

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 16th day of October 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	Bill Chambers	Building & Codes
Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent	Charles B Nash	Attorney

Absent: Andrew Fenton

Members of the community present: Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator, Dale O'Donnell

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.

Public Forum:

Dale O'Donnell: Wants to know information on hunting on the town owned land on CR 17 that is commonly referred to as the old dump. Can hunting be done on it or not, by whom, what laws say you can't hunt on it, and what are the repercussions of hunting on it.

Supervisor Deleel responded that his research shows that some time before prior Supervisor Frary was elected, the town board had decided to restrict anyone from hunting on it as it was a small piece of land and too many people were using it for hunting posing a high safety risk.

Therefore due to the liability exposure to the town, they closed it to all hunting. According to the DEC, if someone is on the land at this point, it would be considered trespassing.

Mr. O'Donnell remarked that it's public land, his tax dollars paid for it so he should have access to it for hunting.

Attorney Nash commented that it isn't public land per se, that it is owned by the town and the town can put any restrictions it wants to on the use of the land.

Mr. O'Donnell asked for proof of the law backing the town's decision to restrict the land from hunters.

Town Board discussion: Mr. Nash informed the board that the land is owned by the town and is not public land. People are not allowed on that property due to liability concerns and suggested that the town post it. The road in the middle of the property has been abandoned by the town as far as maintenance is concerned and it has become a right of way to any landlocked parcel of land surrounding the town's property.

Resolution #7 proposed by Michael Livingston and seconded by Constance Elen, states that the town owned land on CR 17, commonly known as the old dump, shall be prominently posted as closed to the public with no trespassing allowed. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes, Andrew Fenton Absent. Resolution passed 4 Yes, 0 Nays.

Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator:

- Passed resolution to maintain the county highway department's entry level driver training course. This course allows the employee to train while working and get CDL certified. There is interest in the Towns and Villages piggybacking on this program. The county is looking into whether it would be possible for this to occur.
- Passed Resolution G which allows 12- & 13-year-olds to hunt with a crossbow with a licensed hunter.
- Passed a resolution to modify the highway departments budget due to storm "Debbie". The county reached the threshold required for FEMA but it could be 2-3 years before any reimbursements are seen.

- Emergency services building in Canton is on schedule and under budget. It should be completed by December with an open house once finished.
- ICE held a press conference in Canton with local Sherriffs and assembly people in attendance to highlight the issues with the Northern Border. The Swanton sector is just fields and grass. It has the highest number of encounters of any northern sector border at 22,000 this year. Washington state is the closest in size and they have had only 800 encounters this year.
- Passed resolution to adjust equalization rates for 2025 as people were not being fully assessed. De Kalb in 2024 was 78%, 2025 75%, Hermon in 2024 was 88%, 2025 85%, Russell in 2024 was 62%, 2025 75%

Michael Livingston moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board, held on September 19th, 2024, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be hereby approved. Seconded by Constance Elen and adopted unanimously.

Supervisor Deleel:

- **Ditch Clean Out:**
Supervisor Deleel says it may be pushed to the spring due to the weather conditions.
- **Rt 11 Speed Limit:**
DOT has replaced the person we were dealing with. Working with the school to get results from this new person.
- **DANC Report:**
The water tower inspection went well. The hatch on top was missing but only one leaf and one bee were found inside the tank. The water was ok. A new hatch is \$5000 and has been ordered...we have to have it; the inspection is \$2500.
- **Sewer:**
Construction trailer is on site. Some inside things will be done during the winter but the majority of the construction will begin in the spring.
- **Water:**
Lead survey has been completed and filed.
- **Hydrants:**
The hydrant across from Family Dollar was hit and run over. There was a loss of over 77,000 gallons of water. The person responsible has been located.
- **Hermon Water Project:**
The project will not be completed until next year. We still have no idea as to what the towns cost will be. Looking in the ballpark of \$10,000.
- **Election Law:** was overturned.

Financials:

Town Clerk Audit: Motion by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to accept the Town Clerk Audits for the Sewer and Water accounts covering the month of September. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Justice Report: Unable to perform audit due to time constraints. See Motion below.

Clerk Report: Kelly Davis reports:

- A total of \$2,426.60 was collected for the month of September with the town retaining \$276.68.
- A total of \$12,246.45 was paid in water/sewer bills for the month.

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.

Highway Report: Wayne Holland reports:

- Getting ready to harness the trucks.
- Finished third roadside mowing.
- About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sand has been hauled.
- Old barn was broken in to, door kicked in. We should put a couple of cameras in.
- Still need to hire someone full time.
- Would like to purchase a tow behind trailer, 20', 14,000 lbs. A bit bigger than what currently have and would be more useful. Looking at \$6800.

Motion made by Michael Livingston, seconded by Constance Elen, to purchase the 20' tow behind trailer. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Dog Control:

- There was an issue with horsed, goats and pigs in town that was resolved.

Code Enforcement: Bill Chambers reports:

- 20 permits have been issued from the new system with about 30 more to go. Mr. Chambers says the program isn't what he expected. It is difficult to use and does not recommend putting this version of the application online. Mr. Chambers will transfer the information from the old forms to the new himself. Town Clerk will collect the fees and give a receipt. In the new system, you have to mark the permit as paid in order to print the permit.
- E & V will have their building going up next week. It is a prefab metal building.

Assessor Report: None

Ms. Kanitz is getting settled in her new position.

Historian Report: Bryan Thompson reports:

- The scheduled garage sale was successful, and a new furnace has been installed at the meeting house.

Security cameras: Camera's have been purchased and need to be installed. Supervisor Deleel needs to crawl into the attic and check out the best place to install the wires.

Door Locks at Town Hall: The door locks have been changed and new keys issued to the necessary employees.

Phone system: Supervisor Deleel talked with TDS and TDS said they could remove several unnecessary lines. Doing so would reduce our current bill so that we may not need to change companies.

Town Signs: The signs on Route 11 need to be replaced. Supervisor Deleel suggested getting HD students involved in creating a design for the signs. He would like to see the signs put throughout the Town, not just in the Junction. This would require four signs. We could also recognize community achievements by placing extra emblems on the side of the posts to help integrate the school with the town.

IT Change: Supervisor Deleel had been in discussion with Advanced Business Systems and their fully managed IT people, Advanced Network Care, to see if they could help with our network issues. This is a business, with numerous employees, verses a sole individual. Advanced can conduct an audit to see what our needs are and make recommendations to correct any deficiencies they find. Discussion on flyer from Advance Network Care.

Motion made by Constance Elen, seconded by Ed Newcombe, to move forward with Advanced Network Care, have them complete their review and confirm the cost. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Preliminary Budget: Copies handed out and discussed.

Motion by Ed Newcombe, seconded by Jordan Deleel, to accept the Preliminary budget as presented and discussed. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

- Public meeting to adopt the 2025 budget is set for November 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm. Immediately following will be meeting to pass resolution to relevy any outstanding water and sewer bills.

Executive Session: RE: Employee hiring

Motion by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to go into executive session at 8:19 pm to discuss potential candidates. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Motion by Ed Newcombe, seconded by Michael Livingston, to leave executive session at 8:29 pm. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Motion by Michael Livingston, seconded by Constance Elen, to perform the Justice Audit next month due to time constraints. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

Communications:

- Association of Towns: Even Year Election Bill has been overturned.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Ed Newcombe and seconded by Constance Elen to approve the payment of the bills as entered in abstract #10-2024. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kelly Davis, Town Clerk