

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Denmark Town Board was held on April 15, 2024, at the Town of Denmark municipal building.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Supervisor Scott Doyle. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Councilmember Fred Wadsworth	present
Councilmember Frank Fazio	present, exits at 7:13pm, returns at 7:20pm
Councilmember Peter Jones	present
Councilmember Darlene Rowsam	present
Supervisor Scott Doyle	present

Also present:

Town Clerk Prudence Greene
Deputy Clerk Susan Kirch-Corey
Supt. of Highways Pat Mahar
Dep Supt. of Highways James Der, exits at 6:52pm, returns at 7:02pm
Chris Barboza – Tug Hill Commission, exits at 6:34pm
Paul Shepard – Ft. Drum intern, working with RACOG

Councilmember Fazio made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rowsam, to accept the minutes of 03.18.2024 as prepared by Town Clerk Greene. Motion carried with all ayes.

Councilmember Fazio made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to accept the agenda for tonight's meeting. Motion carried with all ayes.

Public Comment: None

There were two sealed bids received on 4.11.2024 for Lawncare and Maintenance as outlined in RFP Lawn Care and Weed Control. At 6:03 pm these bids were opened by Deputy Clerk Kirch-Corey as follows:

Jeff's Landscaping:

Winter Repair \$1,250.00 2024 Mowing & Lawn Maintenance \$5,400.00

Richard Furgison:

Winter Repair \$300.00 2024 Mowing & Lawn Maintenance \$3,600.00
2025 Mowing & Lawn Maintenance \$3,600.00

Discussion held.

Councilmember Wadsworth offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Supervisor Doyle, as follows:

Resolution 50 of 2024: RFP Lawn Care and Weed Control

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby accept the RFP submitted by Richard Furgison in the amount of \$3,600.00 for 2024, and \$3,600.00 and 2025, for lawn mowing and maintenance services.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Recused
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye
Supervisor Doyle	Aye

Supervisor Report: Supervisor Doyle reported he has received and reviewed financial report from North Country CPAs for Town of Denmark.
NYCLASS interest YTD is \$18,576, which is 31% of the \$58,794 budgeted goal for 2024.

The 2023 Annual Financial Report, formerly known as the AUD Report, has been received and filed with NYS OGS.

Supervisor Doyle offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilmember Wadsworth, as follows:

Resolution 51 of 2024: Receipt of 2023 AUD Report

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby acknowledge receipt of the 2023 Annual Financial Report, formerly known as the AUD Report, an annual report of finances for filing with New York State Office of General Services.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Aye
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye
Supervisor Doyle	Aye

Supervisor Doyle updated the Board on the progress of permitting for the Salt and Sand Storage building through the WQIP grant; contract revisions have been completed. SEQR and the Lewis County permit will be submitted when the blueprints are received.

Supervisor Doyle and Supt. Mahar have been in contact with Mary Louise Merkwa, and believe the existing pavement pad can be utilized, saving money.

Supervisor Doyle offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilmember Wadsworth, as follows:

Resolution 52 of 2024: Estoppel Notice for Bond Resolution

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby authorize and direct the following notice be published by Town Clerk Prudence Greene after April 21, 2024:

On March 18, 2024, the Town Board of Town of Denmark passed a Bond Resolution authorizing the issuance of Serial Bonds not exceeding \$845,000 to be used to purchase and construct a new Building. The period of probable usefulness for such estimated cost pursuant to Local Finance Law Section 11.00 Subdivision 11 (c) is thirty (30) years. A full text of the resolution is available for inspection at the Town Offices, 3707 Roberts Road, Carthage, NY 13619, during normal business hours.

The validity of the obligations authorized by such Resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Town is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law, which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit, or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days of the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Aye
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye
Supervisor Doyle	Aye

Supervisor Doyle informed that Planning Board Chair Kevin Gaines, does not have any concerns for the planning board to issue an exemption from local permitting.

Supervisor Doyle has received a letter from BCA, dated 4.11.2024, requesting the Town's permission to allow the Village of Copenhagen to be lead agency for the SEQR of their water infrastructure improvement project. The project will connect the village of Copenhagen to the Carthage/W. Carthage water supply. Supt. Mahar noted that DOH requires there to be two water sources, Clerk Greene agreed.

