

# 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 21st day of August 2024, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

Jordan Deleel (Via Zoom)	Supervisor	Michael Livingston	Council Member
Constance Elen	Council Member	Ed Newcombe	Council Member
Andrew Fenton	Council Member	Kelly Davis	Town Clerk
Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent	Charles B Nash	Town Attorney

Absent: William Chambers: Code Enforcement

Members of the community present: Larry Denesha: SLC Legislator, Dan Moyer: Dog Control

Deputy Supervisor Fenton opened the regular meeting at 7:05 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Supervisor Fenton, 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 July 17th, 2024, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston and adopted unanimously.

## Public Forum:

### Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator

- The entire county was impacted by recent flooding in the aftermath of hurricane Debby. Undamaged towns jumped and responded to calls for help in town receiving storm damage. Living in Northern NY, everyone looks out for each other and pulls together in times of crisis.
- Governor Hochul was in Canton to assess the storm damage. She presented a Hotline number for people to call with damages from Debby if they have no insurance. There are up to \$50,000 grants available that can be applied for. Individuals need to start with their insurance company first, get a denial, then can apply for a grant.
- FEMA funds may be available depending on the total cost of damages collectively. All expenses need to be documented. It could take 2-3 years to be reimbursed.
- Passed resolution to accept workman's comp. Town of DeKalb's cost for 2025 will be \$450.
- Passed resolution to clean up blighted properties. The program has cleaned up over 100 properties and put them back on the tax rolls. Jada Environmental Services has been contracted to take down property in Rensselaer Falls, a brick building that had a fire destroy it.
- There is a new director of Public Health, Erin Strife.

- There is legislation on the Governor's desk, Bill 2882, that asks to require a sign be posted at the front entrance of a building for anyone selling guns, stating that buying a gun can lead to depression. Buyers of guns would also receive a paper statement at the time of purchase. Fines would be \$1000 per offense. The County legislature is urging all state representatives to veto this bill.
- There has been a severe shortage of daycare providers. ARPA provided \$200,000 in funds for training. In July of 2022 there were only 44 licensed daycare providers in the county. In July 2024, there are now 87.
- CHIPS money is only given out a couple times a year. They are going to ask that it be given out monthly to help with much needed road repairs, especially since so much damage was sustained with Debby.

**Dan Moyer: Dog control Officer**

- Things have been quiet with one small cattle dog at the shelter. He is chasing a lab mix but it's being elusive.
- The shelters' electric is going in with lighting and a hot water heater. The HAVAC system is on order. The kennels need to be upgraded, and sound proofing put in but that must wait until the HAVAC is installed. Mr. Mayer feels that the requirements will be met by the deadline. He did obtain a microenterprise loan through Gouverneur at zero percent interest to help with the upgrades necessary.

**Supervisor Deleel:**

- **Pavilion Update:**

The pavilion is complete. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, there will be a community event, "Construction In The Junction", from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. There will be free entertainment, a bounce house for the kids, food from local establishments, and business expo for any businesses in the town of De Kalb where they can set up a table to promote themselves. A band will then perform at the DeKalb Hotel from 6-9 pm.

- We need to get new keys cut for the pavilion as none of the ones on hand work.
- Looking into getting a security system. Priced from \$200-500 for DVR related cameras, up to a four-camera system. The recording equipment will be locked in the utility room. We need to monitor the area to prevent damage.

Motion made by Michael Livingston, seconded by Constance Elen, to spend up to \$500 on a camera system to be installed at the pavilion. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

- **Ditch Clean Out:**

Supervisor Deleel got a quote from Duck Brown of \$15,000 but wants to negotiate the price as he feels it's too expensive. This would cover the area from Josephine Street all the way to Route 11. We've had too much rain so it can't be done until October. An informational meeting will be held in September targeting the property owners along the route to explain what we are looking to do and reinforce that they can not hinder the general flow of the ditch. Best case scenario, most property owners will allow this to happen so that its financially viable for the town to proceed.

