Prepared by Deputy Town Clerk Susan Kirch-Corey

A regular meeting of the Town of Denmark Town Board was held on July 18, 2022, at the Town of Denmark Municipal Building.

In attendance were the following officials: Also in attendance:

Councilman Fred Wadsworth Larry Pacola exits at 6:48pm Councilman Frank Fazio Brian Reape exits at 6:48pm

Ian Gilbert – Lewis County Legislative District 4 – exits at Supervisor Scott Doyle

Councilman Peter Jones 6:28pm

Councilwoman Darlene Rowsam Mark Souva, Village of Copenhagen Mayor – enters at

Superintendent Patrick Mahar exits 7:26pm 6:18pm Town Clerk Prudence Greene exits 7:26pm

Deputy Supt. James Der

Deputy Town Clerk Susan Kirch-Corey exits 7:26pm

Bill Vargulick – Town of Denmark Assessor – exits at 6:45pm, reenters at 6:59pm, exits at 7:25pm

Mickey Dietrich - RACOG - exits at 7:15pm Eric Johnson – AYSO – exits at 6:17pm

The Town Board meeting was opened by Supervisor Doyle at 6:00pm. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy Clerk Kirch-Corey conducted a roll call of the Town Board as follows:

Councilman Wadsworth Present Councilman Fazio Present Supervisor Doyle Present Councilman Jones Present Councilwoman Rowsam Present

Councilman Fazio made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Rowsam to approve the meeting minutes of June 16, 2022, as prepared by Clerk Prudence Greene.

Vote recorded as 5 Ayes and 0 Noes.

Public Comment:

Eric Johnson representing AYSO Region 1647 spoke to the Town about the success of the local club and its involvement with getting kids outside and interested in playing soccer and continuing the involvement of kids that have rejoined the club through volunteerism. Mr. Johnson reported AYSO soccer being selected as Club of Year for Region 3 in 2021, having over 160 players and over twenty volunteers. Locally AYSO has grown 27% from last year, currently having two hundred players. Mr. Johnson is requesting a contribution in support of the club to purchase balls, field paint, gift cards for student volunteers.

Supervisor Doyle spoke to having no requests for Youth Programs in the past 6-months.

Counselman Fazio made a motion, seconded by Counselman Wadsworth as follows: (Councilman Jones recuses due to a business affiliation with Mr. Johnson.)

Resolution 101 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board approves a contribution of \$ 500.00 to AYSO Region 1674 for upgrade of equipment, balls, field paint, and gift cards for student volunteers, and further directs funds to be drawn from the line item A7310.4 Youth Programs in the amount of \$ 500.00 Roll Call vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Wadsworth Aye **Councilman Fazio** Aye **Supervisor Doyle** Aye **Councilman Jones** Recused

Resolution 101 of 2022 adopted 07.18.2022 **Councilwoman Rowsam** Aye

Mr. Johnson exits at 6:17pm

Ian Gilbert, Lewis County Legislator District 4, spoke to the Town Board and interested attendees about the County's position and intended outcome of eminent domain for the proposed Rails to Trails project. The legislation has budgeted \$1.5 million for this project. Mr. Gilbert handed out information about the project with questions and answers. Mr. Gilbert highlighted the process involved with the County being granted an eminent domain. Mr. Gilbert discussed the initial steps of this process where a lawsuit has been filed and has been turned over to a mediator. In the meantime, the Legislators have employed the services of GYMO to conduct surveys. Lewis County Legislators' welcome feedback on this project.

Draft Minutes of 07.18.2022 Prepared by Deputy Town Clerk Susan Kirch-Corey

Mayor Souva enters at 6:18pm

Supervisor Doyle recalled that the County tried to establish a trail system in Denmark and there were no landowners then that wanted to participate.

