

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 March 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

Members of the community present: John Stransky, Hermon Rescue Squad, Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator, and Dale Raymo, Interim Assessor.

Members of the community attending via ZOOM: Scott Thornhill, DANC, and Charles Prior, EDR Associates.

Supervisor Frary opened the meeting at 7:03 PM.

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 February 16, 2022, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston and adopted unanimously.

Michael Livingston moved that the minutes of the Interview Meeting, of the Town Board, held on March 2, 2022, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Andrew Fenton and adopted unanimously.

Actions

1. Send USDA Resolution for publication. **Completed 02/18/22.**
2. Certify and send Resolution to Scott Thornhill. **Completed 02/18/22.**
3. Complete budget amendments. **Completed 02/18/22.**
4. Advertise Special Meeting, for March 2, 2022, at 7 PM. **Completed 02/18/22.**
5. Research ownership of generator at sewer plant.

Public Forum:

John Stransky, Squad Member, spoke to the board regarding the staffing of the Hermon Rescue Squad during the daytime, Monday through Friday. At times, there is not a driver available, but in these cases, the EMT goes to the scene and provides care until an ambulance can arrive from a neighboring community for transporting if required.

Supervisor Frary asked if the squad could send their Annual Financial Report when completed to him for review with the board. He also asked if the squad could send the board their projected budget by August of each year. By receiving it before the board begins the new budget process would be beneficial.

Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator

-COVID report for today shows 72 new cases which is higher than what it has been running each day. There are currently 6 people in the hospital, two admitted for COVID and 4 who were admitted for another reason but tested positive for COVID. The number of cases reported daily has brought the County to an incident rate of low, which is much better than the high we had been rated at. There has been a total of 181 deaths due to COVID since the pandemic began. The vaccination rate for the County is now at 60.6% and for the State is 79.9%.

-The Legislators will be presenting a resolution to Albany, opposing the proposed bill that will require all new homes be 100% electric, eliminating the use of fossil fuels.

-Passed a resolution to contract with Auction International for another 4 years. The Legislators have been very satisfied with the revenue they have brought to the County regarding foreclosed properties, that have been placed back on the tax roll.

-Have distributed many supplies to municipalities to combat/prevent/detect COVID. Supplies include mask, hand sanitizer, testing kits.

- A new DDS Commissioner has been hired and will be starting in a couple of weeks.
- Received a phone call from someone who stated they heard there is a group of Senators who are trying to add an additional 25% on to the heating fuel tax. I have called several Senators as well as Assemblyman, to inquire about this. I have been reassured there is no such bill in the works. However, they are looking into a gasoline tax suspension until prices become more reasonable.
- Reassured the board that the Legislators have no intention of decreasing the amount of sale tax revenue that is now received by municipalities. The only thing that would result in a decrease is if the amount of sales tax collected in general is decreased.

Dale Raymo, Interim Assessor, informed the board that he is just about ready to submit the new tax roll to the County. He will also make himself available to the new appointed assessor as much as need, to bring her up to date with what he has done and things that still need to be addressed.

The board thanked Mr. Raymo for stepping in and addressing the needs of the taxpayers in the Town of De Kalb. It is greatly appreciated not only by the board, but also by the number of taxpayers he has met with or has had telephone communication with.

Sewer Plant Update: Scott Thornhill and Charles Prior

- The final design should be completed by the end of the month, at which time will meet in person with the board to go over the design.
- Have not received word on any further grant approvals.
- Mr. Russell has responded to the new Bond Agreement.
- When looking to purchase a new stand-a-lone generator for the plant, it needs to be able to handle the plant after the upgrades have been completed.
- Will meet with the board to go over the final plans, this will occur on April 6, 2022, at 7 PM at the Town Hall.

Town Clerk Report: Barbara Creazzo

- A total of \$1285.70 was collected during the month of February, with the Town retaining \$962.46 of monies collected. The breakdown is as follows: DEC received \$47.24, Ag & Markets \$40, and DOH \$45. The Town received \$2.76 for DEC license sales, \$119.50 for dog licenses issued, \$962.50 for building permits, \$35 for marriage licenses issued, \$10 for a Certified Marriage License, and \$23.70 for copies made for the public.
- A total of \$131.50 was collected for water and \$85.00 for sewer. To date, \$8730.40 has been collected for water and \$ 10296.08 for sewer.
- Deputy, Wanda Law, worked a total of 21.5 hours for February.

The Sexual Harassment Prevention Notice must be posted with contact names. Supervisor Frary asked who would be willing to be the main contact person in the event an employee or visitor, wishes to report an incident of sexual harassment. Andrew Fenton volunteered to be the main contact person for reporting any incidents.

Bill Chambers, Building & Codes, asked if the mailing to notify residents of the town that Local Law # 1 of the Year 2022 has been done. To date, this has not been done.

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, and Tax account, seconded by Michael Livingston. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Supervisor distributed the monthly financial report for review. Continues to look good except for fuel for the highway department. This is due to the rapid increase in fuel prices that have been occurring.

