

**Town of North East
Town Board Meeting
Town Hall
March 10, 2022, at 7pm**

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	HERE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	HERE
COUNCILMAN MIDWOOD	HERE
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	HERE
COUNCILMAN COOPER	HERE

Approval of Agenda after removal of Discussion of Highway Bids

Motion by Councilwoman Morrison, and Seconded by: Councilman Fedele

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Midwood, Morrison, Cooper)

NAYS- 0

Supervisor Comments

Acknowledges the War in Ukraine. A humanitarian fundraising event is to be held on Saturday at Re Institute, Boston Corners.

Covid cases are very low in our region. Out of three levels charted, we are in the lowest. Town Hall is open, masks welcomed and optional.

Highway garage bids have been received and opened. They will be discussed at a special town board meeting on March 16th at 6pm.

The mini-grant application regarding housing has been submitted. We are now waiting to hear if it has been approved. If it is, a small steering committee will be formed to guide the work over the next few months. The project will have a beginning and an end.

The Climate Smart Committee, is about ready to submit for the Town Bronze level certification through the Climate Smart Communities, a NY State initiative. The Community Survey, a project headed by Rich Stalzer, Carissa Whitehead, and Tom Parrett, has received back 115 surveys. The answer to questions about top concerns seem predominantly to be “impact on future generations” and “water pollution”. The aim is to increase engagement and educate the community on what is possible. A chart was shared from the GHG Emissions Report, compiled by 1st Environment with the work of Kathy Chow, Laurie Kerr, Andrew Stayman, and Town staff that quantifies the greenhouse gas emissions in our Town. As part of the green initiative we are recycling at the Town hall and the Highway garage. Extra wastebaskets will be installed for collection of office papers and recyclables. The Town Clerk can answer questions about the process. A draft Bike/pedestrian map that reflects goals of the Master Plan was shared and will be reviewed by the ZRC and ZBA. Hoping to encourage more walking and biking in the community, the report has been worked on by Tom Parrett and Andrew Stayman.

Reports

Village of Millerton Police: Kennan stated that he had received the report, it was shared with the board, and it is on the Town of North East website.

Highway Department: Superintendent Bob Stevens asked the board to approve the 284 Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys.

Approval of Highway Superintendent to Sign 284 Agreement

Superintendent Stevens reviewed the need for general repairs, blacktop and gravel, in the sum of \$225,000.00 to be set aside for 34.23 miles of Town highways, in line with recent years.

RESOLVED, to approve the 284 Agreement.

Motion by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilman Cooper.

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Midwood, Morrison, Cooper)

NAYS- 0

The Agreement was approved and signed by Board Members on March 10, 2022

Assessor’s Office: Assessor Katherine Johnson presented a Consent Judgement for a Certiorari case settled with Silver Mountain Hay. She asked the Town board to approve the terms of settlement with Silver Mountain Hay and authorize the attorney to sign the judgement. A motion was made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison. RESOLVED, to approve terms of settlement with Silver Mountain Hay and authorize the attorney to sign the judgement.

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Motion by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison
AYES- 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Midwood, Morrison, Cooper)
NAYS- 0

The Consent judgement was approved on March 10th, 2022

Assessor Johnson shared information from NY State regarding assessment values of the residential, commercial and vacant properties. There has been increase consistent throughout the county. Between July 2020 and July 2021 there were a lot of sales recorded at higher prices. The initial NY State analysis of our current assessment roll says we would be at 85% of market value if assessments remain unchanged. Assessor Johnson's analysis is looking at +7% on vacant lots, +7% on commercial lots and +12% on residential properties. She will have a final report at the next meeting. She shared a chart explaining how an increase in assessment does not necessarily mean an increase in taxes. Grievance day will be at the end of May.

Town Clerk: Town Clerk Tilly Strauss stated that all reports, including those for Building and Zoning, had been sent previously to the Board

Tax Collector: Deputy Town Clerk Chris Virtuoso presented an update on the tax collection. As of February 28th, the deadline for paying without penalties, 82% of the total tax parcels were paid. Supervisor Kennan asked for comparison to other years.

Town Board Committee Reports

Building and Grounds: Supervisor Kennan spoke to the goal of improving energy efficiency at the Town Hall. We have received a grant to replace the windows that are old and inefficient. Councilman Midwood spoke about making meetings more accessible with new technology that would allow people who attend virtually to participate fully. Meg Winkler had visited the Town of Ancram, where they feel they have had great success with monitoring up to 70 people at a meeting. Ancram has offered to help with initial set up. The Owl Pro 360 camera, microphone and speaker has multiple screens, recording capabilities. The video is a record that is easily transferred to the website and/or FaceBook. We would need a person to help set up at meetings, to monitor the screens and allow people access. The cost is \$999. Councilman Cooper asked if more people would participate in meetings. Supervisor Kennan said he was aware of people who see barriers to physically participating at the Town Hall. Councilman Midwood pointed out that it could be used for other group meetings, like the Planning Board and ZBA. He said it was an investment in our ability to communicate and to making meetings more accessible. He also pointed out that updating equipment funds are in the budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Cooper and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison.
AYES- 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Midwood, Morrison, Cooper)
NAYS- 0

The Purchase of the Meeting Owl Pro was approved on March 10th, 2022

Resolution declaring April as Parkinson's disease Awareness Month

Supervisor Kennan pointed out that this resolution has been done in previous years and a number of people in our community are suffering.

