

**DRAFT - TOWN OF NEW DENMARK**  
**2017 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 18, 2017 @ 7:00 pm**

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of New Denmark was called to order by Chairman Bill Krueger on April 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The Minutes from the 2016 Annual Town Meeting were reviewed. Motion by Frank Wiltman and seconded by Mike Calewarts to approve. MC

**Review of 2016 Financial Report:** Sup. Goetsch provides highlights of the 2016 Annual Report. Half of the County Bridge Aid fund was taken back by the Town due to the County charging administrative fees. Money will still be ear-marked for the Bridge Fund. Building permits up \$30,000 due to the construction of BelGioioso and the Digester. Total revenues up \$124,000. Mill rate for the Town has increased, additional revenues generated by new construction and by maintaining expenditure. Expenditures – Clerk/Treasurer’s salary has been officially split between the two positions. Insurance down slightly. Increase in cost for Other Gov’t fees with the removal of two properties ND-17-1 & ND-18-1 on Pine Grove. Legal fees down \$4,000. Town Hall costs up – with replacement of roof in 2016. Spending down overall, and the Board did not spend as much on road projects for 2016 due to the reconstruction R. Kane Lane. Chairman Krueger states the Town will need to contribute an additional \$40,000 for the Cooperstown/Wanek bridge replacement project as the State had an error in the bid estimates. James Crawford questions the cost of snow plowing in 2015- \$52,000 vs. 2016 -\$46,000 and if the invoices are itemized for serviced rendered. Board states yes, the invoices are itemized for vehicle use and by hour. Cost will vary winter to winter but the overall rate the Town is billed has remained consistent. Question as to tractor repairs and maintenance and how old the tractor is? Board states the tractor is likely 15 years old, and has approximately 2,000 hours. Maintenance cost included new tires as the tires are worn down quickly from running the road/ditch line. Likely need to invest in a new mower or cutter. The cost to outsource the entire project is significantly higher. Diane Lutz inquires if the Town can save money by not cutting so far into the right-of-way on dead end roads. Board states they continue to maintain to the fence line every couple of years to keep saplings and small trees from growing larger which can interfere with water flow and create large hazards if left uncut.

Frank Wiltman inquires if the Board knew if County Rescue is still utilizing the station in Denmark, or moved out? It was not snowplowed over the winter, and no activity. Bd was not notified of any changes. Question if the Town of New Denmark contributed funds to the station.

Francis Rabas inquires if the Town of Cooperstown will be splitting the cost of Cooperstown bridge replacement, as they were historically responsible for ½ the cost. Chairman Krueger states they Towns met and discussed the financial obligations and Town of Cooperstown will be paying for the entire replacement of their bridge which will completed the following year.

Jerry Thompson inquires how effective the current snow plowing method is? Bielinski will use 3 trucks and three passes to do the same work the County did in one. If the Town is billed per vehicle, by the hour – County was much more cost effective and provided better service. Chairman Krueger advised County’s contract for winter maintenance now requires a commitment of \$70,000 to cover ½ the Town. Town would need to utilize all these funds if not

used for winter maintenance. The problem with that is the Town would not be able to competitively bid for these projects and the County could bill whatever amount they felt appropriate. Secondly, the County typically won't have manpower available during the summer to do the grass cutting or culvert replacement. Supervisor Goetsch stated County also traveled many Town roads to cut through areas they need to plow, and sometimes roads such as Langes Corners received extra attention. Francis Rabas states it was standard for Bielinski to take up to 4 hours after a snow fall to plow many roads, such as Maribel Road. Town of Gibson also serviced by Bielinski. Mike Calewarts questions if Bielinski is invoicing for use of a pick up –as he has seen this truck clearing snow. Bruce Geibel, resident of New Denmark and works for Bielinski states the pick up is used for cleaning up intersections and is not billed to the Town. Sup. Olsen states snow plowing will again be put out for open bids, but Brown County is not an option since they changed their bidding requirements.

Mary Thompson questions if bids are actual hard numbers or is the Town billed for additional services after a bid is accepted if there is a change in material or services? The Town utilizes specs to receive a bid and the bids are then apples to apples, but during a project things can change and the contractor would need to come back to the Board for approval of any additional expenses associated with the project. Bruce Geibel indicated this occurred during R. Kane Lane and Bielinski ceased operation and contacted the Town about the issues and sought Town approval before moving forward, such as excavation of organic matter from the cul du sac. Gary Moore states R. Kane is a farm lane, turned into a road, by adding gravel to a farm field. Road conditions are still not great. Bruce indicates they are in the process of excavating wet spots and removing organic materials to achieve ultimate compaction of the road bed in specific areas. Discussion by Board that Bielinski was contracted separately to act as the engineer for the R. Kane Lane project. Specs were put together so the matter could be put out for open bids. A separate surveyor was utilized and the bid was advertised. Quantities of product were designated in the bid specs. The Town would have paid \$30,000 to \$50,000 for an engineering company to come in and re-engineer and design the road prior to putting out for bids and to save on that expense, the Town contracted with Bielinski for these services. Gary Moore feels the road is in worse condition then when it was started.

