

Minutes of 04.17.2023

Prepared by Prudence L Greene

The Town of Denmark regular monthly meeting was held 04.17.2023 at the Town of Denmark municipal building. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Supervisor Scott Doyle. Supervisor Doyle then led those in attendance in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Town Clerk Prudence Greene completed a roll call of the Town Board as follows:

Councilmember Fred Wadsworth	present
Councilmember Frank Fazio	present
Councilmember Peter Jones	present
Councilmember Darlene Rowsam	present
Supervisor Scott Doyle	present

Also present were the following:

Town Clerk Prudence Greene

Dep Supt. Of Highways James Der

Nicholas Munn of Munn Mechanical exits at 6:35pm

Jeff Schwan of Water Systems Unlimited exits at 6:23pm

Angela Schwan exits at 6:23pm

Councilwoman Rowsam made a motion to accept the minutes of the 03.20.2023 meeting. Councilman Jones seconded her motion. Councilman Wadsworth abstains from the vote. Vote recorded as 4 voting aye and 1 abstention.

Councilman Fazio made a motion to accept the prepared agenda. Supervisor Doyle seconded his motion. Vote recorded as 5 voting aye.

Supervisor Doyle asked Jeff Schwan to share his proposal for the water softener & water treatment system. Mr. Schwan developed the system that has been in use since the municipal offices and garage were built and he recommends a similar but upgraded system. He performed a water test on March 20, 2023, and provided results to the Town Board along with his recommendation. The major issues with the well water utilized is its corrosiveness which is due to manganese and hydrogen sulfide levels as well as the hardness of the water. Discussion was held on the proposal. For the cost of \$7,600.00 the system would be installed and would have annual maintenance performed.

Supervisor Doyle asked Nicholas Munn to share his proposal for the water softener & water treatment system. The proposal by Munn Mechanical utilizes a Sterling system with an automatic backwashing filter w/ catalytic carbon, a water softener with an electronic metered head and an iron reduction system w/ iron pro media. He also submitted results from water testing conducted on March 30, 2023, that he used in developing his proposal.

Discussion was held. Councilman Fazio made a motion to table further discussion to the May 15, 2023, meeting of the Town Board. His motion to table was seconded by Councilman Wadsworth. Vote recorded as all ayes.

Jeff and Angela Schwan exit the meeting at 6:23pm.

The Town Board then discussed the proposals for the Preventive Maintenance Contract for the boilers and HVAC system. Proposals were submitted by Munn Mechanical and the John W. Danforth Company. The Danforth proposal for 1 year was \$2,259.00 and they charge mileage and a vehicle charge for unscheduled maintenance and repair. The Munn Mechanical proposal for \$1,975.00 for a year includes travel expenses. Mr. Munn explained that he can provide 24/7 coverage through a network of local plumbers and HVAC installers that he works with.

Discussion was held about water quality. Councilman Jones will take 2 water samples to have them analyzed and report back to the Board. Mr. Munn exits at 6:35pm.

Privilege of the floor: Jim Der asked on behalf of his wife, Deb Der – Planning Board member and BAR Chair, if the Town Board would pay the costs associated with her attendance at the upcoming Black River Watershed Conference on 6.14.2023. Councilman Fazio offered a motion, seconded by Councilman Wadsworth, that the Town of Denmark pay registration fees for any Town of Denmark official interested in attending the Tug Hill Commission Black River Watershed Conference on 6.14.2023. Vote recorded as 5 ayes.

## REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS

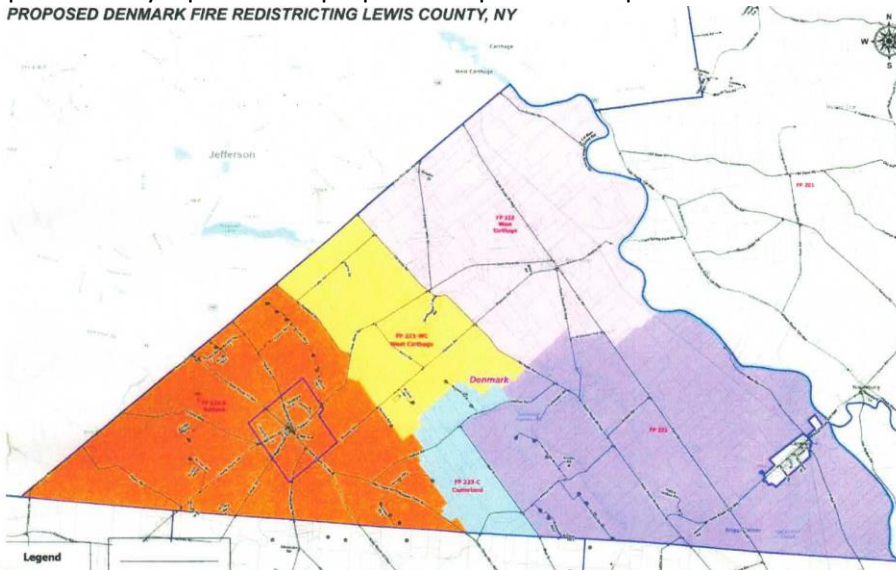
### Supervisor's Report:

North Country CPA/NYCLASS – Financials were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Supervisor Doyle noted that interest in the amount of \$11,358.30 has been earned on the money in the NYCLASS accounts.