Larry Pacola cited the legislators lack of representation for landowners and in what the public wants, and enforcement of the trail system. Legislators' being more interested in the tourism dollars that the trail might raise. Mr. Pacola notes the number of deaths of tourists on the existing local trail systems; seven deaths this year, and the need for weekend and holiday enforcement on the trails. Local trails having the highest fatality rate of any nationally, not just NY. Discussion about enforcement continued.

Councilman Fazio asks if peddle cars will be in use? Mr. Gilbert explained that peddle cars are running from Croghan to Beaver Falls.

Mr. Gilbert explained that potentially the trails could be broken into pieces, dependent on geographical feasibility, and public want as it is intended to be a mixed-use trail system.

James Der spoke about a failed effort made by legislators years ago for the same project and being disappointed that it is being revisited. Mr. Der is disappointed in Lewis County's lack of contact with landowners. There existing landowner deeds saying that if the railroad abandons use, the land reverts to current landowners.

Mr. Gilbert added that each easement is included in the same lawsuit.

Brian Reape is in attendance to show his opposition of the proposed trail system.

Councilman Jones offers an opinion as a farming landowner, supporting the taxpayers over tourist dollars.

Supervisor Doyle has spoken with Scott Connell, Copenhagen School Superintendent, to set up an open forum in August on this subject matter.

Mr. Gilbert exits the meeting at 6:28

Mikey Dietrich read the RACOG report to the Town Board, providing information on the following projects in Denmark. LED lighting project for Denmark is wrapping up. GYMO is working on mapping of the Black River from Castorland to Carthage. Progress is being made on the CGI promotional video.

Reports of Departments:

Dog Control Office:

DCO Nick Astafan provided a written report of June 2022, a 6-month report, and the DCO Inventory list; no comments or concerns voiced.

Zoning & Planning:

Planning Board:

Secretary Amanda Clark submitted Minutes of July 5, 2022; No comments or concerns voiced.

Deputy ZEO Kevin Gaines provided a written report of the June 2022 Zoning Report; No comments or concerns voiced.

Supervisor Doyle spoke with Mr. Gaines regarding the search for a ZEO. Mr. Gaines explained he had discussed the position with someone, saying pay is an issue.

Discussion held about finding a ZEO versus the IMA with Lewis County, further research is necessary.

Supervisor Doyle received an email from Katie Zehr expressing interest in the open Planning Board Seat. Ms. Zehr works at Lowville Central School.

Councilman Fazio brought a motion, seconded by Councilman Jones to appoint Katie Zehr to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of Thomas Beyer, effective Monday, July 18, 2022, term to expire December 31, 2024. All ayes.

Assessor: William Vargulick spoke to the Town Board about a notice he received from Lewis County, wanting all towns to utilize the same computer & computer software. The County's utilized software does not support Windows 10. Discussion held.

Mr. Vargulick explains current and omitted taxes for veteran exemption situation, saying that the Town can do it by resolution.

Supervisor Doyle offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilman Wadsworth as follows: (Councilman Fazio abstains from voting as this affects him personally)

Resolution 104 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Board ENACT A RESOLUTION EFFECTING VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, the Town Board for the Town of Denmark, New York has devoted considerable time and attention to tax exemptions effecting veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that it would be in the best interest of the community to permit veterans who currently receive a tax exemption, who then purchase alternative property, to receive a prorated exemption on said purchased property for the balance of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, such proration would be calculated by multiplying the tax rate by the fraction of the fiscal year remaining after the replacement purchase date; and

WHEREAS, such procedure would be governed by Real Property Tax Law, Article Five, Title Three and treated as a clerical error, as defined therein; and

WHEREAS, the veteran's continued receipt of exemption on the new property must be reapplied for on or before the applicable taxable status date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Denmark, New York as follows:

- 1. The forgoing recitation is incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if set forth herein.
- 2. The Town Board hereby enacts the Resolution 104 of 2022 as being in the best interests of the Town of Denmark.
- 3. The Supervisor for the Town of Denmark, and the Town Clerk, their respective agents and employees are hereby authorized to sign all documents and take all steps necessary to enact this resolution.
- 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye
Councilman Fazio Abstains
Councilman Jones Aye
Councilwoman Rowsam Aye
Supervisor Doyle Aye

