

# Town of DeKalb Board Meeting

At a regular meeting of the Town Board, of the Town of De Kalb, St. Lawrence County, New York, held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020, at the Town Hall in De Kalb Junction NY, there were present:

John Frary	Supervisor	Michael Livingston	Board Member
Connie Elen	Board Member	Andrew Fenton	Board Member
Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent	Barbara Creazzo	Town Clerk/Collector
Charles Nash	Town Attorney		

Ed Newcombe-Board Member, absent due to work duty.

Members of the community present: Tami French, and Larry D. Denesha, SLC Legislator

Supervisor Frary opened the meeting at 7:03PM

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 the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Constance Elen and adopted unanimously.

## Actions

### Actions

1. Sign SEQRA and mail. **Completed 06/17/20**
2. Sign EPG Grant and mail. **Completed 06/17/2020**

### **Public Forum:**

Tami French thanks John Frary and Roger Blair for installing the flags on the power poles along US Route 11 within the hamlet of De Kalb Junction. She is disappointed the purchase of the flags did not remain local (purchased through Amazon and not at Junction Building Supply). She would like a list of names who donated to the flag donation so she can send a thank you note to each who donated to the cause.

Ms. French asked if a survey could be sent out regarding the playground. Questions such as, do your children use the playground, if no, why not, what would make the playground more enjoyable, etc. She also commented the playground needs some maintenance work done.

Supervisor Frary, thanked Ms. French for her concerns and help with the flags. A list of all who donated for the flags will be provided. Also, names will be shown on the Fire Department's electronic sign. Flags were purchased through Amazon to keep the cost to a minimum, as it was not sure how much money would be received in donations. There is now enough to cover the cost, plus have money in reserve for replacements as needed.

Supervisor Frary also thanked her for her interest in the playground and would like her to ask at least one other community member to sit on a small committee with Andrew Fenton and Constance Elen. The committee will be named the Community Improvement Committee. She can let Mr. Fenton and Ms. Elen know, who else will be joining the committee.

Larry D. Denesha, SLC Legislator

-COVID, three (3) new cases which now brings the total to 229, and of that number, 222 have been released as now testing negative. One more death has occurred which brings the total to four (4). A total of 22,129 people has been tested in the county. As of July 6, 2020, 261 COVID noncompliance complaints had been filed. Since then, the number has increased to over 300.

Stores/businesses are now obligated to mandate the wearing of face mask to be allowed entrance to the business. If they, and patrons to not comply, each can be fined for noncompliance.

-Burn ban for the county has been extended until July 17<sup>th</sup>.

-Bass Tournament has moved from Waddington to Clayton in Jefferson County. The Board of Legislators was asked to pass an expenditure of \$50,000 to support the tournament, the amount was amended and passed in the amount of \$30,000. Mr. Denesha states he did not vote for the passing of the \$30,000. The money from the county to cover previous tournaments, has come from the Tribal Gaming Compact Money. The county has not received any of this money this year; therefore, it would be taxpayer's money used to cover the cost of the \$30,000.

-The USDA Food Distribution that was held earlier in the month was a great success. In fact, the food ran out before all who were in-line for food received any. There will be another distribution on July 30, 2020, from 9AM to Noon, and it will be held at the Gouverneur Community Center.

-Sales Tax for the first quarter was just over 6% and just under 6% for the second quarter, making the collections for the year to date a wash. It was anticipated there may be a drastic decrease in collections for the second quarter, which does not appear to be the case.

-Census data collection for the county is approximately 52.9% completed.

-Have received word from Graham Wise, that DOT, will have two (2) turning lanes in place hopefully before the start of school at the US 11 Highway and East De Kalb Road intersection. There will be a turning lane for both north and south bound directions. It is hoped, the request for a speed reduction on US 11, that runs parallel with the school, will occur in the future.

**Assessor Report: Robert Ball**

-26 Property Transactions have taken place since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Of these sales, 7 are arm's length sales that the State will use to determine the Town's Equalization rate.

-Grievance Day was held on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Assessment Review heard 7 Grievances of which they lowered the assessment of 4 properties.

-For the 2020 Assessment Roll, the equalization rate will be 93%, this is a 1% decrease from 2019. This rate is dropping mainly due to the assessment on commercial properties. Mr. Ball request the Boards permission to do a reassessment project on the commercial properties in the Town.

-Currently, I have 98 open permits/property reviews that are new this year or have carried over from last year. I will be reviewing these properties over the course of the summer and making assessment changes to them for the 2012 Assessment Roll.

Mr. Ball asked for a Resolution from the Board, requesting him to complete a reevaluation of commercial properties within the township of De Kalb.

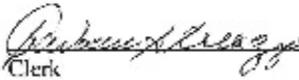
**RESOLUTION #9  
FOR THE  
TOWN OF DE KALB  
July 15, 2020  
AUTORIZATION OF RE-ASSESSMENT OF  
COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES**

**Whereas**, the Town of DeKalb 2020 Final Assessment roll filed on July 1<sup>st</sup> has a New York State equalization rate of 93%, which is a 1% decrease from 2019

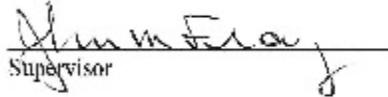
**Whereas**, The New York State Assessment for Commercial Property is currently at 58.5% for the Town of De Kalb

**Whereas**, The re-assessment of Commercial Properties, will assist with raising the equalization rate closer to 100%,

**Be it Resolved that**, The De Kalb Town Board recognizes the need for discrepancies to be addressed and authorizes Robert Ball, Sole Assessor, for the Town of De Kalb, to complete a re-assessment of all Commercial Properties within the Town of De Kalb for the 2021 Assessment Roll.

