

Town of Denmark

Minutes

July 11, 2016: Minutes of July 11, 2016

Body:

July 11, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Denmark Town Board was held July 11, 2016 at the Town Municipal Building. Supervisor Fleming called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were:

Supervisor: Thomas Fleming
 Councilmen: James Der exits at 7:15pm, reenters at 7:17
 Frank Fazio
 Peter Jones
 David Thoma
 Superintendent: Patrick Mahar
 Assessor: William Vargulick exits at 7:20pm, reenters 7:23pm, exits 7:56pm
 Budget Officer: Sharon Fleming
 Town Clerk: Prudence Kunert

Also present: Deb Der (exits at 6:27 reenters at 6:30), Fred Wadsworth (exits at 6:27), Mark Souva and Justin Astafan of Lewis County Search and Rescue (they exit at 6:04).

Supervisor Fleming asked if any of the public present would like to speak. Mr. Souva and Mr. Astafan spoke to the Town Board asking if they had questions concerning the letter from Lewis County Search and Rescue dated 6/22/16 – explaining the mutual aid agreement with Carthage Area Rescue. They explained that Carthage Area Rescue will assume responsibility for Zecher Road and will act as mutual aid in the North East corner of the Town. They also explained that an ambulance will be available in the Town of Denmark most of the time; this is due to the fact that they can house it here, at the Town Highway Garage, during the day and at the Copenhagen Fire Dept at night. Councilman Fazio thanked them for their efforts to provide better coverage in the Town.

Mr. Souva and Mr. Astafan exited the meeting at 6:04pm.

Councilman Fazio made a motion to approve the amended agenda prepared by Clerk Kunert. 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

Fred Wadsworth, Vice Chair of the Town of Denmark Planning Board, spoke to the Town Board about a proposal from Spectrum to convert Zoning and Sub-division Laws to PDF. The Town Board was provided with a copy of the proposal in the meeting packet prior to the meeting. He also asked the Town Board to consider purchasing tablets for the Planning Board. He explained that by utilizing a combination of the available technology the Planning Board would have better access to the laws. Instead of thumbing through the laws during a meeting the information could be found by entering a keyword. Updates could be performed by the Clerk and then downloaded to the tablets. Mrs. Fleming expressed her concern as Budget Officer about an unplanned expense from B8020.4, Planning Board Contractual.

Discussion was held. Councilman Der suggested that the BAR could benefit from a tablet as well. Clerk Kunert mentioned that she has planned on asking the Town Board to consider them for Board Members in the 2017 budget.

Councilman Thoma made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fazio that the Town of Denmark accept the offer from Spectrum to convert the Town of Denmark Zoning law and Sub-Division Law to PDF at an expense not to exceed \$100.00 and that 2 tablets be purchased for the Planning Board total for both tablets not to exceed \$200.00.

Vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Der	Aye
Councilman Fazio	Aye
Supervisor Fleming	No
Councilman Thoma	Aye
Councilman Jones	Aye

Motion passed.

Councilman Der asked Mrs. Fleming if there was enough money in the BAR Contractual or the Assessors contractual to buy a tablet for the BAR. Mrs. Fleming indicated that there was.

Mr. Wadsworth exits the meeting at 6:27pm.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Discussion was reopened on the matter of the billing to the Villages of Copenhagen and Castorland for the spring clean-up that was tabled at the June 13, 2016 meeting of the Town Board. Councilman Der, Supervisor Fleming and Councilman Jones attended the Village of Copenhagen meeting to discuss with the trustees their concerns over the billing. After the discussion the Village Trustees of Copenhagen proposed paying ¼ of the billed expense this year with the understanding that in the future they will be provided with a schedule of charges prior to a service taking place so they can budget for the expense. Councilman Thoma noted that the Village of Castorland has said they will not pay the invoice due to the fact that they were never notified that they would be charged by the Town. Discussion was held on the amount of time spent in both Villages. Concern about the way the billing was handled with no prior notice was discussed. Questions were asked of Supt. Mahar about other work done for the fire department and cleanup after a fire.

Councilman Thoma made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fazio that both bills for the 2016 Village Cleanup's be rescinded.

Vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Der	Aye
Councilman Fazio	Aye
Supervisor Fleming	No
Councilman Thoma	Aye
Councilman Jones	Aye

Motion passed.

Councilman Jones suggested that opening up better communication with the 2 villages could only improve the relationship between them and the Town. He suggested that the Town Board members could take turns attending the regular meetings in the Villages to better promote this communication. Councilman Der noted that he plans to attend the Village of Castorland meeting on July 12th. Councilman Thoma asked who would establish the rates to be charged. Councilman Der expressed his opinion that it should be Supt. Mahar. Supt. Mahar said that the Town Board could if they wish. He used the NYS Rate in calculating the rate. Discussion was held.

Supervisor Fleming brought up the issue of snow plowing in the Village. Supt. Mahar explained the multi-year agreement between the County and Town that the Town of Denmark entered into last season. Councilman Der suggested that something similar should be developed between the Town and Village.

Supervisor Fleming informed the Town Board that he had received a proposal from the NYS Teamster Local 687.

At 6:46pm Councilman Thoma made a motion to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with NYS Teamster Local 687. 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.

Supt. Mahar and Clerk Kunert were asked by the Town Board to stay. All others present (Deb Der, William Vargulick and Sharon Fleming) left the meeting.