Motion made by Andrew Fenton, seconded by Michael Livingston, to clean out the ditch from Josephine Street to Route 11. Cost approval will follow once Supervisor Deleel talks to Mr. Brown. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

- **Rt 11 Speed Limit:**

Supervisor Deleel, along with school officials, met with DOT and all the studies run do not show a need for a reduced speed limit along Route 11 by school. The DOT recommended that a set of flashing lights be installed with 'SLOW DOWN' signs near the school intersection of the East De Kalb Road. The most expensive light and signs are \$15,000. Supervisor Deleel feels that the Towns of De Kalb and Hermon as well as school should split the cost equally. Is this something we can do?

- **Sewer:**

Construction should start in the next month. There are many maintenance guys roaming around. We will post updates on the town's website to keep people in the hamlet informed of their presence.

- **Water:**

Aqua Store is scheduled to check the water tower in October.

- Pricing the cost of a chlorinator system so that we have a spare one on hand.
- We still have no idea what the Hermon water project is going to cost the town.
- The lead survey is in progress. It is due October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. On track to complete.

## **Financials:**

**Town Clerk Audit:** Motion by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to accept the Town Clerk Audits for the Clerk, Water, Sewer, and Tax accounts covering the past two months. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

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

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

A total of \$797.00 was collected for the month of June with the town retaining \$240.78. A one-day officiant license was also retained by the town that was processed in July but credited for the April date it was issued. A programming issue did not allow it to be processed until now. It does not show in July sales. This makes total local shares \$265.78 for the month.

-The current water/sewer program will become obsolete as of December 31, 2024. They have a new program to transfer us into at no cost.

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, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

**Highway Report:** Wayne Holland reports

Due to storm damage, he will be paving less than planned. May need to use some CHIPS money to help with the cost of repairs. The new pick up is here and ready.

- Employee clothing allowance: The employees and the union representative have agreed to accept \$500 per year in a clothing allowance and discontinue Unifirst services. Mr. Holland has stopped the Unifirst deliveries. Current employees are looking for \$250 for the remainder of the year. Mr. Nash said the town needs to see a signed amendment from everyone before the town pays out the allowance.

Motion by Andrew Fenton, seconded by Michael Livingston, to make a contract amendment with the highway employees to allow for a \$250 clothing allowance for the remainder of the 2024 calendar year with a \$500 allowance yearly for the remaining years of the current contract.

Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

- Need to hire a 6<sup>th</sup> person as one employee is still off on workman's comp with no return date and winter is coming. The highway department will not be able to plow effectively with the current number of employees. Mr. Holland would like to hire a part-time person that could work into a full-time position. This would allow the town to get through the winter. They would need a CDL class B and hopefully plowing experience.

Motion made by Andrew Fenton, seconded by Constance Elen, to advertise and hire a part time employee, which could go to full time, at current hourly rates. CDL class B required. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

General work being done includes:

- Paving for Gouverneur, Fowler, Hermon
- Mowing roadsides & properties
- Cold Patching
- Weed whacking guardrails & sign posts
- Fixing road damage from flooding (8/9/2024)
- Installed 200 feet of culvert pipe
- Hauled approximately 100 loads of gravel & sand, mostly to the Orebed, River & Colton Roads. They were the most affected by the storm damage.

**Code Enforcement:** Bill Chambers reports via Supervisor Deleel

- Mr. Chambers has one more class to finish before he can start inputting the permits on hand.
- Dollar General will be up by November, and they will be hooking into water only. Doing their own leech field out back.
- E & V will be completed by November with two self-serve gas pumps available.

**Assessor Report:** Suzanne Arquette resigned as assessor due to medical issues. Interviews were held among four candidates with Supervisor Deleel recommending Lena Kanitz as Ms. Arquette's replacement. Ms. Kanitz lives in De Kalb, only needs one class to finish her assessor

requirements, is currently the appointed assessor for the town of Norfolk and works in the SLC Real Property Office as a data collector. The town may be able to continue with the re-eval depending on how far Ms. Arquette got in the process.

Motion made by Constance Elen, seconded by Andrew Fenton, to appoint Lena Kanitz, upon Supervisor Deleel's recommendation, for the vacant unexpired term ending in September 2025 at the same pay rate as her predecessor. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

**Historian Report:** Bryan Thompson No report

**Communications:**

**250 Year Celebration:** No report

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion made by Constance Elen and seconded by Andrew Fenton to approve the payment of the bills as entered in abstract #8-2024. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kelly Davis, Town Clerk