

Town of
Denmark

Minutes**February 08, 2016: February 2016 - Regular Meeting****Body:**

February 8, 2016

A meeting of the Denmark Town Board was held February 8, 2016 at the Town Municipal Building. Supervisor Fleming called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. The following people were present:

Supervisor:	Thomas Fleming	Superintendent:	Patrick Mahar
Councilman:	James Der	Town Clerk:	Prudence Kunert
	Frank Fazio	Comptroller:	Sharon Fleming
	David Thoma	Assessor:	William Vargulick
			Town Attorney: Mark Gebo (leaves at
6:49pm)	Peter Jones		

Also Present: Sandy Jones, Deb Der, Deputy Clerk Katrina Souva, Matt Cooper (enters at 6:35pm leaves at 7:02pm)

Councilman Fazio made a motion to accept the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Der.

Vote recorded as follows:	Councilman Der	Aye	
	Councilman Fazio	Aye	
	Supervisor Fleming	Aye	
	Councilman Thoma	Aye	
	Councilman Jones	Aye	Motion passed.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Discussion was held on proposed Local Law 1-2016, A Local Law to authorize the Highway Superintendent, Town Clerk / Tax Collector and Court Clerk Salary. Mrs. Fleming raised concern that the monies paid in the December 31, 2015 check have already been taxed and withheld from as any other payroll check would be. If the money is paid again in this year and then deducted from to repay the 2015 budget it creates a double withholding of those taxes and would appear again as income earned in 2016. Discussion was held by the Town Board. The mistake was an honest one that was created by an unusual situation in the calendar year 2015. A miscalculation of the number of pay periods (27 instead of the usual 26) led to a situation that was not realized until late December. The situation if not addressed would have led to a situation in which those 3 positions would have gone a month between pay checks instead of the 2 weeks as expected creating a difficult and unexpected financial situation for Highway Supt and Clerk. After more discussion no action was taken on the proposed local law 1-2016.

Councilman Fazio made a motion that the Highway Superintendent, Town Clerk / Tax Collector and Court Clerk be paid on December 31, 2016 with funds from the unexpended fund balance of 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones.

Vote recorded as:	Councilman Der	Aye	
	Councilman Fazio	Aye	
	Supervisor Fleming	Aye	
	Councilman Thoma	Aye	
	Councilman Jones	Aye	Motion passed.

Discussion was held on the Comptroller / Budget Officer Position held by Mrs. Fleming. Mr. Gebo explained that the position of Comptroller could be officially created by Board Resolution. He urged the Town Board to consider consulting Lewis County Civil Service about the nature of the position and to develop a job description for the position. Councilman Thoma made a motion to table further discussion of this matter to the March 14 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fazio.

Vote recorded as:	Councilman Der	Aye	
	Councilman Fazio	Aye	
	Supervisor Fleming	Aye	
	Councilman Thoma	Aye	
	Councilman Jones	Aye	Motion passed.

Discussion was held on the LCSR Contract. This year's contract is for a total of \$7,650.00 with payments due on 2/28/16 for \$4,207.50, 4/28/16 for \$1,147.50, 7/28/16 for \$1,147.50 and 10/28/16 for \$1,147.50. This is an increase of \$150.00 over last year.

Councilman Fazio made a motion that the Town of Denmark enters into the contract and that Supervisor Fleming sign the contract on behalf of the Town of Denmark. The motion was seconded by Councilman Der.

Vote recorded as:	Councilman Der	Aye	
	Councilman Fazio	Aye	
	Supervisor Fleming	Abstains	
	Councilman Thoma	Aye	

Councilman Jones

Aye

Motion passed.

Discussion was held on the bonds for the municipal building. Supervisor Fleming has begun conversations with area banks to try to refinance the bonds at a lower rate. The current bonds call for an average of 5% interest over the next 8 years. Mr. Gebo explained that a Refunding Bond Resolution would have to be adopted by the Town Board if a bid is received to refinance and that the State Comptroller would have to approve the refinancing bid.

Discussion was held on the Bonding Process for the plow trucks and plows. Mr. Gebo's office has published the Bond Resolution dated January 18, 2016 in the Watertown Daily Times on January 21, 2016. Discussion was held on the plow trucks.

