

# 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 18th day of December 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	Bill Chambers	Buildings & Codes
Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent	Kelly Davis	Town Clerk

Absent: Charles Nash

Members of the community present: Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator

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:

Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator:

- 2025 budget passed unanimously on December 2, 2024.
- Organizational meeting will be held on January 2, 2025.
- CSEA accepted their contract.
- Jody Wentzel will help get our Health & Safety Policy Manual up to date. We need to address this as soon as possible.
- Need to have an updated Code of Ethics. It should be published on the website. This explains the duties and responsibilities of elected and appointed positions.
- Active shooter drill performed in Canton at the court house. It went very well. All St Lawrence County schools have had drills performed to date.

Andrew Fenton moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board, held on November 20th, 2024, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be hereby approved. Seconded by Constance Elen and adopted unanimously.

## Supervisor Deleel:

- **Rt 11 Speed Limit:**  
Working to get a meeting with the new director. No word on the recent traffic survey.
- Saturday Santa will be riding fire truck around town.
- Wayne Holland does all the town plowing except at the parking lot where the gazebo is due to potential insurance issues.

- **Town Court:** Not a very large check from them this month as Shelia has not caught up on her paperwork yet. No monthly financial review was available again this month. Constance Elen has stated that she feels we need to do an end-of-year audit due to the missed monthly audits. Ms. Elen and Michael Livingston will perform an end-of-the-year audit.
- **Monthly Financials:**
- IT Expenses, Fire Hydrant-getting the money back from insurance company on replacement costs, water tower hatch has been replaced but not an anticipated expense. Over spent in water due to the hatch replacement and inspection but sewer is on track.
- **DANC Report:**
- **Sewer:**  
Furnace has been replaced and electricians have been in.
- **Water:**  
DOH performed their water inspection and the town passed. Lid was fixed and they asked that the back flow be tested which Scott did.
- **Hydrants:**  
The hydrant across from Family Dollar has been repaired and the insurance check is coming.  
Where is Dollar General tapping in to the line? It will be at the Family Dollar end. Need to replace from Dan's hydrant up 300 feet. Dollar General has the permit application. They just need to submit it.
- **Hermon Water Project:**  
The project will not be completed until next year. The water line is on hold.

### **Financials:**

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

**Justice Report:** Unable to perform audit as materials were not available. Court clerk has not caught up from being out of the office.

**Clerk Report:** Kelly Davis reports:

- A total of \$2850.60 was collected for the month of November with the town retaining \$2799.98.
- A total of \$444.35 was collected in water/sewer bills for the month.

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

**Highway Report:** Wayne Holland reports:

- Shut water off at a couple places in town.
- Paid \$74,000 as a down payment on the new truck. It is about a year out on delivery.
- Dallas Denny plowed on CR 17. A truck was parked on the side of the road and spray from the plow truck hit the truck's back window, breaking it. If plow is down, not our responsibility, insurance will not pay.
- Does the town have any policy on not parking on streets, especially during winter? There is an ongoing issue on Tanner Street with Larry Brown refusing to move a truck parked on town property at the end of Tanner. The plow truck can not turn around. Supervisor Deleel had been in contact with Mr. Brown and informed Mr. Brown that the truck needs to be removed, or it will be towed. Ms. Elen asked if the road could be marked as seasonal use only?
- Concern raised again with visibility at the four corners in town at the Rt 11 and CR 17 intersection by the gazebo. It is impossible to see in either direction if large trucks are parked at the corners. Discussion on moving the No Parking signs further back to improve visibility. Supervisor Deleel will send an email request to the county.

**Dog Control: None**

**Code Enforcement:** Bill Chambers reports:

- The new computer system is up and running completely.
- 10 permits are left to be issued from the new system. He needs to meet with the assessor to complete these permits as the information is not on the tax roll or county web site. (8 are Amish sub parcels) Mr. Chambers needs to talk to Lena Kanitz to figure it out.
- There are still a handful of permits not paid for.
- There are several camps along the river that are under construction.
- Code training has been moved to the end of March
- E & V Energy has all their permits, tanks have been installed but are not filled yet. Office building is almost completed. Two gas pumps will be installed where the trailer office currently is. Hoping to have open 24/7 by spring with both gas and diesel available. They have a very safe system in place with the tanks having 1" steel walls, triple tanks and alarms. Privacy fence will be installed.

**Assessor Report: None**

**Historian Report:** Bryan Thompson reports via Supervisor Deleel:

- The one road marker has arrived for the toll road designation on the Jeffers Road.

