

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 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
Andrew Fenton	Council Member	Barbara Creazzo	Town Clerk
Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent	Bill Chambers	Building & Codes
Charles B Nash	Town Attorney		

Members of the community present: Jordan Deleel, Supervisor Elect, Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator, Ginger Thomas, and Kelly Davis, Clerk Elect

Members of the community attended via ZOOM: No one was in attendance.

Supervisor Frary opened the Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget for 2024 at 6:45 PM. This meeting was adjourned from November 9, 2023, until tonight. Notice of such was published in the Watertown Daily Times, along with the salaries of elected officials.

A brief discussion occurred regarding a couple of budget lines to ensure board members were confident in the amounts listed. There were no further questions or concerns from either the board or public in attendance. This portion of the night's meeting was closed at 7:11 PM. Due to technical difficulties, recording did not commence until this time.

Supervisor Frary opened the regular meeting at 7:15 PM

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Frary, followed by a moment of silent prayer and/or reflection.

Andrew Fenton moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting, of the Town Board, held on October 18, 2023, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Ed Newcombe and adopted unanimously.

## Actions

1. Supervisor Frary will have a meeting with Mr. Jeffery Matott to discuss the issues with Mr. Matott's well. **Completed.**

## Public Forum:

Larry Denesha

-2024 County Budget is being reviewed this month as presented to the full body of legislators.

There are no anticipated changes, as the budget is 5.9% less in property tax from last year. A Public Hearing will be held on December 4, 2023, for the budget to be presented to the public.

-The County was able to pave an extra 10 miles of road this summer, making it one of the most paved years ever.

-The DSS building, which opened in 1973, will have some extensive renovations completed over the next year or so. Approximately \$500,000 will be spent on the project.

-The Legislative body commended the local fire departments at a recent meeting, thanking them for all that they do for their communities. They had special thanks to those who recently assisted the City of Watertown, when the city was going through its recent water crisis. Several departments in the area supplied tanker trucks and manpower, in case the city was to experience a fire.

-The Lazy River bridge will be replaced beginning in the spring. The contract for the construction was awarded to Ticonderoga Construction. The cost of the project is \$3,927,432.

-Bids for the renovation work to be completed for the Emergency Services Building will be opened on November 28, 2023.

-Sales tax for the past quarter is down slightly.

**Financials:**

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

Supervisor Frary distributed the monthly Year to Date Financial Report. Overall, the budget remains on target. A few minor adjustments may need to be made at the end of the year.

Supervisor Frary asked for a motion to accept the 2024 Budget as presented. Andrew Fenton made the motion to accept the 2024 Budget as presented. This motion was seconded by Constance Elen. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: Ed Newcome – yes, Constance Elen – yes, Andrew Fenton – yes, John Frary – yes.

**Town Clerk Report: Barbara Creazzo**

A total of \$1432.30 was collected for the month of October and the town retained \$793.39 for its coffers. The breakdown is as follows: DEC \$575.41, town \$33.59, Ag & Markets \$41, town \$128, NYDOH \$22.50, town \$17.50, the town also received \$491.20 for building permits, \$20 for Certified Birth Certificates, \$90 for Certified Death Certificates, \$4.10 for copies made and \$9 for faxes sent.

Deputy Clerk, Wanda Law, worked a total of 11 hours for the month of October.

Water and Sewer Collections - \$5,614.96 was collected for water and \$6,120.29 for sewer. There was one collection in November that netted \$77.70 for water and \$120.79 for sewer.

Re-levy for water and sewer has been completed with a total of \$40,162.42 in outstanding bills. There are 58 unpaid water bills and 51 unpaid sewer bills. Water re-levy is \$17,198.70 and sewer re-levy is \$22,963.72. This information will be sent to the County to be placed on delinquent property owner's 2024 Town and County Taxes.

**Water/Sewer Report:**

DANC – water, a total of 762,300 gallons of water were metered in the month of October, with an average daily flow of 24,590 gallons. A total of 6 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. The full report includes daily flow charts. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and or maintenance were conducted as scheduled. One random distribution sample for bacteriological testing was conducted with a satisfactory result.

Sewer – a total of 1,047,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of October, with an average daily flow of 33,774 gallons. There were no SPDES permit violations for the month. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and or maintenance were conducted as scheduled. There was one call-out to the plant due to a power outage. RBCs continue to be run backwards for one hour each day.

Still have not received the okay for the sewer plant upgrade to be released for bids.

The hamlet of Hermon has started their water project of replacing the waterlines. De Kalb will not be responsible for any payments until the work involves the lines to and from the water source.

Supervisor Frary stressed the need for the board to continue to move forward with replacing the water meters within the water distribution system for the hamlet. In doing so, the best option is to go with radio read. New billing software will also need to be installed.

**Highway Report: Wayne Holland (10/18 – 11/15/23)**

-Servicing trucks as needed.

-Harnessing trucks for plowing.

-Attended Career Day at Hermon-De Kalb Central School on 11/08/23. Took the new truck for the students to see.

-Installed 160 feet of culvert pipe.

-The generator has been installed, is working well.

-The sand pile has been completed for the winter.

**Code Enforcement Report: William Chambers**

-Three permits have been issued since the last meeting. The total project cost for the three is \$4,782. and the fee amount to be collected is \$113. To date, 49 permits have been issued with a project cost of \$1,259,482, and fee amount of \$7,363.15. The permits issued are for 1 – re-roofing, 1 – accessory structure, and 1 – addition.

-The solar project off Cousintown Road has been connected to National Grid. However, It is not known if it is producing electricity, or if it is just connected. The project just before Richville is not connected to the grid yet.

**Communication:**

-Still waiting for Standard Workday Calendars.

-Pavilion, work is being done.

-Veronica Lamb, teacher at Hermon-De Kalb Central School, is working on the banner project and will let us know what she needs from the town.

-Do not have an update currently for the 250 Year Anniversary plans.

-Andrew Fenton and John Frary, will be meeting with Jeffery Matott on 11/16/2023 to further discuss his well water concerns.

-Christmas decorations – have received word from National Grid that they will no longer allow outlets to be placed on the power poles. We can continue to use the ones that have already been installed. However, there are five new decorations to be displayed. Char Allen purchased a snowflake in memory of her parents, this one will be placed in front of her home, as there is an outlet on the pole. John Frary purchased an angel, he will contact the Methodist Church to see if they will be able to accommodate the ornament and supply the electricity. Other places suggested have been the Town Hall, Town Barn, or each of the fire departments.

-Constance Elen distributed a flyer inviting newly elected persons to attend a half day of training in Plattsburg, on November 20, 2023.

-If there are any known properties within the water district that are vacant, owners will be notified to ensure water has been shut off for the winter. The only one known currently might be located at 36 Caroline Street. The owner will be notified via mail as there is no telephone number listed.

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 #11-2023. Vote Michael Livingston, yes, Ed Newcombe, yes, Constance Elen, yes, and John Frary, yes.

A motion was made by John Frary and seconded by Michael Livingston to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A Creazzo  
Town Clerk

Actions

1. John Frary and Andrew Fenton to meet with Jeffery Matott regarding his well. **Completed 11/16/23.**
2. Decide placement for 3 of the new Christmas Decorations. **Completed.**