Supervisor Doyle discussed the Annual Financial Report for 2022 that has been filed with the State. During the process it was discovered that the money received from Lewis County in 2022 should have been reported as revenue and divided between the HIGHWAY FUND - TOWNWIDE and HIGHWAY FUND – PART TOWN budgets. Based on the comments made by the State, Supervisor Doyle, realized the interest income from NYCLASS investments will also need to be tracked and reported in the appropriate budgets (HIGHWAY FUND - TOWNWIDE and HIGHWAY FUND – PART TOWN) has asked that in the future, the Town Accountant track any interest monies earned from the NYCLASS investments and separate them by fund..

Questions were also raised by the State about payments made to the Rutland and Castorland Fire departments for the purchase of buying more radios for their members and Supervisor Doyle explained the expenditures to the State and his explanations were accepted.

Supervisor Doyle provided a proposed map of the fire protection districts in the Town for 2024.



He advised that he met with the Rutland Fire District, Village of West Carthage Fire Department and Village of Castorland Fire Department and Lewis County Emergency Management to discuss fire district lines in the Town of Denmark. When Denmark replaced the Village of Copenhagen Fire Department with the Rutland Fire District Department maps were drawn up dividing the area previously designated as the Village of Copenhagen Fire Department response areas. Those maps were temporary and now the maps have been reevaluated for 2024 with an understanding that they may be made permanent in 2025 if the Village of Copenhagen still has no department or if the Town Board chooses not to contract with the Village of Copenhagen. If the maps become permanent in 2025 the area designated as FPD223-C would be combined with FPD-221(Castorland), FPD223-WC would be combined with FPD222(West Carthage). This map if adopted permanently may lead to a change in the rate paid by residents in the “new” Castorland protection area. The residents in FPD221-Castorland currently pay \$0.94000 per thousand in part to pay for the new fire hall and the residents in FPD223C pay \$0.476672. If merged this will affect the rates in both areas. The map also removes wind towers from the FPD223C area and reassigns them to FPD223R controlled by the Rutland Fire District.

A discussion was held on NYS proposed RPTL - 575B. The NYS Budget budget has not yet been adopted and is still being negotiated. The proposed RPTL - 575B may or may not be included in the budget adoption process. Supervisor Doyle continues to meet with local state representatives to raise awareness of the proposals impacts if it becomes law. He also continues to engage local municipal representatives and Lewis County in an effort to encourage them to help pay for litigation trying to block the proposed RPTL-575B if it is adopted. The legislation, if adopted, will have a huge impact on the PILOT agreements in place for the Copenhagen Wind Project and solar projects in Denmark.

**Clerks Report:**

Town Clerk Prudence Greene provided her Clerk and Tax Collector reports for March 2023 to the Town Board for their review.

Clerk Greene supplied copies of the RACOG report, the Dog Control Officer’s April Report, and the Zoning Report for March 2023 to the Town Board.

Town Board members were provided with the General Fund, Water District, and Highway Fund abstracts prior to the meeting and had no questions about the claims.

**Superintendent of Highways & Special Districts Report:**

Supt. Mahar provided a budget report and voucher report to the Town Board prior to the meeting.

**Old Business:**

Supervisor Doyle reported that the heated sidewalk and parking lot projects are on hold until National Grid determines whether the electrical system needs an upgrade to three phase from the current single phase and Fourth Coast develops its engineering proposal. Supervisor Doyle reported that he had contacted the State for information on fires caused by roof mounted solar arrays and was told that no data was available, that it is not currently tracked. Supervisor Doyle has spoken to Lewis County Building and Codes, and they are aware of the potential project.

Discussion was held on the Citizen Complaint Procedure Tab for the website. Clerk Greene reported that Brian Phelps has been developing that portion of the website. Supervisor Doyle noted it is on the website at this time and can be accessed by using the search feature on the website.

Discussion was held on the Community Choice Aggregation Program. The Town Board feels that they need more information from Lewis County before they proceed.

Discussion was held on Nelson Tree Service Parking. At the beginning of the discussion Councilman Wadsworth made a statement recusing himself from any discussion and or votes on this matter due to a family members status as a current employee of Nelson's Tree Service. The Town Board expressed their concern about allowing a private business to utilize the town's parking lot. Concerns centered around potential liability. Councilman Fazio made a motion, seconded for adoption by Councilman Jones that Nelson's Tree Service be asked to vacate the parking lot immediately. Vote recorded as follows: Councilman Wadsworth ABSTAINS. Vote recorded as 4-0.

