

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 March 2021, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

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

Constance Elen attended the meeting via ZOOM

Members of the community present: Larry D Denesha, St. Lawrence County Legislator

Supervisor Frary opened the meeting at 7:04 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 February 17, 2021, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Andrew Fenton and adopted unanimously with one amendment.

Actions

1. Supervisor Frary and Superintendent Holland to explore the possibility of applying for a grant to finance part of the new truck to be purchased later this year. **Ongoing**
2. Sign and send to the County, the Hold Harmless Resolution #2 for 2021. **Completed 2/18/21.**
3. Assessor Ball to begin the process of a full re-evaluation for the Town of De Kalb. **Ongoing**
4. Assessor Ball to glean more information and report to the board about electronically filing of grievances.
5. Submit the draft of the NYS Health Emergency Plan for the Town of De Kalb to the highway department union for review. **Done**
6. Attorney Nash to submit Local Law #1 of the Year 2021 to the State of New York for filing. **Completed 2/18/2021.**
7. Supervisor Frary to submit to the New York State Senate, the Home Rule Request for a speed reduction for a portion of US Highway 11 parallel to the Hermon-De Kalb Central School. **Completed 2/24/21.**
8. Send Robert LeClair copies of the Resolution to Support a Financial Presence in Hermon. **Completed 2/24/21.**

Public Forum:

Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator

-Only 8 new cases of COVID were recorded for today which indicates the numbers are going in the right direction. It would seem as if the number of vaccinations that are occurring is helping to lessen the number of new cases of COVID.

-The drive-thru at the DMV in Canton is now open for plates and registrations.

-The Broadband survey conducted by Development Authority of the North County is underway. To date, 944 surveys have been completed and of these, 144 have no service available to them. If someone does not have access to the internet, they can still participate in the survey by calling the SLC Planning Board at 315-379-2292 for a telephone survey.

-Federal Pandemic Relief Bill, the Town of De Kalb is slated to receive \$200,000. This will be distributed in two installments. The first half should be within 60 days and the second will be received in 2022. The two areas this money cannot be used for is for pension plans or to off-set taxes.

-Jolene Munger has been named the interim Director of Public Health. She has been in the position of Deputy Director under the direction of Dr. Dana Olzenak McGuire. Ms. Munger will act as the interim director until a new director is appointed.

-The legislators continue to have a dialogue with the City of Ogdensburg regarding shared services. While there are some areas that shared services can be achieved, Mr. Denesha does not believe the County should be responsible for the services for the City Ogdensburg.

When Supervisor Frary asked if there were any questions for Mr. Denesha, Constance Elen asked if there could be more frequent law enforcement presence in the hamlet of De Kalb because of 4-wheels that are running up and down Gibbon, Caroline, and Wells Streets. When the riders have been approached and asked to slow down, it is felt retaliation has occurred as house(s) have since been egged.

Supervisor Frary stated he would reach out to the Sheriff's department. Mr. Denesha also stated he would be willing to assist as needed.

Financials:

Nick Eels had requested a 60-day extension for the Annual Report to be presented to Albany. Supervisor Frary has signed the necessary paperwork for the request and presented it to Albany.

Ed Newcombe made the motion to accept the Court Clerk Audit for December and January, as presented, seconded by Andrew Fenton. Vote as follows: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, and John Frary yes

Michael Livingston made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the clerk's Water & Sewer accounts, seconded by John Frary. Vote as follows: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes

Clerk Report: Barbara Creazzo

-A total of \$ 393.30 was collected by the clerk for the month of February. Of this amount, the town was able to retain \$383.30 for its coffers. The breakdown is as follows: NYS Ag & Markets received \$10 from dog licenses while the town received \$40. The town also received \$259.20 for a building permit, \$40 for copies of a death certificate, \$41.10 for copies made, and \$3 for faxes sent.

-Water & Sewer: \$463.78 was collected for the water district in February and \$355 was collected for the sewer district.

-Taxes: Supervisor Frary has been given a check for the Town's portion of taxes collected and this check was for \$695,830.51. The Treasurer for the County has been paid its first payment of \$500,000. To date, approximately 79% of taxes owed has been collected.

-Deputy Wanda Law worked a total of 39 hours during the month of February.

Since the Community Bank in Hermon has closed, deposits are now made at the Canton Branch. The Clerk has received a scanner to do check deposits; however, if cash has been received, a trip to Canton must occur. For the most part, banking has been done after the office has closed, as it was a quick trip to Hermon. Now, with the trip to Canton, depending on traffic, whether the drive through needs to be utilized, this can add another 45 minutes to an hour after the end of the day for the clerk. To adjust for this, the office will close to the public at 1 PM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Once the office is closed, the clerk will not be able to accept any more transactions for the day, as reports need to be completed before preparing for bank deposit(s). Closing at 1PM will begin June first, as tax bills list the 2PM closing time.