  
Clerk

7-15-20  
Date

  
Supervisor

7/15/20  
Date

Town Council roll call Vote:  
Michael Livingston - yes  
Andrew Fenton - yes

Constance Elen - yes  
John Frary - yes

Absent:  
Ed Newcombe

**Highway Department Report:** Wayne Holland

- Continue to mow town roadsides, as Tammy is now on the second time around.
- Continue to cut shoulders as needed.
- Cold patching occurs when and where needed.
- Shimmed the East De Kalb Road with 4 loads of hot top.
- Also used 4 loads of grader shimming on the Maple Ridge Road.
- Closed the East De Kalb Road (County Route 17 to US 11) for the HDCS graduation.
- Installed 2 culverts.
- Shared services with the Town of Oswegatchie for blacktopping.

Hopefully will start at the end of the month with the planned blacktopping. May not be able to do Maple Ridge Road as planned, as I had hoped to complete some buildup work prior to blacktopping.

The surrounding towns that we share services with are as follows: Oswegatchie, Morristown, Hermon, Russell, De Peyster, and Gouverneur.

Limekiln Road culvert has received a yellow flagging, plan to complete some work on it later this summer.

New equipment is running well.

Currently working on cutting back certain areas of the Colton Road.

**Financials:**

No audits this month.

Supervisor Frary distributed to each Board Member, a copy of the year to date budget review. He had high-lighted a couple of areas that he wanted them to pay special attention too, as he explained why the numbers are as they are. There were no questions or concerns.

**Town Clerk Report:** Barbara Creazzo

A total of \$7,181.10 was collected for the month of June by the clerk. The breakdown of collections is as follows: NYSDEC received \$155.88 and the town received \$9.12, Ag & Market received \$62, and the town, \$212, Building Permits brought in \$6,729.60 for the town, 50 cents for copies made and \$12 for faxes sent. Therefore, the town coffers were able to retain \$6963.22 for the month.

**Water & Sewer Collections:**

June was the first month of collections for the third quarter and collections were as follows: Water received \$7,572.62, while sewer received \$8,834.22, for a total monthly collection of \$16,406.84. Year to date, water has collected \$26,242.66 and sewer has collected \$28,568.18, for a total collection of \$54,810.84.

Taxes, final payment to the supervisor has been made in the amount of \$4,151.89 and the tax collector's books are closed for the year.

Deputy, Wanda Law, worked 15 hours during the month of June.

Have not been able to have the new DEC license printer installed. When I received the call to install, they kept calling me by another name. I explained I was not that person and I had sent in what I thought was needed to ensure the account was switched into my name. I thought everything was ok as their reply was that only Wanda needed to take the necessary test. Now I have been denied and need to reapply again. At the rate things are occurring, I may not have everything in place for the selling of hunting licenses for this coming season.

We are scheduled to host a Rabies Vaccination Clinic in October. Recently received a copy of how clinics are to operate during the pandemic. I think we can accommodate the requirements; however, my concern is for the Amish, who will not be able to sign-up for an appointment online. The number of vaccines available will be determined by the number of appointments made. I will contact Public Health and ask how to be able to accommodate the Amish. Mr. Denesha asked that he be copied into any email so he can assist with the concern.

**DANC Report:**

A total of 930,600 gallons of water were metered in the month of June, with an average daily flow of 31,020 gallons. A total of 6 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. One random distribution sample for bacteriological testing was completed and was rated as satisfactory. Exercised the fire hydrants to flush out the water system. There was one low water flow alarm that was responded to.

A total of 861,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of June, with an average daily flow of 28,700. There were 0 SPDES permit violations for the month. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and/or maintenances occurred as scheduled. Daily flow graphs are included in the full report.

There is no Dog Control Report for June.

There is no Code Enforcement Report for June.

**Communications:**

Supervisor Frary distributed a proposal by North Shore Solutions, as a possibility for the Town's new website. North Shore will also be able support our new email system which will include email addresses for each board member, supervisor, clerk, justice, court clerk, assessor, and code officer. Supervisor Frary, Clerk Creazzo, and Tom Manley (IT), recently had a demonstration for a new website. The program for editing seems to be very straight forward and easy to edit as needed. Matthew Turcotte, the designer, will make a mockup version available for us to look at and to manipulate. He can also be reached for any questions that we may have. Supervisor Frary asked that each member review the proposal, view the mockup, and be prepared to decide at next month's board meeting.

Constance Elen provided a brief update for LWRP, 3 new parcels have been added to the mapping in the Richville area. It is anticipated a meeting will occur later this month; however, most work is being done by GIS mapping.

Solar PILOT agreement has not been signed yet, as the school's attorney has requested more information.

Hope to have the new phone system in soon.

Tom Manley and Barbara Creazzo will soon be rebuilding the water/sewer data base.

Due to the recent events with the pandemic and social distancing requirements, the board needs to move forward deciding what is going to meet future needs for spacing, not only for the board, but also for the court. Supervisor Frary ask for volunteers of two board members, to work with the various departments, to be planning what is needed for space. He will also try to set up times for members to visit at least two newly built facilities for municipalities for ideas. Michael Livingston and Andrew Fenton will serve on the Building Committee.

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 # 07-2020.

Vote: Andrew Fenton-yes                      Constance Elen-yes                      Michael Livingston-yes  
John Frary-yes

A motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Andrew Fenton, to adjourn.

Vote: Andrew Fenton-yes                      Constance Elen-yes                      Michael Livingston-yes  
John Frary-yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara A. Creazzo

Actions

1. Resolution for re-evaluation of Commercial Properties. **Completed**
2. Contact Public Health regarding Rabies Clinic and the Amish. **Completed 07/17/2020**