

Town of Denmark

Minutes

November 09, 2017: November 9, 2017 Regular Meeting

Body:

A regular monthly meeting of the Town of Denmark Town Board was held on Thursday, November 9, 2017. Supervisor Fleming opened the meeting at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were:

Councilman Der

Supervisor Fleming

Councilman Jones

Clerk Prudence Greene

Highway Supt. Patrick Mahar

Budget Officer Sharon Fleming exits at 6:31pm returns at 8:04pm

Assessor William Vargulick enters at 7:15pm

Absent Councilmen:

Councilman Fazio

Also present was Sandy Jones.

Councilman Der made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Jones to accept the amended agenda as prepared by Clerk Greene.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Councilman Der made a motion to accept the minutes of 10.09.2017 as prepared by Clerk Greene. His motion was seconded by Supervisor Fleming .

Vote recorded as follows:

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Supervisor Fleming discussed again with the Town Board the payoff of existing bonds. The Town Board agreed last month at the October 9, 2017 meeting to pay off two of the bonds early. Brief discussion was held.

Councilman Jones offered a resolution and moved for its adoption as follows:

RESOLUTION 45 of 2017: Early Payoff of Construction Bonds

WHEREAS THE Town of Denmark has several outstanding construction bonds, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Denmark has funds available in its Unappropriated – Unreserved Fund to make some early payoffs of some of those construction bonds.

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby authorize Supervisor Fleming to pay the construction bonds in the amount of \$70,000.00 (identified as certificate number 20) and \$65,000.00 (identified as certificate number 19) plus interest of \$2,677.56 for a total of \$137,677.56 to be wired by Supervisor Fleming on December 1, 2017.

The Resolution was seconded for adoption by Councilman Der.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Resolution 45 of 2017 is adopted 11.09.2017

Discussion was held on recent NYS Legislation in regards to FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) regulations. The NYS Law does not apply to municipalities unless the municipalities choose to participate. Local governments have the ability to opt out of the requirements if they wish, however, they must notify the following: municipal employees, NYS Workers Compensation, and the municipalities' disability carrier. After discussion Councilman Jones made a motion, seconded by Councilman Der to "Opt Out" of the NYS FMLA and that Supervisor Fleming send a letter to the appropriate individuals and entities.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Discussion was held on the Worker's Compensation for the Copenhagen and Castorland Fire Departments.

ABSTRACTS: Each abstract was sent to the Town Board in their emailed Board Packet by the Clerk on November 6, 2017.

Highway Abstract 644, Claims 175-195, paid priors \$31,945.21, abstracted \$12,264.62, Total \$44,209.83 was discussed briefly. Councilman Der made a motion that it be paid as presented. His motion was seconded by Supervisor Fleming.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

General Abstract 601, Claims 190-208, total \$26,443.80 paid prior \$462.81, total with paid prior \$26,906.61 was discussed. Councilman Jones asked questions about claim # 198, Lewis County Humane Society. Clerk Greene explained the charges and reviewed the voucher with Councilman Jones. Discussion was also held on claim #208, Eastern Shore Associates for the Town of Denmark insurances. Councilman Der made a motion that the abstract be paid as presented. His motion was seconded by Councilman Jones.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Water District Capital Fund Abstract #7, Claims 12-14 Total \$28,608.29 was reviewed. Councilman Der made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Fleming to pay the bills as presented.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

BUDGET OFFICER REPORT: Supervisor Fleming has prepared a letter to send to Community Bank authorizing Budget Officer Sharon V. Fleming to have access to account information for the remainder of Supervisor Fleming's term (12.31.2017) so she can review deposited monies and cleared transactions. The letter does not allow her to be a signer for the accounts or to do any type of wire transfers. Discussion was held. Councilman Jones made a motion, seconded by Councilman Der to allow Supervisor Fleming to sign the letter and send it to Community Bank, NA.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Mrs. Fleming provided copies of her Budget Officer's Report and the October Financial Report to the Town Board. She also discussed some budget transfer recommendations.

After discussion and review of her recommendations the following Resolution was offered for adoption by Councilman Der:

Resolution 46 of 2017: Inter fund Transfer

It is hereby resolved by the Town of Denmark Town Board that authorization be given to Supervisor Fleming to make the following budget transfers:

From:	To:	Amount:
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A1010.13 Thoma
DB5110.17 Rennie

A9040.0 Workers Comp
DB9060.8

\$555.00
\$535.00

The Resolution was seconded by Councilman Jones.

The Resolution was seconded for adoption by Councilman Der.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Resolution 46 of 2017 is adopted 11.09.2017

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sandy Der asked about the timeline for water billing. Clerk Greene explained that water bills are sent out twice a year in October and March.

ASSESSOR REPORT: Mr. Vargulick will be joining the meeting later. Discussion was held on the AGED Tax Exemption. After discussion Councilman Der offered the following Resolution:

Resolution 47 of 2017: Aged Exemption Income Guidelines for Sliding Scale

WHEREAS, the Town of Denmark Town Board recognizes the difficulty that certain low income seniors encounter in paying their property taxes, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York allows for municipalities to offer certain exemptions, the Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby increase the maximum income level for the AGED Exemption to \$22,700.00, an increase of \$500.00 for 2018.

The Resolution was seconded by Councilman Jones.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Resolution 47 of 2017 is adopted 11.09.2017

CLERK'S REPORT: Members were provided with a copy of the October Clerk's Report in the emailed Board Packet.

The Clerk asked if the Town Board plans to hold a year end meeting. Discussion was held. No action.

