

**Town of North East
Town Board
Regular Meeting
October 12, 2023, 7PM**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call

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

Acceptance of Agenda

Five additions or corrections to the Agenda- Time of the Public Hearing is 7:20 (not 7:25), discuss a letter of support for Millerton CDBG grant application, approve a Town Court justice application for a JCAP grant to help with furnishings of the New Town Hall Court, an approval of a letter of intent to apply for a decarbonization grant and an Executive session to discuss possible litigation at the end of the meeting.

Motion made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler to accept the agenda as altered.

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

Agenda was accepted

Supervisor Comments:

Technical problems tonight- Zoom was on Supervisor Iphone for the record

Cases of Covid 19 are on the rise in our community. Be aware and take appropriate precautions.

Justice Johnson will be applying for a JCAP grant that provides money for courthouses in support of modifications to the New Town Hall.

There is progress on the Wastewater District within the Village. The preliminary engineering phase is underway, going property by property to access systems in place. Our Town focus will be on the Commercial Boulevard.

There is a new Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center opening and it is scheduled to replace the old County jail by the end of the year.

Morse Hill Road has a steep open embankment created by Central Hudson tree clearings. The Highway Department has put up warning reflectors on the curve and a guide rail for that section. We are grateful to the Highway Department.

The Northern Dutchess Paramedic (NDP) 5-year contract expires in 2024. It includes three Towns (Dover, Amenia and North East). There has been a 2% increase year to year. Other Towns are looking for bids. The numbers are very high. This contract is a significant cost item for the Town and we are looking for ways to control the cost.

Winchell Mountain speed limit sign update: Years ago we applied for a reduction in the speed limit. A year ago it was approved. Commissioner Balkind promises that signs will be posted "shortly".

The Town staff and Board members will be meeting with the Pace Land Use Institute. We have a grant for their analysis and look forward to hearing their evaluation of our permitting process and steps to take for improvement.

Department and Committee Reports

Highway- Bob Stevens, Superintendent- The crew is currently using the Town shared bucket to work on trees.

At the Town's request, large enhanced stop signs for Beilke road are being manufactured.

The 284 Agreement is between the Town Board and the Highway Superintendent to use moneys responsibly. This new Agreement reflects a cost for a 300' guide rail installation on Morse Hill road. After the Central Hudson crews action to clear their power lines, there was revealed a steep embankment on the hillside of Morse Hill.

**Resolution #612023
284 Agreement**

A motion was made by Councilman Midwood, and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to authorize the agreement.

AYES 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

NAYS 0

The motion was accepted.

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Public Hearing on Water District Benefit Assessment Roll (7:20pm)

A motion was made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler to open the Public Hearing

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

Public Hearing opened at 7:21pm

No one spoke

A motion was made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to close the Public Hearing

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

Public hearing closed at 7:23

**RESOLUTION #622023
To Approve Water District Benefit Assessment Roll**

Motion to accept the Benefit Assessment Roll was made by Councilwoman Winkler, and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison. Vote Taken.

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

The Water District Benefit Assessment Roll was accepted.

Department reports, continued

Assessor- Katherine Johnson, Assessor- Thanked the Board for adopting the Water Benefit Assessment Roll. She shared a report with the Board members illustrating the changes to the Roll.

Regarding Senior Exemptions, Johnson recommended holding on to what we have and revisiting it later if needed. Reminder that March 1, 2024 is the deadline for exemptions to be applied to 2025 taxes.

A term on the Board of Assessment Review (BAR) has expired. Ms. Delora Brooks, who was filling a vacated term is up for reappointment. She is willing to keep serving. Johnson asked for Board approval to fill the vacancy with Ms. Brooks.

**RESOLUTION #642023
To Appoint Delora Brooks to the BAR**

RESOLVED, to appoint Ms. Delora Brooks to a 5 year term on the Board of Assessment Review that ends September 30, 2028. A motion was made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to reappoint Delora Brooks to the BAR for a term that will end September 30, 2028. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

Delora Brooks was appointed to the BAR for a 5-year term.

Assessor Johnson would also like permission to advertise as soon as possible for a vacancy on the Board due to a member moving out of the area. It would be the remainder of a term, ending in three years, September 2026.

Town Clerk: Planning, Zoning, & Building and Dog Control- Elizabeth Strauss, Town Clerk provided reports from the Departments to the Board members before the meeting.