Supervisor Frary distributed the January through March budget report to members of the board. Upon reviewing the report, it appears the pages and columns do not line-up appropriately. Supervisor Frary will address this with the accountant for clarification. A new report will be distributed when obtained.

DANC Report:

Water - A total of 600,500 gallons of water were metered in the month of February, with an average daily flow of 21,446 gallons. A total of 5 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. The full report contains daily flow charts. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenances were completed as scheduled. One random

distribution sample for bacteriological testing was completed and the result was satisfactory. Scott McConnell continues to inspect and repair meters that are not reading.

Sewer – A total of 708,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of February, with an average daily flow of 25,286 gallons. There were no SPDES permit violations. The full report contains daily flow charts. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenances were completed as scheduled. Reversing of the RBC for an hour each day continues. The Annual Flow Certification Form to NYSDEC has been submitted.

Supervisor Frary reminded the Board that the total number of wastewater gallons will always outnumber the total for water metered, as there are more households/business in the sewer district than those in the water district who receive water.

Water, notice was received from the Town of Hermon regarding the upcoming cost increase for water. Based on the 20-year agreement the annual increase is to be equal to the percentage increase in the Town of Hermon's increase in operating expense. For the 2021 year that percentage is 1.5%. As such, the billing rate will increase with the next bill to \$1.89 per thousand up to 55,000 gallons furnished and from \$1.96 to \$1.99 per thousand gallons for those more than 55,000.

The notice also informs the Board that the Town of Hermon has entered a contract with Michels Transporting, to provide water for the NYPA reconstruction power line project, as they proceed through the area. They require clean treated water to drive the holes for mounting the new power poles being installed. They estimate no more than 40,000 gallons needed each day and that need will begin this spring through the end of the year. The Town of Hermon is asking the fire departments to not use the water system as a water source during this period and should draft water from other available sources whenever possible. If there is a requirement for water beyond normal home use, a request must be made to Water Superintendent, Chris Stransky, so he can assess the available water and what stress it may put on their system. He has electronic monitoring of both the water flows and water available in the tower. It is essential we do not allow our water tower to fall below 40 feet and have the overnight hours to refill it. Mr. Stransky will do his best to meet all requests, but it is prudent to have swimming pool owners seek other sources of water for pools this year. Request for water should be made at least 48 hours in advance with exception for a fire emergency when other water may not be available.

Supervisor Perry, of Hermon, also informed the De Kalb Board, that they, Hermon, will be replacing their two pumps at their water plant this year. When the potential cost is known, he will let us know, as our contract with Hermon calls for our town to assist in supporting those cost.

Sewer, Supervisor Frary has received notification that the Town of De Kalb is eligible for Clean Water State Revolving Fund interest-free financing for all or a portion of the proposed Clean Water project. A financing application needs to be filed no later than March 1, 2022. Tom Haynes from DANC to begin the application process with Supervisor Frary after Easter of 2021.

He has also received a copy of the 130-page report for the proposed wastewater project. Hardcopies are forth coming and will be distributed to members of the board when received.

Highway Department Report: Wayne Holland (2/17/21-3/17/21)

- Working in the shop on trucks and equipment.
- Cutting brush as weather permits.
- Cold patching as weather permits.
- Fixed washouts on the Sayer Road.
- Continuing to replace signs as needed.
- Plowing and sanding as needed.

- Dig Safe Training was completed on 3/9/21 via ZOOM.
- Replaced some lights at the sewer plant.

Superintendent Holland and Supervisor Frary have begun the investigative portion of applying for assistance through USDA for a grant to purchase a new highway truck.

The bridge (double culvert) on the Limekiln Road, has been yellow flagged again. Superintendent Holland will be seeking advice as to how this situation can be addressed to eliminate the on-going flagging of this bridge.

Supervisor Frary has been contacted by the Union that they would like to begin negotiations. Negotiations were to occur in 2020, but they, the Union, were willing to extend the existing contract through 2021 due to COVID-19.

Bill Chambers, Code Officer, asked if the department knew that the fire hydrant across the road from Family Dollar was installed in a manner that fire trucks are unable to draw from it. This will be corrected as soon as possible.

Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator, informed the Board, that he will be introducing a Resolution to accept the Home Rule for the Speed Reduction on US Highway 11 that runs parallel to the Hermon-De Kalb Central School. This will be discussed during the upcoming Financial Committee Meeting, as well as the full Legislative meeting.

