

The Town of Denmark regular monthly meeting was held 06.20.2023 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.

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

Councilmember Fred Wadsworth	present
Councilmember Frank Fazio	absent
Councilmember Peter Jones	present (exits at 6:36pm)
Councilmember Darlene Rowsam	present
Supervisor Scott Doyle	present

Also present were the following:

Town Clerk Prudence Greene
Dep Supt. Of Highways James Der
Mickey Dietrich – RACOG

At this time Supervisor Doyle waived the reading of the RFP (Request for Proposal) and asked Town Clerk Greene to open and read aloud the proposal's submitted to Replace the Water Treatment, Water Softener, Chemical Treatment System at the Town Offices and Highway Garage.

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| 1. Bidder: Pinnacle Piping Corp. | Received 06.14.2023 | Amount: \$9,982.00 |
| 2. Bidder: Water Systems Unlimited | Received: 06.15.2023 | Amount: \$8,580.00 |

At this time Supervisor Doyle waived the reading of the RFP (Request for Proposal) and asked Town Clerk Greene to open and read aloud the proposal's submitted for Lawn Care and Weed Control at the Town Offices and Highway Garage.

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| 1. Bidder: JLK Lawncare, LLC | Received: 06.07.2023 | Amount: \$120.00/trip |
| 2. Bidder: Jeff's Landscaping | Received: 06.12.2023 | Amount: \$1495.00 (6/20 – 10/31) |
| 3. Bidder: Powis Contracting, Inc. | Received: 06.15.2023 | Amount: \$24,500.00 (6/20 – 10/31) |

Councilman Wadsworth made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Rowsam, to accept the minutes of 5.15.2023 prepared by Deputy Clerk Susan Kirch-Corey. Vote recorded as 4 aye and 0 no.

Councilman Jones made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Rowsam, to accept the agenda for tonight's meeting. Vote recorded as 4 aye and 0 no.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS

Supervisor's Report:

North Country CPA/NYCLASS – Financials were provided to the Town Board prior to the meeting for review.

Supervisor Doyle reminded the board members that the Water District #1 Bond Payment is due 7.23.2023 and is paid via wire transfer. A resolution to allow him to make that payment is included on this month's slate of resolutions.

Discussion was held about RPTL - 466a Firefighters & EMS Exemption. Real Property Tax Law § 466-a authorizes the governing body of a county, city, town, village, school district, fire district, or special district, to partially exempt up to 10% of the assessed value of the residence of a volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker. If adopted by the Town Board, those applying for the benefit would need to complete an application and submit it to Assessor Vargulick by the taxable status date (March 1st). The exemption has been adopted by Lewis County and other municipalities (towns, villages, and schools) are considering it at this time.

Supervisor Doyle provided an update on RPTL 575b. The legislation requires assessors to use the appraisal model and the associated discount rates to value and place assessments on solar and wind energy systems with a nameplate capacity equal to or greater than one megawatt. The legislation did not pass in time for the model to be entered in Real Property prior to the 2023 final tax rolls; therefore, it will not be implemented this year. A lawsuit to block the implementation of RPTL 575b continues to be pursued. Supervisor Doyle will continue to provide information as it becomes available.

Town Clerks Report

Clerk Greene provided her Town Clerk's report and Tax Collection report for May 2023 prior to the meeting. No questions were asked about her reports.

Town Clerk Greene provided the following correspondence:

Minutes of 06.20.2023

Prepared by Prudence L. Greene

- Letter from Lewis County Board of Elections, dated 5.19.2023, primary on 6.27.2023
- Letter from NYS Dept of Ag & Markets, dated 5/30/2023, DCO inspection report, DCO Jay Steiner rated "Satisfactory"

Mickey Dietrich of RACOG reviewed his monthly report and the information about Tug Hill Sage nominations.

Dog Control Officer Report and Dog Seizure Reports and Zoning Reports (amended April 2023 and May 2023) were also provided.

Clerk Greene also prepared the June 20, 2023, General Fund, Highway and Water District Abstracts of bills and provided them to board members prior to the meeting.

Discussion was held on the purchase of safe for registrar records. An appropriation was made in the 2023 budget to allow for the purchase. Clerk Greene will purchase the safe in July.

