

**Town of North East**  
**Town Board Regular Meeting**  
Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave, Millerton, NY  
July 11, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll call**

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

**Acceptance of Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Fedele to accept the agenda. Votes taken.

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Winkler, Mayville)  
NAYS- 0

The Agenda was accepted.

**Supervisor Comments**

We continue to move into the new Highway Garage. Once the flagpole is up, under the supervision of Mr. George Lind, we will have fully moved into the building. This weekend the Millerton Business Alliance (MBA) is celebrating a Summer Stroll in the Village from 2-5PM and a free concert at the Park from 5-7PM.

**Department and Committee Reports**

**Highway-** Bob Stevens, Highway Superintendent, reports that the crew is working on mowing, stockpiling materials and organizing the new garage. There are only a couple items left at the Old Highway Garage, and estimates we are 99% moved from one building to the other. There are oil and stone paving jobs at White Horse, Deer Run and Quarry Hill this month.

**Assessor-** Katherine Johnson, Assessor, provided a report for the Town Board members, regarding Grievance Day and Final Roll. The Supervisor read the report: The Board of Assessment Review held the 2024 Grievance Day on Wednesday May 29.

Appearing before the Board were 5 property owners and 1 attorney. Additionally, there were 4 owners or their representatives that mailed in complaints for review and 9 that settled with the Assessor by stipulation before Grievance Day. There was a total of 22 complaints, which is slightly below average. Assessment reductions were granted on 8 of the applications and approved on the 9 stipulations. The Board's determinations were sent to all complainants, filed with the Town Clerk and updated for the Final 2024 assessment Roll. The Roll was finalized on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It is available to the public in the Assessor's office, in the Town Clerk's office, and online with a link on the Town's website. Also the Parcel Access site is updated with the 2024 assessments.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> we received our Final State Equalization rate of 100%. This indicates that the analysis done by the NYS Office of Real Property Tax services verifies that our assessments are at 100% of market value. Yesterday, we received our Certified Change in Level Factor confirming that our 2024 revaluation work increased the overall assessment roll 2.98%.

**Planning, Zoning, Building Department, Town Clerks Office-** Reports previously sent to the Board

**Town Board Committee Activity**

**Recreation Committee-** Councilwoman Morrison and Councilman Mayville met with the Village Mayor and new Recreation Director. With the new position of Recreation Director and summer camp activities, and foreseeing new expenses, they have decided that the contract between the Village and the Town should, at this time, only be for one year. After this year they will go back to a multi-year contract.

**Buildings & Grounds-** Supervisor Kennan reported that the renovation plans for the new Town Hall are being studied to reduce cost. In the meantime, the grounds are being kept up and are looking good.

**Highway Committee-** no report

**Communications Committee-** No report.

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**Cemetery Committee-** Councilman Fedele reported that they had held a meeting regarding fundraising. The goal is to restore more monuments. Spencer’s Corners Burial Ground is the oldest cemetery and site of the original center of the Town. Last year they raised 4 obelisks. Phase two will require more site review and work with MCC (Monument Conservation Collaborative).

**Acceptance of 2022 Audit of Town Justice Court**

**RESOLUTION #432024**  
**Acceptance of 2022 Audit Report for Justice Court, Town of North East**

RESOLVED, to accept the audit reports for the Offices of the Justice Court, Town of North East by RBT, CPA for the year 2022.

Motion made by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler. Votes Taken.

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Winkler, Mayville)  
NAYS- 0

The Resolution was carried by a 5-0 vote of the Town Board members on July 11, 2024.

**Motion to approve Supervisor to sign Recreation Contract with Village of Millerton**

**RESOLUTION # 442024**  
**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE A RECREATION CONTRACT FOR 2024-2025 WITH THE VILLAGE OF MILLERTON**

**WHEREAS**, the Village has been operating a park/recreation program for both the Village and the Town residents and desires to continue such operation for the period from June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Attorney to the Village has prepared a proposed Recreation Contract for that time period, providing for the essential terms and conditions of the agreement, which has been reviewed by the Town’s Recreation Committee, the Town Board and the Attorney to the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the Attorney to the Town and the Town Board have determined that the provisions of the proposed Contract are acceptable in form and substance and that the execution of the same would be in the best interests of the Town.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute the proposed park/recreation program agreement, as prepared and amended by the Attorney to the Village in the same or substantially similar, form as provided herein.

