

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST
TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2021**

Councilpersons present:

Supervisor Christopher Kennan
Councilman Ralph Fedele
Councilman George Kaye
Councilman John Midwood
Councilwoman Lana Morrison

Councilpersons absent:

The January 14, 2021 meeting was held via Zoom web conference.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Supervisor Kennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda:

**RESOLUTION #0232021
Acceptance of Agenda**

RESOLVED, to accept the agenda.

Motion by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison.

AYES – 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Kaye, Midwood, Morrison)
NAYS – 0

The Resolution was adopted on January 14, 2021.

Department and Committee Reports:

Police – Supervisor Kennan indicated he was in receipt of the report and would forward it to the Board.

Highway – Superintendent Stevens was not present and informed Supervisor Kennan there was no report.

Assessor – Assessor Johnson was present and would be speaking later in the meeting.

Planning, Zoning & Building Dept. – Reports for Zoning Board of Appeals and the Building Department were submitted to the Town Board.

Town Clerk – Reports were submitted to the Town Board.

Town Board Committee Reports:

Recreation – Councilwoman Morrison stated there was no report at this time.

Police Services – Councilwoman Morrison and Councilman Fedele stated there was no report at this time. Supervisor Kennan mentioned the Village has received the police reform package and a joint meeting between the Village and the Town's Police Services Committee will be coming up in the near future.

Highway –Councilman Kaye stated the fence was scheduled to be installed this Friday. Preparations are underway, with CPL, for the bids on the main garage.

Cemetery – Supervisor Kennan mentioned the cemetery at Spencer’s Corners has a number of stone tipped over and need restoring.

Resolution Regarding Senior Exemption Request Renewal:

Clerk Wheeler read the following:

RESOLUTION #0242021
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REAL PROPERTY RENEWAL PROCEDURES FOR
SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOME IN
CERTAIN CASES, PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL S9114, SUBPART D, DATED
DECEMBER 23, 2020

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S9114, Subpart D, dated December 23, 2020, directs, in relevant part, that every governing body of an assessing unit and local assessor shall extend to the 2021 Assessment Roll, the renewal of the exemptions received on the 2020 Assessment Roll, pursuant to §§467 and 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law relating to persons age 65 and older and for certain persons with disabilities and limited income so that no renewal application shall be required of any eligible recipient who has received either exemption on the 2020 Assessment Roll in order for such eligible recipient to continue receiving such exemption at the same amount received on the 2020 Assessment Roll; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S9114, Subpart D, further provides that the local assessor shall make available renewal applications through postal mail or electronic means in order for eligible recipients to file renewal applications in the event that his or her income has changed in a manner that would grant him or her a greater exemption than what was present on the 2020 Assessment Roll; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S9114, Subpart D, provides further that such governing body may adopt a local law or resolution which includes procedures by which the assessor may require a renewal application to be filed when he or she has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2020 Assessment Roll may have since changed his or her primary residence; added another owner to the deed; transferred the property to a new owner; or died, but no governing body of an assessing unit or local assessor may require eligible recipients to appear in person to file a renewal application for any reason; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the proposed action is a Type II action under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of North East finds that it is in the best interests of the Town and its taxpayers to require such renewal application procedures in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the taxpayers during the period of the Covid Pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. Pursuant to Senate Bill S9114, Subpart D, the Town Assessor shall make available renewal applications through postal or electronic means in order for eligible recipients to file renewal applications in the event such eligible recipient determines his or her income has changed in a manner that would grant him or her a greater exemption than what was present on the 2020 Assessment Roll.

2. The Assessor may require a renewal application pursuant to the procedures hereinafter stated to be followed when he or she has reason to believe that an owner who qualified on the 2020 Assessment Roll has changed his or her primary residence; added another owner to the property; transferred the property to a new owner; or has died; and in such case the Assessor shall document the reasons for such need for renewal application.

3. That the said renewal application shall be filed by the property owner by March 1, 2021, together with any other documentation as may be necessary for the Assessor to determine the continued eligibility of the property owner.

4. The Assessor shall notify the owner of the requirement in writing and shall provide a renewal application and a return envelope which the property owner shall complete and return with the required documentation to the Assessor by mail.

5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately and shall expire May 1, 2021 and shall be deemed to have been in full force from and on and after March 7, 2020.

This motion was offered by Town Board member John Midwood and was seconded by Town Board member Lana Morrison.

MOTION: Councilman Midwood

SECOND: Councilwoman Morrison

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	Voted AYE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	Voted AYE
COUNCILMAN KAYE	Voted AYE
COUNCILMAN MIDWOOD	Voted AYE
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	Voted AYE

The Resolution was carried by a 5-0 vote of the Town Board members on January 14, 2021.

Motion to Approve Formation of Broadband Committee:

Supervisor Kennan indicated Attorney Replansky will have a formal resolution ready for the next Town Board meeting in February.

Motion to Approve Completed Speed Studies on Winchell Mountain Road and Route 22:

RESOLUTION #0252021 Approval of CPL Speed Study on Winchell Mountain Road

RESOLVED, to accept the completed speed study on Winchell Mountain Road as submitted by CPL.

