

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST  
TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 14, 2022  
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

**Acceptance of Agenda with additional minutes from March 16<sup>th</sup> to be approved**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman

Cooper

AYES- 5

NAYS- 0

**Supervisor Comments**

Supervisor Kennan invited Officer-in-Charge Veeder from the Millerton Police Department to present the monthly incident report. The report will be posted to the Town website.

An update on the Covid pandemic, or endemic. The numbers of new cases per 100,000 people in Dutchess County had plummeted but now are inching back up.

The OWL, a new video technology, has arrived! Thanks to Councilman John Midwood and Meg Winkler for research and to the Ancram Town Hall for their invitation to experience the OWL at work during their Town meeting. The hope of the new technology is to make the meetings more accessible to those attending remotely.

The Highway Garage project is moving forward with freshly signed contracts. The expectation is for construction to begin next month. A preliminary schedule has the foundation being poured before the end of the year. The Town put out an RFP for short term financing by way of a BAN, (Bond Anticipated Note). Salisbury Bank offered the Town one year financing at a rate of 0.69% which the Town has accepted.

The Climate Smart Task Force, under leadership of Cathy Chow, submitted 26 different actions with a potential 155 points to move our Town to the Bronze level! We needed 120 points. Expect an announcement of the outcome in May.

The Housing Mini-grant program will be covered later in meeting.

Supervisor Kennan has received complaints from Town residents regarding Central Hudson's new billing system. It's a county wide issue, and Central Hudson knows about it. It has been discussed at the County Mayors and Supervisors meetings and Supervisor Kennan will report back to them what he has heard from residents.

The Town Board has been invited to apply for a Conservation Overlay Training Assistance Program, which is held through the DEC and Cornell. It will help us use overlays going forward in our zoning work. If successful, Edie Greenwood, Bill Kish, Rich Stalzer and Supervisor Kennan will participate in monthly meetings offered by this program. It is aimed at communities in the Hudson River estuary. An admittedly small portion of that estuary is in the Town of North East. Fingers crossed.

**Department and Committee Reports**

**- Highway**

Bob Stevens shared that the Highway department has use of a shared bucket truck for the month of April. They will be trimming back dead trees alongside Skunks Misery, Lower Mill, and Morse Hill roads. Supervisor Kennan asked about the Smithfield Road/ McGhee Hill culvert. Stevens replied that the contractor will be returning to work on the bridge when things dry up. He expects by end of May that the signs and rain guards will be removed.

**- Assessor**

Katherine Johnson reported that her office had been doing lots of analyses the last few months. The assessment roll is ready to send out. It reflects 12% residential and

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST  
TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 14, 2022**

7% commercial and vacant lot increase. This is conservative. The state rates are much higher. This assessment increase will be across the board. This reflects a trend in Towns, Counties, States, and country. The Office of Real Property Tax Services has approved this increase. On May 1<sup>st</sup> it will be published in the papers, and it will be posted at the Town Clerk's office, online, and in the Assessor's office. Ms. Johnson is available for discussion with Town residents and will have extended office hours in May. Letters to property owners are ready to go out. Taxable values may stay the same if we all rise together. On May 25<sup>th</sup> the Board of Assessment Review will host a grievance day, from 3-5 and 6-8PM.

In addition there is a Certiorari case with the Shekomeko Farms that needs Town Board authorization for town Attorney Ian MacDonald, Esq. to sign. The Board was prepared to approve upon a motion by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilman Midwood.

Aye- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Midwood, Fedele, Cooper)  
Nays- 0

The Board authorized Ian MacDonald, Esq. to sign Certiorari, as of April 14, 2022.

**- Planning, Zoning, & Building Department**

Monthly reports were submitted to the Board ahead of the meeting.

**- Town Clerk**

Monthly reports were submitted to the Board ahead of the meeting.

**- Cemetery Committee**

Councilman Fedele reported that The Friends of Spencer's Corners Burying Grounds (FSCBG) has registered as an official 501(C) 3 organization. That has enabled them to apply for a grant from the North East Dutchess Fund to clean up the grounds. A meeting is planned for May 4<sup>th</sup> with a preliminary cleanup session planned for May 7<sup>th</sup>. The hope is to use a D2 Biologic solution, which seeps in and is a time based cleaner to clean the monument headstones. No need to scrub. Two providers, the MCC (Monument Conservation Collaborative) and an independent gravestone cleaner will work together on this project. In 1987 NY State ceded the oversight of cemeteries to Town supervision. The FSCBG is asking the Highway department to help with mowing and brush maintenance twice a year. They will have a table at the farmers market to grow awareness and fundraise for the project. It is going to be a long term and costly project. The plan is to raise funds through donations and grants, without costing the taxpayer. Spencer's Corners predates Millerton and is the oldest cemetery in Dutchess County. Key people are buried there, and its earliest monument is dated "1701".