Town Board Committee Activity

Housing (Councilwoman Winkler) The NECC has collaborated with the Town Housing Committee to create definitions of affordable housing and shared the Dutchess County Area Median Income (AMI) tool calculator. The Board will need to review this information in order to adopt an Affordable Housing definition, AMI requirements to qualify for "affordable housing", maximum rents, and inclusionary zoning requirements. In turn, the Board will update the ZRC to include with their proposed revised Zoning and for use as incentives to future Housing Developers. Winkler attended the Salisbury Forum 'Housing + Jobs + Conservation: A Roadmap for Action' on September 27th. She gave a general overview of collaborations occurring between

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the affordable housing and land conservation organizations in the region, Regional Plan Associates (RPA), Housing & Neighborhood planning in the Hudson Valley, and Housing & Land Trust opportunities. It feels like there is momentum to actually put something in place soon.

Buildings and Grounds –The new Town Hall, under the architectural guidance of Jeanne Vanecko, will be looking to put out bids for construction soon. The construction is all indoors, so work can be done over winter.

Cemetery - (Ralph Fedele) The project to raise the Dakin monuments led to a surprise discovery. The four monuments, upon lifting, were found to be Reed Family monuments! Research into that family tree is following. There was a pineapple finial on the ground that was reattached to the top of the largest monument. These tombstones go back to 1701. In 3-4 weeks they plan to clean more tombstones with the D2 solution. It is a long project.

Public Comment on Agenda items only

Sam Busselle, North East resident, wanted to reinforce the enthusiasm Councilwoman Winkler had for the Salisbury Forum on the 27th. The Town of Red Hook recently bought two farms next to the village and is having the Dutchess Land Conservancy preserve 96 of the 112 acres. The other acres will be used for housing proximate to the Town. He hopes the Town Board reads their vision statement.

Appointment of Robert Kuhbach to fill vacancy on Board of Ethics

Several applications have been submitted for the vacancy on the Board due to the retirement of Michelle Haab. The personnel committee has reviewed the applications and met with Robert Kuhbach. The remaining 2 year and 3 month term will expire 12/31/2025.

**RESOLUTION #632023
To appoint Robert Kuhbach to the Board of Ethics**

RESOLVED, to appoint Robert Kuhbach to the Board of Ethics. A Motion made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Fedele.

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

Robert Kuhbach was appointed to the Board of Ethics

Mark Long of CPL Engineering gave a brief construction report on the New Highway Garage.

Supervisor Kennan set the context by describing the buildings on site in chronological order. First a storage building, then a sand-salt storage building with a fueling station that is shared with the Fire District of North East and the Village of Millerton. Now, the largest building on the property, which is the actual Highway garage. It is in the final stages of construction.

Mark Long described the new building as 80 x 30 feet and 32 feet high, enough to store equipment and provide office space for staff. There is a wash bay for equipment after storms, a kitchen, restrooms, and a shower. The lift is capable of lifting the heaviest pieces of equipment that we have.

Supervisor Kennan asked where we are in terms of finishing.

Long responded that it is now under work by the general contractors- the electric, HVAC and Plumbing Companies. They are waiting for a mason to finish the wash bay. He estimated a month or less, possibly mid-November. The HVAC controls need to be done after the walls. Paving will wait until the contractors are done. There is a need to reconfigure the entrance and redesign the pitch.

Board member Winkler asked if there are weather restraints

Long said yes, for the site work, but not for the inside work. We might not be able to pave until Christmas. It is also dependent on the availability of Colarusso. We may have to wait until spring.

Councilwoman Morrison asked when we can move in.

Longo said the first week in December.

Supervisor Kennan declared we might move equipment over before that date.

Presentation of the Town of North East Tentative 2024 Budget, and set time for a Public Hearing on Nov. 9th

The Tentative Budget has been filed with the Town Clerk. It can be viewed in the Town Clerk's office. It has been a balancing act to reduce the burden on taxpayers and our need to perform duties required of the Town in a professional way. The Committee has worked hard. The entire Board held a workshop meeting. Similar to previous years, we exceeded the Tax Cap by a very small amount. There is an increase in interest & earnings, insurance costs, and AUD

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accountant fees. There was a 2% increase in the ambulance contract, a 7% increase in health insurance, and 4% increase in salaries and wages. An increase in Attorney costs is expected as we work towards establishing the Wastewater District. There is an additional line in the Budget added for New Town Hall renovations and moving costs. There will also be interest due on the BAN for the Highway Garage. We expect to roll that into permanent financing and will search for the lowest possible rate.

**RESOLUTION #652023
Accept Tentative Budget and set Public Hearing Date**

RESOLVED, to accept the Tentative Budget and set the Public Hearing date on November 9, 2022 at 7:20 pm.

Motion made by Councilman Midwood, and seconded Councilwoman Morrison. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The Tentative Budget was accepted and a Public Hearing was set for next Board meeting.

