

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Denmark Town Board was held on July 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.

Clerk 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:

Town Clerk Prudence Greene
Supt. of Highways Pat Mahar
Dep Supt. of Highways James Der
Assessor William Vargulick
Jim Ostrowski – Allegiance Trucks (exits meeting at 6:24pm)

Councilmember Wadsworth made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fazio, to accept the minutes of 06.17.2024 as prepared by Deputy Town Clerk Susan Kirch-Corey. 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: Jim Ostrowski from Allegiance Trucks attended the meeting at the request of Supt. Mahar to discuss the potential impacts of the 2027 EPA emission standards on the pricing of new trucks. It is estimated that the overall cost for trucks will increase by 20% once the new standards are in effect. Discussion was also held on build time. It takes 24 – 36 months for the truck to be ordered, manufactured and delivered. Supt. Mahar has received an estimate for the purchase of a 2026 Hx520 SFA 6X4 Chassis Allison for \$160,902.00 and an additional \$140,619.00 for a Viking Plow Package for a total cost of \$301,521.00 under the Onondaga County Contract #10914. Discussion was held on budgeting for the purchase. Supervisor Doyle believes the Town Board should split the cost over the 2025 and 2026 budgets.

Further discussion was held about the potential purchase of an additional truck. Mr. Ostrowski noted that the Town could “lease to own” over 3,4, or 5 years. Mr. Ostrowski was asked to return to the August 19, 2024 meeting of the Town Board to further discuss payment options.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Doyle provided copies of the North Country CPA financial reports to the Town Board prior to the meeting. NYCLASS interest income for June was \$6,882.09 and YTD interest income is \$40,599.77.

Supervisor Doyle updated the Board on the Water Quality Improvement Grant process for the salt storage facility. The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) has still not approved the project. Supervisor Doyle has reached out to Senator Mark Walczyk's office for assistance in getting the OSC approval for the project. Supervisor Doyle has received the document list of what will be required for the Town to submit for the funds once approved by OSC. He has also contacted the Town of Potsdam about the process they have used for their Water Quality Improvement Grant. Potsdam is still waiting for the granted funds to be dispersed to them due to issues with their initial submissions.

Supervisor Doyle and Supt. Mahar met with the contractor for the project and have a plan for the base work that will be done by the highway department.

Supervisor Doyle and the Town Board discussed options for paying for the project while waiting for the grant money to be received. Supervisor Doyle has spoken to the Bank of Greene about funding scenarios. Denmark could take out a BAN for \$650,000.00 for 2 years, then we could “borrow up” for 1 year. This would allow for up to 3 years to be reimbursed by the State. The “borrow up” option would be a principle amount plus interest, adding approximately \$40,000, in for a total of \$690,000. If the Town has not received the grant funds by the end of year 3, the financing would have to be switched to a BOND.

Councilmember Wadsworth offered the following resolution, seconded for adoption by Councilmember Fazio:

RESOLUTION _90_ of 2024: BAN Funding for Salt Barn Project

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby authorize Supervisor Doyle to work with Atty. Megan Kendall to secure the funds necessary for Salt Barn Project.

Roll Call vote recorded as follows:

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

Resolution 90 of 2024 adopted 7.15.2024.

Town Clerks Report

Clerk Greene provided her June 2024 Clerk's Report to the Town Board prior to the meeting.

Clerk Greene discussed an issue with the security cameras that has been resolved. A new DVR needed to be installed and that required an upgraded monitor. A monitor was used from the Supervisor's office and a new one has been ordered to replace it.

Clerk Greene provided the abstracts and vouchers to the Board for their review. Councilmember Jones asked about the milage for the DCO this month as it was higher than it has been. Supervisor Doyle reminded him that DCO Hess lives in Watertown, and she has to take any dog she picks up to the Lewis County Humane Society in Glenfield. Clerk Greene pointed out that the DCO responds to calls and more calls mean more mileage.

