

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 day 20th of January 2021, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

John Frary	Supervisor	Michael Livingston	Board Member
Ed Newcombe	Board Member	Barbara Creazzo	Town Clerk/Collector
Bill Chambers	Building & Codes	Charles Nash	Town Attorney

Attending via Zoon: Connie Elen Board Member Andrew Fenton Board Member

Absent: Wayne Holland Highway Superintendent

Members of the community present: Larry Denesha, St. Lawrence County Legislator

Supervisor Frary opened the meeting at 7:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Frary, 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 the 16th day of December 2020, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Constance Elen and adopted unanimously.

Ed Newcombe moved that the minutes of the Organizational Meeting, of the Town Board, held on the 6th day of January 2021, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston and adopted unanimously.

Actions

1. Send year to date financial report to members of the board. **Completed 12/18/2020.**
2. Send sewer plant notice at the end of February.
3. Continue to address nonreading water meters.
4. Send Mine Permit to DEC. **Completed 12/18/2020.**
5. Send letter of appointment to Gary Eggleston. **Completed 12/18/2020.**
6. Send notice to National Grid. **Completed 12/18/2020.**
7. Send letter of concern to NY DOT regarding US 11 and East De Kalb. **Completed 12/18/2020.**
8. Advertise Organizational Meeting. **Completed.**
9. Advertise zoom availability for meetings. **Completed.**

Public Forum:

Larry Denesha

-COVID report, there were 71 new cases today, to date, there have been 4,015. As of December 17, 2020, there had only been 1,626 confirmed cases. There had only been 34 deaths by December 17th, and now there have been 63 deaths. There are currently 38 people in the hospital.

-The COVID vaccine is being distributed through Kinney Drugs, CPH, and at a clinic that is being held at SUNY Potsdam. Last week, St. Lawrence County had the highest vaccination rate in the State.

-Bill Sheridan has been selected to be the St. Lawrence County Chairman, and Larry Denesha has been selected at the Co-Chair.

-The County earned \$275,000 in interest for 2020.

-Sales tax, the County will be honoring their current distribution of Sales Tax monies to towns and villages through 2023. The Finance Committee voted to table the discussion regarding the distribution for the City of Ogdensburg. This will come up again this month and is expected to have a resolution voted on. If the City rejects, the County's vote, they can accept the same as towns and villages, or they can choose to keep all sales tax money that is collected within the city.

-Sales tax collection for the first quarter was good, the second quarter was down, third quarter was good, and the fourth was down. Overall, the amount collected for the year was more than what had been budgeted. The budgeted amount was \$59,082,493 and the amount received was \$62,203,785.04.

-The Sheriff's department will be purchasing 34 bodycams at a cost of \$60,000. Fifty thousand will come from their budget and the other ten thousand is coming from confiscation funds.

-DANC, Development Authority of the North County, will be conducting a survey throughout the county to determine the need for broad-band. There are many areas that are still lacking, and it is important to know where they, especially now that schools are needing to rely on remote learning.

Financials:

Michael Livingston made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the Water and Sewer accounts, seconded by Andy Fenton.

Andrew Fenton-yes Constance Elen-yes Michael Livingston-yes

Ed Newcombe-yes John Frary-yes

Clerk Report: Barbara A. Creazzo

For the month of December, a total of \$516.10 was collected by the clerk. Of that amount, the town received \$477.10. The breakdown is as follows: town received \$124.50 for dog licenses and NYS Ag and Markets received \$39, the town also received \$311.80 for building permits, \$36.80 for copies made and \$4 for faxes sent.

For 2020, the clerk collected a total of \$19,541.25 and of this amount, the town received \$17,903.17. The total amounts for the year are as follows: the town received \$35.42 for the selling of DEC licenses and NYS DEC received \$1,218.58, the town received \$1,187.50 for dog licenses and NYS Ag and Markets received \$352, building permits accrued \$16,050.95 for the town, the town received \$52.50 for marriage licenses, while NYS DOH received \$67.50, the town also received \$20 for certified copies of marriage licenses, \$240 for death certificates, \$22 for a genealogical search, \$246.80 for copies made and \$38 for faxes sent.

Water & Sewer Collections: a total of \$7,587.21 was collected during the month of December for water and \$7,986.50 was collected for sewer for a total collection of \$15,573.71.

Deputy Clerk, Wanda Law, did not work any hours during the month of December. For the year, she worked 225 hours for which she was paid \$2,813.25.

Allison Deleel, daughter of Jordan and Samantha Deleel, collected and donated to the town, a sum of \$21. Allison had noticed that one of the swings at the playground needed to be replaced, so she took the initiative to collect money from family and friends to replace the swing. A thank you card will be sent to Allison.

Bryan Thompson, Historian for the town, has received funds for a new marker to be placed on the River Road. The marker will signify a Blinkbonnie, which means, "a beautiful glimpse, or view". The marker will be located where there is a beautiful view of the Oswegatchie River Valley.

Supervisor Frary distributed the Monthly Budget Report. As this is the first for the year, there is not much to note for now.

Water/Sewer: DANC

Water: a total of 616,800 gallons of water were metered in the month of December, with an average daily flow of 19,897 gallons. A total of 8 gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water produced. Daily graphs are included in the full report for the month. Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections/maintenances were completed as scheduled. One random distribution sample for bacteriological testing was completed and the result was satisfactory. The Ross valve located at the water tower was repaired.

Sewer: a total of 1,274,000 gallons of wastewater were treated in the month of December, with an average daily flow of 41,097. There were 0 SPDES permit violations. Daily graphs are included in the full report for the month. Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections/maintenances were completed as scheduled. RBCs continue to be rotating in reverse an hour per day to allow the weight to decrease. A pipe connecting to the return line was repaired.