At 7:00pm Clerk Kunert and Supt. Mahar exited the Executive Session.

At 7:15pm Councilman Der made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fazio to exit the Executive Session.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Motion passed.

Councilman Der exits the meeting at 7:15pm.

Councilman Fazio made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thoma.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Motion passed.

Councilman Der reenters the meeting at 7:17pm.

HIGHWAY ABSTRACT: Highway Abstract #627 was read aloud by Ms. Kunert and each purchase was explained by Supt. Mahar; Claim #116-131, Total of \$80,836.79.

Assessor Vargulick exited the meeting at 7:20pm.

Councilman Jones asked about claim #116 to ASAP – he asked if drug testing was random and Supt. Mahar explained that it was. He further explained that he will be looking for a new testing facility as the ASAP Lab may close in the near future.

Councilman Fazio made a motion to pay Highway Abstract #627 as presented. 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

Assessor Vargulick reenters the meeting at 7:23pm.

GENERAL ABSTRACT: General Abstract #585 was read aloud by Ms. Kunert. She gave an explanation of each claim #119-132.

Abstract totaled \$2,298.80, paid prior total \$858.46, Total with paid prior \$3157.29. Councilman Fazio made a motion that Abstract #585 be paid as read. 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

WATER BILLS: Ms. Kunert read aloud Water District #1, Abstract #28, claim 12-15 totaling \$530.34. Supt. Mahar explained the claims.

Councilman Jones noted that the Village says that 12 water meters are not being read. Supt. Mahar explained that he reads all of the Towns meters twice per year for our billing. The Villages billing cycle to the Town occurs at the end of different quarters and so it is the Villages responsibility to read the meters.

Councilman Thoma made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fazio to pay Water District # 1 Abstract #28 as read.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT: Mrs. Fleming provided the Town Board with copies of her monthly Budget Officer's Report and a financial report for June 2016 and a 2nd quarter Budget vs. Actual. Councilman Fazio made a motion, seconded by Councilman Thoma to accept the June Financial Report and the June Budget Officer's Report.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

CLERK REPORT: Clerk Kunert provided the Town Board with copies of the letter of resignation submitted by Lori L. Wheeler from her positions as Internal Claims Auditor, Deputy Clerk and NYS Sub-Registrar which Clerk Kunert has accepted with deep regret. Lori has secured full time employment and no longer has time for the positions. Discussion was held on finding a new internal claims auditor. Clerk Kunert suggested that the Town Board consider Diane Mahar. Mrs. Mahar has some prior claims experience and may have a few hours per month to complete the audit. Discussion was held on any conflict of interest with Supt. Mahar. Clerk Kunert noted that Mrs. Mahar would not be auditing or reporting on Supt. Mahar but on the Budget Officer and Supervisor.

Clerk Kunert provided the Town Board with copies of the June 2016 Clerk's report. She will present her 2016 tax collection report at the August 2016 meeting.

ASSESSOR REPORT: Mr. Vargulick was present and discussed with the Town Board the Solar Wind Exemption and a change being proposed to the SR STAR. Currently the SR STAR has to be filed by March 1st of each year. It is being proposed that a hardship be considered allowing people to file later if they missed it for some legitimate reason. Mr. Vargulick would prefer to stay with a date of March 1 unless a person is hospitalized.

ZONING AND PLANNING: Members were provided with copies of ZEO Woodruff's Report for June 2016.

NEW BUSINESS: Town Board members were provided with the following:

- Letter from Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc dated 6/22/16 – seeking \$1500.00 allocation in 2017 budget (in packet)
- Letter from NYS Office of the Attorney General, Eric T. Schneiderman dated 6/23/16 – Solar power information (in packet)
- Letter from Lewis County Agriculture Society – Invitation to Opening Ceremonies of the 196th Lewis County Fair Tuesday, July 19 at 9:55am

HIGHWAY SUPT. REPORT: Supt. Mahar reported that the new plow trucks should be delivered next week. Councilman Jones asked about the certification of the welds of the truck that was the wrong size. Supt. Mahar responded that the certification and inspections have been completed.

Supt. Mahar reported that the Wilson Rd paving project came in under budget. He plans to use the monies to pave 2/10th of a mile of the Hayes Rd. By doing this the only unpaved roads that the Town plows will be the section of Old State between Roberts Rd and Deer River Rd and the Fleming Rd off NYS Rt 12.

Supt. Mahar has been approached by Doug Carlson of the Roberts Rd about the hillside on his property on the side of Roberts Rd. Mr. Carlson is willing to sell part of the hill so that the road could be straightened. Supt. Mahar will pursue an agreement and bring it to the Town Board.

OTHER BUSINESS: Supervisor Fleming will send the Boards response to Mr. Gebo and ask him for dates to meet for further negotiations with the Teamsters.

Assessor Vargulick exits the meeting at 7:56pm.

Councilman Der noted that Chapter 10 of the Town Law Manuel outlines the procedure for entering into Municipal Cooperation Agreements with other municipalities and suggested that this process should be reviewed to develop agreements with the Villages of Castorland and Copenhagen.

Further discussion was held on the Village of Copenhagen's road project on Cataract St. Supt. Mahar has not been asked by the Village to participate. It is his understanding that the road will be ground down on July 14th.

There being no more business before the Board, Councilman Thoma made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fazio.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Next regular meeting scheduled for August 8, 2016 at 6:00pm.

Town Clerk
Prudence L. Kunert