

Town of DeKalb Board Meeting

At a Public Hearing and a regular meeting of the Town Board, of the Town of DeKalb, St. Lawrence County, New York, held on the 21st day of December 2022, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

John Frary	Supervisor	Michael Livingston	Town Board Member
Ed Newcombe	Town Board Member	Constance Elen	Town Board Member
Andrew Fenton	Town Board Member	Barbara Creazzo	Town Clerk/Collector
Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent		

Members of the community present: Scott Thornhill, DANC, Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator, and Dunken McGill, Highschool Student

Members of the community attending via ZOOM: Charles Prior, EDR

Supervisor Frary opened the Public Hearing at 6:48 PM. The purpose of the hearing was to give the public the opportunity to ask questions regarding Local Law # 4 of the Year 2022. This law addresses the recent changes, enforcements of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and the State Energy Conservation Code, put forth by New York State.

There were no questions or concerns expressed regarding Local Law # 4 of the Year 2022; therefore, the Public Hearing was closed at 7PM

Supervisor Frary opened the regular meeting at 7PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Frary, followed by a moment of silent prayer and/or reflection.

Andrew Fenton moved that the minutes of the Regular Meeting, of the Town Board, held on November 16, 2022, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston and was adopted. There was one abstention.

Actions

1. Add notice of next water meter read to water/sewer bills each quarter.
2. Will explore options for dissemination of board meeting information.
3. Sign and return contract to Kendall, Walton, and Burrows. **Completed 11/17/2022.**
4. Follow-up with Order of Remedy.
5. Follow-up with whose responsibility it is too clear UFPOs for the waterline in the Town of Hermon in the direction of De Kalb.
6. Councilman Elen to appoint two community members to the Town of De Kalb Board of Ethics.
7. Have the town property off County Route 17 surveyed.

Public Forum:

Scott Thornhill, DANC, announced to the board, that the Town of De Kalb, could receive an estimated project grant amount of \$1,305,000, from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This will help considerably to keep the projected cost to the sewer constituents to a minimum. There will be an increase in user fees, but not to the extent projected earlier.

Michael Livingston made a motion for Supervisor Frary to sign the Acknowledgement by the Town of De Kalb that it meets BIL eligibility requirements, applicable program requirements and intends to proceed with this project. The Municipality intends to close a financing that includes BIL grant funding, seconded by Andrew Fenton. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator,

-The 2023 Budget passed and there is a 5.2% decrease in County tax. Last year's budget was at \$8.02 per \$1,000 and this year it is \$7.60 per \$1,000. This is the lowest tax rate since the 1980's.

-HEAP is now open and the eligibility guidelines have changed. For a household of one, the eligible income is now \$2,852, for two, \$3,730, for three, \$4,608 and for four and above, it is \$5,485, per month.

-The town has received \$119,000 from Mortgage tax this year. This is about \$107,000 more than usual, and it is due to the three solar projects that have been installed within the township.

-Mediation Assistance Program, which the County is mandated to fund and provides treatment to those incarcerated with opioid addiction, must receive treatment. To date, it has cost the County a total of \$420,000.

-The County's Organizational Meeting will be held January 3, 2023, at 4:30PM, at which time Oaths of Office will be held.

-The County has awarded a bid to Motorola for a new Emergency Radio UHF System, at a cost of \$12,150,000. The County will pay \$5,000,000 of the cost with ARPA Funds, \$3,000,000 will be funded by Homeland Security, and Motorola will finance \$4,510,000. Each fire department will receive 1 stationary and 1 mobile in each vehicle, along with the three top officers receiving a mobile unit. The towns will be able to join the system if they so choose.

Charles Prior, EDR, informed the board that all the pieces and parts necessary for financing the upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant are falling in place nicely. Everything is moving as expected.

NYMIR Insurance for 2023

Each board member received a packet outlining the cost of insurance for the coming year. Wayne Holland noted that the 2020 International truck did not have a plow listed with it. He will contact St. Lawrence Agency and ask that it be included. Also, he recently purchased a new welder that is not on the list, this too, will be added. Supervisor Frary noted the Streetlights are not listed and should be now that the town owns them. He will have these added. Prior to these changes noted, there was an approximate increase of \$1,600. It is anticipated this will be slightly higher with the noted changes. Overall, the increase is minimal.

Financials:

Andrew Fenton made the motion to accept the Justice Clerk Audit as presented, seconded by Ed Newcombe. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Constance Elen made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the Clerk's Account, seconded by Michael Livingston. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Town Clerk Report: Barbara Creazzo,

-A total of \$346.50 was collected with the town able to retain \$184.74 for its coffers. Breakdown is as follows: DEC, \$140.76 and town, \$8.24 for licenses, Ag & Markets, \$21 and town, \$75, the town also received \$69.80 for building permits, certified birth certificate, and \$21.70 for copies made.