James Crawford inquires how the Building Inspector fees are paid. Clerk states the building inspector has a set fee schedule and the Town is paid 5 or 10% of the total fee charged and Ralph is paid the balance for his services. Question if a building permit is needed for roof or window replacement? Chairman Krueger states no unless there is a structural change to the building. Jim Crawford questions the fee charged for a culvert permit / as the ordinance reads \$25.00 and the permit online through the inspector is \$75. Clerk states this could be the administrative fee. Board to have the ordinance amount reviewed and updated if necessary. Cost for culvert installation may increase more, due to DNR permitting and inspection.

Dave Schlies inquires about Farmland Preservation program as to when property can be added. Should be approved by fall of this year. Discussion about State funding for upkeep of roads, Town has been fortunate to maintain what we have vs. rural communities that were required to grind up paved roads and change back to gravel to maintain costs and upkeep. Supervisor Goetsch highlights that the Town cannot raise levy without a resident approval, and Town Board

continues to live within the means of the budget with only increase in revenue is coming from new growth.

Diane Lutz inquires if the Town was satisfied with the chip seal that was done on Cedar Lane? So much of the stone did not stick to the tar, and ended up in the right-of-way and blocking the flow of the water in the right-of-way. Board to look at when they conduct the road tour.

**Updated from the Chairman:** Chairman Bill Krueger highlights 2016 updates of the Town. Steel roof replaced on Town Hall. Two buildings were removed from Pine Grove / Cty P – by Beverly Gardens. Reconstruction of R. Kane Lane 75% complete. If residents intend to install/replace culvert or do any type of controlled burn, Chairman Krueger advises they should contact the DNR. Plan Commission is also working on revisions to the Town Sexual Offender Ordinance pursuant to changes in the State law.

James Crawford indicates he has two pay issues he would like to address. He believes a study should be conducted as to the Assessor's salary. Nothing personal to the current assessor, but feels it is high in comparison to neighboring municipalities or what the Town could contract for. He understands this is an elected position, but if privately contracted, likely would receive a more competitive rate. Motion to have Board conduct a pay study for the surrounding municipalities as to what an Assessor is compensated and publish findings in Town newsletter. Seconded by Michael Gaworek. MC 17-0

Also would like to address the elected Constable pay. Jim feels \$20 per animal pick up or meeting is low, and the constable is a great resource for a number of issues in the Town. James Crawford makes a motion that the constable be paid \$30 per animal pick up and \$40 to attend Town meetings. Seconded by Michael Gaworek. MC 17-0

James Crawford states he appreciated all the residents that voted, and in listening to the residents of New Denmark the one common concern residents voiced is they would like to see a more active board sharing the Town duties versus just Steve Olsen. He would recommend the Board divide the Town into half and handle issues as they arise and also attend County meetings when they are held so they are all informed. Steve Olsen states he receives numerous phone calls since he is more likely to be home. Bill Krueger indicates he will respond to calls, when he is called. Matt Goetsch states Steve Olsen is compensated for going out and performing Town work, such as sign repair or tree removal. Sup. Goetsch works out of town and is not available during the week to assist with those duties. Bill Krueger indicates he handles a number of calls, tire pick and cutting of trees, but does not bill the Town for those services. Also, another complaint from the residents was whether contractor work is being performed to Town standards and inspected prior to paying the bills. Chairman Krueger indicates sometime is it is impossible to anticipate what will happen 6 months down the road, such as the dips in the culvert replacements. But Bielinski has patched at no extra charge to the town. Gary Moore inquires if the Board thought about retaining 10/20% of the contracted fees for 6 months to ensure work is completed in a satisfactory manner? Sup. Goetsch states the Board will take that suggestion under advisement. Bruce Geibel of Bielinski suggests a little more oversight, documentation and inspection on site as work is performed will elevate some of these concerns. Sup. Goetsch states Steve Olsen and Bill have gone out regularly on site to inspect projects.

Sup. Olsen inquires if the residents have any road repair requests that the Board should look at. Keith Brunner indicates the railroad crossing at Frontier. Discussion about steps the Town has attempted to take to have the crossing fixed, working with legal counsel. Resident suggests a warning sign could be erected to warn of bump and to slow drivers down in both directions.

Francis Rabas requests the monthly invoices be placed on online at the Town website. Michael Gaworek inquires if the Clerk can break down the financials of the salary for each positions, mileage, salary & taxes. Keith Brunner indicates Steve Cheese Road should be trimmed, as it is like a washboard, and requests Board look at concrete bridge as there is likely a hole in the culvert.

Steve Olsen states Town ordinance in works to adopt no engine braking on Cty Hwy R and will work with County to have signs erected. Sup. Goetsch indicates the Annual meeting has been utilized for donations to certain organizations in the community.

1) Francis Rabas makes a motion to donate \$2,000 for the Veterans War Memorial Park.  
Seconded by James Crawford. MC 17-0

2) Motion by Francis Rabas to donate \$5,000 to the American Legion for their building fund.  
Seconded by Ronald Cattelan. MC 17-0

3) Motion by Kathy Janssen to donate \$500 to the Denmark Youth Baseball & Softball program.  
Seconded by Diane Lutz. MC 17-0

4) Motion by Kathy Calewarts to donate \$1,000 to the Denmark Senior Center. Seconded by James Crawford. MC 17-0.

The Town residents designate the third Tuesday in April, 2018 for the next Annual meeting of the electors.

Motion by Francis Rabas and seconded by Frank Wiltman to adjourn at 8:16 pm. MC

Draft Minutes:

Michelle Wallerius, Clerk

Approved: