

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 19th day of May 2021, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

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

Members of the community present: Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator, Jody Wenzel, SLC Risk Manager, Thomas Haynes, Engineer DANC, Danielle Benati, Engineer DANC, and Charles Prior, EDR

ZOOM attendees: Ginger Thomas and Rachel Hunter

Supervisor Frary opened the meeting at 7:02 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 April 21st, 2021, as submitted by the Town Clerk, with corrections, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Constance Elen and adopted unanimously.

Actions

1. Explore drainage options at the playground, possibly with the fire department.
2. Install mats under the swings. Ordered and Received.
3. Install tires under the teeter-totters.
4. Install woodchips around various areas of playground.
5. Explore the possibility of installing electricity at the playground.
6. Explore the possibility of constructing a walking path at or near the playground area.
7. Mail copy of Annual Water Quality Report with next water bills.
8. Install bus turn-around on Tanner Street. Completed.
9. Order new truck. Done.
10. Continue to work on USDA grant for truck.
11. Set date for union negotiations with highway department.
12. Supervisor to sign purchase agreement for 27 Gibbon Street.
13. Begin dialog with Brooks Washburn regarding possible new town building.

Public Forum:

Jody Wenzel, SLC Risk Manager, introduced himself to the board, and explained how he would be doing inspections of the town's four facilities. The purpose of the inspections is not to penalize for unsafe situations, but to identify and correct before they become a hazard. Mr. Wenzel also stated he hoped to be able to provide safety training in the future. He is also available to assist with questions and or helping to complete any worker compensation forms as needed.

Thomas Haynes from DANC, and Charles Prior, from EDR, updated the board regarding the completion of the Engineering Report for the required sewer upgrades, as well as, reporting on the findings of the recent CCTV (camera) inspection of the sewer lines.

The town has met the need for financial assistance for the upcoming sewer project, which will now make it possible to obtain more grant funding. With the Engineering Report completed and the camera study of the lines done, the first phase of the project is nearing the end. The second phase will be obtaining more funding and the third phase will be completing the project. A meeting open to the public, to explain the project, will be planned for later this summer. It is important for the constituents to understand that the work that is going to be done, is driven by NYS Regulations.

LWRP Report, Constance Elen and Ginger Thomas, updated the board regarding the recent LWRP meeting. Stage 1 will be completed after the Public Hearing which must be held prior to June 30, 2021. After the Public Hearing, it will be time to move toward the next stage of the LWRP. The phase after this will be a topic for joint community discussion in the months ahead.

Larry D Denesha, SLC Legislator

-17 new cases of COVID were reported for today. There has been an upward trend over the past few days, as the number of new cases is increasing each day, as well as the number of hospitalizations.

-At the last full board meeting, the Legislators passed a resolution in favor of allowing 12 and 13-year-olds, to hunt big game with either a firearm or crossbow, while being supervised by a licensed adult hunter.

-They also passed a resolution claiming May 15th as Police Officer Day.

-CHIPS money to be received by towns and villages will be 40% over last year's amount received.

-The Legislators have chosen a site in Russell and Lisbon, as county highway satellite sites. Both structures should be completed by this fall.

-County Route 27 bridge in Degrasse, will be closed from approximately June 1 to November 1.

-The county will be blacktopping a portion of County Route 11 from the Gouverneur-De Kalb Town Line to Wizard Pond.

-It is reported that the State of New York, expects to collect 350 million dollars in tax revenue next year from cannabis distribution sales. Towns and Villages need to opt out if they do not want dispensaries located in their municipalities.

-On Saturday, the 22nd, at 11AM, at the Old De Kalb Cemetery, there will be a dedication to Brigadier General Thomas Benedict. This will be presented by Historian, Bryan Thompson.

Supervisor Frary informed the board, that the shrubs between the old mill stones, next to the gazebo, have been removed. The board would like to thank Mr. Denesha for his continued assistance with keeping the gazebo area clean and decorated.

Supervisor Frary also informed the board, that the flags along US Highway 11 have been put in place for the summer. The flag holders have all been raised to prevent them from being snagged by tractor trailers as they pass by. Supervisor Frary would like to thank Roger Blair, for all his assistance with the flags last year, as well as this year. He would also like to thank Mr. Denesha for his assistance with the flags.

Mr. Denesha has indicated that the ability to re-levy the unpaid water and sewer to the property tax bill may be discontinued. If this were to happen, the Town of De Kalb, will lose between \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year, in unpaid water and sewer bills.

The town will contact Bruce Green, Director of Real Property, for more information regarding unpaid water and sewer bills.

Financials:

Constance Elen made the motion to accept the Town Clerk Audit for the clerk's water and sewer accounts, seconded by Michael Livingston. The vote: Michael Livingston, yes, Ed Newcombe, yes, Constance Elen, yes, Andrew Fenton, yes, and John Frary, yes.

Town Clerk Report: Barbara A Creazzo

-For the month of April, the clerk collected \$1702.70, and of that amount, the town was able to retain \$1411.45. The breakdown is as follows: DEC, \$269.25, town, \$15.75, Ag & Markets, \$22, town, \$74.50, town for building permits \$1282.20, as well as \$38 for copies made, and \$1 for a sent fax.

-Water and sewer collections for April; water collected \$1982.50, and sewer collected \$1917.

-A total of \$86,960.51 was collected for taxes. Four checks have been returned for insufficient funds. All four have had successful repayments made. At the end of April, 88.51% of the taxes has been collected. Last date for collection is June 1, 2021.