The Clerk asked if the Town Board plans to hold an organizational meeting in early January 2018. After discussion Councilman Der made a motion that the Town Board hold its Organizational Meeting at 9:00am on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 9:00am. His motion was seconded by Councilman Jones.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Clerk Greene will notify the press of the meeting and add it to the Town website.

PLANNING AND ZONING: The Town Board was provided with copies of the October 3, 2017 Planning Board minutes.

NEW BUSINESS: (items a-f were provided in the emailed packet)

Letter from the Village of Copenhagen Fire Department – no action

Letter from Eastern Shore Associates dated 10/20/2017 regarding Cyber Breach Liability Coverage, Motion to table to 12.11.2017 was made by Councilman Der, seconded by Councilman Jones .

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Tabled to 12.11.2017

PUBLIC HEARING: At this point it was noted by those present that it was 7:00pm. Clerk Greene published the following legal notice in the Journal & Republican on October 25, 2017:

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Denmark, Lewis County, New York for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018 has been filed in the Office of the Town Clerk at the Town Municipal Building, 3707 Roberts Rd, Deer River, New York where it is available for inspection by any

person during office hours. Further notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Denmark will meet and review said preliminary budget and hold a public hearing thereon at the Town Municipal Building, 3707 Roberts Rd, Deer River, New York on the 9th day of November, 2017 at 7:00pm and at such time any person may be heard in favor or against any item or items therein contained. Any written comments must be submitted to the Town Clerk prior to that time and date for them to be presented to the Town Board at the time of the public hearing. Any persons requiring special accommodations to attend and participate in such public hearing should notify the Town Clerk prior to the hearing. Pursuant to section 113 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following Town Officers are hereby specified as follows:

Councilman	\$ 2,196.00	
Supervisor		\$22,000.00
Town Clerk	\$28,000.00	
Highway Supt.	\$47,240.00	

By order of the Town of Denmark Town Board.

Prudence L. Greene

Town of Denmark Clerk

Dated: October 16, 2017

Councilman Der made a motion to open the Public Hearing of the 2018 proposed budget at 7:00pm. His motion was seconded by Councilman Jones.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

No public comments were made.

Councilman Der made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:01pm. His motion was seconded by Councilman Jones.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Councilman Der offered Resolution 48 of 2017.

Resolution 48 of 2017 that the Town of Denmark Town Board adopts the following Budget for 2018:

Councilman Jones seconded Resolution 48 of 2017 offered by Councilman Der to adopt the 2018 Budget as presented.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Resolution 48 of 2017 is adopted 11.09.2017

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion was held on the contract submitted by Volunteer Transportation Center for 2018. The 2018 Budget includes line A4541.21 in the amount of \$1000.00. Councilman Der made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jones to allow Supervisor Fleming to sign the 2018 Contract with the Volunteer Transportation Center.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Discussion was held on the Village of Copenhagen's concerns about the water billing process between the Town and Village. Discussion was held.

Assessor William Vargulick entered the meeting at 7:15pm.

Discussion continued. Village of Copenhagen is unwilling to read the meters on County Rt 194. Supt. Mahar said he would read those meters when he is asked by the Village of Copenhagen to do so.

ASSESSOR REPORT: Mr. Vargulick spoke to the Town Board about the SOLAR/WIND Exemption. Denmark is currently "opting out" of this exemption. The Town Board did not take any action on this matter.

Discussion was held about the AGED Exemption and resolution adopted by the Town Board moving the income threshold up to \$22,700.00.

Discussion was held on assessment of solar projects. Councilman Der noted that if land is used for solar that parcel loses its Agricultural Exemption. Mr. Vargulick explained that the exemption would be removed and recaptured. Discussion continued.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUES: (items c-g were given to the members prior to the meeting in the emailed Board packet)

Letter from Eastern Shore Associates dated 10/20/2017 regarding renewal of insurance. No action.

Letter from Williamson Services dated 9/28/2017 regarding upcoming rate increase. No action.

Letter dated 10/11/2017 from NYS Dept of Financial Services regarding vacant and abandoned properties. No action.

Letter dated 10/11/2017 from Mercy Flight Central, Inc regarding financial support. No action.

Letter dated 10/19/2017 NYSERDA regarding 2017 NY Solar Guidebook for Local Governments. No action.

Letter dated 10/30/2017 from EDF regarding project hiring and timeline of project. No action.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Supt. Mahar reported to the Town Board that the following roads are designated as seasonal limited use:

Mud Street from Town of Harrisburg line to farm

Mud Street from Wilson Road to Halifax Road

Old State Road from the Carl and Bonnie Jacobs residence to .01, tenth of mile past the bridge towards County Route 55

Discussion was held on the Copenhagen Wind Project.

OTHER BUSINESS: Clerk reported that Judge Kiernan has arranged to have Watertown Correctional send a work crew to wax the floors in the entryway and court room on Friday, November 17, 2017.

Supervisor Fleming has spoken to Matt Cooper of Barton & Loguidice and he (Mr. Cooper) would like to put the water project back out to bid. Supervisor Fleming does not feel that the pricing has leveled out enough at this time to rebid. No action taken.

Discussion was held on the meeting the Town Board attended at the Village of Copenhagen. The IMA for the water supply will need to be redone in 2018. The Village indicated they would like to tie the pricing per kgal charged to the Town to the cost of production. The Village was unable to provide those costs to the Town at this time.

The next regular meeting of the Town of Denmark Town Board will be held at 6:00pm on Monday, December 11, 2017.

Being as there was no more business before the Town of Denmark Town Board Councilman Der made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jones to adjourn the meeting.

Vote recorded as follows:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Prudence L. Greene

Town of Denmark Town Clerk

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