MOTION: WINKLER  
SECOND: MAYVILLE

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

The Resolution was carried by a 5-0 vote of the Town Board members on July 11, 2024.

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**Resolution to approve appointment of Jason McIntyre as Special Prosecutor**

**RESOLUTION #452024**  
**APPOINTING JASON McINTYRE, ESQ. SPECIAL PROSECUTOR**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has created the position of Town Special Prosecutor to handle traffic violations, violations of the Town Code and Penal Law and other matters in the Town Justice Court for which the District Attorney's office does not provide prosecution services; and

**WHEREAS**, the position is currently vacant and the Town Board has advertised for the refilling of this position and has received and interviewed qualified applicants; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Special Prosecutor for the Town of North East prosecutes violations of the Town Code, Vehicle and Traffic Law and violations of the New York State law other than misdemeanors and felonies, and such other matters as the Town Board may assign from time to time in the Town of North East Justice Court; and

**WHEREAS**, the position of Town Special Prosecutor is filled by the Town Board by appointment and at such time as there is a vacancy in the position; and

**WHEREAS**, any person serving the position of Town Special Prosecutor shall be an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the courts of the State of New York and shall be required to take an oath of office set forth in the New York Constitution, Article 13, Section 1 as if he or she were a Town officer; and

**WHEREAS**, that the person serving as Town Special Prosecutor shall be paid the amount of \$500 by the Town for attendance at each court session, which are currently scheduled one day per month throughout the year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined that Jason McIntyre, Esq., an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the State of New York, with offices at PO Box 554, Amenia, New York 12501 is qualified to serve as Special Prosecutor at the above-referenced rate and terms.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby appoints Jason McIntyre, Esq. as Special Prosecutor for the Town of North East; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the appointment is subject to the receipt from the District Attorney of Dutchess County of authorization for the Town Special Prosecutor to prosecute these assigned cases in the Town of North East Justice Court.

This motion was offered by Town Board member Ralph Fedele and was seconded by Town Board member Lana Morrison.

MOTION: FEDELE

SECOND: 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 July 11, 2024.

## **Town of North East**

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#### **Update on new contract for EMS services**

Supervisor Kennan reported that we currently have a three-town contract with Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP). The two other towns sharing the contract are Amenia and Dover Plains. The 5-year contract will be expiring at the end of this year. We anticipate putting it out to bid with an RFP soon. The three Town Supervisors have met with another ambulance company, Empress, who have a presence in the south and southwest portion of Dutchess County. They are big and unionized. We hope that they will be interested in bidding. NDP's initial communication with us is that we need to be ready for a BIG cost increase. For the last five years they have been held to a 2% increase limit and costs have gone up since Covid. The Town is starting to work on the 2025 Budget. We will report back in August with more information and a resolution to approve an RFP (Request for Proposals).

Board discussion followed. Councilman Mayville asked about estimated comparison costs for Empress vs. NDP. We have none. Councilwoman Winkler requests that NDP present to the Town Board. She finds the lack of transparency frustrating as she tried to do research into the company. Supervisor Kennan said data is available from 911 in Poughkeepsie on the number of calls that go out. The cost to North East is higher because we are a smaller town and have less calls than the other two towns, who pay less because revenue is generated for NDP from the patient and the insurance companies. He will ask NDP to come answer Board member questions.

#### **Public Comment Period**

Supervisor Kennan welcomed a crowd of neighbors from State Line Road.

Rachel Grieco and Jim Cole moved onto State Line road as new homeowners three years ago. They are frustrated to see their small country road used as a speedway to avoid downtown Millerton. People walking dogs and children risk their lives near the road. There seems to be no police presence or consequences to speeding. This impacts their quality of life and property values.