Resolution 104 of 2022 adopted 7.18.2022

Mr. Vargulick exists at 6:45pm

Mr. Reape and Mr. Pacola exit at 6:48pm

Town Clerk / Tax Collector:

Clerk Greene provided the June 2022 Town Clerks report and the Tax Analysis Collection Report of the 2022 Tax Season, thus formally closing the collection of taxes for 2022. No comments or concerns voiced.

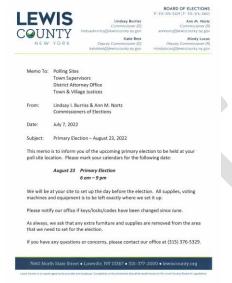
Clerk Greene also presented the following correspondence:

Letter from NYS Ag & Markets, dated 7/16/22, DCO Inspection Report – Satisfactory





 Letter from Lewis County Board of Elections, dated 7/7/2022, confirming Primary on 8/23/22 from 6am – 9pm



- Letter from Converse Labs, dated 6/23/22, beginning 7/1/22, 3% surcharge on future bills



- Letter from Assoc of Towns, fall in person training regulating short term rentals.



- Letter from Shari Simmons, dated 7/2/2022, wind tower noise level



- Certificates of Liability Insurance for the Village of West Carthage Fire Department have been received, they are valid 6/1/2022 – 6/1/2023

Clerk Greene explained the New York State and Local Retirement System requirement for reporting and adoption by resolution of the Standard Workday for elected and appointed officials participating in the retirement system.

Councilwoman Rowsam offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilman Jones as follows:

Resolution 105 of 2022: Whereas the Office of the State Comptroller of New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System requires that a Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution be established for retirement credit reporting purposes for elected and appointed officials;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town of Denmark hereby establishes the following as standard work day for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the Town Clerk:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the To	wn of Denmark		/ 3072	27 her	eby established the	e following sta	ndard work day	s for these titles	and will
report the officials to the New	York State ar	(Name of En	nployer) nent based on their record of ac	(Location Code)	•				
Name	Social Security Number	NYSLRS ID	Title	Current Term Begin & End Dates	Standard Work Day	Record of Activities Result	Not Submitted	Pay Frequency	Tier 1
Elected Officials:									
Prudence L. Greene	3616		Town Clerk / Tax Collector / Court Clerk	01/01/2022 - 12/31/2025	6	28.7		biweekly	
Patrick Mahar	9300		Supt. of Highways	01/01/2022 - 12/31/2025	6	23.45		biweekly	
Appointed Officials:									
Rachael Vary			Court Clerk	01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022	6	2.17		monthly	
Joseph E. Greene			Court Bailiff	01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022	6	1.15		quarterly	

Councilman Wadsworth
Councilman Fazio
Councilman Jones
Councilwoman Rowsam
Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye Resolution 105 of 2022 adopted 7.18.2022

Supt. Mahar submitted a written report to the Town Board updating on his department's activity, a voucher report, and a budget report.

Supt. Mahar reported that the Highway Department has completed paving, are now waiting for shoulders, and then chip seal. Mowing, and tree work are complete. Supt. Mahar reported a flat tire is to be inspected by Lyons Falls Tire to determine cause.

Supt. Mahar advised there is still no build date on the new truck which has been on order since November 2021.

Supt. Mahar reports potential shortages of material – Heater hose is currently unavailable, anticipating there to be a shortage of DEF needed for the trucks. Supt. Mahar will order 6 or 7 barrels of DEF now, to be stored in the Town Garage until needed this winter, the fluid will keep good for about six months in storage.

Councilman Jones discussed a guardrail having been damaged on Deer River Road.

