

**Town of North East
Town Board Regular Meeting
Town Hall, 19 N Maple Ave.
Millerton, New York
January 11, 2024, 7:00 PM**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

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

Acceptance of Agenda

Amended to reflect the addition of a resolution concerning Hudson Highlands and an amendment to the Town Hall employee manual.

Motion made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler to accept the amended agenda. Votes taken.

Ayes- 4 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Winkler)

Nays- 0

Agenda as amended was accepted.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only- no comments.

Appointment to fill vacancy on Town Board for Town Board member for 2024

As a result of confusion and error on part of filing as a result of the Democratic Caucus and the Board of Elections, there is a vacancy on a two year term on the Town Board. We have published a notice for persons interested in serving on the board asking them to notify the Town Clerk or the Town Supervisor. Chris Mayville, North East Town resident, is nominated for the appointment.

Motion made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilman Fedele to appoint Chris Mayville for a one year term on the Town Board.

Roll Call

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	Aye
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	Aye
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	Aye
COUNCILWOMAN WINKLER	Aye

By a Town Board vote of 4-0 Christopher Mayville is appointed to the Town Board for the 2024 year.

He is welcomed to join the other Board members at the table.

Department and Committee Reports

Highway Department- Superintendent Bob Stevens reports that the Sand and Salt budget is holding up well due to the mild winter so far. The back hoe needs looking at.

Assessor – no report

Planning, Zoning, & Building Department & DCO & Town Clerk – Reports sent previously. ZBA report was handed to the Board members.

Tax Collector- Bills have gone out in the mail today

Town Board Committee Activity:

Housing- Councilwoman Winkler reports that they are working on ZRC definitions. The NECC did a Tenant's Rights presentation in the Village of Millerton. No written material is available, but they are planning on doing a presentation in the Town of Amenia, and they will let Councilwoman Winkler know about it and it will be publicized.

Buildings and Grounds- Supervisor Kennan reports that the Highway building's substantial completion date is a few weeks away. The wash bay is being painted and a few minor items are left. The well-water has to be tested by the County. The flagpole is in storage and ready for installation after winter. The New Town Hall has one installed thanks to George Lind and the Highway crew. We won't fly the flag until we move in. In April or May, once asphalt plants reopen, our Highway crew will finish the asphalt around the new Garage.

Appointment of Town Board members to Town Board Committees for 2024-

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The list was distributed to the Town Board members. The Supervisor read the list as follows:

Budget	Chris Kennan & Lana Morrison
Buildings, Grounds & Facilities	Lana Morrison & Meg Winkler
Cemetery	Ralph Fedele & Chris Mayville
Communications	Meg Winkler & Chris Mayville
Emergency Services	Ralph Fedele & Chris Mayville
Hazard Mitigation	Chris Kennan, Ralph Fedele, Bob Stevens & Ken McLaughlin
Highway	Chris Kennan & Ralph Fedele
Housing	Chris Kennan & Meg Winkler
Personnel	Ralph Fedele & Lana Morrison
Recreation	Lana Morrison & Chris Mayville
Wastewater District Committee	Chris Kennan & Lana Morrison
Zoning Review Committee	Chris Kennan, Lana Morrison, & Meg Winkler

A motion was made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to accept the Town Board committee list

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

Nays- 0

The Town Board Committee list for 2024 is approved by the Town Board.

Resolution to join Hudson Highlands Region

We have received this resolution from the Hudson Valley Association. The Highlands is a big swath of land including communities on both sides of the Hudson River. Supervisor Kennan shared a map with the Town Board Members.

RESOLUTION #042024

AUTHORIZE REQUEST FOR TOWN OF NORTH EAST TO JOIN FEDERALLY DESIGNATED LANDS OF THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS REGION

The following Resolution was offered by Councilwoman Winkler, seconded by Councilwoman Morrison, to wit,

WHEREAS, the Highlands region, encompasses more than three million acres of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands region is an area of national significance, possessing substantial natural beauty, containing contiguous forest and productive farmland, numerous cultural and historic sites, plentiful recreation opportunities, and the protection and supply of important drinking water sources for over fifteen million people; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress, in bipartisanship, passed the Highlands Conservation Act, Public Law 10-421 that was signed into law by the President of the United States on November 30, 2004, designating the Highlands as a significant national conservation priority region; and

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WHEREAS, the Highlands Conservation Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance to Highlands States to preserve and protect high priority conservation land in the Highlands region; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service manages a voluntary grant program to assist Highlands States, local units of government, and private forest and farm landowners in the conservation of land and natural resources in the Highlands region in coordination with willing sellers; and

WHEREAS, land preservation efforts in the Highlands region should link the parks, historic sites, wetlands, wildlife habitats, streams, rivers, reservoirs, watershed, trails, scenic and natural lands and other protected areas unique to the region for the enjoyment of future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of North East supports being officially included in the federal Highlands boundary, as maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Highlands Conservation Act grant program, thereby qualifying for financial and technical assistance provided by the U.S. Congress. The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	Aye
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	Aye
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	Aye
COUNCILWOMAN WINKLER	Aye
COUNCILMAN MAYVILLE	Aye

The Resolution was thereupon adopted with a 5-0 vote on January 11, 2024.

