

# 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 July, 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(Via Zoom)	Town Clerk
William Chambers	Code Enforcement		

Absent: Wayne Holland

Members of the community present: Larry Denesha: SLC Legislator

Supervisor Deleel opened the regular meeting at 7:02 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 June 20th, 2024, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Andrew Fenton and adopted unanimously.

## Public Forum:

### Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator

- SLC Senior Picnic is being held on August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Gouverneur Community Center. Registration begins at 8:45 am with Bingo, lunch and music planned. Elected officials will be there to serve lunch.
- July 22, 2024 is the Senior Rama at Akwesasne Bingo Palace. Targeted to older adults and caregivers of. There will be many tables with health information and resources available.
- Resolution passed for the sheriff's office to purchase a full body scanner for the correctional facility to use during processing of inmates. Provides an extra layer of security.
- Resolution passed to modify the cost of prescription coverage for inmates at the correction facilities. Total amount needed depends on the inmate population and their specific needs.
- 2025 budget reviews have begun. Individual committees will present their findings to the financial committee on September 30, 2024 with a tentative public hearing on November 4, 2024.
- NY state awarded \$1.484 million to repair/replacement of the Limekiln Road Bridge.
- Mr. Denesha reminded the town board that there should only be a 15% unappropriated fund balance. The state is looking at these balances and asking why are towns with large fund balances being given sales tax money if they have unappropriated funds hanging out. The state is not obligated to give towns any sales tax money. Mr. Denesha urges the town to appropriate the funds asap.

### Supervisor Deleel:

- **Pavilion Update:**  
The poles have will be set by July 16, 2024, with power the following week. This will complete the pavilion. There are already cracks in the concrete. Wayne Holland will be digging a trench needed and bringing in stone for the driveway/parking area.
- Drainage in town is filling with weeds & vegetation causing backups. Duck Brown gave a quote of \$7200 for clearing Josephine Street to Second Street of vegetation and standing water. \$9600 for clearing from Arnold's to the Railroad tracks. \$15,000 for both. Constance Elen asked if this work had been put out for bid. Supervisor Deleel reminded the board that Mr. Brown knows the town's system as he was involved with

the installation. Mr. Brown cleaned it out 20 years ago and has proven he won't rip and tear up the landscape or system in place. Scott Fenlong cleaned a part of the ditches a few years ago.

A hearing on the ditch cleaning needs to be held. It will take place on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm, right before the regular board meeting.

Andrew Fenton stated that if this is the town's responsibility then the land owners shouldn't be doing any "maintenance" themselves as they may impede the flow in the drainage system and cause blockages. Michael Livingston asked if there had been flooding in town. William Chambers suggested that Supervisor Deleel should explain to residents that it is the town's responsibility.

- There is a meeting next week on the Route 11 speed limit reduction by school corridor. Mr. Denesha stated that he hadn't heard about the meeting being scheduled but that the traffic study had been completed.

### **Financials:**

**Town Clerk Audit:** Unable to perform audit as bank statements did not arrive in time. June & July will be performed next month.

**Justice Report:** Andrew Fenton made the motion, seconded by Michael Livingston, to accept the justice report for June 2024. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes

### **Clerk Report:** Kelly Davis

-A total of \$531.70 was collected for the month of June with the town retaining \$219.10.

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