

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 20th day of June, 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
Kelly Davis	Town Clerk	Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent

Absent: Andrew Fenton, William Chambers

Members of the community present: Larry Denesha: SLC Legislator, Chris Stransky.

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.

Ed Newcombe moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board, held on May 15th, 2024, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston and adopted unanimously.

Ed Newcombe moved that the minutes of the Special CPA Meeting of the Town Board, held on May 30th, 2024, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston and adopted unanimously

Public Forum:

Bigelow Solar Project:

- A picture was sent to the town of what the site will look like upon completion.

Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator

- Solar Panels: How many in SLC are actually up and running? 25 of the 40 built are online.
- A public hearing held on June 3 addressed local law C 2024 where the SLC is imposing a surcharge on all wireless lines. The state has been charging a ninety-cent fee which was to be shared with the county, but the state has not shared it. There are currently only two counties that are not charging this fee. SLC proposed adding a thirty-cent fee per month per line to help defray costs associated with EMS services. 77% of all 911 calls come from a cell phone. The resolution passed 11 to 4. There are over 100,000 cell phones in SLC. The costs of the EMS/911 services are evenly spread across all cell phone users this way regardless of income levels.

- Passed a resolution to proclaim June as dairy month. Dairy/farming is the largest industry in SLC. In 2023 there are 176 Dairy farms in the county. 10-15 years ago, there were 1000. Most of the small family farms have been bought out/replaced by bigger operations.
- Resolution passed to modify the budget for bridge repair because the state sent \$590,000 less in funding than they promised. The County took this amount from the fund balance to continue with needed repairs.
- Budget work has already begun.

Supervisor Deleel:

- The basketball court at the playground has been repaired, resealed, and striped. It looks great.
- Insurance for the summer PeeWee program. The town needs to get additional insurance to cover the program through the summer. Any children in Pre-K through grade 6 that were in the t-ball, softball, baseball programs are already covered for the summer. There were 98 participants. The grant Chris Stransky applied for to allow summer soccer to occur was approved. There are 53 children already signed up to participate. The town would need to amend the current insurance policy to cover children aged 12 years and up. The program will run July-August. Locations would remain the same as already listed on the policy. The insurance cost is figured by the number of children. Last year we spent \$600 so adding the soccer kids shouldn't raise the cost by any more than another \$600 as the under 12 kids are already covered. We have funds in the summer rec program to cover this extra cost. Gouverneur is not having summer soccer this year. The expense would come out of account 7310.4 Youth Program Contractual.

Motion made by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to cover the extra insurance needed to run a summer soccer program to include U15 baseball and U15-18 softball up to \$1000, which covers the full year. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes

Financials:

Constance Elen made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the Clerk's account, seconded by Michael Livingston. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Justice Report: Constance Elen made the motion, seconded by Michael Livingston, to accept the justice report for April & May 2024. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes

Clerk Report: Kelly Davis

- A total of \$586.40 was collected for the month of May with the town retaining \$428.84.
- Property tax collection is at 89.83% as of 6/20/2024.

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

The CPA is switching to a new software program but was able to provide a month by month breakdown for the financial report this month as requested.

Motion made by Ed Newcombe, seconded by Michael Livingston, to accept the monthly financials and sign off on them after the council reviewed the documented expenses. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

DANC Contracts

Amendments #1 & #4 passed out for review.

Amendment #1 & #4 will be billable through the sewer project. DANC can do the work cheaper instead of bid notices. Discussion.

Motion made by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to accept Amendment #1. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes

Motion made by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to accept Amendment #4. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

DANC Day to Day Operations.

There are 4 options for payment plans. This is for the daily water & sewer maintenance costs, current Scott from DANC. We've had the same contract since 2019. Fees did increase this year. Discussion.

Motion by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to go with option #3 which will cover the next 5 years of service. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Sewer bidding contracts awarded.

Contract #1 General. Awarded to C.O. Falter Construction Co. at \$4,283,101

Contract #2 Electrical. Awarded to Tel Inc. at \$461,500

Contract #3 Heating, Ventilation & Plumbing. Awarded to D.C. Building Systems Inc. at \$49,900

Motion made by Micheal Livingston, seconded by Ed Newcombe, to accept C.O. Falter Construction Co. at \$4,283,101 for Contract #1, General. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Motion made by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to accept Tel Inc. at \$461,500 for Contract #2, Electrical. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Motion made by Ed Newcombe, seconded by Jordan Deleel, to accept D.C. Building Systems Inc. at \$49,900 for Contract #3, Heating, Ventilation & Plumbing. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Highway Report: Wayne Holland reports

General work being done includes:

- Mowing roadsides
- Mowing, weed whacking signs, posts, guardrails and properties
- Ditching
- Cutting shoulders
- Prepping for black topping
- Breaking rock on Colton & Jenkins Roads
- New pick up has been ordered
- Clothing allowance on hold till next month, waiting on union rep.

The Town Barn needs help. One regular employee is still off on medical. Not sure of return date. Wayne would like to hire a part time summer help person. Recent BOCES intern is interested. It would be \$17/hour for the months of July-August. The board in full support of getting the help needed.

Dog Control: Dan Moyer - No report

Code Enforcement: Bill Chambers reports

- The new CloudPermit program should be ready and active for July 1, 2024.

Assessor Report: Susanne Arquette -No report

Historian Report: Bryan Thompson No report

- Apparently, the town hasn't paid them the 2024 budget amount yet, so the check will be cut shortly.

Communications:

Pavilion: National Grid will come and set the pole.

AFR: is complete.

"A" has a large fund balance. The state is looking at all account balances and anything over 6% of unreserved/unallocated money the state is looking to take these funds from the towns. Due to the amount in this fund, Supervisor Deleel is recommending that we take \$35,000 from these unallocated funds to cover the overage costs on the pavilion.

Streetlights borrowed funds from "A" a couple years ago. This loan never really needed to happen as streetlights come from General "A" anyway. So, the town could forgive the loan.

If we spend down the balance with the pavilion and streetlights loan, it would bring the balance in the account down to where the state couldn't touch the remaining money. Accountant, Nick Eells is looking into the details more but the town definitely needs to earmark the funds.

In March 2023 a deposit of \$27,000 from NBT Bank was made. It was a closed CD. Does anyone know what it was from or for? No.

Propane Comparison:

- Currently the town has two different propane companies with different prices per gallon. Farrell Gas at \$2.19/gallon and AmeriGas at \$1.42-1.63 per gallon.
- Superior Propane has a variable rate or a fixed rate. Variable fluctuates with the marked, fixed stays fixed for one year. Representative Tom Tyron gave us a quote of \$1.40 per gallon for the next year. Discussion

Motion made by Ed Newcombe, seconded by Michael Livingston, to switch all gas usage to Superior Propane at \$1.40 per gallon for the next year. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel abstained, Andrew Fenton Absent.

Town Credit Card: The card has a lot of points on it to be used. We need to consider options to use them up and not lose them.

250 Year Celebration: No report

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion made by Ed Newcombe and seconded by Michael Livingston to approve the payment of the bills as entered in abstract #6-2024. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kelly Davis, Town Clerk