Prepared by Deputy Town Clerk Susan Kirch-Corey

Supt. Mahar explained that it was reported to Richard at Village of Copenhagen. Councilman Jones believes it is the Village's to replace.

Councilman Fazio inquired if the Town is still doing their own maintenance. Supt. Mahar confirmed that they are.

Councilman Wadsworth offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilman Fazio as follows:

Resolution 106 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments Highway Department, Abstract #699, dated July 18, 2022, claim # 120 – 136, total of all claims \$200,089.54.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye
Councilman Fazio Aye
Councilman Jones Aye
Councilwoman Rowsam Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye Resolution 106 of 2022 adopted 7.18.2022

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Doyle reports to the Town Board that North Country CPA has completed the Town's Financial Reports, Scott Lawrence has confirmed he will attend the August meeting to review them.

Supervisor Doyle offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilman Fazio as follows:

Resolution 107 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby authorize the following transfer of funds in the adopted 2022 Town of Denmark Budget:

From	То	Total
A1355.4 – Assessor Contractual	A3610.42 – Cont. Bd of Assessment	51.64
Councilman Wadsworth Ay	e	

Councilman Fazio Aye
Councilman Jones Aye
Councilwoman Rowsam Aye
Supervisor Doyle Aye

Resolution 107 of 2022 adopted 7.18.2022

Supervisor Doyle informed that the Town of Denmark's AUD report underwent a thorough review this year. The amended audit has been reviewed and accepted by the State.

Supervisor Doyle discussed with the Town Board about having a Town Credit Card for Superintendent Mahar. Discussion followed. Supervisor Doyle will develop a credit card policy for use by Town Officials.

Supervisor Doyle advised the Town Board that it is time to start looking at budgets for next year. He will be sending letters to Department Heads and Fire & EMS Contractors in the coming weeks.

Supervisor Doyle informed the Town Board of Katie Zehr's idea or forming a committee to bringing a Public Library to the Town of Denmark benefiting Castorland and Copenhagen. Discussion held.

Councilwoman Rowsam expressed interest in Ms. Zehr's idea for a library committee and would like additional information. Clerk Greene will contact Ms. Zehr to find out about time commitment required.

Supervisor Doyle has been conducting a Wage & Benefit Survey with Town Highway Departments located within Lewis County, receiving six (6) responses.

Supervisor Doyle spoke with the Town Board about notice received regarding NY State Deferred Comp, which is transitioning from paper reporting to electronic reporting. North Country CPAs will be managing the reporting electronically, with Supervisor Doyle remaining on the account.

Councilman Wadsworth offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilman Jones as follows:

Resolution 108 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board approves setting up North Country CPA Scott Lawrence as administrator for NYS Deferred Comp allowing access to transmit the electronic reports as needed. Town Supervisor will remain as a user.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye
Councilman Fazio Aye
Councilman Jones Aye

Prepared by Deputy Town Clerk Susan Kirch-Corey

Councilwoman Rowsam

Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye Resolution 108 of 2022 adopted 7.18.2022

Old Business:

Supervisor Doyle gave an update on door replacement from B.R. Johnson, expecting them to be installed in early August.

Supervisor Doyle informed the Town Board that the Court Office and secondary exit doors will be sent to Northern Glass for an estimate of the glass and security pass thru.

Councilman Wadsworth gave an update on the Technology Upgrade, saying that Big Apple has everything except the tower which is still on backorder and for which he has not been given an expected arrival date.

Supt. Mahar gave a progress update of Town's Ground Maintenance. Supt. Mahar reports the old culverts are all gone, everything has been removed. Supt. Mahar is looking for a vendor to clean up the brush pile.

Supervisor Doyle asks about Davis regarding the brush pile. Supt. Mahar reports that Davis has been notified they are not to bring anything else in.

Supt. Mahar clarified for Supervisor Doyle the measurement of the sidewalk on his drawing of the proposed repairs. Discussion held regarding how to heat the sidewalks.

