

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 21st day of June 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
Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent	Barbara Creazzo	Town Clerk
Charles B Nash	Town Attorney		

Andrew Fenton, Council Member, was absent due to a family matter.

Members of the community present: Janice Brabaw, Ginger Thomas, Charles Prior, EDR, Scott Thornhill, DANC, Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator, Eric Yager, Kelly Davis

Members of the community attending via ZOOM: Thomas Dussing, EDR

Supervisor Frary opened the regular meeting at 7:01PM.

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 May17, 2023, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved once a correction in spelling is completed. Seconded by Michael Livingston and adopted unanimously.

Actions

1. Contact company regarding RBCs at sewer plant.
2. Send a letter to c2ae, awarding them the study of new water meters for radio reads. **Done.**
3. Return signed Hold Harmless document to the town of Gouverneur. **Completed 5/19/23.**
4. Obtain quotes for a skidster. **Done.**
5. Continue to look for a port-a-potty distributor.
6. Follow up regarding ditch drainage. **On-going.**

Public Forum:

Charles Prior and Thomas Dussing, from EDR, went over the Drainage Study that was completed late this Spring. The study included drainage routes that run from Josephine Street to the connection between School Street and County Route 17, as well as County Route 17 to Tanner Street where it turns and crosses NYS Route 11 and flows to the railroad tracks. It then proceeds to Goff Creek.

Recommendations are as follows:

In order to improve the stormwater system, the following improvements are recommended:

- Install rip rap at all culvert outlets to reduce erosion potential.
- Remove culvert pipe size reductions as noted in Table 1. This applies to culverts 3,6,8,9, and 11.
- Remove debris from channels and culverts on a regular schedule to keep the system functioning at full capacity.
- Obtain easements on private property to provide access to perform maintenance.
- Relocate storm system piping away from private property structures, etc.

It was decided to hold a Public Informational Meeting regarding the drainage study. This will be held on July 13, 2023, starting at 7PM at the De Kalb Town Hall.

Scott Thornhill, DANC, asked Charles Prior if he could follow up with DEC regarding their most recent change request. The project cannot be let out for bidding until DEC has given their final approval. Charles will follow up with DEC.

The town has received \$250,000 to assist with the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade. This money is part of the monies received by St. Lawrence County through ARPA Funds.

Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator

-The Town of De Kalb's Mortgage Tax is \$3,590.41 and has been received.

-Recyclables currently are transported to Syracuse but will soon be shipped to Massena. The county has purchased a compactor.

-Passed a resolution designating June as Dairy Month in recognition of the fourteen family farms in the county that have been in existence for 100 plus years. A total of 890,000,000 million gallons of milk was produced last year, ranking St. Lawrence County fifth on the east coast for milk production.

-Also passed a resolution to establish an Anniversary Commission in the Legislation, which will begin planning for the country's 250th Anniversary.

-Legislators passed a State of Emergency earlier this month in case there should be a sudden influx of migrants. If this had not been done and if there should be a large influx of migrants, Federal monies would not have become available to assist in dealing with the influx.

-Paving that will be done by the county in the township of De Kalb is for a portion of County Route 20 from the Village of Richville line to the railroad tracks in Bigelow.

-The Annual Financial Audit has begun. In 2022, \$810,000 was earned in interest for the county.

-SLC Senior-Roma will be held July 24th at the Akwesasne Bingo Palace, located at 873 NY-37, Akwesasne, NY.

-SLC Senior Picnic will be Thursday, August 17, 2023, at the Morristown Fire Hall.

-A recent resolution was passed prohibiting TikTok on any St. Lawrence County owned device.

-The county is looking for anyone who is willing to assist with the delivery and picking up of voting supplies for the upcoming elections. Anyone interested should contact the Election Board. There is also a need for Election Inspectors.

Financials:

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

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

Town Clerk Report: Barbara A Creazzo

-A total of \$2036.50 was collected and the town retained \$1741.24 of the collection. The breakdown is as follows: DEC \$269.26, town \$15.74, Ag & Markets \$26, town \$99.50, town retained \$1514.80 for building permits, \$70 for Certified Death Certificates, and \$41.20 for copies made. The deputy clerk did not work any hours during the month of May.

-Water & sewer collections: water collected \$221.25, and sewer collected \$241.50.

-Tax collection has ended for the year with 91.19% of the tax warrant collected. There was a total of 126 parcels that had no payments made.

-Verified the participants for community college chargebacks for 2022, are within the tax district for the Town of De Kalb. There were fourteen individuals who attended courses at a community college.

Supervisor Frary distributed this month's Year to Date Financial Report for review. Most budget lines are where they are to be expected at this time of year. Records Management and Veterans Services are over, due to unforeseen increases.

Water & Sewer Reports:

DANC: -A total of 678,700 gallons of water were metered in the month of May, with an average daily flow of 21,894 gallons. A total of 5 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. The full report contains all the daily flow charts for the month. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenances occurred as scheduled. One random distribution sample for bacteriological testing was conducted with a satisfactory result.

-A total of 1,693,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of May, with an average daily flow rate of 54,613 gallons. There were no SPDES permit violations. The full report contains all the daily flow charts for the month. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenances occurred as scheduled. Rotating the RBC in reverse for an hour each day continues. Septic tanks are scheduled to be pumped out in June. Repair of the RBC buckets has been completed by the town again.