Discussion was held on the quote for the Court Clerk's office door. The quote from Northern Glass is \$3,758.00 which is higher than the previous verbal quote. Discussion was held. The money for this expenditure will be paid from ARPA funds as directed in Resolution 27 of 2023.

**New Business:**

A discussion was held on NYS proposed RPTL - 575B. The NYS budget has not yet been adopted and negotiations continue. The proposed RPTL - 575B may or may not be included in the budget when adopted. Supervisor Doyle continues to meet with local and state representatives to raise awareness of the proposals' impacts if it becomes law. He also has a meeting planned with Joon Lee of the Copenhagen Wind Project to discuss a possible Community Host Agreement in the event RPTL - 575B is adopted.

Discussion was held on RPTL – 466a Firefighter & EMS Tax Exemption. No action taken.

Discussion was held on the highway equipment listed as surplus at the 03.20.2023 meeting. At this time Deputy Supt. Jim Der was unsure of when the equipment would be listed on the Auctions International site by Supt. Mahar.

Supervisor Doyle advised the Town Board that the Town has received paperwork about a previous highway department employee filing for unemployment. Discussion was held.

**Slate of Resolutions:**

The slate of resolutions was reviewed by the Town Board.

**A Slate of Resolutions (60- 64) was offered by Councilman Wadsworth, and was seconded for adoption by Councilwoman Rowsam as follows:**

**Resolution 60 of 2023: General Fund Abstract April 17, 2023**

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments of General Fund Abstract #666 dated **April 17, 2023**, paid prior claim #81 in the amount of \$250.00, new claims # 82 – 105, totaling \$12,352.72.

**Resolution 61 of 2023: Water District 1 Abstract April 17, 2023**

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments of Water District Abstract #91, dated **April 17, 2023**, claim #6 totaling \$28.00.

**Resolution 62 of 2023: Highway Abstract April 17, 2023**

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments Highway Department, Abstract #708, dated **April 17, 2023**, new claims # 47-53 totaling \$12,356.58.

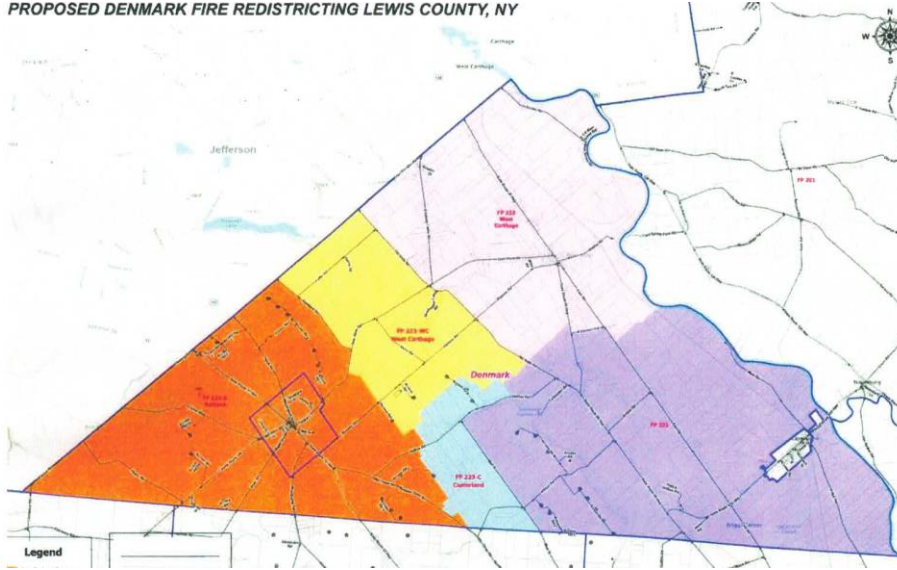
**Resolution 63 of 2023: Preventative Maintenance Contract for Boilers & HVAC System**

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves the annual preventative maintenance contract for Boilers & HVAC systems for \$1,975.00 with Munn Mechanical for the period May 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024. This cost will be covered by A5132.4 Garage Contractual.

**Resolution 64 of 2023: Adoption of Fire Protection Maps for 2024**

The Town of Denmark Town Board hereby adopts the following as its fire protection districts for 2024:

*PROPOSED DENMARK FIRE REDISTRICTING LEWIS COUNTY, NY*



UPDATED MAP 4/17/23

A brief discussion was held about a possible conflict of interest if Supervisor Doyle were to volunteer with a local fire company.

At 7:46pm Supervisor Doyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Fazio seconded his motion. Vote recorded as 5 ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Prudence L. Greene  
Town of Denmark Town Clerk