**-Building and Grounds Committee**

Supervisor Kennan reported that the old court room windows in the Town Hall will be replaced with Thermo-double pane energy efficient windows. The committee is getting estimates on doing the work. The Climate Smart Task Force has a grant to cover \$3000 towards the cost.

**The Affordable Housing "Toolbox" Mini-Grant report**

In response to community concern regarding lack of affordable housing, the resulting immense stress on our residents, and the Tri-Town Coalition raising awareness of need, the Town wants to do more. Supervisor Kennan has applied and been awarded a mini grant with the North East Community Center as a co-sponsor. A document titled, "Unpacking the Toolbox", was shared with the Town Board and was available to participants in the audience. The goal is to assist the Town Board of North East, as well as the Village trustees and boards of neighboring towns, to become familiar with various tools that are available to governments in order to permit, facilitate and encourage more affordable housing opportunities. We propose to do this by assembling as much information as possible that would be relevant to this goal. A steering committee will be formed, comprised of Town and Village elected leaders, a representative from the North East Community Center, and members of the local community with interest and knowledge of the subject. Councilman Cooper will be part of this process. Work will begin next week and will culminate in September with a public presentation and report. Two other mini-grants have also been awarded in the community to groups working on affordable housing projects. Through written reports and in-person meetings, we will be proceeding simultaneously and will be sharing the progress of our work as move forward.

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST  
TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 14, 2022**

**-Zoning Review Committee report**

Edie Greenwood, ZRC Chair, explained that the ZRC was formed in 2020 to review and recommend updates to the current Town zoning code, using the 2019 Comprehensive Plan as a guide. The initial focus has been on the commercial districts with a goal of submitting proposed regulations to the board by end of 2022. The residential districts, to follow, is anticipated to go much quicker with the growing committee experience and a clear template to work with. Our commercial districts include (HBIII) Irondale, the Boulevard Districts to the east on Route 44 currently with six separate districts, and the M-A district where Harney Tea operates south of the Village on route 22. The Consultant, Will Agresta, is helping us draft precise definitions needed to describe the uses referenced in the commercial districts. The committee is also working on a Land Conservation District that will include streams, flood plains and DEC wetland areas to be protected. This will impact the entire Town. The process of developing regulatory language is divided into three parts: uses, definitions, and standards. "Standards" include bulk charts, set-backs, signage, landscaping, coverage, and more. The goal is to have a package of regulatory legislation for the board to consider by the end of the year. The caliber of the committee is excellent with high participation, a great depth of knowledge, and variety of experience. The process has been kept as transparent as possible, with 32 sets of meeting minutes now on the Town website.

Supervisor Kennan thanked Ms. Greenwood and the committee for a lot of work. He asked if they would touch on regulating AirBnBs. Legal counsel Warren Replansky stated that if it is not specifically stated as a permitted use, in code, it is technically prohibited. Councilman Fedele asked if a buyer was interested in the Boulevard right now, how they could proceed. Ms. Greenwood stated that the current code is in place and that the ZRC is a body that reviews and makes recommendations.

**Approval of Mobile Home Park and Junkyard permits**

August Associates, (dba Benwood Knolls), Scenic View and Thomsen & Graham Metals Inc. submitted applications. The Building department made site inspections.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Cooper to approve the annual permits

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

NAYS- 0

The permits were approved.

**Approval for Town to apply with Village of Millerton for a Dutchess County MIG grant for wastewater system**

This has been a historic concern for the Town. Supervisor Kennan says we are closer than ever. The technology today is less "bulky". The environmental impact awareness is high. It is critically important to attract new businesses and increase employment opportunities for residents. The Village of Millerton is looking at systems and forming a waste water district. The Village is applying through the county Municipal Innovation Grant for the next phase, funding the preliminary design of a wastewater collection and treatment system which would serve portions of the Village and the Town. Supervisor Kennan drafted a letter in support of the Village of Millerton's grant application. Supervisor Kennan shared a copy of the letter with the board.

A motion was made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilman Midwood for approval to send the letter.