Councilmember Wadsworth offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Supervisor Doyle, as follows:

Resolution 53 of 2024: Village of Copenhagen Lead Agency for Water Improvement Project

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby authorize Town Supervisor Scott Doyle, to sign the consent form provided by BCA Architects and Engineers consenting that the Village of Copenhagen can act as Lead Agency for this purpose.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Aye
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye
Supervisor Doyle	Aye

Supt. Mahar wonders if the Town will be able to add new customers to the new line? Supervisor Doyle offered that it is still too early to know, adding, there are 24 homes and barns in that area. The project will include fire hydrants for Fuller and Harris roads.

Supervisor Doyle advised the connection will be mutually beneficial for these villages in having a larger flow of water going through the line. It has yet to be determined if this line will be for transmission or distribution. Supervisor Doyle informs the Board that Town of Denmark has no financial responsibility to the project if it is a transmission line.

Councilmember Fazio voiced concerns that the Village of Copenhagen had just put money into the Woodbattle station fearing it will be abandoned. Councilmember Jones explained the village had received an estimate of \$700,000 to fix all problems there, but the Village had opted to rehab just the essentials, such as the roof and heating system costing \$130,000, being just a fraction of what it could have been. Discussion held.

Paul Shepard – RACOG introduced himself as an intern with RACOG, transitioning away from Ft. Drum. Mr. Shepard will be providing monthly updates and reports from RACOG. He reported the Economic Visioning Summit was a great success. There were 30 attendees, noting a few leaders of Lewis County providing some great information.

The next meeting will be May 30, 2024, survey results are expected back from Albany by then.

RACOG is engaging students in local government, as well as seeking public officials from local government to explain their specific role, how what they do impacts their community.

Chris Barboza – Tug Hill Commission is collecting data of regional traffic studies to see if a Regional Traffic Safety Plan would be worth developing. Chris will be sending out a survey for walkability, safety concerns, and grant opportunities for transportation and safety.

Supervisor Doyle added that the Town has requested a speed study on NYS Rt.26 from the County Line to Deer River.

6:34pm, Mr. Barboza exits.

Town Clerks Report – Clerk Greene

The Town Board was provided copies of the March 2024 Clerk's Report and March 2024 Tax Collector's Report prior to the meeting.

Clerk Greene noted a typographical error found on the General Fund Abstract, dated March 18, 2024.

Councilmember Wadsworth offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Supervisor Doyle, as follows:

Resolution 54 of 2024: Correction of General Fund Abstract March 19, 2024

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves the correction of General Fund Abstract #677, dated March 19, 2024, where Voucher #73 contained a typographical error showing budget code A1310.5 which does not exist, corrected to read budget code A5132.4.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Aye
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye

Supervisor Doyle Aye

Clerk Greene reviewed the General Fund, Highway Fund and Water District 1 Abstracts with the Board.

Supervisor Doyle offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilmember Wadsworth, as follows:

Resolution 55 of 2024: General Fund Abstract April 15, 2024, Water District 1 Abstract April 15, 2024, Highway Fund Abstract April 15, 2024

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments of General Fund Abstract #678 dated April 15, 2024, new claims #85 – 105, totaling \$9,738.00,

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments of Water District 1 Abstract #103 dated April 15, 2024, new claims #6 - 7, totaling \$90.00,

The Town of Denmark Town Board approves payments of Highway Fund Abstract #720 dated April 15, 2024, new claims #44 – 54, totaling \$13,117.68.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Aye
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye
Supervisor Doyle	Aye

Clerk Greene reported that Dog Control Officer, Lindsay Hess hit the ground running with calls on April 1st and has submitted her first report, April 1 through April 11, which was included in the meeting materials for the Boards information.

The Zoning Report for March 2024 and Planning Report for April 2024 were included in the meeting materials for the Boards information.

Clerk Greene informed the Town Board that the ZBA – Zoning Board of Appeals has received two applications for Special Use projects for proposed telecommunications (cellular) towers. The ZBA will be holding meetings, a public hearing and asking Lewis County to do a 239 L&M review for each project.

