

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023, at the Town Hall in DeKalb Junction NY, there were present:

John Frary	Supervisor	Michael Livingston	Council Member
Ed Newcombe	Council Member	Connie Elen	Council Member
Andrew Fenton	Council Member	Barbara Creazzo	Town Clerk
Wayne Holland	Highway Superintendent	Bill Chambers	Building & Codes
Charles B Nash	Town Attorney		

Members of the community present: Janice Brabaw, Eric Yager, Jordan Deleel, Darcy Matthews, Jeff Matott

Members of the community attending via ZOOM: None

At 6:30 PM, Supervisor Frary reviewed the preliminary budget with those in attendance. The only budget line that was changed was Interest and Earnings. It was lowered from \$18,000 to \$15,000. All other lines of the budget remained as presented.

Supervisor Frary opened the regular meeting at 7:04PM.

Supervisor Frary welcomed Ed Newcombe back to the table after his surgery.

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 September 20, 2023, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be and hereby approved. Seconded by Michael Livingston and adopted unanimously.

## Actions

1. Supervisor Frary to sign the contract with the highway department and return it to Brian Hammond. **Completed 09/21/2023.**
2. Notify River's Septic regarding the purchase of the portable toilet.

## Public Forum:

Jeff Matott – issues with his well. Mr. Matott has had periodic issues with his well ever since blasting was done several years ago across the road from his house. The blasting was completed by the highway department and the purpose of the blasting was to remove a portion of the rock ledge that was on the edge of the roadway on a curve in the road. Over the years, the well has had a liner installed, the pump raised from 275 feet to approximately 200 feet to assist with eliminating silt from entering the water system. He has had to replace his pressure tank due to accumulated silt and needs replacing again. He replaces a water filter approximately every two weeks or so. Mr. Matott brought in the last filter for the board to see what it looks like after a two-week period. He recently had the water tested again, as he thought it didn't look or taste right. The result came back with a significant amount of coliform/e/coli in the water. Mr. Matott went through the process of disinfecting his well and water system. However, the potential for this issue to return is likely because he believes there is still a crack or some type of disruption with the well due to the blast that occurred years ago.

Supervisor Frary informed Mr. Matott that he will be out of town for a few days but would like to meet with him upon his return to discuss the well issue some more. Mr. Matott thanked the board for listening to him and said that he looks forward to meeting with Supervisor Frary.

Larry Denesha, SLC Legislator

-The Preliminary Budget for 2024 will be presented at the October 24, 2023, Legislators meeting.

-The County is anticipating a \$3,000,000 increase in expenses due to the unfunded mandate by the State that requires incarceration facilities to provide opiate treatment to those who are in the facilities. In the beginning, the State contributed to the cost but plans to eliminate their portion of the support.

-The County is also anticipating a \$600,000 loss if the State approves any monies collected above the back taxes due on an auction property go to the homeowner as it is now proposed. The County has been using this money to help improve other properties they have taken possession of to clean them up and make them marketable. This process will cease to occur, and the undesirable properties will most likely remain unsellable.

-The true tax value eight years ago per \$1,000 was \$8.52. This year, it is \$7.60 per \$1,000. - October was declared as St. Lawrence County Historian Month. A reception was held in recognition of the area historians for all the fine work they do.

-There is a bipartisan bill in both the Senate and Assembly, that would allow insurance payments to Rescue Squads to be paid directly to them, and not the person who used the service. - Legislators passed a resolution to send to Albany to draft legislation requiring Voter Registration Identification.

-There is approximately \$458,000 of ARPA Funds that can be distributed to local business and nonprofit organizations in St. Lawrence County.

### **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 general account, seconded by Michael Livingston. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

### **Clerk Report:** Barbara A Creazzo

A total of \$3,311.60 was collected for the month of September with the Town retaining \$1,273.17 of that collected. The breakdown is as follows: DEC \$2,10.43, town \$99.57, Ag and Markets, \$28, town \$98.50, town received \$968.20 for building permits, \$20 for Certified Marriages, \$10 for a Certified Birth Certificate, \$40 for Certified Death Certificates, \$30.90 for copies made, \$6 for faxes sent.

Deputy Clerk, Wanda Law, worked a total of 16.50 hours during the month of September.

The Rabies Vaccination Clinic the has held on September 27, 2023, went well. There were 141 animals scheduled but only 119 certificates issued as 22 did not show for appointment. A total of \$277 was collected in donations. Dr. Kingsley received \$210 for her services and Katie Andrews received \$111.

### **Water & Sewer Collections for September**

Water received \$9,025.11 and sewer received \$12,630.90.

