

Town of Denning – Town Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Supervisor Brooks.
Held on Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 at the Denning Town Hall.

Present: Supervisor Brooks

Councilmen: Gregory Vurckio, Kevin Smith, Mike Dean, and Scott Mickelson.

Highway Superintendent Leonard Johnson.

No Public Present

The Town Clerk Minute Book was signed prior to the meeting commencement.

The Town Clerk gave the Board members their copy of the Agenda and Resolution No. 59 of 2024, the Adopted 2025 Town of Denning Budget, the November/December Talk of the Towns magazine from the Association of Towns, and the Budget vs. Actual through November 2024.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Brooks inquires if all of the Councilmen have read the Minutes and asks if there are any amendments. All respond that the Minutes have been read and that there are no amendments.

Motion to adopt last months' minutes by Councilman Gregory Vurckio, seconded by Councilman Scott Mickelson. All in favor.

Councilman Mike Dean	AYE	Councilman Kevin Smith	AYE
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Councilman Gregory Vurckio	AYE	Councilman Scott Mickelson	AYE
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Supervisor David Brooks	AYE		
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Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote.

Correspondence – by Supervisor David Brooks.

- Supervisor Brooks is in receipt of the CWC Board of Directors Nomination form. Discussion follows with the Town Board regarding nomination of James Sofranko. The Board is in agreement.
- Email received from Officer Howard Kreft with information regarding partial list of government agencies and fire departments who were involved during the Whitehouse Fire in Sundown/Peekamoose. A full list is still being compiled for an official Town Resolution. Supervisor Brooks states that if anyone is looking to make a donation to the Grahamsville Fire Dept. they have recognized the need to purchase a UTV to aide in fighting wildland fires.
- Received donation check on 11/19/24 to the Town from the Frost Valley YMCA in the amount of \$11,415.00 for the month of October. Supervisor Brooks and the Denning Town Board express their gratitude to CEO Riel Pierbooms and the Frost Valley Board of Trustees for their ongoing support.
- Supervisor Brooks reviewed documentation from other Ulster County towns regarding dog licensing fees when researching the Denning fees. He suggests raising the Denning fees from \$5.00 per year for neutered dogs to \$6.00 per year; and raising the fees from \$12.50 per year for non-neutered dogs to \$15.00 per year. Discussion follows. All Board members agree to the new fees for 2025.
- Check received from Weitsman Shredding LLC in the amount of \$566.89.
- Check received from Ulster County in the amount of \$15,909.21 for Denning sales tax collected September to November 2024.
- Letter and documentation received from Catskill Hudson Bank regarding merger with Hudson Valley Credit Union expected to be completed on or about January 31, 2025. The system and account conversion will occur post-merger and is presently targeted for the first quarter of 2025.
- Email received from NYS Department of Financial Services regarding the Banking Development District designation determination timeline. The determination

timeline has been extended to February 14, 2025 to coincide with the bank and credit union merger timeline.

- Letter received from part-time resident on Porcupine Road, Albert Pinand, regarding the many Short-Term Rentals in Denning, issues caused by the STRs, and the current Zoning Law. Discussion follows.
- Letter received from Ulster County Transportation Council regarding the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update process. The letter also states that the replacement of the Denning Road bridge over East Branch of the Neversink River is slated for 2027.
- Supervisor Brooks informs the Board that the Town Hall boiler had recent issues. Bottini came and serviced the boiler and it is running well now. Customer satisfaction survey was received from Bottini and completed by the Town Clerk with information regarding billing timeliness and allocation of payment issues that will hopefully be addressed by Bottini in the future.

Highway Report: by Highway Superintendent Leonard Johnson.

- Winter Storm work, plowing and sanding of roads.
- Cutting downed trees out of roads and ditches.
- In shop work cleaning and repairing trucks and plows, changing oil.
- Hauled sand and mixed salt and sand.
- Ready for future weather events.
- Freightliner is down again. Front end issues. It is at Prestige.
- New truck is running well. No lights on and no noises or issues.
- Garage doors are falling apart due to age and condition. Recent repairs made.
- Emergency radios are not working well. Technician says we need a repeater. Discussion follows.
- Pestmaster of Kingston. Firm hired to deal with racoon and rodent issues at Town Barn and Town Hall. Seems to be going well. Will keep the Board updated.

Planning Board Report - by Liaison Councilman Kevin Smith.

- Planning Board meeting in November had Public Hearing for STR for McGarity at 24 Woodfield Road. Public was present and heard for and against. Planning Board will vote on this matter at December meeting.
- Planning Board members are working on amendments to be made for zoning for STRs. Preparing paperwork for submission to Town Board for consideration.