Supervisor Doyle added that he had received an email from New York State Historic Preservation Office giving notice to the town that this project has been brought to them to determine historic significance. Supervisor Doyle does not believe either site has any historical significance.

Supt. Mahar, a planning board member, suggested the Town Board consider amending the Zoning Law to increase the allowable height for structures. Discussion held.

Councilmember Jones made a motion for Supervisor Doyle to follow up with Attorney Burrows in drafting an amendment of the local zoning law, seconded by Councilmember Rowsam. Motion carried with a call of all Ayes.

Clerk Greene informed the Town Board she has received a letter from Sarah Wilder, requesting water hookup for a parcel she is in the process of purchasing. Clerk Greene added the current owners are paying a partial EDU fee for water lines running across the property.

Supervisor Doyle made a motion that he write a letter to the Village of Copenhagen requesting this new water customer be added to the line, seconded by Councilmember Jones. Motion carried with a call of all Ayes.
Discussion held.

Clerk Greene informed the Town Board that she has received approval from Village of Copenhagen after a similar quest made last month for Mr. Smykla who is planning to subdivide his property, allowing for a new home to be constructed, adding it to the water line.

Supt. Mahar advised; he would contact Mr. Smykla to develop a timeline for his water line hookup.

Superintendent of Highways & Special Districts – Superintendent Mahar

Supt. Mahar provided an update on his department’s activities. State Hwy. is gone for the season. The salt shed has been relocated. NYS has no new budget yet.

Supt. Mahar advised he has begun interviewing new applicants for the vacancy in his department.

Supt. Mahar addressed a water violation, informing that he has not heard anything back yet from Mr. Curley. Supt. Mahar considers the lack of reply from Mr. Curley to be a dismissal of the violation.

Supt. Mahar advises he will schedule a time with Clerk Greene for Water letters and will be doing meter readings next week.

Old Business

Supt. Mahar advised the Board that a forklift is now on site for the Solar Project.

6:52pm, Deputy Supt. Der exits.

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

Resolution 56 of 2024: Installation of Solar Panels upon Highway Garage Roof

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Denmark, NY intends to purchase and install solar panels upon a portion of the roof of the existing Town of Denmark Highway Garage; and

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Denmark has reviewed the environmental requirements pursuant to SEQR and has determined that the proposed action is classified as Type II pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(2), (3), (9), and (15) and therefore no further environmental review is required; and

Whereas, the Town Board is aware that the proposed project is a public project involving green energy on property owned by the Town and is in furtherance of a governmental purpose and as a result recognizes the proposed action is not subject to and/or is otherwise exempt from local zoning permit requirements; and

Whereas, having considered the action and the potential environmental impact associated with the action and the governmental purpose associated with the action, the Town Board has determined to proceed.

Therefore, be it hereby Resolved, by the Town Board of the Town of Denmark, NY that:

1. The foregoing recitations are incorporated herein and make a part hereof as if set forth hereafter.
2. The Town Supervisor, Local Zoning Enforcement official, the Town Clerk, their respective agents and/or employees shall proceed with the solar project and shall sign all paperwork and take all steps reasonably necessary to comply with this Resolution.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Aye
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye
Supervisor Doyle	Aye

Supervisor Doyle informed that he received a phone call from Nancy Burnstein from ANCA in Saranac Lake. North Country Adirondack offers to help with filing the “Direct Pay” application.

Supervisor Doyle offered a resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilmember Rowsam, as follows:

Resolution 57 of 2024: Comprehensive Plan Committee

Whereas the Town of Denmark Town Board has decided to work with the Tug Hill Commission to develop a comprehensive plan for the Town of Denmark including the Villages of Castorland and Copenhagen, and

Whereas community members have been selected by the Town of Denmark Town Board for participation as committee members for the development of the Town of Denmark Comprehensive Plan, the Town of Denmark Town Board hereby names the following residents as members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee:

Heidi Lehmann, Mervin Moser, Kim Vogt, Shareef Stokely, Jeff Foy, Prudence Greene, Scott Doyle, and Kevin Gaines.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Aye
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye
Supervisor Doyle	Aye

7:02pm, Deputy Supt. Der returns to the meeting.