**IT Change:** We are encountering daily issues with the IT at the town hall. No one currently in place has any info on what we do or do not have. Advanced Business Systems has quoted an initial, one pay of \$7248 with a monthly invoice of \$550, to get us set up and operational. Faxes are currently set up to go to the Supervisors email. They do not print at the copier. ABS can change that for a one-time fee of \$139 and \$6.00/month.

**Motion** by Michael Livingston, seconded by Constance Elen, to upgrade fax delivery with Advanced Business Systems for the initial fee of \$139 and then \$6.00 per month. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

**EMS Contracts:** Supervisor Deleel has recused himself from discussion between choosing Canton Rescue or Hermon Rescue.

Discussion:

- Canton has paid EMS's 24/7, nights, and weekends. They are looking to add another 911 crew.
- Hermon asked us to try a 6-month trial now, but they couldn't give us any guarantee on availability. They want an all or nothing contract.
- Looking at a paid crew vs an all-volunteer crew. Do we take some from Hermon to give to Canton, hoping Hermon will get their act together? The town has given Hermon several years to give better response times but have shown no improvement. Hermon is closer than Canton, but Hermon is often not available, and Canton ends up covering the calls anyways.

Comments:

A. Fenton: How would Hermon feel if they were paying for something and not getting the service?

C. Elen: We have given Hermon a chance & money and still they have not shown any improvement.

M. Livingston: We have given them several years to improve.

C. Elen: Do we know how committed Hermon is to an ambulance service? We don't really want to sever our relationship with them, but Hermon and De Kalb are not joined at the hip.

E. Newcombe: It's a bigger problem than just Hermon and De Kalb.... Volunteerism is disappearing everywhere.

? How are we going to allocate funds for 2025?

C. Elen: We need to provide a reliable service for our community. Lives are at stake. Minutes in lost response time can make a difference.

L. Denesha: At the county level, the EMS advisory board is looking at other towns in similar situations as we are and there just are no answers.

Best choice appears to be Cnaton. They are paid crews, so they are always available to respond.

**Motion:** made by Michael Livingston, to go with Canton Rescue EMS services for \$10,000 for 2025. No Vote.

Supervisor Deleel will get information on actual numbers of calls, or percentages of call that Hermon responded to last year. The county has Hermon at 30% but it's not divided up. Vote tabled to the organizational meeting and will decide Canton or Hermon then, with more information on response numbers.

**Town Signs:** School kids working on designs

**County Fair:** is asking that the town purchase a bench for \$100 to be placed at the SLC Fair Grounds for public use.

**Motion:** made by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to purchase one bench for the Fair Grounds at \$100. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

**TDS:** The way the system is set up with TDS, it's like a house of cards. We cancelled one line that we didn't think was being used, to save money, and found out it filtered other calls through it. Its removal messed up the rest of the system and TDS is still working on fixing the issue.

**Street Lights:** There are now four street lights that are out. Supervisor Deleel thinks National Grid owns but no one is really sure. TMT will fix them if the town must take responsibility for them.

**FEMA:** We are in good shape to get money back as Wayne Holland kept very good records. This puts De Kalb at the front of the pack as other towns were not as diligent. Downside is, it looks like two years before we actually see the money.

**Organizational Meeting 2025:** will be held January 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM

**Fire Department Request:** The fire department would like to fill their trucks at the town barn with fuel to get the state rate per gallon. Currently they are paying at the pump. This would help them financially. They have two gas trucks and two diesel trucks. The fire commissioners would pay the bill at the end of each month.

**Motion:** made by Michael Livingston, seconded by Ed Newcombe, to allow the De Kalb Fire Department to use the fuel pumps at the Town Highway Barn with the Town receiving reimbursement at the end of each month from the Fire Commissioners. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

**Town Credit Card:** was hacked by Apple. It is being replaced. Found out about the hack when the card was declined at Arnie's Printing. Supervisor Deleel called the card company to see why. Therefore, Supervisor Deleel needs to pay Arnie's Printing by check.

**Motion:** by Constance Elen, seconded by Michael Livingston, to reverse \$7827 transaction taken from Project H in error. This is to pay off the 2014 sewer ban, not the current project. This item needs to come out of sewer. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

**Motion:** made by Constance Elen, seconded by Ed Newcombe, to pay Mr. Brown from Duck's Construction \$11,500 for the ditch cleanout he has performed to date via check from Supervisor Deleel. (His bill arrived after our deadline to submit through the accountant.) it will come out of this year's budget, acct 5410.1 DA. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

**Communications: None**

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Ed Newcombe to approve the payment of the bills as entered in abstract #12-2024. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Constance Elen yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Andrew Fenton yes, Jordan Deleel yes.

A motion was made by Ed Newcombe, 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 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kelly Davis, Town Clerk