Highway Pre-Pay Vouchers presented by Hwy. Super. Johnson.
(See Warrant #12 Pre-Pay, Voucher Nos. 36 - 39)

Health Care Reimbursement Account	12PP-36	DA90608 · Health Ins.	-2,500.00
MVP Health Care, Inc.	12PP-37	DA90608 · Health Ins.	-6,090.33
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	12PP-38	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-902.07
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	12PP-39	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-617.94
		Grand Total	-10,110.34

Highway Vouchers presented by Hwy. Super. Johnson.
(See Warrant #12, Vouchers Nos. 132 - 139)

209 Materials, LLC	132	DA51424 · Snow Removal-Contractual	-353.64
Advance Auto Parts	133	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-2,652.81
Case Tire Service Inc.	134	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-2,534.48
Liberty Trading Post	135	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-17.18
North East Parts Group	136	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-202.52
Tractor Supply Credit Plan	138	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-17.98
United Ag & Turf	139	DA51404 · Brush and Weeds Contra	-1,105.56
		Grand Total	-6,884.17

General Pre-Pay Vouchers presented by Supervisor Brooks.
(See Warrant #12 Pre-Pay, Vouchers Nos. 81 - 89)

Central Hudson-1	12PP-81	A8160.4 · Refuse & Garbage-Contractual	-51.17
Central Hudson -2	12PP-82	A5132.4 · Highway Garage-Contractual	-398.35
	12PP-83	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-326.14
		Total Central Hudson 2:	-724.49
Charter Communications	12PP-84	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-290.55
		A1110.4 · Town Justice-Contractual	-99.00
		Total Charter Communications:	-389.55
Elan Financial Services	12PP-85	A1220.4 · Town Supervisor-Contractual	-1,078.92
		A8020.4 · Planning-Contractual	-84.01
		Total Elan Financial Services:	-1,162.93
HealthCare Reimbursement Account	12PP-86	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-2,500.00
MVP Health Care Inc.	12PP-87	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-11,776.25
TRUST & AGENCY ACCOUNT - FICA	12PP-88	A9030.8 · Social Security	-737.56
TRUST & AGENCY ACCOUNT - FICA	12PP-89	A9030.8 · Social Security	-279.34
		Grand Total	(17,621.29)

General Vouchers, presented by Supervisor Brooks.
(See Warrant #12, Voucher Nos. 148 - 165)

Central Hudson	148	A5182.4 · Street Lighting - Contractual	-175.05
Coalition of Watershed Towns	149	A1989.4 · UDC Rep - Contractual	-750.00
Eagle Fire & Safety	150	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-278.75
Jonathan Follender, Reim.	151	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-1,114.20
Hudson Archival	152	A1460.4 · Records Mgmt - Contractual	-93.00
Language Line Services	153	A1110.4 · Town Justice-Contractual	-43.70
Teri Lockhart, LLC	154	A1320.4 · Independent Auditing	-5,300.00
MVP Select Care Inc.	155	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-35.00
Cindy Mickelson, Reim.	156	A1220.4 · Town Supervisor-Contractual	-162.00
Joy Ann Monforte, Reimbursement	157	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-1,310.78
Office of the State Comptroller	158	A690 · Overpayment & Clearing Account	-185.00
Nancy Parrow	159	A8020.4 · Planning-Contractual	-250.00
		A80104 · Zoning - Contractual Exp.	-250.00
		Nancy Parrow Total:	-500.00
Sullivan Overhead Doors	160	A5132.4 · Highway Garage-Contractual	-375.00
Sundown Methodist Church	161	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-500.00
UC Town Clerk/Tax Collector Association	162	A1410.4 · Town Clerk-Contractual	-40.00
Claryville Postmaster	163	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-188.00
YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN	164	A1010.4 · Town Board-Contractual	-162.00
		A8020.4 · Planning-Contractual	-26.00
		A5010.4 · Supt. Highway-Contractual	-58.00
		Townsmen Total:	-246.00
Rustic Roots Farm Inc.	165	A5010.4 · Supt. Highway-Contractual	-175.00
		Grand Total:	(11,471.48)

Capital Vouchers, presented by Supervisor Brooks.
(See Warrant #12, Voucher Nos. None)

Supervisor Brooks inquires if the Councilman are satisfied with the audit of the Vouchers. The Councilmen respond in the affirmative.

Resolution No. 59 2024

WHEREAS New York State General Municipal Law Sections 103 and 104-4 permit the pre-audit function of vouchers, as a form of internal controls in the checking of claims and supporting documentation. And

WHEREAS the Sections 118 and 119 of New York State Municipal Law also authorize the auditing authority to approve of Said vouchers. And

WHEREAS the Office of the New York State Comptroller Division of Local Governments and Accountability: Budgets and Finances also approves of this method.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Denning Town Board **HEREBY** approves of and authorizes payment of the following Warrants:

Highway Fund Pre-Pay Warrant No. 12 Voucher Nos. 36 - 39.

