

Town of North East
Millerton, New York
Town Board Meeting
October 10, 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

Town Attorney Warren Replansky was seated at the table.

Acceptance of Agenda

An executive session is added to the Agenda for the purposes of discussing pending litigation.

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

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

NAYS- 0

The Agenda, as amended, is accepted.

Supervisor Comments

This is the last Town Board meeting before the November elections. Early voting is possible starting October 26th.

Of concern is the Town contract with EMS services. The contract expires at the end of this year. There was a meeting last week with county executives. Since then, unfortunately, the Commissioner of Emergency Response has announced his resignation.

There have been meetings with Ten Mile River Collaborative, along with Kathy Chow, who have been working on a plan for the watershed for the last 5-6 years. The effort is to focus on the entire Ten Mile River Watershed. The three creeks and wetlands in our town flow into the Housatonic and then into Long Island Sound. So what we do effects down river communities.

Department and Committee Reports

- **Highway:** Highway Superintendent, Bob Stevens, reported that this month they are using the shared bucket truck and taking down dead trees all over Town. The bucket truck is ours to use the months of April and October, and it is shared between our Town, Rhinebeck, Milan, and Clinton. We are storing the NE Firetrucks temporarily in the new Garage while a floor is being laid in the Firehouse.

- **Assessor:** no report

- **Town Clerk: Planning, Zoning, & Building Department-** Reports were previously distributed to the Board members. Tilly Strauss, Town Clerk, reported that she had received letters of complaint via email from David Decker. They were written on Sunday September 15th Sunday at 3pm and again at 5:47pm., regarding shooting at the Gun Club.

Town Board Committee Activity

- **Housing:** Councilwoman Winkler reported that, through the Tri-town Coalition meeting, there is news of many positive new affordable housing opportunities coming to neighboring towns. There is a Plus One Grant program offering money to help people build or renovate for ADU's (Accessory Dwelling Units). Municipalities can be the administrators and help people apply. Residents (especially seniors) from the Village of Millerton/Town of North East have expressed interest in converting their homes that are now too large for them to afford. Amenia had sent out a survey regarding interest in ADUs via postcards and their website in which the response was positive. We could collaborate with other Towns to promote the Plus One Grant by offering informational sessions at libraries and community centers.

Supervisor Kennan reiterated that there is great interest for ADUs for both additional income and to provide much needed housing.

Councilwoman Winkler reported that the Habitat for Humanity Dutchess County Pilot Home project in the Town is advancing after several delays. The volunteer calendar and sign up link is on our website.

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- **Buildings and Grounds:** No report
- **Personnel:** No report
- **Cemetery:** Councilman Fedele reported that there was a clean-up

yesterday at the Spencer's Corner's Burial Ground, and at 9am tomorrow there would be more cleanup at the cemetery. On Sunday there will be rubbing of one of the monuments and some mapping going on. Next Wednesday at the Library Annex between 2:30 and 4pm the history team will work on filling in names and matching them to the early monuments. Supervisor Kennan said he enjoyed the last meeting he attended with all the fascinating history of Oblong Valley. He would like to encourage future programming to share historic information about the Oblong Valley with the community.

RESOLUTION to approve contract with Dutchess Co. for removal of snow & ice on certain Dutchess County roads.

RESOLUTION #642024
AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AN
INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE
CONTROL SERVICES WITH THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has, for several years, contracted with the Town of North East for the control and removal of snow and ice from the County roads within the Town of North East; and

WHEREAS, the Town has appropriate snow and ice removal equipment and sufficient snow and ice control personnel and materials on hand to contract with the County for snow and ice removal control services of the County roads within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Highway Superintendent has advised the Town Board that the contractual arrangements between the Town and County have been satisfactory; and

WHEREAS, the County has proposed a Change Order for snow and ice removal for the period of one year commencing October 1, 2024 and expiring on September 30, 2025, which has been reviewed by the Town Highway Superintendent and the Attorney to the Town and has been found to be sufficient in form and content, except for the insertion of new indemnification provisions; and

WHEREAS, the County has agreed to modify the indemnification provisions so that the same are consistent with the indemnification provision provided in past contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute a change order for the Town's participation in the County Snow Removal and Ice Control Services between the Town and the County for the period of one year commencing on October 1, 2024 and ending on September 30, 2025 provided that the indemnification provisions are amended and reviewed and found to be satisfactory by the Attorney to the Town.

This motion was offered by Town Board member Ralph Fedele and was seconded by Town Board member Megan Winkler. Vote taken.

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.

Resolution to approve a speed reduction request on Irondale Road

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Irondale is a short road with a tricky intersection with Winchell Mountain. The speed limit currently is 55mph.

RESOLUTION #652024
REQUESTING A SPEED REDUCTION IRONDALE ROAD

RESOLVED, to submit a request to the County and the State to lower the speed limit on Irondale Road to 30 miles per hour.