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

NAYS- 0

**Returning to subject of the Affordable Housing Mini-Grant:**

**RESOLUTION #202022**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE A CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATES TO ASSIST IN CONDUCTING PLANNING ACTIVITIES RELATING TO HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TOWN AND SURROUNDING MUNICIPALITIES**

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST  
TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 14, 2022**

**WHEREAS**, the Town has received a mini-grant from Hudson River Housing Inc. to conduct a “Housing for the Community” program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town needs to engage the services of a consultant as an independent contractor to assist the Town in conducting planning activities relating to housing opportunities and surrounding communities; and

**WHEREAS**, a proposal has been submitted to the Town Supervisor by Nancy Stolzenburg d/b/a Community Planning & Environmental Associates to provide those professional services (a copy of which is annexed hereto); and

**WHEREAS**, the Attorney to the Town has reviewed the Agreement and has advised the Town Board that the Agreement is acceptable in form and substance.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute the said Consulting Agreement between the Town and Community Planning & Environmental Associates in the same, or substantially similar, form as provided to the Town Board.

MOTION: Councilman Cooper

SECOND: Councilwoman Morrison

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	Voted	AYE
COUNCILMAN COOPER	Voted	AYE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	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 April 14, 2022.

**Resolution approving Town application for a Dutchess County MIG (Municipal Investment Grant) for Fencing of the new Highway Garage**

The fencing around the property along Route 22 and between the site and residential areas is important for safety and security. This is imperative to prevent loss due to the Town as a result of vandalism or have injuries to people who get onto the site. The application is due the 4<sup>th</sup> of May.

**RESOLUTION #212022**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO PREPARE AND FILE AN APPLICATION WITH DUTCHESS COUNTY FOR A 2022 MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT GRANT (MIG)**

**WHEREAS**, the Dutchess County Municipal Investment Grant Program (MIG) traditionally awards funding on a competitive basis to entities who have taxing authority; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022 the County has set aside funding to support local initiatives that champion community priorities and improvements by municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the application for such funding must be filed by 3:00 p.m. May 4, 2022 via the Dutchess County Grant Portal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined that the Town is in need of the installation of a fencing in conjunction with the highway garage project and that the current bonding, appropriations and available grants for the said project do not currently include fencing for the site; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined that it is essential for the site to have proper secure fencing to prevent financial loss to the Town and the Village resulting from theft or vandalism; and

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST  
TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 14, 2022**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined that it would be in the best interests of the Town to submit an application pursuant to the 2022 MIG program for such fencing in the amount of \$150,000.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to submit the appropriate application to Dutchess County for the 2022 MIG Program for fencing the highway garage site in the full amount of \$150,000 and to execute any required documentation or submit all materials required to be submitted in conjunction with said application.

MOTION: Councilman Midwood

SECOND: Councilman Fedele

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	Voted	AYE
COUNCILMAN COOPER	Voted	AYE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	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 April 14, 2022.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

**Supervisor's Report**

**RESOLUTION #222022  
Approval of Budget Adjustment #1 of 2022**

**RESOLVED**, to approve Budget Adjustment #1 of 2022 as follows:

**A Fund-** General Town-wide, there is an expense increase of \$1384. Minus an expense decrease of \$1384, resulting in a net of \$0.

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

The Resolution was adopted on April 14, 2022.

**RESOLUTION #232022  
Approval of Special Abstract**

**RESOLVED**, to approve Special abstract, dated March 29, 2022, totaling \$665.74, broken down as follows:

**A Fund-** \$665.74

Motion to accept the Special Abstract was made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison.

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

The Resolution was adopted on April 14, 2022.

**RESOLUTION #242022  
Approval of Abstract**

**RESOLVED**, to approve Special abstract, dated April 14, 2022, totaling \$346,643.64, broken down as follows:

**A Fund-** \$245,357.47

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST  
TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 14, 2022**

<b>B Fund-</b>	\$334.05
<b>DB Fund-</b>	\$60,203.71
<b>Capital Projects H1-</b>	\$27,037.32
<b>ARPA-</b>	\$3,990.00
<b>T&amp;A2 Escrow-</b>	\$472.50
<b>Payroll T&amp;A-</b>	\$248.59

Motion to accept the Special Abstract was made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilman Fedele.

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

The Resolution was adopted on April 14, 2022.

**Voucher Committee for May 2022:** Councilman Fedele & Councilman Cooper

**Approval of Minutes from Meetings of 3/10/2022 and 3/16/2022**

Motion to accept both minutes was made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilman Fedele.

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

The minutes were approved on April 14, 2022

**Meeting with Council:** Not needed.

**Adjournment**

Motion made to adjourn by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Fedele.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

/s/: Tilly Strauss  
Town Clerk

Approved: May12, 2022