommended improvements and identify possible permitting requirements.
 - Develop a cost estimate of recommended improvement.
 - Deliver New York State professional engineer stamped and signed final updated drainage study memorandum.
 - Attend one Town meeting to review recommended improvements.

Supervisor Frary has been in contact with DANC regarding the use of their Vacuum truck to assist with cleaning out culverts in the hamlet. They do not believe the system they have can complete the task. He will now reach out to Gouverneur, to see if theirs has the capability.

After discussing, the board has decided to wait and see if contact with CSX can be made regarding the railroad culvert. This culvert, in the condition that it is in, certainly is a main contributor to the backup of water during heavy storms. It does not allow for the storm water to exit the hamlet as quickly as it should, due to the deterioration of the structure, causing a restriction of water flow. Attorney Nash may need to be the person to contact the railroad.

The first date for the 2024 Budget work-meeting is set for August 31, 2023, at 7 PM at the Town Hall.

Executive Session:

Constance Elen motioned to enter executive session at 9:10 PM. Motion carried.
Andrew Fenton motioned to exit executive session at 9:55 PM. Motion carried.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Andrew Fenton to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract #8 -2023 Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara A. Creazzo
Town Clerk

Actions

1. Send notice of budget workshop to newspaper. **Completed 08/17/2023.**