Highway Fund Warrant No. 12 Voucher 132 - 139.

General Fund Pre-Pay Warrant No. 12 Voucher Nos. 81 - 89.

General Fund Warrant No. 12 Voucher Nos. 148 - 165.

Capital Fund Sewage Disposal Warrant No. 12 Voucher. Nos. - None.

Whereupon, the Resolution was put to a vote, and recorded as follows:

Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Scott Mickelson and seconded by Councilman Mike Dean.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Mike Dean AYE Councilman Scott Mickelson AYE

Councilman Kevin Smith AYE Councilman Gregory Vurckio AYE

Supervisor David Brooks AYE

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote.

Supervisor Comments:

- The CWC representative is coming to Denning on Monday, December 16th to finalize application for the project to armor the Sundown Road.
- Supervisor Brooks reports that investigation of the start of the Whitehouse Fire in Sundown is ongoing and that he is keeping tabs on it.
- The NYS State of Emergency ended on November 30th and the Denning State of Emergency ended today. Supervisor Brooks reports that there is no need to renew it at this time with the snow we received and the upcoming wet weather. Supervisor Brooks suggests updating the Town of Denning Burning Permit information. Discussion follows.
- It is brought to the Board's attention that there is a need for a vehicle for the Dog Control Officer. Discussion follows. Councilman Scott Mickelson will look into finding an SUV for this purpose with an approximate \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 budget. It is suggested that he check online auctions and used government vehicle websites for research. The new Dog Control Officer, Jane Witthohn, will be meeting with the NYS Agriculture and Markets representative regarding the DCO position on Tuesday, December 17th.
- Highway Superintendent Johnson has a meeting with the State regarding tree cutting on Tuesday, December 17th. Discussion follows.

Supervisor Brooks calls for Councilmen Comments:

- Councilman Vurckio informs the Board regarding the November 18, 2024 CTW meeting:
 - LAP/SAP Negotiations
 - No major changes – still heading in a positive direction. Small groups were set up to address remaining issues.
 - Conservation Easements to the State
 - This matter is close to a full agreement.
 - CWT was supportive of solar projects by the City with a 2 acre / 5 acre maximum. Solar farms are good in the right locations but not in farm land or usable property. NYC DEP is required to meet local Town/Village laws before

moving forward with any projects. CWT stressed it is important to have a solar farm law set up in Towns, etc. It is confirmed that solar farms are addressed in the Town of Denning Zoning Law.

- No news on the wetland regulations at this meeting.
- Councilman Scott Mickelson informs the Board that the eviction matter is ongoing before the Court and Judge Follender hopes to have a jury trial on the matter. Discussion follows. The Barnes Road resident open burning issue has been continued to the next Court date. There is a matter which is being transferred from the Town of Wawarsing Justice Court due to a conflict of interest. The next Court date is December 18th.
- Councilman Mike Dean requests information regarding who is responsible for plowing the Red Hill Fire Tower parking area at the trailhead. Supervisor Brooks notes that it is the State. Councilman Dean noted that it was not plowed over the weekend and there were a number of cars parked on the road. It has since been plowed. Supervisor Brooks will call the State. Discussion follows regarding the bridge near that location that needs repair. Highway Superintendent Johnson reports that Ulster County recently inspected it. Construction is slated for 2027. Superintendent Johnson states that the steel is still good but decking is disintegrating.
- Councilman Smith reports that the Planning Board has been working on amendments to the Zoning Law regarding Short Term Rentals. Supervisor Brooks asks that the Planning Board come up with a final maximum number of STRs for the Town. Trying to determine a percentage would be too difficult and will not work. Trash and dogs are what we are getting complaints on at Town Hall regarding STRs. Supervisor Brooks reports that Karl Von Hassel will be contacting the residents who are on the current Ulster County list for STRs to come into compliance with yearly inspections, etc.

Supervisor Brooks calls for any further councilmen comments or discussion. There is none.

No Public present for comments.

Motion to Enter Executive Session at 7:00 pm to discuss Personnel matters is made by Councilman Gregory Vurckio and Seconded by Councilman Scott Mickelson. All in Favor.

No decisions were reached during Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and the Town Board meeting at 7:14 pm made by Councilman Gregory Vurckio and seconded by Councilman Scott Mickelson. All in Favor. Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Parrow, Town Clerk, December 11th, 2024.

Town Board 2025 Organizational Meeting will be held at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY on Monday, January 6, 2025 scheduled to begin at 10:00 am. No other business will be before the Board at this meeting.

Town Board Meeting and Town Business Meeting will be held at the Denning Town Hall on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 scheduled to begin at 6pm.