Non-metered Water Policy was distributed and read by Supervisor Frary. Constance Elen objected to the policy having the De Kalb Junction Fire Department as part of the policy. She believes this to be placing too much responsibility on the department. After further discussion, the policy review was tabled until more information can be provided.

Highway Report: Wayne Holland

- The crew has been cutting brush as weather permits.
- Road signs have been assessed, repaired, and/or replaced, as necessary. Still waiting for a couple of ordered signs to arrive.
- Working in the shop repairing and fabricating equipment as needed.
- Plowing and sanding continue as needed basis.

The Highway Department was off due to COVID-19 from Tuesday the 29th of December to January 11th. All are back and doing well.

Supervisor Frary reminded members of the board, that this is the year the department will purchase a new truck. The truck will be ordered near the end of the year with a partial payment. When the truck is delivered sometime within the first few months of 2022, the truck will be paid in full. Superintendent Holland has begun to get quotes for the truck.

Dog Control: Dan Moyer

There is no report this month.

Supervisor Frary reminded the board that Mr. Moyer had asked them to consider authorizing a Dog Enumeration for this this, as he believes there are many unlicensed dogs within the township. Supervisor Frary would like to meet with Mr. Moyer and discuss a plan and what the cost would be. He will then bring the information back to the board for their decision as to whether a dog enumeration will be completed.

Building and Codes: Bill Chambers

A total of 63 permits were issued for 2020 and the amount of fees for the permits totaled \$16,773.55. The overall project cost for the permits is \$6,035,671. Permits were issued for the following: 7 new houses, 3 camps, 2 barns, 6 sheds, 4 shops, 4 garages, 10 general repairs, 6 decks/porches, 4 electricals, 6 accessory structures, 4 new roofs, and 7 additions.

Have completed and filed with the State of New York, the required 1203 Form. Have also completed and filed the Census Boundaries, and the US Census for new dwellings. This report includes the number of homes built, the cost of the structure, and if the structure is a single or multi-family home.

The annual Code Exam has been complete and passed.

Assessor Report: Robert Ball

No report

Supervisor Frary asked if everyone had had the opportunity to review the proposed Resolution #1 of 2021 ADOPTS PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.83 SUSPENDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF RENEWAL APPLICATION AS A CONDITION TO GRANTING EXEMPTIONS UNDER SECTIONS 459-C AND 467 OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW.

There were some questions regarding this resolution, so it was tabled until next month.

Supervisor Frary asked the members of the board their thoughts about re-evaluation for the township. The State of New York will not allow a partial reval to be completed. Currently we are at 93% and will continue to decrease each year until a new re-evaluation is completed. Supervisor Frary stated, "If we want to move forward, the planning needs to begin soon, so the re-evaluation can be completed in time for March 2023". Members agrees that the percentage will only continue to decrease; therefore, the planning should begin.

Communications:

-New York State Public Employer Health Emergency Plan, the State is requiring all municipalities to have in place, an emergency plan that will protect workers in the event of another state disaster involving a communicable disease. Such a plan should be submitted to unions and labor management committees by February 4, 2021, and plans need to be finalized on April 1, 2021. DANC is offering to develop a plan for the Town of De Kalb, at a cost of \$2,500. Supervisor Frary has received a template from the Town of Hopkinton, that contains all the necessary information. Supervisor Frary asked Ed Newcombe to review what has been written, to review for coverage for weak points, or other areas that need to be added. Mr. Newcombe reviews such policies for his civilian job at Fort Drum.

-Our phone system is off Spectrum and has been switched over to TDS, so the new phone system is progressing.

-Supervisor Frary, Clerk Creazzo, Court Clerk Gardner, Highway Superintendent Holland, Building and Codes Bill Chambers, and Assessor Ball, can now all work from home if the need should arise. This now satisfies one of the major requirements of the NYS Public Employer Health Emergency Plan.

-Needed equipment to improve the quality of the zoom meetings for the Town’s meetings. A conference phone/microphone has been ordered. As it is now, when maintaining social distancing, it is difficult to hear people who are at the far end of the meeting room. A wide-angle lens will also be ordered to expand the visibility of all who are in attendance. As it is now, to capture the best view of the room, Clerk Creazzo is not always visible.

Constance Elen asked if there has been any movement with the solar projects, and no, hopefully in the spring when the weather breaks.

Abstract of tonight’s bills were emailed to Constance Elen and Andrew Fenton for their review, as they are attending by zoom and cannot review each bill over \$500. Supervisor Frary asked if they had any questions or if there were any bills they wished to discuss. The reply was no from each of them.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Andrew Fenton, to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract #1-2021.

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 Andrew Fenton, to adjourn.

Michael Livingston yes Ed Newcombe yes Constance Elen yes
Andrew Fenton yes John Frary yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara A. Creazzo

ACTIONS

1. Send Thank You note to Allison Deleel for \$21 donation for playground. **Completed**
2. Review Non-metered water policy for February’s meeting.
3. Supervisor Frary to contact Dan Moyer regarding the planning of a possible dog enumeration for 2021. **Discussed on hold until COVID restrictions lifted.**
4. Review proposed Resolution #2 for action at February’s meeting.
5. Supervisor Frary to begin discussion with Assessor Ball regarding full re-evaluation of township. **Completed.**
6. Supervisor Frary to submit NYS Public Employer Health Emergency Plan to members of the board for their review. **Completed.**
7. Order wide-angle lens for zoom meetings. **On order.**