Supervisor Frary was pleased to announce the letter received from Regional Traffic Engineer, Aaron L. Docteur, P.E. regarding the letter sent to NYSDOT about the sight safety concerns at the East De Kalb and US 11 intersection. It is difficult to see oncoming traffic from the south on US 11. They have evaluated the situation and will relocate the Stop Line on the East De Kalb Road on the Hermon side.

There is no Dog Control Report this month.

Code Enforcement Report: Bill Chambers

- Working on 4 permits.
- Completing annual public building inspections as required.
- Have been completing annual training, which half has been done on-line due to COVID.

Have been notified by one of the Solar projects that they hope to begin work soon.

There will be a methane gas retrieval project implemented at the Gebarten Farm on the East De Kalb Road within the next few months. Due to the fact this is Agriculture in nature, there are no permits required.

Communications:

-NYS Health Emergency Plan, the Union for the Highway Department as had the opportunity to review the proposed plan and have no questions or concerns regarding it. Therefore, Supervisor Frary asked for a motion to accept the plan.

A motion was made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Ed Newcombe to accept the Public Employer Health Emergency Plan for Town of De Kalb as presented. Vote as follows:
Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes,
John Frary yes

The Plan is available for review at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours.

- Street Lights, hope to be ordering new lights soon.

- Phone update has been delayed due to a virus that affected office computers through the main copier. All affected computers have been cleaned and are running well with the copier.
- There have been inquiries about St. Henry's, as well as the small piece of vacant property across the street from St. Henry's.
- Supervisor Frary will get in contact with the architect for property check now that warmer weather is approaching.
- Proclaim April as Month of Military Child.

Michael Livingston made the motion to Proclaim April as the Month of the Military Child, this was seconded by Constance Elen. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

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TOWN OF DE KALB



Town Supervisor
John Frary
315-347-3331

Highway Superintendent
Wayne Holland
315-347-3525
Cell 315-771-4767

Town Clerk
Barbara A. Cuzzo
315-347-3331

PO BOX 133 DE KALB JCT., NY 13630
PHONE 315-347-3331
Fax: 315-347-4477
NYS Relay for TTY Users:
1-800-662-1220
Town Website:
www.townofdkalb.org

Town Justice
Howard Pursey
315-347-2071

Town Council
Michael Livingston
Ed Newcombe
Constance Elen
Andrew Fenton

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community; and

Whereas, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome; and

Whereas, the Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who established this Defense Department commemoration in 1986; and

Whereas, Military children deal with separations, deployments, frequent moves and even their parents' injuries as part of the life they were born into or entered with their families; and

Whereas, Military children move an average of 10 times while growing up; these frequent moves, exposure to different cultures and languages and immersion in military customs are all common, life-defining experiences in the military child culture;

Whereas, the term "military brat" is a badge of pride worn by generations of kids who traveled the world with their parents, moving into adulthood with the knowledge that they have the strength to handle anything; and

Whereas, Military Children often follow in the traditions of their parents and enter military service to defend our nation; and

Whereas the strength and resiliency of the Military Child is inspirational to our nation;

NOW, Therefore **the Board of the Town of De Kalb**, in recognition of the importance of the Military Child and their contributions to our nation's strength and resilience, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2021 to be

The Month of the Military Child

in the **Town of De Kalb** and encourage all citizens to direct their attention to the important role Military Children play in our armed forces community.

- Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting, Supervisor Frary will be attending these meetings and Superintendent Holland, will be his second. If the town does not sign-on now to become part of the plan, it will not be able to do so later. It would also disqualify the town from being able to apply to FEMA for damages the town may accrue during a disaster.

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 #3-2021. Vote as follows: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

A motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Andrew Fenton, to adjourn. Vote as follows: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara A. Creazzo
Town Clerk

Actions

1. Supervisor Frary will contact Sheriff's department for road/street patrol. **Completed 3/30/21.**
2. Clerk to advertise new closing time for Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 1PM to take effect June 1, 2021. **Have started but will not become official until June 1, 2021.**
3. Supervisor Frary to request a new copy of January through March budget report. **Done**
4. Supervisor Frary to inform the De Kalb Fire Chief, Josh Fry of the request from the Town of Hermon not to use fire hydrants unless other water sources are not attainable. Also, there needs to be an alternative found for filling swimming pools this year.
5. Distribute 130-page report to board members upon receiving it. **Have received and placed in mailboxes.**
6. Begin application process for 0% interest loan for wastewater project.
7. Continue process for USDA grant toward purchase of new truck.
8. Superintendent Holland to continue to investigate long lasting options for the Limekiln Road bridge.
9. Reverse the position of the fire hydrant located on US 11 going south.