

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 April 2024, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

Jordan Deleel	Supervisor	Michael Livingston	Council Member
Constance Elen	Council Member	Ed Newcombe	Council Member
Andrew Fenton	Council Member	Kelly Davis	Town Clerk
Bill Chambers	Building & Codes	Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent

Members of the community present: Larry Denesha: SLC Legislator, Ginger Thomas, Alex Yager: Moss Ridge, Jerry Leone: Moss Ridge.

Supervisor Deleel opened the regular meeting at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Deleel, 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 March 20, 2024, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Ed Newcombe and adopted unanimously.

Public Forum:

Moss Ridge, Jerry Leone & Alex Yager:

- An Open House was held last month at the Richville Firehall. There was a poster session set up showing the different stages of the project.
- Filing has been done with the people in the immediate area. Around 21 people showed up with lots of questions and very little resistance. Packets were passed out.
- It will be at least a year before getting permits approved and ground breaking.
- Contract with the owner is 25-49 years, the panels should be reconditioned at the end of their lifespan. They will be monitored, and the efficiency of the panels is tracked. The output of kilowatts decreases as the efficiency of the panels decreases.
- Q. How will the new assessment of the solar project be done? And does the town have anything in place to do this?
- A. The 200 acres will be taken out of Ag status then classified as commercial property. Once this is done, it will be assessed accordingly as commercial property.

Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator

- There was an Open House at the Potsdam highway building.
- The drug task force talked with the Sheriff about drugs in St. Lawrence County.

Facts: Since 2020 through March 2024 there have been 661 felony arrests, \$2,282,700 of drugs seized. These include Cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, and meth. 119 handguns have been seized. There have been 422 OD's with 47 deaths.

January 1, 2024 through March 18, 2024 there have been 57 felony arrests, 33 misdemeanors, \$4600 of drugs seized, with 22 OD's reported and 3 deaths.

- St. Lawrence County Sheriff's office is the only agency on the task force with 2 officers to cover the whole county.
- The Lazy River bridge is now closed from April 2, 2024 to November 1, 2024, barring no delays.
- The Richville town clerk, Shelly Prashaw, passed away unexpectedly.
- Sales tax revenue is down a bit. Last year was \$12,107,147 with \$11,765,563 this year.
- The Hermon town board is back in place, led by Cathy Race, former town mayor and appointed by the Governor Hochul. She also appointed Victoria Day. The appointees then added Howard Blandin and Frank Ashley to fill the empty board seats. Hermon is now back in business.
- There is anew gun resolution going around where they want to put a lot of restrictions on gun/shooting ranges. Founders of the bill are citing lead contamination in nearby

waterways, effects on the wildlife, looking at a 300'-600' buffer zone between the range and the waterway.

CPA Firm Update:

- Angela Gray has not reached back out to Supervisor Deleel as of meeting time.
- With no other options at this time, we will have to continue on a month-to-month basis with Hoffman & Eels. It won't be feasible to switch mid budget season.

Home Rule Resolution 2024-5 & 2024-6

- Discussion on enacting home rule to facilitate placing a reduced speed limit on Route 11 in the school area. This needs to be brought to both the Senate & the Assembly.

Motion made by Andrew Fenton, seconded by Michael Livingston, to pass resolutions 2024-5 & 2024-6 to Senate and the Assembly to get a reduced speed zone at the school on Route 11. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Supervisor Deleel:

Financials:

Michael Livingston made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the Clerk's general and tax accounts, seconded by Constance Elen. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Ed Newcombe made the motion to accept the Town Justice Report, seconded by Andrew Fenton. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Clerk Report: Kelly Davis

-A total of \$335.80 was collected for the month of March with the town retaining \$241.30.

-Property tax collection is at 82.52% as of 4/17/2024.

The monthly financials were signed off on by the council after reviewing the documented expenses. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen no, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

ARPA Funds: have not had a good accounting of the balance available before committing the remaining balance to other items. There is \$3.34 left in the account, but the generator and pavilion have gone over the total funds made available from the beginning.

Sewer Update: is out for bid. It was only advertised in the paper for one day to prohibited cost to extend its run longer. This does meet the requirements for advertising. 5 days cost \$3700, one day was \$500. It will be in the Watertown Times on April 16th.

Water Update: We did not receive the grant applied for.

