

A regular meeting of the Town of Denmark Town Board was held on August 15, 2022, at the Town of Denmark Municipal Building.

In attendance were the following officials: Councilman Fred Wadsworth Councilman Frank Fazio Supervisor Scott Doyle Councilman Peter Jones Councilwoman Darlene Rowsam Superintendent Patrick Mahar exits 6:46pm, re-enters 6:53pm Deputy Town Clerk Susan Kirch-Corey Bill Vargulick – Town of Denmark Assessor	Also in attendance: Ken Clarke Kim Vogt Ronny Vogt Jim Henry Deputy Supt. James Der Shareef Stokley Bill Vargulick – Town Assessor Gerald Carter Scott Lawrence – North Country CPAs enters 6:12pm, exits 6:46pm
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Supervisor Doyle opened the Town Board meeting 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 Wadsworth made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jones to approve the meeting minutes of July 18, 2022, as prepared by Deputy Clerk Kirch-Corey.
Vote recorded as 5 Ayes and 0 Noes.

Councilman Fazio made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Rowsam to approve the agenda for August 15, 2022.

Public Comment:

Mr. Clarke expressed concerns about the Fire Dept pertaining to the Town of Denmark. Supervisor Doyle explained that the Town will be pursuing other means of fire protection for 2023 as passed at the regular July meeting. Supervisor Doyle further explained why the motion had been passed.

Mr. Henry explains that they have just received their fire department's accounting books back. Their treasurer has not been responding to anyone's contact attempts.

Supervisor Doyle explained that there have been three different Boards, each with five members for a total of fifteen people who voted on the decision to seek other Fire Protection for 2023. The Town of Denmark's Fire protection District 223 will be protected by others. A redistricting of the Fire District would take 18 months to complete, the Town is not interested in a redistricting of this Fire District. It is the goal of the Town to return to contracting with the Village of Copenhagen after it works out its Fire Department issues. What that Fire Department will look like is not clear to the Town right now, but it is between the Village and Fire Department to work through those issues, not the Town.

Councilman Fazio addressed a rumor heard about the Town of Denmark constructing a building to house a fire truck on Roberts Road. Mr. Henry added that he had heard the same rumor. Councilman Fazio explains the rumor is false; Town of Denmark is not constructing any building anywhere. Further discussion held.

Mr. Carter voiced concerns about homeowner insurance rates going up. Supervisor Doyle explained that the Town is state mandated in providing fire protection coverage for every resident within the town, just as it is required that the Village of Copenhagen provide Fire Protection for village residents.

Councilwoman Rowsam added that the Copenhagen Fire Department is not being disbanded, the intent is to give the department time to get their affairs in order.

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

Resolution 112 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments of General Fund Abstract # 658 dated August 15, 2022, claim # 167 – 187, totaling \$21,031.73.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye

Councilman Fazio Aye

Councilman Jones Aye

Councilwoman Rowsam Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye

Resolution 112 of 2022 adopted 8.15.2022

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

Resolution 113 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments of Water District Abstract #83, dated August 15, 2022, claim # 13 - 14 . Total of all claims \$285.75.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye

Councilman Fazio Aye

Councilman Jones Aye

Councilwoman Rowsam Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye

Resolution 113 of 2022 adopted 8.15.2022

Reports of Departments:

Dog Control Office: DCO Nick Astafan provided a written report of July 2022. No concerns or comments.

Zoning & Planning:

Planning Board:

Secretary Amanda Clark submitted Minutes of August 2, 2022; No comments or concerns voiced.

Zoning Board:

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

Supervisor Doyle discussed with the Board setting a salary for a new ZEO to better facilitate an idea of how much to include in the 2023 budget. Discussion held. Supervisor Doyle will speak with the Deputy ZEO to see if he would be interested in filling the position and what his proposed salary might be.

Assessor:

William Vargulick explains the guidelines for the new laptop for purchase through Lewis County Technology IT Department. Lewis County wants all towns to utilize the same computer & computer software.

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

Resolution 114 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Board approves the purchase of a new laptop computer for the Assessor through Lewis County IT Department. Cost of the computer will come from Assessor Contractual line A1335.4 at a cost not to exceed \$500.00 dollars.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye

Councilman Fazio Aye

Councilman Jones Aye

Councilwoman Rowsam Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye

Resolution 114 of 2022 adopted 8.15.2022

Town Clerk:

Deputy Clerk Kirch-Corey read the Clerk's Report of July 2022. No questions or comments were voiced.

Mickey Dietrich submitted a written RACOG Report for July 2022. The report was delivered to each board member prior to this meeting and there were no comments or questions.

Superintendent of Highways & Special Districts:

Supt. Patrick 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 had been working with Lewis County Highway Department in completing smaller projects.