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

RESOLUTION __91__ of 2024: General Fund Abstract 681, dated July 15, 2024

The Town of Denmark Town Board hereby approves payment of General Fund Abstract #681, dated July 15, 2024, representing paid prior claims # 148-151 paid prior totaling \$4,800.00, and new claims 152- 174 totaling \$11,873.23, total of abstract \$16,673.23.

Roll Call vote recorded as follows:

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

Resolution 91 of 2024 adopted 7.15.2024.

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

RESOLUTION __92__ of 2024: Water District 1 Abstract 105, dated July 15, 2024

The Town of Denmark Town Board hereby approves payment of Water District 1 Abstract #106, dated July 15, 2024, representing new claims # 12 - 15 totaling \$8,699.06.

Roll Call vote recorded as follows:

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

Resolution 92 of 2024 adopted 7.15.2024.

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

RESOLUTION __93__ of 2024: Highway Fund Abstract 723, dated July 15, 2024

The Town of Denmark Town Board hereby approves payment of Highway Fund Abstract #723, dated July 15, 2024, representing new claims # 75 - 86, totaling \$14,234.96.

Roll Call vote recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth Aye
Councilmember Fazio Aye
Councilmember Jones Aye

Councilmember Rowsam Aye
 Supervisor Doyle Aye Resolution 90 of 2024 adopted 7.15.2024.

Discussion was held on the JCAP funds received by the Town Court.

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

RESOLUTION 94 of 2024: Increase budget codes for expenditure of JCAP Grant funds

Town of Denmark Town Board approves the following increases to expenditure codes in the adopted 2024

Town of Denmark General Fund Budget lines:

Utilize JCAP Funds (revenue code A3089 STATE AID)	Increase Budget Code	Amount
	A5132.4	3,758.00
	A1110.41	1,807.22

Roll Call vote recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth Aye
 Councilmember Fazio Aye
 Councilmember Jones Aye
 Councilmember Rowsam Aye
 Supervisor Doyle Aye Resolution 94 of 2024 adopted 7.15.2024.

At this time Supervisor Doyle asked Clerk Greene to open any bids received for the Fuel Contract. Clerk Greene noted 1 bid was received from Christman Fuel Service as follows utilizing the Buckeye Brewerton prices on July 10, 2024:

Unleaded gasoline	2.467	.24 over rack
ULS Diesel	2.602	.15 over rack
70/30 Winter Blend	2.785	.15 over rack
Heating Oil	2.555	.18 over rack

The Town Board will consider this bid and make a decision at the August 19, 2024 meeting of the Town Board.

Clerk Greene supplied the following in the meeting materials packet sent to the Town Board:

- Dog Control Report for June 2024
- Zoning Report for June 2024
- Planning Board minutes of 07.02.2024
- RACOG Report for July 2024
- Correspondence as follows:
 1. Letter dated 6.25.2024, Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc
 2. Letter dated 7.1.2024, NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 3. Thank you note from Swinburne Cemetery Board
 4. Thank you note from Riverside Cemetery Association
 5. Letter of resignation from Bailiff Jeff Nevills effective 7.25.2024
 6. Invitation to graduation from Bridges out of Poverty, Lewis County 7.29.2024
 "Getting Ahead In a Just-Gettin'-By World"
 7. Flier about Civally Websites (Lewis County partner)

Discussion was held on conducting an enumeration of dogs. Supervisor Doyle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jones as follows:

The Town of Denmark DCO Hess will conduct an enumeration of dogs beginning September 1, 2024 until such time as she has completed a canvas of the Town of Denmark. Vote recorded as 5 ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on DCO Hess's suggestion about creating a face book page for Denmark Dog Control. The Town Board is not in favor of this. Concerns were raised about monitoring the page. Supervisor Doyle suggested Atty. Burrows be consulted.

Clerk Greene was asked to reach out to Volunteer Transportation Center, Inc and ask them to have their request for funding to the town by September 3, 2024 for consideration in the 2025 budget.