Nera Cruz said that she sees more families moving onto State Line Road. There is no caution "children at play" signage or "share the road" signs for increase in cyclists. Enormous agricultural trucks fly down the road. The danger is not "if" but "when" a fatal accident will occur.

Supervisor Kennan applauded their attendance. He offered to use the mobile electronic sign again and place it in a better location further down from the Beilke intersection. There is potential for a more permanent electronic speed limit sign, but the costs run up to \$15K. He mentioned the electronic signage that Ancram has installed in their village to reduce speeding and that they have been happy with it. He will also ask the sheriff to sit an hour or two on some days on the road.

Councilwoman Winkler asked about installing "rumble strips". Highway Supervisor Bob Stevens advised there are many types and would need to make sure not to create a plowing issue.

Andrew Stayman said that when the hamlet of Shekomeko reduced the speed from 55mph to 30mph it didn't seem to make much difference. The only thing that does is a police presence. He cited Egremont, Massachusetts as an example. Councilwoman Winkler restated that the electronic signage in Ancram has been effective.

Ed Covert said he had delivered letters to the Supervisor and Board members in March with specific questions and had yet to get a response. Supervisor Kennan said the letter had been forwarded to the Town attorney and he apologized for the delay, promising to reach out to the attorney about it.

Bill Kish wondered if the State provided subsidies for ambulance services or if there was discussion about creating an ambulance district. Supervisor Kennan responded that, as an intermunicipal contract, a new board would have to be established to administer to an ambulance district. The concern is that, as of now, an Ambulance contract is more than 10% of a town's budget. The County is helping look into solutions. They did a study 10 years ago and nothing happened. The new County Executive is putting a higher priority on this, and they have issued an RFP for two ambulances (for the whole county). It is a complicated subject. Every Town is for themselves. Councilwoman Winkler asked about investing in an ambulance and staffing of our own.

Bill Kish asked about the special prosecutor position and what they handle.

Nera Cruz asked if we had a noise ordinance and if not, asked that we revisit it. She is not concerned about regular machinery noises like mowing, but an ordinance about late night, after 11pm, volume limits.

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**Supervisor's Report**

**RESOLUTION #462024**  
**Budget Adjustment #5 of 2024**

A Fund expense increase of \$22 less an expense decrease of \$22 for a net change of \$0. B Fund had an expense increase of \$18,000 less an expense decrease of \$10,000 and less a revenue increase of \$8,000, for a net change of \$0. DB Fund (Highway Town Outside) had an expense increase of \$8,000 less a revenue increase of \$8,000 for a net change of \$0. Motion made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Mayville to approve the Budget Adjustment. Votes taken.

AYES- 5 (KENNAN, MORRISON, FEDELE, WINKLER, MAYVILLE)  
NAYS- 0

The Budget Adjustment was approved.

**RESOLUTION #472024**  
**Special Abstract dated June 24, 2024**

Special Abstract dated June 24, 2024 totaling \$800.35 broken down as follows:

**A Fund** \$800.35

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

AYES- 5 (KENNAN, MORRISON, FEDELE, WINKLER, MAYVILLE)  
NAYS- 0

The Special Abstract was accept.

**RESOLUTION #482024**  
**Abstract dated July 11, 2024**

Abstract dated July 11, 2024 totaling \$200,283.24 broken down as follows:

**A Fund** \$52,191.98  
**B Fund** \$91,223.53  
**DB Fund** \$53,309.26  
**ARPA** \$ 2,240.00  
**T&A2 Escrow** \$ 1,060.00  
**Payroll T&A** \$ 258.47

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

AYES- 5 (KENNAN, MORRISON, FEDELE, WINKLER, MAYVILLE)  
NAYS- 0

The Abstract was approved.

**Voucher Committee for August: C. Mayville, L. Morrison**

**Approval of minutes of TB Meeting of 6-13-24**

Motion made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2024. Votes taken.

AYES- 5 (KENNAN, MORRISON, FEDELE, WINKLER, MAYVILLE)  
NAYS- 0

The Minutes were approved.

**Adjournment**

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

AYES- 5 (KENNAN, MORRISON, FEDELE, WINKLER, MAYVILLE)  
NAYS- 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:03PM.