Supt. Mahar asked the Town Board how they would like him to oversee the cost of the Water Shut-Off for an added service connection. The information for the Shut-Off was not found in the Water Law. Supt. Mahar questioned that maybe the shut-off is intended to be inclusive of the cost of the new service hook-up. Supt. Mahar inquired about purchasing a metal detector to help located dirt covered water shut offs. Discussion held.

Supervisor Doyle asked Supt. Mahar about a budget shortage in the Highway Department, if was going to require any transfers of monies. Supt. Mahar explained that the shortage would be replaced later this year when the CHIPs money is received, and he has never needed to make transfers in the past when this happens. Mr. Lawrence, North Country CPAs asked when or how long the turn-around might be for receiving the CHIPs money. Supt. Mahar explained that it is usually around 45-days from when it is invoiced.

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

Resolution 115 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments Highway Department, Abstract #700 , dated August 15, 2022, claim #137 - 148 , total of all claims \$ 14,818.62.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye

Councilman Fazio Aye

Councilman Jones **Aye**
Councilwoman Rowsam **Aye**
Supervisor Doyle **Aye**

Resolution 115 of 2022 adopted 8.15.2022

Supervisor's Report:

Scott Lawrence – North Country CPAs reported an overview of accounts to the Town Board for the year. All accounts are reported as being right on target for the year at approximately 58.3%. The General Fund account is on the lower end being 53.8%. At the higher end is the Highway Department being 66%, adding that with the CHIPs money coming in to reimburse for shortage.

Supervisor Doyle added that the Town has no debts other than two payments on one piece of equipment.

Councilman Fazio exits at 6:42pm

Councilwoman Rowsam inquires if Mr. Lawrence would get a total of the fuel costs for the Town so far this year for budgeting purposes for 2023.

Councilman Fazio re-enters at 6:45pm

Supt. Mahar adds that a truck ordered in November 2021 is finally here and is expected to be delivered on Thursday. The cost has increased since the original order date by approximately \$2,000.

Supervisor Doyle reported the Town Credit Card Policy has been written, and he will provide a copy to Supt. Mahar as he is the only party currently interested in using it.

Councilwoman Rowsam gave an update for the library project being spearheaded by Katie Zehr. Councilwoman Rowsam attended their meeting as liaison for the Town of Denmark, also in attendance was Lisa Virkler and a representative from North Country Library System. Councilwoman Rowsam reported there being promising ideas for the project. One of the ideas, a reading room that could potentially be a gateway to larger projects. Councilwoman Rowsam explained that a library can be housed in any number of public facilities such as a church, fire department, town municipal building, etc. There is no plan of action at this phase of their planning. An initial meeting will be held November 9th, with the leg work and planning being done by Katie and Lisa.

Councilwoman Rowsam attended at the Lewis County IDA, learning more about the Restore NY Grant and what the intent is for NYS. Townships would not apply on their own behalf but would be partnered with an individual or village seeking to make use of the grant. The IDA is offering application assistance. Councilwoman Rowsam's biggest take away is, Residents should be educated in the opportunity this grant presents.

Councilman Wadsworth added that Mickey Dietrich with RACOG did see that grant and would be looking for other grant opportunities for the Town.

Supervisor Doyle updated the Board on the Budget Process, noting letters have gone out to Department Heads and Fire & EMS Contractors. Supervisor Doyle has scheduled a Budget workshop Tuesday, September 27th @ 6 PM.

Supervisor Doyle reports that contact has been made with the Shop Steward regarding Department of Highway Union negotiations.

Supervisor Doyle reported Clerk Greene's inquiring about declaring old file cabinets, printers, computers as surplus equipment so staff can dispose of it, Justice Kiernan has also approved. Supervisor Doyle action will be taken after Clerk Greene has returned.

Supervisor Doyle requested a resolution to move funds from the ARPA account to the General Fund.

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

Resolution 116 of 2022, The Town of Denmark Town Board hereby approves the transfer of \$85,609.74 from the ARPA Account ending in 4778 to the General Fund ending in 0048, and further directs Supervisor Doyle to close the Account ending 4778 known as the ARPA Account, to be effective immediately.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye

Councilman Fazio Aye

Councilman Jones Aye

Councilwoman Rowsam Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye

Resolution 116 of 2022 adopted 8.15.2022

Old Business:

Supervisor Doyle reported there being no added information about the Municipal building doors, B.R. Johnson is still waiting on materials.

Supervisor Doyle further reports that when the doors come in, they will still need to go to Northern Glass for estimates on glass and pass thru.

Councilman Wadsworth reported the Technology Upgrade is here and can be used at the Budget Workshop on September 27th.