Highway Department Report: Wayne Holland 5/17-6/21023

- Have been engaged in shared services with the towns of Lisbon and Gouverneur.
- Cutting shoulders in preparation of paving.
- Continue to patch potholes as needed.
- Hauling gravel.
- One complete round of roadside mowing has been completed and have begun the second round.
- Repaired the buckets on the sewer plants RBC.
- Installed 80 feet of culvert pipe.

Superintendent Holland proposes the following general repairs of 3.6 miles of town highways at a sum of \$423,032.18. Road sections to be paved are as follows:

- Childs Road leading to SH 812 for 1.2 miles, at an estimated sum of \$92,800. Work to be completed using #6 stone is a width of 18 feet, with 2 ½ inch compacted to 2 inches, with a subbase of 6 inches of gravel.
- Winter Road leading to SH 812 for 1.2 miles, at an estimated sum of \$87,000. Work to be completed using #6 stone is a width of 17 feet, with 2 ½ inches compacted to 2 inches, with a subbase of 6 inches of gravel.
- Risley Road leading to Old Canton Road for 0.8 mile, at an estimated sum of \$66,700. Work to be completed using #6 stone is a width of 17 feet, with 2 ½ inches compacted to 2 inches, with a subbase of 6 inches of gravel.
- Old Canton Road leading to SH 812 for an estimated sum of \$29,000. Work to be completed using #6 stone is a width of 18 feet, with 2 ½ inches compacted to 2 inches, with a subbase of 6 inches of gravel.
- If there are remaining funds, work on the Winter Road will be extended.

A motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Constance Elen, to approve the road work described above, for a sum of \$423,032.18. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, John Frary yes.

Superintendent Holland presented to the board two bid proposals for a new Skid Steer Loader. He was unable to obtain a third bid, as he could not get a third response. The first bid is for a Bobcat (S64 T4 Bobcat Skid Steer Loader) at a cost of \$52,218.44 and the second bid is for a John Deere (320G Skid Steer) at a cost of \$58,500.00.

A motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Ed Newcombe, for Superintendent Holland to purchase the Bobcat at a cost of \$52,218.44. Vote: Michael Livingston abstained, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, John Frary yes.

Supervisor Frary presented to the board, a Three-Year County Snow & Ice Removal Agreement. The agreement is for a total of 25.35 plow miles and the contract will stand for three years beginning as of October 1, 2023, and ending June 1, 2026. The increase/decrease in the cost of fuel and or salt is addressed in the contract.

A motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Ed Newcombe for the Town of De Kalb to enter into contract with St. Lawrence County, a Three-Year County Snow & Ice Removal Agreement. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, John Frary yes.

Communications:

-Architectural design for the pavilion was discussed.

A motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Ed Newcombe, for Supervisor Frary to contact Brooks Washburn, requesting the design be sent for bid quotes. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, John Frary yes.

-Have received notice from New York State Department of Taxation & Finance Office of Real Property Tax Services, that it has established a final State equalization rate of 78% for the Town of De Kalb.

-Follow up from last month regarding a resolution preventing the use of any SUNY campus housing as migrant living quarters.

A motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Constance Elen, for a resolution preventing the use of any SUNY campus housing as migrant living quarters. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, John Frary yes.

-Resolution for Voter's Identification was tabled for future discussion.

-Possible increase in the dog licensing fee. Currently at \$3 for spayed/neutered dog and \$10.50 for unspayed/un-neutered dog. Ag & Markets receives \$1 for spayed/neutered and \$3 for unspayed/un-neutered dog. Licensing of dogs in the municipality should be enough to cover the annual salary of the Dog Control Officers. Ours does not meet this criterion. The clerk will check with surrounding municipalities of approximately the same population for their licensing fees. Therefore, discussion was tabled.

-Three quotes were received regarding the surveying of town property located on County Route 17. The quotes received were from Seaway Valley Surveying at a total cost of \$5400, Stutzman Surveying at a total cost of \$3,200, and Gillis Land Surveying at a cost of \$5200.

After discussion of each quote, a motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Michael Livingston to accept the quote from Seaway Valley Surveying at a cost of \$5400. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, John Frary yes.

-Constance Elen and her community members investigating the purchasing and placing of new *Welcome to the Town of De Kalb* signs, hope to have a possible design for the next meeting. Have been in contact with Northeastern Sign Corporation from South Colton, as a possible manufacturer.

-Supervisor Frary has received notice from North County HOME Consortium, asking if the town wishes to continue to remain in the consortium for 2024-2026. There is no cost, and it can be a good place to look for assistance when needed. If the town wishes to continue, there is nothing to do, and if they choose to opt out, a letter stating their intention to do so must be sent. Members of the board agreed to remain part of the consortium.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Ed Newcombe to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract #6-2023. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, John Frary yes.

A motion was made by Ed Newcombe and seconded by Constance Elen, to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07PM

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara A. Creazzo
Town Clerk

Actions

1. Send notice of drainage meeting to newspaper, town's webpage, postcard. **Completed 6/26/2023.**
2. Send a copy of the proposed roadwork to Donald Chambers. **Completed 06/27/2023.**
3. Purchase Bobcat Skid Steer Loader.
4. Send signed copy of 3-year Snow & Ice Removal Agreement to county.
5. Notify Brooks Washburn to send out bid quotes for the pavilion. **Done.**
6. Send a copy of Resolution #4 preventing use of SUNY campuses for housing of migrants. **Completed 06/27/23.**
7. Follow up with surrounding towns regarding dog licensing.
8. Continue gathering information regarding town sign.