Matt Cooper enters the meeting at 6:35pm.

Councilman Jones expressed concern about purchasing a "joy stick" style controller rather than the traditional "box" controller. He is concerned that the stick controller will be more expensive and is unfamiliar to the current operators. Additionally more issues may arise from the electronics. Councilman Der pointed out that this is the way the industry is moving, he also believes that the industry has made real gains in the performance of electronics in recent years. Discussion was held on the fleet of summer trucks. Councilman Fazio asked Supt. Mahar to provide Councilman Jones with an inventory sheet. Supt. Mahar discussed the possible resale of these trucks in seven years.

Councilman Fazio exits the meeting at 6:40pm.

The idea of this replacement project is to keep the town snowplow fleet in good repair at the lowest possible cost. Once a truck reaches seven years in service the cost to repair it begins to outweigh the value of the truck.

Councilman Fazio reenters the meeting at 6:42pm.

Supervisor Fleming asked if the Town Board need take any action. Mr. Gebo explained that no action is needed at this time. The process is on course and only if a response petition is received by February 20, 2016 will the matter have to go to public referendum.

Matt Cooper updated the Town Board on the proposed Water District Project. He outlined the current award of \$400,000.00 from the NYS Local Government Efficiency Grant and the grants that are being pursued through DWSRF (\$570,781.00) and USDA RD (\$500,000.00). The current monies being discussed would leave a local share of \$1,011,219.00. This would lead to an average user rate of \$928.00 annually. This exceeds the Comptroller # of \$903.00. Discussion was held on IMA negotiations with the Village of Copenhagen. Mr. Cooper suggested that if the Village of Copenhagen would agree to a price of \$6.00 per kgal instead of \$8.00 per kgal for water the user cost could be reduced to \$819.00 annually.

Mr. Gebo left the meeting at 6:49pm.

Mr. Cooper provided the Town Board with a handout:



Discussion continued. Supervisor Fleming informed the Town Board that the Village has agreed to a cap of \$30,000.00 for damage caused by increased pressure from the new tank. Town Board asked Mr. Cooper to discuss the \$6.00 price per kgal with the Village and notify them of the Village's response.

Mr. Cooper exits the meeting at 7:02pm.

Councilman Der asked to shift back to the discussion of the Comptroller / Budget Officer position. He asked the Town Board to review the description of a Comptroller as cited on pages 67 and 68 of the 2016 edition of the Town Law manual.

Councilman Thoma made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2016 meeting as prepared by Ms. Kunert. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones.

Vote recorded as:

Councilman Der	Aye	
Councilman Fazio	Aye	
Supervisor Fleming	Abstains	
Councilman Thoma	Aye	
Councilman Jones	Aye	Motion passed.

HIGHWAY BILLS: Clerk Kunert read aloud Highway Abstract #622, Claim 18-38 totaling \$13,647.97. Superintendent Mahar explained each claim. Supt. Mahar noted that there are 2 salt purchases on this abstract 1 for treated salt and 1 for untreated. He has utilized the County bid and will be receiving 2 more deliveries of each. NYS as part of the agreement to use Denmark's garage provides up to 500 tons of salt annually but with the severity of last year's winter and the forecast for another severe year Supt. Mahar took steps to be prepared. Discussion was held on the claims submitted by Supt. Mahar, Mr. Frizzell, Mr. Henry, and Mr. Yancey for work boots. All of the boots are steel toed as per the contract.

Councilman Thoma made a motion, seconded by Councilman Der to pay Highway Abstract #622 as read.

Vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Der	Aye
Councilman Fazio	Aye
Supervisor Fleming	Aye
Councilman Thoma	Aye
Councilman Jones	Aye

GENERAL BILLS: Clerk Kunert read aloud General Fund Abstract #580, claims 21-43 totaling \$5,607.39 with \$6,156.10 additional paid prior (one utility bill from National Grid and one claim to Usherwood for \$5,100.00 as per contract signed in December 2015) claims bringing the total to \$11,763.49. Councilman Der asked about claim 31 to Kimball Plumbing & Heating. Supt. Mahar explained that more work was done to keep the boiler operational. He advised the Town Board that at some point a decision about possible replacement of the current heating system will have to be made. Discussion was held on heating oil vs. propane.