- Supervisor Deleel has a meeting scheduled with Peggy Mousaw to discuss the grants available for water upgrades as there are many options. She writes grants and is currently under contract with the town.
- We need to get the meters upgraded asap.
- The Hermon water project is on hold.
- There is a mandatory state survey for lead line testing that must be completed. C2AE installed all the meters so they have the paperwork to support no lead was used in the installation. Supervisor Deleel spoke with them, and they can handle filing the report at a cost of no more than \$10,000.

Motion made by Andrew Fenton, seconded by Jordan Deleel, to use C2AE to file the state mandated lead line survey at a cost of no more than \$10,000. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

- Route 11 project main line.

Highway Report: Wayne Holland reports

- Skid steer broke. It seems to be the pump. It has been taken for repair.
- Hope to have bids for the new pick up to bring to the next meeting for approval.

Manhole Cover Report: Supervisor Deleel had to order two manhole covers for behind the railroad tracks. They had been vandalized.

- March water report is included in board members' packets.

Dog Control: Dan Moyer reports

- He had to pick up one dog that was wandering in town. His face was full of quills, and he had to be taken to the vet.

Code Enforcement: Bill Chambers reports

- The new CloudPermit program is in the process of being purchased.
- There are 12 permits not in the system yet, awaiting the installation of the new program.
- 5 Order of Remedy have been filed, all with a 30 day notice to fix various issues. A copy of the local law was mailed with the order to the land owner as they are the ultimately responsible party. Two parcels are not to be occupied, one will be condemned, and sheriffs will assist in tenant removal if necessary, one excessive junk removal, one excessive household trash left piled outside of residence in which rats have moved into. If we must take further action, it will require that the court is involved, at which time we would need Mr. Nash to represent the town.

Motion made by Andrew Fenton, seconded by Michael Livingston, to give Mr. Chambers, at his discretion, to contact Mr. Nash to proceed further in the legal process if necessary. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

- Corning is starting another project towards fall.
- E & V Energy is constructing a building and installing tanks this year.
- Dollar General is being built this year.
- The empty lot across from school on the corner of the Orebed road is going to be a storage facility.

Assessor Report: Susanne Arquette None

Historian Report: Bryan Thompson submitted the annual report for 2023, filed on 2/8/2024.

Motion made by Constance Elen, seconded by Andrew Fenton, to accept and approve the annual report. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Communications:

Pavilion: There is a 6" ledge that the conduit cannot go through, so we need a rock buster.

Supervisor Deleel complained to the contractor about the missed deadlines and the numerous items left unfinished and the amount of work that the highway guys have put into the electrical issue, the town received a \$2640 credit from the contractor. National Grid will be installing a pole.

- Mr. Denesha pointed out how bad the basketball courts blacktop is. It is supposed to be turned into a pickle ball court. Would the town be able to reseal the blacktop? Supervisor Deleel will check the contract to see what is included and get quotes if the blacktop repair isn't part of the contract.

Jeff Matott's well Update:

- Greenhill is the only well driller to return our phone calls.
- The quote for a new well, up to 275' drilling, \$15,965.

Options: 1. Give Mr. Matott the money after the drilling is done hoping that the new well doesn't have to go 275" and we would save some money, or it goes further down and costs more money. 2. Give Mr. Matott a check for the quote & be done with the matter. If fracking needs to be done, \$2500 more.

Motion made by Andrew Fenton, seconded by Michael Livingston, to pay Mr. Matott \$15,965 directly. Mr. Matott is then responsible for any costs over and above this quoted amount and he

must sign off on statement that Mr. Nash prepares to release the Town from any further legal claims regarding this well. This general release will also state that the town does not guarantee the water quality. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Youth Insurance:

Motion by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to renew with K & K as the insurance company for the youth program and accept the quote they gave. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Cemetery Flags:

Motion made by Michael Livingston, seconded by Ed Newcombe, to purchase flags for the local cemeteries at the cost of \$1196. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Veterans' Banners: The banners are on order.

250 Year Celebration: Darcy Waugh is still waiting for more information from the county.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion made by Ed Newcombe and seconded by Andrew Fenton to approve the payment of the bills as entered in abstract #4-2024. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen no, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

A motion was made by Constance Elen, seconded by Andrew Fenton, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kelly Davis, Town Clerk