Motion by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilman Kaye.

AYES – 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Kaye, Midwood, Morrison)

NAYS – 0

The Resolution was adopted on January 14, 2021.

Shared Fuel Services Request from North East Fire District:

Supervisor Kennan discussed the new fueling facility at the new highway garage site. Stephen Valyou had inquired if the facility would be available to the fire district.

Attorney Replansky is to draft an agreement to be presented at the next Town Board meeting in February.

Motion to Authorize Supervisor to Sign Agreement with Endeavor Municipal Development, Inc.:

Supervisor Kennan will get additional information about this company for the next meeting. He will be seeking approval to sign an agreement with Endeavor Municipal Development, Inc. to write grant applications for the Town. One grant item will be for the purpose of putting in solar collectors on the highway garage.

Approval of Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution:

RESOLUTION #0262021
Approval of Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution

RESOLVED, to approve the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution.

Motion by Councilman Kaye and seconded by Councilman Midwood.

AYES – 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Kaye, Midwood, Morrison)
NAYS – 0

The Resolution was adopted on January 14, 2021.

Supervisor's Report:

- Supervisor Kennan extended a welcome to the first regular meeting of 2021.
- The County has 2,394 cases of COVID. There are 157 people hospitalized and the positivity rate is at 9.13%.
- The Association of Towns is holding the annual meeting and training virtually from February 14-17, 2021.
- January is Blood Donor Month.
- Climate Smart Community Task Force press release was discussed.

Budget Adjustment –

RESOLUTION #0272021
Approval of Budget Adjustment #9 of 2020

RESOLVED, to approve Budget Adjustment #9 of 2020 as follows:

In A Fund – General Town-wide, there is an expense increase of \$6,232 minus an expense decrease of \$6,232 resulting in a net of \$0.

In B Fund – General Town Outside, there is an expense increase of \$1,012 minus an expense decrease of \$1,012 resulting in a net of \$0.

Motion by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison.

AYES – 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Kaye, Midwood, Morrison)
NAYS – 0

The Resolution was adopted on January 14, 2021.

Monthly Bills Abstract/Special Abstracts –

RESOLUTION #0282021
Approval of Special Abstract Dated December 29, 2020

RESOLVED, to approve Special Abstract, dated December 29, 2020, totaling \$1,057.98, broken down as follows:

A Fund -	\$632.08
DB Fund -	\$425.90

Motion by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilman Fedele.

AYES – 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Kaye, Midwood, Morrison)

NAYS – 0

The Resolution was adopted on January 14, 2021.

RESOLUTION #0292021
Approval of Abstract Dated December 31, 2020

RESOLVED, to approve Abstract, dated December 31, 2020, totaling \$88,455.90, broken down as follows:

A Fund -	\$10,136.21
B Fund -	\$442.13
DB Fund -	\$44,399.06
Capital Projects H1 -	\$8,271.00
Recreation Fund -	\$25,000.00
Escrow T&A2 -	\$207.50

Motion by Councilman Kaye and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison.

AYES – 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Kaye, Midwood, Morrison)

NAYS – 0

The Resolution was adopted on January 14, 2021.

RESOLUTION #0302021
Approval of Abstract Dated January 14, 2021

RESOLVED, to approve Abstract, dated January 14, 2021, totaling \$43,514.08, broken down as follows:

A Fund -	\$34,286.88
B Fund -	\$325.00
DB Fund -	\$8,618.54
Water District SW1 -	\$120.00
Payroll T&A -	\$163.66

Motion by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Fedele.

AYES – 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Kaye, Midwood, Morrison)

NAYS – 0

The Resolution was adopted on January 14, 2021.

Voucher Committee for February 2021 –

The Voucher Committee for February is John Midwood and Lana Morrison.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

RESOLUTION #0312021
Approval of December 10, 2020; December 17, 2020; and January 4, 2021 Minutes

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of December 10, 2020; December 17, 2020; and January 4, 2021.

Motion by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Kaye.

AYES – 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Kaye, Midwood, Morrison)
NAYS – 0

The Resolution was adopted on January 14, 2021.

Meeting with Counsel, if Needed:
General Legal Matters –

Supervisor Kennan indicated there were no legal matters to discuss at this time.

General Comment Period:

Meg Winkler presented two items for the Board's consideration. She inquired about parking access for the Rail Trail north on Route 22 in the area across from the new highway garage. She mentioned a community recycling program opposed to the current individual recycling.

Nera Cruz thanked Clerk Wheeler for the newsletters which have helped her stay informed. She mentioned the amount of traffic and speeding on State Line Road. She is hopeful the Town Board will consider a speed study for State Line Road as there is a heavy flow of walkers on this road.

Adjournment:

RESOLUTION #0322021
Adjournment of January 14, 2021 Meeting

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Motion by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison.

AYES – 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Kaye, Midwood, Morrison)
NAYS – 0

The Resolution was adopted on January 14, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Gail J. Wheeler
Town Clerk

Approved: 02/11/2021