

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 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      | Constance Elen     | Town Board Member    |
| Andrew Fenton  | Town Board Member      | Barbara Creazzo    | Town Clerk/Collector |
| Wayne Holland  | Highway Superintendent | Suzanne Arquette   | Assessor             |
| Charles B Nash | Town Attorney          |                    |                      |

Members of the community present: Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator

Members of the community attending via ZOOM: Scott Thornhill, DANC Engineer

Supervisor Frary opened the meeting at 7:02 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 April 20, 2022, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Andrew Fenton and adopted unanimously.

## Actions

None from the previous month of April

## Public Forum:

Larry Denesha

-As of Monday May 16<sup>th</sup>, there were 178 new cases of COVID which is showing a downward trend. There are currently 16 hospitalized, 8 due to COVID and 8 admitted for something else but was positive for COVID. SLC's rate of infection per population is at 5.8% and the state is now higher than us, at 7.1%. To date, there have been 191 COVID deaths. Our vaccination rate lags at 61.2% while the state is at 77.2%.

-ARPA Funding, SLC will be utilizing the 20.9 million received as follows: 5 million for emergency communication equipment, 4 million for economic development and tourism, 2 million for broadband, 3 million for utilities, 5 million for county capital projects, 100,000 for ash tree removal and reforestation, 200,000 for childcare training, 200,000 for EMT training, 287,000 for CLD training, 300,000 for Clifton-Fine Hospital, and 300,000 to be administered through the County's IDA.

-There are 190 bridges in SLC and 55 of them are listed as deficient due to age and/or condition. As these are either rebuilt or refurbished, any open decking will be replaced with solid decking. While it is more costly, the life span can almost double if it is a solid deck. The plan is to have one or two bridges to be addressed using state funds, while the county will complete three with their funds. From Bridge New York funds, there is \$1,780,000 to use and \$1,000,000 will be used from the county's fund balance. The county has 574 miles of road throughout the county that it must maintain. Designated paving for this summer is County Route 14, beginning at SH 812 and ending at Front Street in Rensselaer Falls.

-The county is sponsoring two Hazardous waste disposal days this year. The first is May 21, 2022, from 9am to 1pm and the second will be September 17, 2022, from 9am to 1pm as well, at the Human Services Building located at 80 NY-310 in Canton.

-According to the NYS Association of Counties, inflation is the highest it has been in forty years.

-Beginning in September, AIMS money will be disbursed through State Funds once again.

-Out of the sales tax revenue, the county had \$300,000 removed and it was to go to distressed healthcare facilities; however, the monies were diverted to other areas by the state.

-After examining the overall result if the county was to forgo its portion of the sales tax for motor fuels, it was determined the positive effect would be minimal for fuel cost. However, the overall loss of sales tax money for the county could be detrimental. Therefore, there will be no sales tax cuts for motor fuel.

-Attended a presentation recently addressing the possibility of developing a Biosolids Drying System to handle the sludge from municipal wastewater treatment plants. Currently such sludge goes into a landfill. If such a system could be developed, the overall cost for disposing of the

waste has the potential to be a savings, as well as it not taking valuable space in landfills. The Legislators are looking into hiring DANC to complete a feasibility study for such a system.

**DANC: Scott Thornhill**

-The project design for the proposed project at the wastewater plant has been submitted to the DEC for review.

-To date, 3.5 million has been awarded in grants for the project.

-Briefly detailed the proposed SCADA Services Agreement for Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project between the town and DANC. If interested, would like to have a vote regarding the agreement at the regular board meeting in June.

**Assessor Report: Suzanne Arquette**

-There has been a 10.71% decline in the State Equalization Rate for the town since last year. The rate has moved from 93% down to 84%. This will have an impact on the town. A re-evaluation needs to be completed. However, due to the unusually high property sales which have occurred over the past two years, it is wise to hold off for a year or so, to see if sales stabilize. It will take at least this amount of time to inspect properties, update pictures for such and review issued building permits before a re-evaluation occurs.

**Financials:**

There were no audits completed at this time.

**Clerk Report: Barbara A Creazzo**

-A total of \$240.82 was collected by the clerk and the breakdown of such is as follows: DEC - \$70.86, town \$5.52, Ag & Markets - \$45, town \$130.50, NYDOH - \$22.50, town \$17.50, the town also received the following, \$10 for Certified Marriage license, \$30 for Certified Death Certificates, \$22.30 for copies made, and \$25 for a junk permit issued.

-Deputy Clerk, Wanda Law, worked a total of 49 hours for the month of April.

-For the Water and Sewer District, \$1,364.64 was collected for water and \$2,088.25 was collected for sewer.

-Collection of taxes continues with 86.06% of the warrant collected.

-Have received notification that Joseph Peters and Gary Eggleston have completed their Board of Assessment Review training.

-Home Rule for the speed reduction on US Highway 11 near the school, has been successfully submitted to the NYS Assembly and Senate.

Supervisor Frary distributed this month's budget report for review.

**Highway Department Report: Wayne Holland (04/20/22-05/18/22)**

-Grading dirt roads. Hard downpours are making it difficult to keep them in good condition.

-Have begun hauling stone.

-Made 1000 tons of mulch for shoulders.

-Fixing washouts as they occur.

-Cold patching as needed.

-Have swept streets in town and Richville.

-Fixed the **Welcome to De Kalb** sign by the Family Dollar.

-Trash days were 05/05 and 05/07 – one load was collected. May cut back to one day next year instead of the two that have been occurring.

-Have received paperwork stating the department will be receiving \$391,230.91 from Pave New York, CHIPS, and AIMS. Hoping to complete three miles of paving this summer sometime in August. The amount paved will be contingent upon the cost of materials at the time of work.

-The excavator is still in for repairs, it has now been determined there are filings in the gear box.

-Have sent out request for three quotes for a new excavator.

-There has been no word on the new truck being delivered to Viking.

-Truck #7 remains at Stadium for repair.

-Crew will be attending Safety Training at the Rensselaer Falls Fire Station. This training is being provided by St. Lawrence County.

-Safety Inspection of the garage is scheduled for the first week of June.

**Building and Codes:**

-Having been dealing with issues but are now resolved.

-Work has begun on the solar projects.

-Corning continues moving forward with their most recent expansion.

**DANC:**

-A total of 796,700 gallons of water were metered in the month of April, with an average daily flow of 26,557 gallons. A total of 5 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and/or maintenance were completed as scheduled. The full report contains graphs of all data collected. One random distribution sample was taken and sent to Converse Laboratories with a satisfactory result.

-A total of 2,214,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of April, with an average daily flow of 73,800. Such high numbers indicate there is a great deal of surface water leaching into the system and/or by homeowners who continue to have sump-pumps emptying into the system. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and/or maintenance were completed as scheduled. The full report contains graphs of all data collected. There were no SPDES permit violations. The RBC continue to run in reverse one hour per day.

Supervisor Frary has received a signed agreement from Joseph W. Russell, P.C. Attorney at Law regarding the contract for the bonding of the proposed updates/improvements to the wastewater treatment plant.

**Dog Control:**

-Received notice from the State that Mr. Moyer's recent inspection for his kennel and paperwork were both satisfactory.

**Communications:**

-A letter has been sent to the Assembly and Senate opposing the proposed excise tax on ammunition. Have received acknowledgement of the letter from Assembly Blanckenbush.

-The town has received notice that the testing for contaminated soil at the site of the Churchill estate will be conducted for potential remediation.

-Continue to gather information regarding necessary data for MSDS documentation.

-New streetlights are being installed in Stockholm and De Kalb should be receiving theirs next.

-Have received an email from Dylan Klock, who resides on Caroline Street, regarding the water that runs through his property. Supervisor Frary and Superintendent Holland will discuss his concerns.

-Notice of Public Hearing on Considerations for use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds received under COVID-19. This hearing will be held on June 15, 2022, beginning at 6:45 PM at the De Kalb Town Hall, located at 2907 County Route 17, De Kalb Jct., NY 13630.

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 #5-2022. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by  
Barbara A. Creazzo  
Town Clerk

Actions

1. Obtain three quotes for a new excavator. **Completed.**
2. Continue to gather information for MSDS. On-going
3. Follow up with Dylan Klock regarding water through yard. On-going
4. Advertise for Public Hearing which will be held 06/15/22. **Completed.**