Superintendent of Highways & Special Districts Report

Supt. Mahar provided the following prior to the meeting: YTD Budget Report and a Voucher Report for Highway Abstract 710. Supt. Mahar also provided a written report of his department's activities and an amended Section 284 agreement for the Town Board's consideration.

Deputy Supt. Jim Der provided an update about the town's roadside mower. It was returned to the town today and was pulled off duty again by another malfunction.

A brief discussion was held on General Fund voucher 139, payable to Kam Ventures, LLC DBA Doors Plus. The estimate (\$17,600.00) did not include the remote openers and the total claim was increased by \$3,700.00 for a total of \$21,300.00. A discussion was also held on a 15% restocking fee claimed on Highway Fund voucher 69, payable to Triple Cities.

Old Business

The sidewalk and parking lot projects are on hold until a decision is reached about installing a solar project at the town property located at 3707 Roberts Road. The solar project is being designed by St. Lawrence Engineering and they gave a presentation at a Town Board work session on 6.15.2023. The solar array would be large enough to provide electricity for the municipal building and highway garage as well as a heated sidewalk at the municipal buildings front entrance. Based on preliminary estimates the project may potentially have an 11-year payback and would be warrantied for 25 years. Grants are available from NYSEDA, and others may be available from other sources. Supervisor Doyle asked Mickey Dietrich for help from RACOG or the Tug Hill Commission in pursuing grant funding. Councilwoman Rowsam also suggested that the Lewis County Planning Dept or the Lewis County IDA may have information.

Councilman Jones exited the meeting at 6:36pm.

Supervisor Doyle provided an update on the Court Clerk office door being modified by Northern Glass.

Supervisor Doyle reported that he has received partial reimbursement from the NYS DOT for fuel.

New Business

Supervisor Doyle made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Rowsam, to table discussion of the RFPs for replacement of water treatment, water softening and chemical treatment system to the July 17, 2023, meeting of the Town Board. Vote recorded as 3 aye and 0 no.

Discussion was held on the RFPs for lawn maintenance. Jeff's Landscaping was chosen based on their bid of \$1,495.00 and the resolution for the contract was added to the slate of resolutions.

The Planning Board has requested name plates for meetings. Discussion was held. Councilman Wadsworth made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Doyle, that the Town Clerk order name plaques for each member of the Planning Board. Vote recorded as 3 aye and 0 no

Discussion was held about the potential purchase of a refrigerator for the upper level of the municipal building. Councilwoman Rowsam made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wadsworth, that the Town Clerk purchase a small refrigerator. Vote recorded as 3 aye and 0 no.

Discussion was held on the "Inner Connection Study" to be performed by National Grid.

Discussion was held on the email account used by the Town Clerk's office. The current email (townclerk@townofdenmarkny.org) is used by both the Deputy and Town Clerk. Each of them has a separate signature but both access the same account. Councilwoman Rowsam asked about establishing a separate email account for the Deputy Clerk. Clerk Greene expressed her preference that the email account remain joint. All communication with her office should come through her account and there is no need for a separate account that would need to be maintained and accessed. She feels that it leads to a more efficient response to emails and provides information on ongoing matters that the Deputy Clerk may also help handle. The town would need to purchase an additional license and it would require that when not in the office (vacation, sick days, etc.) either the main account would have to be accessed by the Deputy anyway or forwarded to the Deputy creating an unnecessary delay for routine matters. Nearly every communication received in the Clerk's email is subject to FOIL. Confidential emails, if received, are opened and moved through the retention process by the Town Clerk or at the direction of the Town Clerk.

Supervisor Doyle discussed the court clerk's office door modification being done by Northern Glass to install a window and pass through slot in the door.

Clerk Greene has asked Tom Aubin to submit a quote to paint the Town Clerk's office, entryway, and hallway on the upper level of the building.

Supervisor Doyle expressed his concern about ants at the front entrance of the building. He will contact an exterminator.

Slate of Resolutions: The slate of resolutions was reviewed by the Town Board.

A Slate of Resolutions (76 - 83) was offered by Councilwoman Rowsam, and was seconded for adoption by Supervisor Doyle as follows:

Resolution 76 of 2023: General Fund Abstract June 20, 2023

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments of General Fund Abstract #668 dated **June 20, 2023**, new claims # 132 - 151, new claims totaling \$35,978.11.

