

Town of North East
Town Board Regular Meeting
Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave, Millerton, NY
June 13, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call

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

Acceptance of Agenda

The Agenda is amended with an addition of a CSC presentation and educational campaign resolution.

A Motion to accept the Agenda as amended was made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Mayville. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The Agenda is accepted.

Supervisor Comments

The Highway Garage is essentially complete. The building is operational and the Department has moved equipment and trucks into it. The flagpole should be up before next Town Board meeting. There is a hold up for complete moving in due to lack of internet and telephone access. Optimum Altice was contacted in November of 2023 and we are still waiting for them to install access. It is a mystery as to the delay.

Plans for the old Highway garage have not been made, and will be made with consultation between the Town and the Village. It is an old cinderblock building located in a flood plain.

There are grants for remediation of buildings that could pay for it to be taken down.

The new Town Hall request for renovation proposals received only one bid and it was way too high. The Town Board rejected it and are now looking to reconfigure the space for cost cutting options. The HVAC system is 30 years old and though we don't know how much longer it will keep working, it is usable for now.

The Town is facing some increased expenses ahead, notably with the expiration of our current EMS contract. We will be looking to go out for bids soon.

The ZRC has completed most of the work on the commercial districts. Their documents are being looked over by attorneys and an informal preliminary review by the County. Once that feedback happens the document will move to the Town Board and a Public Hearing.

Department and Committee Reports

Highway- Bob Stevens, Superintendent, reported that the crew is doing roadside mowing and organizing the new Highway garage.

Assessor- No report. Grievance day was May 29th. The Assessor plans to give a report at the next meeting.

Planning, Zoning, & Building Department- Reports previously given to the Board.

Town Clerk- Tilly Strauss, Town Clerk, reported that the Tax Settlement with the County was at 94% collected. Final checks have been paid to the Town. Tax rolls will be printed and returned to the County in the next week.

Town Board Committee Activity

Housing Committee- Councilwoman Winkler reported that Habitat for Humanity Pilot Housing program had nine applications. They were all very good and diverse. A decision will be made in July. The quality of applications proves a need. Habitat has posted a sign on the property "coming soon", and is eager to work with the Town on more initiatives.

Recreation Committee- Councilwoman Morrison reported that they are reviewing a new Recreation contract with the Village.

Buildings & Grounds- See Supervisor comments.

Highway Committee- See Supervisor comments.

Zoning Review Committee re-appointments: Julie Schroeder, Ed Downey

Two members are up for re-appointments. Supervisor Kennan stated that it's important to keep these members as we complete the ZRC Commercial district review process.

A motion was made by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler to reappoint Julie Schroeder and Ed Downey to the ZRC for terms ending June 11, 2027. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The re-appointments are approved.

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Acceptance of Audits of Town Clerk Office, Tax Collector

Motion made to accept the Audit Reports was made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The audits are accepted.

Audit of North East Justice Court discussion

The other office of the Town that gets audited is the Justice Court. The new auditors' have produced an extremely dense legalese representation letter that the Justices felt has gone way beyond what they will sign. The Town Attorney, Warren Replansky, has reviewed the situation and says that Supervisor Kennan can sign the representation letter, making note that he has not spent any time in the court office going through the financial files. This needs to be confirmed with the Office of Court administration. If the auditors accept that, it will be brought to the Town Board for acceptance at a future meeting.

The Climate Smart Committee

Supervisor Kennan refreshed our memory that the Town was awarded the Bronze Climate Smart Community level thanks to our amazing, energetic, and eager Task Force. The Village has also been awarded Bronze status. One item the CSC looks to is for communities to go beyond what government can do to make itself climate resilient and to engage with community. This proposed program is to encourage the Town to communicate with residents about different things they can do with their homes to be more climate friendly and resilient. Supervisor Kennan invited Kathy Chow and Kathleen Spahn to further elaborate on what they would like the Town Board to do. A document stating the campaign's primary and secondary purposes, the execution, and outreach was shared with the Board members.

The largest emissions in our community come from transportation and houses. The choices are complex and the CSC wants to create a community campaign to help people understand. In this instance both the Town and the Village can both be leads in this educational initiative. The Clean Energy Committee (CEC) is NYSERDA's program, and they have money sourced from taxes on utility bills as a financial incentive. The main goal is to educate owners of buildings about electric heat pumps with a goal of 5+ installations, which would earn us \$5K (and CEC/CSC points) from the State if residents sign up.

The CSC will partner with NECC, the NE Millerton Library, the Millerton Recreation Department, Faith Laudano- the Dutchess County Energy Advisor, and the Millerton Business Association. They plan to hold monthly events and increase the visibility of the CSC in the community. A launch for the program is set for July 13th at Eddie Collins Park.

Councilwoman Winkler asked about the fiscal time period of the program and if they planned to work with the Town Building Department. Chow said they will be working with the Building Department to find out who is doing what. Credits only can be applied after the launch date. The State has a list of approved vendors.

Councilman Mayville asked about financial incentives for homeowners. Spahn said they had information about water heaters, cost and rebates. There are lots of action choices, State incentives, NYSERDA and Central Hudson rebates, and tax deductions at end of the year.