-Deputy Wanda Law, did not work any hours for the month of April.

Supervisor Frary distributed the May Financial Report and the Year-to-Date Financial Report. There were no questions regarding either report.

DANC Report:

-For the month of April, a total of 908,500 gallons of water were metered, with an average daily flow of 30,283 gallons. Seven gallons of sodium hypochlorite were used in the treatment of the water. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and or maintenances were completed as scheduled. The full report includes all daily flow charts for the operation of the water system. One random bacteriological test was completed, and the result was satisfactory. Continue to repair water meters when scheduled. The valve at the water tower has been replaced, as it was leaking again.

-For the month of April, a total of 1,672,000 gallons of wastewater were treated, with an average daily flow of 55,733 gallons. All daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and or maintenances were completed as scheduled. The full report includes all daily flow charts for the operation of the wastewater system. There were no SPDES permit violations for the month. Rotating the RBCs in reverse for one hour daily continues.

Highway Department Report: Wayne Holland 04/21/21 – 05/19/21

- Cold patching various roads.
- Installed approximately 200 feet of culvert pipe on various roads.
- Did the bus turn around on Tanner Street for Hermon-De Kalb Central School.
- Finished up ditching the Pooler Road Extension.
- Had town-wide garbage day at the Town Barn on May 13th and 15th. Had two full truck loads and some in a third truck. Received a lot of metal this time.
- Cutting shoulders on various roads.
- Started mowing roadsides.
- Received the okay from the state to put up 25 MPH school zone speed limit signs on the East De Kalb Road, in front of the school.

Hoping to complete 5 miles of blacktopping this year. The preliminary plan is to complete 2 miles on the Ritchie Road, 1 mile on the Maple Ridge Road, six tenths of a mile on the Boland Road and seven tenths of a mile of the Colton Road.

Have received notice that the CHIPS money has been increased this year; therefore, there is a total of \$272,439.48 of CHIPS, along with \$70,360.94 from PAVE NY and \$60,168.31 from EWR, bring it to a total of \$402,968.73 that will be used for blacktopping.

The plow and accessories for the new truck have been ordered from Viking Cives USA. This portion of the new truck will be paid in 2022. The ordering information was shared with the board.

The highway crew will do the drain work at the playground. Will rent a small excavator for the job.

Supervisor Frary informed the board that he has priced a load of woodchips at \$3,000. With all the areas that need to be addressed, most likely all will be used. Supervisor asked for the approval of the purchase.

A motion was made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Constance Elen, for Supervisor Frary to purchase a truck load of woodchips for the playground. The vote: Michael Livingston, yes, Ed Newcombe, yes, Constance Elen, yes, and Andrew Fenton, yes,

Dog Control Report: Daniel Moyer

- Picked up a cattle dog in Hermon, belonging to a woman here in De Kalb. Returned the dog after a license had been obtained. Spoke to her about getting another dog licensed (gave 2 weeks to complete), has not come to clerk's office to license the second dog yet.
- Had a complaint of dog on County Route 17 going into neighbor's yard, looking into this.
- Continue to deal with unlicensed dogs from list received from clerk.

Code Office Report:

- 11 permits have been issued since the last board meeting.
- Have received a complaint about household garbage accumulating in a yard here in the hamlet. The people have been given notice and a time frame to address the issue. If not addressed, it will need to be presented to an attorney for resolution.

Communications and Other Discussions:

-Now that the shrubbery has been removed from the gazebo area, would like to plant a couple of trees.

A motion was made by Michael Livingston and seconded by Constance Elen, for two trees to be purchased for the gazebo area. The vote: Michael Livingston, yes, Ed Newcombe, yes, Constance Elen, yes, and Andrew Fenton, yes,

-A motion was made by John Frary to enter Executive Session for the purpose of a real estate discussion. Motion was seconded by Michael Livingston. The board entered the session at 9:15 PM. The vote: Michael Livingston, yes, Ed Newcombe, yes, Constance Elen, yes, Andrew Fenton, yes.

A motion was made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Constance Elen, to exit the Executive Session at 9:26 PM. The vote: Michael Livingston, yes, Ed Newcombe, yes, Constance Elen, yes, Andrew Fenton, yes. No action taken regarding the Executive Session.

-Supervisor Frary informed the board that he has signed paperwork for the sale of St. Henry's. An inspection by a representative for the purchaser, of the building, was done prior to the signing.

-Supervisor Frary passed out a preliminary floor plan for a new Town Hall/Court Room, along with a copy of a variation of the floor plan to the board members. He asked that people be prepared to begin discussion of a new building at next month's meeting.

-Supervisor Frary also informed the board that he would like to set up a committee at next month's board meeting for the purpose of exploring ways to best spend the month the town will be receiving for the federal COVID funds.

-There has been no word regarding the solar projects within the town of De Kalb.

-No word on streetlight purchasing, as the installer has not responded to Supervisor's telephone calls.

-Completion of telephone upgrade to be completed prior to next month's meeting.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Ed Newcombe, to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract #5-2021. The vote: Michael Livingston, yes, Ed Newcombe, yes, Constance Elen, yes, Andrew Fenton, yes and John Frary, yes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara A. Creazzo
Town Clerk

Actions

1. Contact Bruce Green regarding water & sewer bill re-levy. Completed
2. Purchase woodchips for playground. Completed
3. Board to be prepared to begin the discussion regarding a new building. On-going