Renewal of contract with Webutuck Youth Soccer League

**RESOLUTION #662023
Webutuck Valley Youth Soccer League Contract**

RESOLVED, to approve the Town of North East and the Webutuck Valley Youth Soccer League. A motion was made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilman Fedele. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The Resolution was adopted on October 12, 2023

Renewal of contract with North East Community Center

Supervisor Kennan spoke about the incredible amount of services the NECC provides our town residents. The contractual amount is the same as previous years.

**RESOLUTION #672023
Approve NECC Contract**

RESOLVED, to approve the Town of North East and North East Community Council Recreation Hall and Social Services Contract in the amount of \$5500.00. A motion was made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Midwood. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The Resolution was adopted on October 12, 2023

Proposed contract with ICC-CDS, LLC for Laserfiche storage and retention of public documents

**RESOLUTION #682023
Approve Laserfiche Contract**

RESOLVED, to authorize the Supervisor to sign new Contract regarding Laserfiche storage of public documents. A motion made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilman Fedele. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The Resolution was adopted on October 12, 2023

The Village is applying for a CDBG grant

The Village is applying for a grant for Sidewalks at Veteran's Park. The Supervisor asks the Town Board to approve a letter of support for the Village of Millerton's application. A motion was made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison. Votes taken

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

NAYS- 0

Approval for the Justices to apply for a JCAP grant for Court furnishings at the New Town Hall

The Court Justices would like to apply for a JCAP grant for Court furnishings at the New Town Hall. A motion was made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to approve the grant application.

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

NAYS- 0

Approval for the Town Supervisor to submit applications to Partners for Climate Action for two grants for de-carbonization of New Town Hall.

The Partners for Climate Action have grants for energy studies up to \$5000, grant writing for \$15,000 and construction for up to \$5000.

Authorize the Supervisor to submit applications for two grants for de-carbonization of the New Town Hall.

One grant is an engineering design grant and the other is an implementation grant. A motion was made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilman Midwood. Votes Taken.

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

NAYS- 0

Public Comments

Sam Busselle- There is a CDBG grant deadline that he would like to be a part of. Thankful for Paul Bengtson's help (NECC). Love to see the Town in innovative collaborations.

Andrew Stayman had question about the Lazerfiche contract.

Rich Stalzer, CAC Chair, hopes for more discussion on moratorium. The CAC sent a memo in support of the moratorium to the Town Board, by email.

Supervisor's Report

Budget Adjustment #8

RESOLUTION #692023

Budget Adjustment #8 of 2023

A Fund: we had an expense increase of \$9,337.00, less an expense decrease of \$4000.00 plus a revenue increase of \$5,337.00 for a net change of \$0.

B Fund: we had an expense increase of \$6000, less an expense increase of \$6000 for a net change of \$0.

DB Fund (Highway Town Outside): We had an expense increase of \$30,000.00, minus an expense decrease of \$30,000.00. For a net change of \$0.

RESOLVED, to accept the Budget Adjustment #8 of 2023. A motion was made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler to accept the Budget Adjustment. Votes Taken.

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

Budget adjustment is accepted

RESOLUTION #712023

Special Abstract dated September 26, 2023

A Special Abstract dated September 26, 2023, totaling \$804.84 broken down as follows:

A Fund: \$804.84

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

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

The Special Abstract is accepted

RESOLUTION #732023

Abstract dated October 12, 2023

An Abstract dated October 12, 2023 totaling \$631,248.17 broken down as follows:

A Fund: \$ 54,143.86

B Fund: \$ 4,298.90

DB Fund: \$ 74,293.68

Capital Projects H1: \$486,774.00

ARPA: \$ 4,354.00

T&A2 Escrow: \$ 7,127.50

Payroll T&A \$ 256.23

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Motion made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilman Morrison to accept the Abstract

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

The Abstract is accepted.

Voucher Committee for November: Fedele and Winkler

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of 9/14/23

Motion made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to approve the Minutes of the September 14th meeting. Votes taken.

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

The minutes are approved

Approval of Minutes from Special Workshop Meeting of 9/19/23

Motion made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilman Midwood to approve the Minutes of the September 19th meeting. Votes taken.

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

The minutes are approved

Attorney-Client Meeting

Motion made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilman Fedele to enter into the Attorney-Client meeting in order to discuss pending litigation

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

Entered into Attorney-Client meeting at 8:25 PM

Motion made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler to exit Attorney-Client meeting

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

Adjournment

Motion made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilman Fedele to adjourn meeting

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Winkler)

Nays- 0

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,
/s/: Elizabeth Strauss
Town Clerk

APPROVED: 11/09/23