Councilman Thoma made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fazio to pay General Abstract #80 as read.

Vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Der	Aye
Councilman Fazio	Aye
Supervisor Fleming	Aye
Councilman Thoma	Aye
Councilman Jones	Aye

WATER BILLS: Clerk Kunert read aloud Water District #1 Abstract #23, claim 1 totaling \$10,078.58. Discussion was held on a suspected water leak between Cty Rt 194 and River Rd.

Councilman Fazio made a motion, seconded by Councilman Der to pay Water District # 1 Abstract # as read.

Vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Der	Aye
Councilman Fazio	Aye
Supervisor Fleming	Aye
Councilman Thoma	Aye
Councilman Jones	Aye

COMPTROLLER / BUDGET OFFICER'S REPORT: Sharon V. Fleming provided the Town Board with copies of the January 2016 Financial Report, the monthly Comptrollers' Report and the Budget vs. Actual Report. She noted that Ms. Kunert has paid the town in full for the 2016 tax levy and that she and Supervisor Fleming will begin researching investments for the monies. A payment has been also been received from Copenhagen Wind Farm, LLC to repay monies used for Planning Board expenses.

Councilman Fazio made a motion, seconded by Councilman Der to accept the reports.

Vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Der	Aye	
Councilman Fazio	Aye	
Supervisor Fleming	Abstain	
Councilman Thoma	Aye	
Councilman Jones	Aye	Motion passed.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Kunert had provided each Town Board member with a copy of her report for January 2016 in the Board packet for their review prior to the meeting. She also provided copies of the January tax collection report to each member.

ASSESSOR REPORT: Mr. Vargulick reported to the Town Board that after review NYS has notified him that no trending will be needed this year for property values. He has had some residents of the Village of Castorland ask about the lowering of assessments there. At this time he does not feel a revaluation is warranted. Not enough "clean" sale data exists as many of those sales are family or foreclosure.

ZONING and PLANNING REPORT: ZEO Woodruff provided a copy of his January 2016 report. Planning Board minutes of the February 2, 2016 meeting were given to Board Members.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion was held about tabled item from January, letter from Seaway Valley Prevention Council. No action.

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter dated 1/22/16 from Lewis County Youth Bureau was discussed.

Letter dated 1/13/16 from NYS DOT was discussed. NYS DOT is seeking a Shared Services Agreement with the Town of Denmark



After discussion Councilman Der made a motion that the Agreement be entered into and that Supervisor Fleming sign the agreement on behalf of the Town of Denmark. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thoma.

Vote recorded as follows:	Councilman Der	Aye		
	Councilman Fazio	Aye		
	Supervisor Fleming	Aye		
	Councilman Thoma	Aye		
	Councilman Jones	Aye		Motion passed.

Discussion of attendance of officials Tug Hill Conference March 31, 2016 was held. Councilman Fazio made a motion to pay the registration fees and mileage for any Town of Denmark Official attending the conference. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thoma.

Vote recorded as follows:	Councilman Der	Aye		
Councilman Fazio	Aye			
	Supervisor Fleming	Aye		
	Councilman Thoma	Aye		
	Councilman Jones	Aye		Motion passed.

The Certificate of Liability Insurance for Missing Link Snowmobile Club was reviewed. No action.

Town Board members were provided with copies of 2016 Town Law Book

Ms. Kunert notified the Town Board of a check received by her office from NYMIR, Capital Return of \$259.68. She will turn it over to Supervisor Fleming.

Town Board members were provided with copies of Internal Claim Auditor Report prepared by Lori Wheeler for July – December 2015.

HIGHWAY SUPT. REPORT: Superintendant Mahar had nothing further to report.

Discussion was held on postage expenses. Councilman Der will research alternatives.

Being as there was no more business before the Board Councilman Fazio made a motion, seconded by Councilman Thoma to adjourn the meeting.

Vote recorded as follows:		Councilman Der	Aye	
Councilman Fazio	Aye			
		Supervisor Fleming	Aye	
		Councilman Thoma	Aye	
		Councilman Jones	Aye	Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Next meeting of the Town of Denmark Town Board will be March 14, 2016

Prudence L. Kunert

Town of Denmark Town

Clerk