Supervisor Doyle is looking into price quotes for electric mats versus a pex system for heating the sidewalks during the winter months. Discussion held. Supervisor Doyle will do a study of using a solar array vs. electric for powering the mats.

Supervisor Doyle requests Supt. Mahar to please remove the flower bed and place ballards around the well housing. Supt. Mahar will check on the soil depth for ballards, three (3) feet is the minimum required depth. Supervisor Doyle requests that the cost for new ballards be taken from his salary budget.

Supervisor Doyle has contacted Thomas Aubin about getting a quote for a hitching post for horses, and a windbreak for new entry doors, as well as repair/replacement of exterior cement board. The exterior door wall at the lower level should be repaired as new exterior doors are installed. Discussion on where to place the hitching post was held.

The Town of Denmark has been requested to conduct a Speed Study for Station Road which will be forwarded to Lewis County Highway.

Councilman Jones offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Supervisor Doyle as follows:

Resolution 109 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board hereby approves the request for a speed study to be conducted on the Station Road. The request will be forwarded to the Lewis County Highway Department.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye
Councilman Fazio Aye
Councilman Jones Aye
Councilwoman Rowsam Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye Resolution 109 of 2022 adopted 7.18.2022

New Business:

Supervisor Doyle informed the Town Board of a new Grant Program for blight properties. Discussion held. Supervisor Doyle will forward the information to Town Board members for their review.

Supervisor Doyle informed the Town Board of the increase in cost of Search & Rescue Sponsorship from \$97/Person to \$235/Person.

Councilman Wadsworth offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilman Jones as follows:

Resolution 110 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby rescind Resolution 53 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board authorizes the sponsorship of 5 Town of Denmark Residents @ a cost of \$97.00 each (\$485) for supplies & materials to attend Lewis County Search & Rescue EMT Course. Effective immediately upon adoption.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye
Councilman Fazio Aye
Councilman Jones Aye

Prepared by Deputy Town Clerk Susan Kirch-Corey

Councilwoman Rowsam Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye Resolution 110 of 2022 adopted 7.18.2022

Councilman Wadsworth offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilman Jones as follows:

Resolution 111 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board authorizes the sponsorship of 5 Town of Denmark Residents at a cost of \$235.00 each for a total cost \$1175 for supplies & materials to attend Lewis County Search & Rescue EMT Course. Further the Board authorizes the transfer of \$1175 from Supervisor's Salary line A1220.1 to Town Board Contractual line A1010.41. Effective immediately upon adoption.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye
Councilman Fazio Aye
Councilman Jones Aye
Councilwoman Rowsam Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye Resolution 111 of 2022 adopted 7.18.2022

At 7:25pm Supervisor Doyle announced the Town Board would like to enter Executive Session for a Contractual Issue.

Supervisor Doyle made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jones to enter Executive Session for a contractual issue. Vote recorded as 5 Ayes and 0 Noes.

Supt. Mahar, James Der, Mickey Dietrich, Mark Souva, Prudence Greene, and Susan Kirch-Corey exit the meeting at 7:25pm.

At 7:45pm Councilman Jones made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Rowsam to exit the Executive Session. Vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Wadsworth Aye
Councilman Fazio Aye
Councilman Jones Aye
Councilwoman Rowsam Aye
Supervisor Doyle Aye

Motion to Investigate Options for Fire Protection District 223 for Calendar Year 2023 was offered by Councilman Wadsworth, seconded by Councilman Jones.

Vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Wadsworth
Councilman Fazio
Aye
Councilman Jones
Councilwoman Rowsam
Supervisor Doyle
Aye

Being no other business for the Town Board, motion for Adjournment was at 8:43 pm by Councilwoman Rowsam, seconded by Councilman Jones.

Vote recorded as 5 Ayes, 0 Noes

Susan Kirch-Corey

Town of Denmark Deputy Town Clerk