RESOLUTION #372024

**ESTABLISHING A NYSERDA CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM
COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN:
NORTH EAST / MILLERTON HEATING & COOLING CAMPAIGN**

WHEREAS, Community-scale campaigns can be an effective way to encourage adoption of new, innovative technologies to generate value and savings for consumers while advancing New York's clean energy goals; and

WHEREAS, Heating and cooling in buildings represent more than thirty percent of New York State's combustion-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Reducing

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emissions in homes, through community-scale campaigns, will help the state meet its ambitious GHG reduction mandates; and

WHEREAS, well-organized campaigns are a good way for local governments to be active and visible in their communities; and

WHEREAS, local residents and businesses can gain increased access to clean energy through Community Campaigns which are short-term efforts that identify potential customers through widespread outreach and education; and

WHEREAS, Municipalities interested in this action can receive free technical assistance from the Clean Energy Communities Coordinators that are available across New York State; and

WHEREAS, The Town of North East, along with the regional Clean Energy Hubs, partner organizations, and volunteers can organize a structured campaign to encourage the adoption of clean heating and cooling technologies (e.g., ground- and air- source heat pump systems and heat pump water heaters); and

WHEREAS, The Town of North East can develop partnerships with NYSERDA-approved contractors and educate residents on efficiencies & benefits of heat pumps and encourage installation: and

WHEREAS, The Town of North East can receive NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities and NY State Climate Smart Communities points for successful completion of the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities high-impact action: Community Campaigns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of North East will launch a Community Campaign for Clean Heating and Cooling, in partnership with the Village of Millerton, based on the guidelines of the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities High Impact Action.

This motion was offered by Town Board member Christopher Mayville and was seconded by Town Board member Lana Morrison.

MOTION: Councilman Mayville
SECOND: Councilwoman Morrison

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

The Resolution was carried by a 5-0 vote of the Town Board members on June 13, 2024.

Proposed Contract with Village of Millerton for Court Officer

Our current agreement has expired. A new contract runs from June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025. The Village has provided the Town Court with a police officer at a flat rate. We pay \$120 per court session for three hours and, additional hours if needed, at \$40 per hour.

RESOLUTION #382024

**Authorizing the Supervisor to sign a new contract with the Village
For provision of a court police officer.**

The proposed contract has been distributed to the Town Board. Supervisor Kennan asked for a resolution authorizing him to sign a contract with the Village for provision of a court officer. A motion was offered by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler. Roll call.

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

The Resolution was carried by a 5-0 vote of the Town Board members on June 13, 2024.

Resolution of approval of contract for fund administration with NYCLASS

This follows up the presentation last month by Joel Friedman.

RESOLUTION #392024

MUNICIPAL COOPERATION RESOLUTION FOR NYCLASS

WHEREAS, New York Municipal Law, Article 5-G, Section 119-o (Section 119-o) empowers municipal corporations (defined in Article 5-G, Section 119-n to include school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, counties, cities, towns and villages, and districts) to enter into, amend, cancel, and terminate agreements for the performance among themselves (or one for the other) of their respective functions, powers, and duties on a cooperative or contract basis; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North East wishes to invest portions of its available investment funds in cooperation with other corporations and/or districts pursuant to the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of March 28, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North East wishes to satisfy the safety and liquidity needs of their funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

That Christopher Kennan, Supervisor of the Town of North East, is hereby authorized to participate in the NYCLASS program under the terms of the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of March 28, 2019.

This motion was offered by Town Board member Meg Winkler and was seconded by Town Board member Lana Morrison.

MOTION: Councilwoman Winkler

SECOND: Councilwoman Morrison

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	Voted AYE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	Voted AYE
COUNCILMAN MAYVILLE	Voted AYE
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	Voted AYE
COUNCILWOMAN WINKLER	Voted AYE

The Resolution was carried by a 5-0 vote of the Town Board members on June 13, 2024.

Public Comment Period- None

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**Supervisor's Report
Budget Adjustment**

**RESOLUTION #402024
Budget Adjustment #4 of 2024**

A Fund- General Town-wide

There was an expense increase of \$4,895 less an expense decrease of \$4,155, and less a revenue increase of \$740 for a net change of \$0.

B Fund- General Town Outside

There was an expense increase of \$86,000, less a revenue increase of \$86,000 for a net change of \$0.

DB Fund- Highway Town Outside

There was an expense increase of \$86,000, less a revenue increase of \$86,000 for a net change of \$0.

Motion made by Councilman Mayville to accept the budget adjustment. Seconded by Councilman Fedele. Votes taken:

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

NAYS- 0

Budget adjustment accepted.

**Monthly Bills
Special Abstracts**

**RESOLUTION #412024
Special Abstract dated May 29, 2024**

A Special Abstract dated May 29, 2024 totaling \$12,556.32 broken down as follows:

A Fund	\$2,872.22
DB Fund	\$9,684.10

A motion to accept the Special Abstract was offered by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler. Votes taken:

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

NAYS- 0

The Special Abstract was accepted.

Abstracts

**RESOLUTION #422024
Abstract dated June 13, 2024**

An Abstract dated June 13, 2024 totaling \$426,962.85 broken down as follows:

A Fund	\$256,864.45
B Fund	\$ 24,106.13
DB Fund	\$143,891.30
T&A2 Escrow	\$ 1,842.50
Payroll T&A	\$ 258.47

Motion to accept the Abstract was offered by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler. Votes taken:

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

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NAYS- 0

The Abstract was accepted.

Voucher Committee for July: M. Winkler & R. Fedele

Approval of Minutes from Meetings of 5-09-24, 5-15-24, 5-21-24 and 5-30-24

A Motion was made by Councilman Fedele to approve the minutes of last month and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The minutes were approved.

Adjournment

A Motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM

Respectfully Submitted by

/s/: Elizabeth Strauss, Town Clerk

DRAFT: 6/18/2024

APPROVED: 7/11/2024