Amendment to the Town Hall Employee Manual

This relates to call-in-pay, particularly with the Highway crew, when they are called in for an emergency in the night. The minimum hours are automatically raised from 2 to 3 hours compensation.

Motion made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Fedele to accept the amendment to the employee contract. Votes taken.

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

Nays- 0

The Motion is carried.

Additional member on the Climate Smart Task Force

Kathy Chow would like Kathleen Spahn to be appointed to the Task force- she has been a participant and is enthusiastic and able.

Motion to approve Kathleen Spahn to be new member was made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilman Fedele. Votes taken.

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Mayville)

Nays- 0

Congratulations to Kathleen Spahn.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kathy Chow, Town resident and CS Task Force Chair- "thank you"

Eddie Greenwood, resident and Chair of ZRC- Does the The Highlands resolution include all the Town and what types of grants are available?

Kathy Chow answered that it will take a couple years to qualify. It's a long process and mostly concerned about connecting core forests.

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Councilwoman Meg Winkler asked if Millerton would have to join separately? Chow will look into it. Supervisor thinks yes, as we generally don't take actions on behalf of the Village.

Supervisor's Report Comments:

Welcome to the New Year and a new town Board. It is going to be a busy year. Some major projects, like the Town Highway Garage, will be less time intensive. We will be focusing on the work to make the new Town hall a really great working environment. We have good Town government and a great workforce here and at the Town Highway. It is a collegial, collaborative, and supportive crew of people working here.

The Sewer District project moves ahead with Tighe & Bond Engineering going parcel to parcel to identify the exact layout of septic tanks so that they can design the system.

There is zoning work on the codes that will be coming to the Town Board for review. We appreciate the ZRC and Eddie Greenwood for the extraordinary amount of work and great dedication.

Our Housing lack and need is a frustrating issue and we will see what we can do within our resources, being creative and constructive, to assist in that.

The Climate Smart Task Force has produced a Bicycling and Pedestrian Plan document. It is in front of the Village Trustees and the Town Board at the same time. I have spent time with Trustee Dave Sherman to study and vet it thoroughly. The goal is for an approval of the document when presented at the next Town Board meeting.

Monthly Bills:

**RESOLUTION#062024
Budget Adjustment 11 of 2023**

A Fund- General Town-Wide had an expense increase of \$192,029 less an expense decrease of \$192,029 for a net of \$0.

B Fund- General Town Outside had an expense increase of \$2,567 less a revenue increase of \$2,567 for a net of \$0

DB Fund- Highway Town Outside had an expense increase of \$10,000 less a revenue increase of \$10,000 for a net of \$0

Motion made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler to accept the budget adjustment. Votes taken.

Ayes- (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Winkler, Mayville)

Nays- 0

The Budget Adjustment #11 of 2023 is approved.

**RESOLUTION #072024
Special Abstract dated December 27, 2023**

Special Abstract dated December 27, 2023 totaling \$1,580.49 broken down as follows:

A Fund \$1580.49

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

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

Nays- 0

The Special Abstract was approved.

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**RESOLUTION #082024
Special Abstract dated December 30, 2023**

Special Abstract dated December 30, 2023 totaling \$38,191.64 broken down as follows:

A Fund	\$15,240.39
B Fund	\$ 2,601.25
DB Fund	\$13,477.83
Capital Projects H1	\$ 5,917.17
T&A2 Escrow	\$ 955.00

Motion made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to accept the Special Abstract. Votes taken.

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Winkler, Mayville)
Nays- 0

The Special Abstract was approved.

**RESOLUTION #092024
Abstracts dated January 11, 2024**

An Abstract dated January 11, 2024 totaling \$48,013.13 broken down as follows:

A Fund	\$37,775.56
B Fund	\$ 295.00
DB Fund	\$ 9,684.10
Payroll T&A	\$ 258.47

Motion made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to accept the abstract. Votes taken.

Ayes- (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Winkler, Mayville)
Nays- 0

The Abstract was approved.

Voucher Committee for February 2024: Lana Morrison and Chris Mayville

Approval of Minutes from meeting of 12/14/23

Motion made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilman Fedele to approve the minutes of December 14, 2023. Votes taken.

Ayes- 4 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Winkler)
Nays- 0
Abstain- 1 (Mayville)

The minutes were approved.

Meeting with Counsel if needed- not needed

Adjournment

Motion made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler to adjourn the meeting. Votes taken.

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Winkler, Mayville)
Nays- 0

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM

Submitted by

/s/: Elizabeth Strauss, Town Clerk

APPROVED: 2/8/24