Resolution 77 of 2023: Water District 1 Abstract June 20, 2023

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments of Water District Abstract #93, dated **June 20, 2023**, claim #10-11 totaling \$68.00.

Resolution 78 of 2023: Highway Abstract June 20, 2023

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments Highway Department, Abstract #710, dated **June 20, 2023**, new claims # 67-77, totaling \$35,444.92.

Resolution 79 of 2023: EFC Payment year 2 2023

The Town of Denmark Town Board hereby authorizes Supervisor Scott M. Doyle to make a wire transfer in the amount of \$17,370.00 to M&T Bank for the year two loan payment, Loan ID: 6115, for Water District 1, Project No.: DO-18020, and further directs that the payment once made, be recorded as a paid prior on the July 2023 Water District 1 Abstract, with funds to be drawn from budget code SW9790.6.

Resolution 80 of 2023: Acceptance of bids for surplus Highway Department items:

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby accept the following bids from Auction International:

Three Point Mower	\$760.00
2008 Ford F350 Dump Truck with Plow	\$5,200.00
2014 Ford F250 with Plow	\$8,800.00
1995 Ford L9000 Dump Truck	\$1,825.00

The Town Board further directs that the money paid for each item be recognized with revenue code DA2665 – Sale of Equipment.

Resolution 81 of 2023: Amended Section 284 Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby accept and approve the following *Amended* Section 284 Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys as follows:

AGREEMENT between the Town Superintendent of the Town of Denmark, Lewis County, New York and the undersigned members of the Town Board.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that moneys levied and collected in the Town for the repair and improvement of highways, and received from the State for State Aid for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows:

Minutes of 06.20.2023

Prepared by Prudence L. Greene

- 1. GENERAL REPAIRS. The sum of \$334,850.38 shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon 9.24 miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or renewals thereof.
- 2. PERMANET IMPROVEMENTS. The following sums shall be aside to be expended for the permanent improvement of Town highways:

(a) On the road commencing at 2.84 m on Halifax Road and leading to Intersection of Halifax and Old State Road, a distance of 10 miles, there shall be expended not over the sum of \$124,000.00.

Type	<u>Reprofile and surface</u>
Width of traveled surface	<u>22'</u>
Thickness	<u>3"</u>
Subbase	<u>3"</u>

(b) On the road commencing at Wilson Road Town Line and leading to State Route 26, a distance of 2.68 miles, there shall be expended not over the sum of \$49,312.00.

Type	<u>oil and stone</u>
Width of traveled surface	<u>22'</u>
Thickness	<u> </u>
Subbase	<u> </u>

(c) On the road commencing at Mud Street and Wilson Road and leading to the end of pavement, a distance of .47 miles, there shall be expended not over the sum of \$9,200.00

Type	<u>oil and stone</u>
Width of traveled surface	<u>22'</u>
Thickness	<u> </u>
Subbase	<u> </u>

(d) On the road commencing at Griffith Road and State Route 26 and leading to Town line, a distance of .24 miles, there shall be expended not over the sum of \$4,600.00

Type	<u>oil and stone</u>
Width of traveled surface	<u>20'</u>
Thickness	<u> </u>
Subbase	<u> </u>

(e) On the road commencing at Roberts Road and State Route 26 and leading to State Route 12, a distance of 4.85 miles, there shall be expended not over the sum of \$89,300.00

Type	<u>chip seal</u>
Width of traveled surface	<u>20'</u>
Thickness	<u> </u>
Subbase	<u> </u>

Resolution 82 of 2023: RFP Lawn Care and Weed Control

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby accept the RFP submitted by Jeff’s Landscaping in the amount of \$1,495.00 for the 2023 season ending 10.31.2023.

Resolution 83 of 2023: “Inner Connection Study” National Grid

The Town of Denmark Board hereby approves the expenditure of \$750.00 to National Grid for an "Inner Connection Study" to see if the Electric Grid will support & accept the necessary Kilowatts generated by the solar array designed. The Town Board further directs that the funds to pay this be drawn from budget code A5132.4 and that the expenditure be listed on a general fund abstract when the claim is paid.

Roll Call Vote recorded as follows:

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

Resolutions 76-83 are adopted 06.20.2023.

At 6:55pm Supervisor Doyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Rowsam seconded his motion. Vote recorded as 3 aye and 0 no.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

Prudence L. Greene
Town of Denmark Town Clerk