Highway Department

Supt. Mahar updated the group on the activities of his department. They have continued to work on Ridge Road and have assisted other municipalities as the need arises. They have also assisted and will continue to assist Lewis County in cleaning up and repairing damage caused by last week’s flooding in Lowville, Watson and New Bremen.

He has reviewed applications for the vacant highway position.

Further discussion was held on the highway department fleet of plow trucks. Three trucks were purchased in 2017. Supt. Mahar would like to purchase 2 trucks in the next year under the Onondaga County Contract #10914. One could be paid for over 2 years with budget allocations and the other could be financed under a lease to own program over 3,4 or 5 years. He noted that one of trucks still in use is a 1979 model.

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

RESOLUTION __95__ of 2024: Purchase of 2026 HX520 SFA 6x4 Chassis Allison truck with Viking Plow Package

The Town of Denmark Town Board does hereby authorize Supervisor Doyle to proceed with the purchase of a 2026 Hx520 SFA 6x4 Chassis Allison for \$160,902.00 with a Viking Plow Package for an additional \$140,619.00 for a total delivered price of \$301,521.00 under the Onondaga County Contract #10914.

Roll Call vote recorded as follows:

Councilmember Wadsworth	Aye	
Councilmember Fazio	Aye	
Councilmember Jones	Aye	
Councilmember Rowsam	Aye	
Supervisor Doyle	Aye	Resolution 95 of 2024 adopted 7.15.2024.

Assessor

Assessor William Vargulick was in attendance to discuss an issue with the way two of the commercial solar projects on the East Road were coded on the tax roll and the date when the PILOT Agreement was signed by the Lewis County IDA / Naturally Lewis. In 2023 and 2024 tax bills were paid by the IDA. The PILOT was not signed until January of 2024. The PILOT will be in effect for 2025.

Discussion was held on NYS Senate Bill S967A which has been passed by both the State Senate and Assembly and is waiting for Governor Hochul’s signature. The legislation amends section 924-a of the Real Property Tax Law by tying the delinquent tax interest rate to the prime interest rate. This will reduce revenues in budget line A1090 going forward.

Discussion was held about the occupancy rate at Deer River Estates. Assessor Vargulick believes that it is better to handle this during a revaluation then by doing “spot assessing”.

Old Business

The solar array project continues. The project should be operational by the end of August 2024. Fourth Coast will assist the Town in setting up the direct pay enrollment.

Supervisor Doyle sent letters on behalf of the Town of Denmark Letters regarding the proposed new OSHA Requirements for Firefighter standards. Several other towns and Lewis County are also sending letters to express their opinion that the proposed changes, if implemented, will severely impact the participation of volunteer fire departments and create an additional expense for municipalities by forcing paid departments.

New Business

Discussion was held about the of a potential Denmark Water District #2. Councilmember Fazio made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jones, as follows:

The Town of Denmark will send letters to the owners of tax parcels within the proposed area to see if there is interest in a new water district. Vote recorded as 5 ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of 07.15.2024
Regular Monthly Meeting of Town Board
Prepared by Town Clerk Prudence L. Greene

Supervisor Doyle has provided department heads with budget worksheets to be completed and returned to him by 09.03.2024.

Supervisor Doyle spoke to the Town Board about issues with the front sidewalk. He has asked Tom Aubin to quote a price to patch the sidewalk and paint the exterior doors.

Supt. Mahar and his department will be repairing the driveway access to the water tower caused by recent rain.

Supervisor Doyle updated the Board on his work with Senator Mark Walczyk's office about the traffic study conducted by NYS DOT on State Route 26.

Discussion was held about the town website: Denmark.racog.org. Clerk Greene will be meeting with staff from RACOG to set up a meeting to work on ADA compliance issues on the site. Discussion was also held about the complaint form link on the website. The link does not seem to be sending the information to the Clerk's office. Clerk Greene will contact RACOG and try to get the issue corrected.

Being as there was no further business before the Town Board, Councilmember Jones made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fazio, to adjourn the meeting. Vote recorded as 5 ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

Prudence L. Greene

Town of Denmark Town Clerk

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