**Resolution #162022
Parkinson's Awareness Month Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological movement disorder of the central nervous system, which has a unique impact on each patient; and

WHEREAS, according to the Parkinson's Foundation, the American Parkinson's Disease Association and the National Institutes of Health, there are over one million Americans diagnosed with Parkinson's disease; and

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WHEREAS, symptoms include slowness, tremor, difficulty with balance and speaking, rigidity, cognitive and memory problems; and

WHEREAS, although new medicines and therapies may enhance life for some time for people with Parkinson's, more work is needed for a cure; and

WHEREAS, increased education and research are needed to help find more effective treatments with fewer side effects and ultimately a cure for Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS, a multidisciplinary approach to Parkinson's disease care includes local wellness, support, and caregiver groups; and

WHEREAS, April has been proclaimed as World Wide Parkinson's Awareness Month for all to recognize the need for more research and help in dealing with the devastating effects of Parkinson's disease,

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Town Board of North East, do hereby proclaim April as Parkinson's Awareness Month.

Given under my hand in these free United States in the Town of North East, on this day of two thousand and twenty-two, and to which I have caused the seal of the Town of North East to be affixed and have made this proclamation public.

Motion by: Councilman Midwood Seconded by: Councilman Fedele

Vote:

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	AYE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	AYE
COUNCILMAN MIDWOOD	AYE
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	AYE
COUNCILMAN COOPER	AYE

Approval of Proposal for Town insurance from NYMIR to commence 3/15/22

Supervisor Kennan said this document was sent to the Board. It reflects a 40% increase going forward. Councilman Midwood said it was a pretty standard inflation increase in the field of insurance. We have money in budget to accommodate the increase. A motion to approve the proposal was made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilman Fedele.

Vote:

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	AYE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	AYE
COUNCILMAN MIDWOOD	AYE
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	AYE
COUNCILMAN COOPER	AYE

The Proposal was approved on March 10, 2022

Approval of Minutes of Regular Town Board meetings of 2/10/2022 and 2/28/2022

Motion by: Councilman Fedele Seconded by: Councilwoman Morrison

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Midwood, Morrison, Cooper)

NAYS- 0

Public Comment period

Sam Busselle spoke about the potential of the Mini-Grant application through Hudson River Housing and money acquired elsewhere by the Village to focus on Housing, the Comprehensive Plan and its relationship to Zoning. As to the interaction between Zoning and the Comprehensive Plan, Busselle has been researching the relationship between the two, with a look to matches that can improve our community, quality of life, jobs and housing options. This report, a couple pages long, cites the location in the Comprehensive Plan and how it is relevant

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to Zoning. With anticipation of having more professional advice on the steering committee in both the Town and the Village, Busselle would like to provide that information to the board. He also spoke about a need for someone to reach out to our state legislators regarding any available money for housing in the Governor's Budget. Letters to legislators show that we are paying attention.

Supervisors Report

There are no Budget Adjustments.

**RESOLUTION # 172022
Special Abstract**

Special Abstract dated February 23, 2022 totaling \$435.87 broken down as follows:

A Fund	\$435.97
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A motion to accept the special abstract was made by Councilwoman Morrison, seconded by Councilman Fedele

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Midwood, Morrison, Cooper)
NAYS- 0

**RESOLUTION # 182022
Abstract**

Abstract dated March 10, 2022 totaling \$205,877.24 broken down as follows:

A Fund	\$49,279.39
B Fund	\$101,661.91
DB Fund	\$54,109.85
T&A2 escrow	\$577.50
Payroll T&A	\$248.59

Motion to accept the Abstract was made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilman Cooper

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Midwood, Morrison, Cooper)
NAYS- 0

The Voucher Committee for April 2022: L. Morrison & J. Midwood

Meeting with Counsel.

Motion made by Councilman Midwood, seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to enter executive session for the purpose of reviewing potential litigation with the assessor.

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Midwood, Morrison, Cooper)
NAYS- 0

Executive session was entered at 8:00 pm to 8:15pm.

Adjournment

Motion made by Councilman Fedele, seconded by Councilman Midwood

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Fedele, Midwood, Morrison, Cooper)
NAYS- 0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16

Respectfully submitted by
Tilly Strauss, Town Clerk

Approved: 4/14/2022