Supervisor Doyle requested an update on Town of Denmark Grounds Maintenance, Supt. Mahar reported the stonework around the well head has been removed and the remaining materials can be removed at any time.

Supervisor Doyle inquired about the brush pile; Supt. Mahar explained he is still looking for a grinder to remove the rest of the brush pile.

Supervisor Doyle inquired about the cost estimate for raising the parking lot 4" & paving it. Discussion held. Supt. Mahar recommends it not be done this year due the soaring cost of materials.

Supervisor Doyle reported on his conversation with Tom Aubin regarding his proposal to repair exterior cement board, to redo interior entrance of lower-level entrance. Horse Hitching Post. Total Job Estimate \$2,625 for the complete list. Supervisor Doyle offered, if the hitching post were removed, having highway department do that portion, the estimate for work would be \$1,350.

Supt. Mahar agreed the Highway Department could do it for less than was quoted, but recommends the hitching post not be placed near the well head.

Councilman Wadsworth offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilman Fazio as follows:
Councilman Jones recuses himself due to a family status with the contractor.

Resolution 117 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board hereby approves the bid from Tom's General Contracting to complete Job #1 being described as Remove/replace at lower entrance exterior drywall, and Job #2 described as Exterior Building Repair in the amount of \$1,350.00. Further the Board authorizes funds be transferred from Supervisor Contractual A1220.4 to General Fund line item A5132.4 for payment upon satisfactory project completion.

Councilman Wadsworth Aye

Councilman Fazio Aye

Councilman Jones Recused

Councilwoman Rowsam Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye

Resolution 117 of 2022 adopted 8.15.2022

New Business:

Supervisor Doyle introduces a recommendation of an amendment of the current zoning law regarding wind driven power setbacks.

Supervisor Doyle read the current Local Law on setbacks. Discussion held on changing Item A. to: "The height of the highest portion of the nacelle plus 8 times the length of one rotating blade (Roughly 2000') of such Wind Power Generating Facility from the road centerline." Supervisor Doyle adding that this change would make ALL towns the same.

Also, changing the setback listed in Item B. from 1500 to 2000 feet from the structure of any residence, public building, campground, church, or business; or 2000 feet from any school property line.

Further discussion held on changing: the owner of a residence *may consent* to vary this distance; to the owner of the residence *may not consent* to varying the distance. Supervisor Doyle explaining that someone who owns the property today, may not be the same owner in the future.

Supervisor Doyle explained reason for these changes, noting nothing can be done about existing facilities, this would be for future construction. Further discussion held. Supervisor Doyle noting the Town would have to engage the Town's Attorney on the requirements to change the law, i.e.: public input, etcetera. Supt. Mahar expressed concerns of the State may not allow the changes due to Title X.

Supervisor Doyle informed the Town Board of new IRS 941 Filings; the IRS has changed the standards for firms filing the IRS-941's for government agencies.

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

Resolution 118 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board hereby approves Supervisor Scott M Doyle signing Form 2848 granting North Country CPA's Power of Attorney to complete quarterly IRS-941 Filings on behalf of the Town of Denmark. This Resolution will be renewed annually at the Organizational Meeting of each Physical Year.

Councilman Wadsworth	Aye	
Councilman Fazio	Aye	
Councilman Jones	Aye	
Councilwoman Rowsam	Aye	
Supervisor Doyle	Aye	Resolution 118 of 2022 adopted 8.15.2022

Supervisor Doyle informed the Town Board that the Foreign Firefighter Insurance Fund was received. Total amount is \$1316.90, to be split equally between West Carthage Fire Department for an amount of \$438.97, Copenhagen Fire Department an amount of \$438.97, Castorland Fire Company amount of \$438.96.

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

Resolution 119 of 2022: The Town of Denmark Town Board hereby approves Foreign Firefighter Insurance Fund of \$1316.90 be split as follows: West Carthage Fire Department amount \$438.97, Copenhagen Fire Department amount \$438.97, Castorland Fire Company amount \$438.96, being issued by check directly to each of these Fire Departments.

Councilman Wadsworth	Aye	
Councilman Fazio	Aye	
Councilman Jones	Aye	
Councilwoman Rowsam	Aye	
Supervisor Doyle	Aye	Resolution 119 of 2022 adopted 8.15.2022

Supervisor Doyle received an Agreement for SnoPals to cross Denmark Roads and Right of Ways. Supt. Mahar would like the Town to receive a portion of SnoPals proceeds to help divert with the cost of road repair caused by snowmobiles crossing.

At 7:40, Councilman Jones offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Rowsam.
Roll call vote Ayes 5, Noes 0

Susan Kirch-Corey
Deputy Town Clerk