Water and Sewer for October and November collected a total of \$7,144.58. Water collected \$3,112.57 and sewer collected \$4,032.01. For the four-quarter collection water collected \$43,168.21 and sewer collected \$57,179.53 for a total of \$100,347.74 collected. The amounts levied for water was \$14,025.63 and for sewer, \$17,599.30.

Deputy Wanda Law worked a total of 10.5 hours for November.

Have received new information for holiday decorations that will be explored for next year. The prices seem more reasonable than from the company used this year. Have received compliments on the new decorations and a member of the community would like to purchase one for the town next year.

It will be De Kalb's turn to host a Rabies Clinic, would like to hold it either the last week of September or the first week of October. Will plan with the County and with the Veterinarian.

Elizabeth Holland's term has expired for the Board of Assessment Review. I have contacted her, and she would like to serve for another 5-year term.

Michael Livingston made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Holland to a 5-year term for the Board of Assessment Review. Seconded by Andrew Fenton. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Supervisor Frary distributed the Year-to-Date Budget Report. For the time of year, the town is in good shape financially. The area with the largest hit is highway for fuel, this is to be expected with the increase of fuel prices that have occurred this year.

Water/Sewer Report:

DANC- water, a total of 555,200 gallons of water were metered in the month of November, with an average daily flow of 18,507 gallons. A total of 7 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. Daily flow charts are included in the report. One random sample was completed with a satisfactory result. Flushed the fire hydrant near the Dollar Store to remove air in the main line. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance were completed as scheduled with no problems noted.

Sewer, a total of 1,154,000 gallons of wastewater was treated for the month of November, with an average daily flow of 38,467 gallons. There were no SPDES permit violations. Daily flow charts are included in the report. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance were completed as scheduled with no problems noted.

Supervisor Frary reports that the projected cost the town will be responsible for, for Hermon's water upgrade is \$385,000. This will be paid over a 38-year period.

Highway Report: Wayne Holland

- Patching potholes as needed.
- Checking beaver grates.
- Working on trucks.
- Cutting trees and brush as weather permits.
- Fixed the fire hydrant with the help of Duck.
- Plowing and sanding.
- Did not sell the excavator on Auctions International-highest bid was \$22,300, will put back on later in the Spring.
- New excavator is not expected in April 2023.

Supervisor Frary distributed the Chargeback listing from the County to the board members. De Kalb was charged the following: Election Charges, \$23,058.17, Real Property Charges, \$9,678.85, Worker's Comp Charges, \$27,099.00, Community College Charges, \$22,940.67, for a total of \$ 82,776.69 for 2023. The total for 2022 was \$75,557.37.

Assessor Report: Suzanne Arquette

- Over the past month, have been receiving Veteran's exemptions back, as I have had property owners renewing and it has been a great idea as property owners have had changes to their exemptions. I have received well over half of them back to date. There were 89 renewals sent out.
- Have sent out renewals for the Senior Star Exemption. There were 19 Exemptions mailed out.
- Reviewing deed transfers on a regular basis as they come in, address changes, and keeping up with the Income Verification Program (IVP) to ensure that our Enhanced Star recipients are up to date on the New York State Website.

Have started reviewing building permits, along with sales verification.

As of today, there have been 75 deed transfers.

Supervisor Frary asked if there were any questions regarding Local Law # 4 of Year 2022, Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and the State Energy Conservation Code. There were no questions; therefore, a motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Andrew Fenton to pass Local Law # 4 of Year 2022. Roll Call Vote: Livingston-yes, Newcombe-yes, Elen-yes, Fenton-yes, and Frary-yes.

Supervisor Frary informed the members of the board that the Clean-up Order for garbage that was issued last month was not completed by the homeowner. He asked for the board's approval

for Code Officer Chambers to contact the town's attorney to begin procedures for failure to respond to the Clean-up Order.

A motion was made Michael Livingston and seconded by Andrew Fenton, for Mr. Chambers to contact the town's attorney, Charles Nash to move forward with the Clean-up Order.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Michael Livingston to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract #12-2022. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

A motion was made by Ed Newcombe and seconded by Constance Elen, to adjourn. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara A. Creazzo
Town Clerk

Actions

1. Supervisor Frary to sign BIL and send to Scott Thornhill. **Completed 12-21-22.**
2. Inform County the town will host Rabies Clinic in the fall. **Completed 12-23-22.**
3. Send Local Law #4 of 2022 to Albany. **Completed 12-23-22.**
4. Notify Real Property of Elizabeth Holland's appointment to B.O.A.R. **Completed 12-27-22.**
5. Mr. Chambers to follow up with attorney regarding clean-up order.
6. Add streetlights to insurance listing. **Completed 12-23-22.**