Seventy-four second notices were issued for unpaid water and/or sewer bills. Unpaid water and sewer will be levied onto the 2023 Town and County Property Taxes.

A motion was by Constance Elen and seconded by Andrew Fenton for the clerk to levy in the amount not to exceed \$20,300 for unpaid water bills and \$25,500 for unpaid sewer bills to the County.

### **Water & Sewer Reports:**

-There is no DANC report this month.

-Have not received any word on the meter upgrade grant proposal.

-The town only needs to file a report regarding the Lead Service Survey, as the water system in the hamlet of De Kalb Junction was installed with pipe that does not contain any lead.

**Highway Department Report:** Wayne Holland (9/20-10/18/23)

- Continue to participate in shared services hauling blacktop, should be done this week.
- Installed 100 feet of culvert pipe.
- Have received new truck and it has had the plow and wing installed.
- Have hauled 4,000 yards of sand.
- Townwide trash pick-up was completed in one day and will have a cost of approximately \$1,300.
- Continuing to cold patch as needed and as weather permits.

**Dog Control Report:** No report this month.

**Code Enforcement Report:** William Chambers

- A total of 5 permits were issued since the last meeting with a project cost of \$226,700 and fee amount totaling \$709.60. To date, there have been 46 permits issued with a project cost of \$1,254,700 and a fee amount totaling \$7,250.15. The breakdown for the 5 permits is as follows: One single family home, one addition, one camp, one garage and one shop.
- The garbage/trash issue on the Hitchcock Road has been addressed.
- The three solar farms in the township still have not been connected to the main grid.
- Corning Glass will most likely be ready to expand early next year.
- My computer program service contract will expire in June of 2024. The company that recently purchased the service will not be supporting the program after June. They are proposing a minimum of two modules at \$2,000 per module. I will be exploring other options.

**Communications:**

- Veronica Lamb, teacher at school, will be working with Bryan Thompson to establish a list of veterans from the town. Once completed, she will be meeting with the committee to discuss the next step.
- Darryl Matthews is heading up the 250-year celebration. It was suggested that she ask Linda Soulia if she would be willing to assist with the planning, as Linda did a great job with the last celebration.

Attorney Nash has compiled an agreement between the Town of De Kalb and the De Kalb Junction Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. The agreement is for the Town to extend the present parking lot at Pipeline Park, onto the property of the Volunteer Fire Department. By executing this agreement, the Town agrees to add the Volunteer Fire Department as a loss payee on the Town Liability Insurance, but said losses are limited to any incident that occurs within the land area that is located no more than 230 feet from the centerline of Gibbons Street extending in an southeasterly direction, and, hence proceeding generally southwesterly 88 feet and, thence proceeding northwesterly approximately 230 feet to the center of the road, and thence proceeding 88 feet to the point and place of beginning.

A motion was made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Constance Elen, to approve the motion for Supervisor Frary to sign the said agreement between the Town of De Kalb and the De Kalb Junction Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., for the parking area. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

Supervisor Frary distributed a proposed resolution for member of the board to read and be prepared to discuss at the November meeting. The resolution is to designate the Town of Dekalb Pavilion and Highway Department Garage, as secondary shelters during a response to a major or catastrophic incident.

**General Fund Budget Amendment Request**

A motion was made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Constance Elen, for the Town of De Kalb to amend the DA Highway Fund to reflect a movement of funds from Unassigned Fund

Balance to 5130.20 Machinery-Equipment. Appropriations DA 5130.20 is to be increased by \$123,828.79. Appropriations DA 917 should be decreased by \$123,828.79. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

**Public Hearing for the 2024 Town of De Kalb Budget**

A motion was made by Constance Elen and seconded by Michael Livingston, to adjourn the Public Hearing Meeting from November 9, 2023, to November 15, 2023. Said Public Hearing will be held at the De Kalb Town Hall, located at 2907 County Route 17, De Kalb Junction, NY 13630. The start time of the hearing will be 6:45PM. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

After reviewing all bills presented, and signing all bills over \$500.00, a motion was made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Constance Elen to approve payment of the bills as entered on Abstract #10-2023. Vote: Michael Livingston yes, Ed Newcombe yes, Constance Elen yes, Andrew Fenton yes, John Frary yes.

A motion was made by Andrew Fenton and seconded by Ed Newcombe, to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara A. Creazzo  
Town Clerk

Actions

1. Supervisor Frary will have a meeting with Mr. Jeffery Matott to discuss the issues with Mr. Matott's well. **Completed.**