Councilmember Rowsam would like to have the SWOT meetings posted on the town website. Clerk Greene advises that they are, but the RACOG web server is down currently so not everything has been showing up as it should. When RACOG gets it fixed everything should show up as intended.

Discussion about Comprehensive Plan meetings.

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

Resolution 58 of 2024: Sale of 2020 Toro Zero Turn Mower

Whereas, the Town of Denmark has declared the TORO 74494 ZMASTER 2000 HDX zero turn radius lawnmower as surplus, and

Whereas, a bid in the amount of \$6,700.00 was received through the listing on the Auctions International website, therefore be it

Hereby resolved by the Town of Denmark Town Board that the bid in the amount of \$6,700.00 shall be accepted.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Aye
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye
Supervisor Doyle	Aye

Supervisor Doyle updated that the windbreak is ready for installation and will need assistance. Councilmember Wadsworth offered his availability to assist.

Supervisor Doyle updated the Board on the progress for the Solar Array, materials should start arriving this week and Fourth Coast is completing the building permits.

Supervisor Doyle reminded everyone that the Turning Stone conference is on 5.02.2024.

New Business:

Supervisor Doyle informed that Mr. Aubin has completed the ridge cap repairs.

Supt. Mahar informed the Board of the lack of automation in the exhaust ceiling filters. Highway will lift Mr. Munn to change the filters. Supt. Mahar noted that the fans are not automated, they are manually turned on and off.

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

Resolution 59 of 2024: 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, 2024, through April 30, 2025. This cost will be covered by A5132.4 Garage Contractual.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Aye
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye
Supervisor Doyle	Aye

Supervisor Doyle advised he would like to table the discussion of dog enumeration until May meeting.

Supervisor Doyle led a discussion on the cost of mailing of surveys for the Comprehensive Plan, explaining there are 1,600 parcels in Denmark. Councilmember Rowsam discussed making them available electronically or through social media. Discussion held about social media vs. mailing. Supervisor Doyle will follow up with Lewis County to discuss the possibility and cost of mailing from there.

Councilmember Fazio exits at 7:13.

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

Resolution 60 of 2024: Miller's Turf Inc. service for Weed Control (Water Tower)

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby authorize Town of Denmark Supervisor Doyle to sign and enter into an agreement with Miller's Turf, Inc. for Water Tower vegetation control for the price of \$300.00 for a single application of weed control, and further directs that the funds for payment be drawn from budget code SW8310.4 and be recorded on the Water District 1 abstract when the bill is received.

Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye
Councilmember Fazio	Absent
Councilmember Jones	Aye
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye
Supervisor Doyle	Aye

Supervisor Doyle informs of a local event, Ryans Ride, seeking permitting with Lewis County. Discussion held. Supt. Mahar offered that it will only involve one intersection, Doran Road and Lee Road, and any damage to the roadway would be covered by Lewis County.

7:20pm, Councilmember Fazio returns.

Supervisor Doyle asked Mr. Der if he would continue his work with the Austin Cemetery, noting need for fencing. Mr. Der advised that the headstones continue to be damaged by high winds. Supervisor Doyle requests perimeter size of the cemetery on Mud Street. Discussion held on possibility of a 4' or 6' fence.

Supervisor Doyle has information from Verizon that they would be happy to install any equipment supplied by Lewis County for the 9-1-1 system, free of charge.

Draft minutes of 04.15.2024 Regular Monthly Meeting of Town Board
Prepared by Deputy Clerk Kirch-Corey

Supt. Mahar announced he had just received the bid from Lewis County for asphalt paving at \$69,330 per mile. This is much higher cost than Cold Mix we currently use. Vorce and River Roads are slated for work in 2025.

Deputy Supt. Der commented on the condition of River Road, that the road is deteriorating.

Supervisor Doyle inquired if the hot mix would be used in the salt barn, Supt. Mahar responded as being unsure.

Councilmember Jones commended Supt. Mahar on the cleanup in the yard outback.
Supervisor Doyle commented that the garage bays are also looking good having been swept and washed out.

Being as there was no further business before the Board, Supervisor Doyle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wadsworth, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried with all ayes.

Meeting adjourned, 7:30pm.

Susan Kirch-Corey
Town of Denmark Deputy Town Clerk

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