Notice from Renee Cole, St. Lawrence County Treasurer, regarding Worker's Compensation Claims Liability, as of December 31, 2021, was distributed to board members. It is noted that there has been a decrease of \$4,400 from 2020. This report also shows each municipality's 2021 Workman's Compensation Liability. De Kalb's Net Liability is \$248,202.74.

Supervisor Frary has received notice from Nick Eells, of Hoffman Eells, CPAs, PC, that an extension for the Town's Annual Financial Report was requested and was accepted with a 60-day extension.

DANC Report:

-A total of 718,700 gallons of water were metered in the month of February, with an average daily flow of 25,668 gallons. A total of 1 gallon of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of water produced. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenances were completed as scheduled. The full report contains all daily flow charts. There were no services required beyond the base contract.

-A total of 2,085,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of February, with an average daily flow of 74,464 gallons. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenances were completed as scheduled. The full report contains all daily flow charts. There were no services required beyond the base contract. There were no SPDES permit violations.

Supervisor Frary received information from the **NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance**. This is a newly formed department to assist those who may be having a difficult time paying for their water and sewer services. If the town is interested, it would become the vendor and any qualifying individual's water and/or sewer bill would be paid directly to the town. Each household could receive up to \$2,500 for water and \$2,500 for sewer.

Members of the board agree if this could help any of its constituents, it would be worth while to investigate further and possibly sign-up to be a vendor. Supervisor Frary will explore further.

Highway Department Report: Wayne Holland 2/17/22 – 3/16/22

- Plowing and sanding as needed.
- Working in the shop repairing equipment.
- Continue to cut brush when weather permits.
- Thawing culverts.
- Put in 40 feet of driveway culvert.
- The excavator has been trucked to Syracuse for repair.
- Truck #7 has gone to Watertown for a motor job.
- Have completed the deal for the new frontend loader. It is a John Deere and was purchased for \$12,500.00 with the trade-in.

Supervisor Frary shared with the board; notice that was receive from NYS DOT regarding the new ADA compliant curb ramps that will be installed this year. A total of 7 will be installed in the following areas: #1 & 2, will be at the junction of Tanner Street and US Highway 11, numbers #3,4,5, and 6 will be at the junction of County Route 17 and US 11, and #7 will be at the junction of School Street and US 11.

Building & Codes: Bill Chambers

-Two permits have been issued for the past month. One is for repair work to be completed on the Cell Tower of the Orebed Road, and the second is for a new roof. Total project cost is \$38,500. And the fee amount to be collected is \$87.50.

Mr. Chambers reported on his recent training that he completes each year. The question of how to handle an eviction was asked and the response was as follows: When an eviction is needed, and the person will not go willingly, must go to the local judge, and request a warrant for the eviction. Once this is completed, will then go to the Sheriff's Office with the warrant, a deputy will then be dispatched to the residents for the removal of the person(s).

Corning's construction project is progressing and will most likely need another permit within the next year or so for another expansion.

Communications:

-Solar project, nothing new to report.

-Safety Committee - Supervisor Frary informed the board that a Safety meeting was held, and another is planned for next week to discuss the need for Safety Data Sheets for the garage and town hall along with other safety issues.

-Local Law #2 for the Year 2021 was returned to the clerk without filing. The letter that accompanied it stated the Year needed to be 2022, as that is the year it was received. Supervisor Frary contacted Associations of Towns for guidance regarding resending the law. Associations of Towns reported if the law had been adopted in 2021, it was acceptable to send in 2022 for filing with the state. Will have attorney Nash resubmit it as Local Law #2 of the Year 2022.

-The town now owns the streetlights, and the project will be moving forward.

-Home Rule for the speed reduction on US Highway 11 by the school will be presented again in Albany. The board needs to adopt the speed reduction again and have the paperwork resubmitted to Albany, to both the Senate and Assembly.

A motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Michael Livingston to complete the Home-Rule documentation, requesting a speed reduction on US Highway 11, south of the junction with the East De Kalb Road, and north of the junction with the East De Kalb Road. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Appointment of Assessor – Supervisor Frary conducted a reference check on the two top candidates as was discussed after the interviews had been completed. Both are qualified and capable of doing the job. Supervisor Frary asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Assessor.

Michael Livingston made the motion to appoint Susan Arquette, to a probationary term of six (6) months effective April 1, 2022, seconded by Constance Elen. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Ms. Arquitt will begin the duties of Assessor for the Town of De Kalb, April 1, 2022. She will be working one day per week and that day will be Thursday.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Michael Livingston, to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract #3-2022. 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. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PPM

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara A. Creazzo
Town Clerk

Actions

1. Post Sexual Harassment Prevent Notice. **Completed 03/18/22.**
2. Publish notification of the April 6, 2022, meeting regarding the sewer plant upgrades. **Completed 03/21/2022.**
3. Supervisor Frary to obtain more information and possibly sign the town up as a vendor with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for water and sewer payments.
4. Resubmit Local Law # 2 of the Year 2022 Marijuana Law to Albany. **Completed 03/18/2022.**
5. Resubmit Home Rule Speed Reduction to Albany. **Completed 03/21/2022.**