RESOLVED, to authorize the Highway Superintendent to execute a TE 9 in regards to changing the speed limit on Irondale Road.

On a motion by Councilman Mayville, seconded by Councilwoman Morrison the following was

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

Resolution of Approval of Contract with Village of Millerton for Police coverage

RESOLUTION #662024
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE
A POLICE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF MILLERTON

WHEREAS, the Village of Millerton has agreed to provide a certain amount of police coverage within the Town of North East and has presented a proposed agreement for services for review and approval by the North East Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney to the Town at the request of the Town Board has made certain changes to the agreement to clarify that the Town will not be paying the Village of Millerton or its Police Department for these services; and

WHEREAS, the agreement, as amended, has been presented to the Town Board for its review and approval and the Town Board has determined that the agreement in its present form is acceptable; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that this is a Type II action under SEQRA.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute the Police Services Agreement with the Village of Millerton in the same, or substantially the same, as submitted and amended.

This motion was offered by Town Board member Megan Winkler and was seconded by Town Board member Ralph Fedele.

MOTION: Councilwoman Winkler
SECOND: Councilman Fedele

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.

Public Hearing on Water District Benefit Assessment Roll (7:20pm) & Motion to Accept Water District Benefit Assessment Roll

A motion was made by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to open the Public Hearing. Vote taken.

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

Public Hearing opened at 7:26pm.

Public comment: None

A motion was made by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler to close the Public Hearing. Vote taken.

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

Public Hearing closed at 7:29pm.

RESOLUTION #672024
To Approve Water District Benefit Assessment Roll

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

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

The Water District Benefit Assessment Roll was accepted.

Motion to authorize the list of properties in the Town of North East with unpaid water bills to be sent to Dutchess County for collection in the amounts listed by the Village of Millerton and the Town of North East.

A motion to authorize and send the list of properties with unpaid water bills to Dutchess County was made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilman Fedele. Votes taken.

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

The motion passed. The Town Clerk will send the list to Dutchess County for collection.

Food and Water presentation regarding Iroquois Pipeline

Emily Skydel, Senior Organizer at the NGO, Food and Water Watch, attended via Zoom. She explained that the main concern is the issue of methane gas. The Iroquois Pipeline is a 30 plus year old major gas line that originates in Canada and feeds Cricket Valley in Dover. She shared a map of how it crosses NY State and Dutchess County. This proposal could impact the health and safety of Harlem Valley residents. It is a dangerous project consisting of a new technology of expansion by compression in order to deliver more gas to New York City and Long Island. Skydel feels that the pipeline should be retired, not expanded. Pipeline incidents happen, and many leakages are never reported. This is an opportunity to influence Governor Hochul, who has to make the decision to approve the project. The DEC and Governor have the opportunity to deny this. Already there has been a delay of over a year. Many government officials have come out against it, and many communities are passing resolutions against it. She shared a list of recent Towns such as: Hudson, New Paltz, Poughkeepsie, Kingston, Athens, and Stanford. Supervisor Kennan agreed that the age of the pipeline is a concern. He invited Bill Kish, resident of NE to speak about it.

Bill Kish told the Board that methane is the most powerful greenhouse gas, and that it was 80x worse than carbon Dioxide. The proposed compressor stations will add to pollution. We have every reason to ask Governor Hochul to deny this pipeline. Especially as a Climate smart Community.

Supervisor Kennan asked Town Attorney Warren Replansky to look into the language of other community resolutions and prepare a resolution for the November meeting. He distributed Skydel's "Executive Summary", which detailed the heart of the argument, to Board members. He also shared a document about compressor stations.

Councilwoman Winkler contributed that she is an asthma sufferer, and there are dangers that we can't see. The Town residents will not be making any money or gaining any jobs from this

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proposal. There is currently a moratorium in NYC on using more gas. The only beneficiaries from this would be the oil and gas shareholders.
Councilman Mayville agrees.

Presentation of the Town of North East Tentative 2025 Budget, and set time for a Public Hearing on Nov. 14, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Supervisor Kennan shared that the Budget Committee had been working hard to keep the 2025 budget at a responsible level, reflecting a desire to stay under the 2% tax cap and acknowledge the burden on our residents. The Town EMS Service contract with NDP (and Amenia and Dover) was made 5 years ago and expires this December. They have asked for a 70% increase in the new contract. That cost is unacceptable. He and the other town Supervisors have met with executives of the County and with attorneys of NDP. He hopes to meet with them again next week. For now the only number we can work with in the proposed budget is the 70% increase, which results in a large increase in taxes. The cost would be \$646,000.00 next year. It seems difficult and unsupportable and the Town Board has come up with ways to soften this. They are meeting again with NDP. They will use fund balance to offset the high cost, and they look to the County for help and insights.

County legislator Chris Drago was invited to speak. He reported that there is a burning EMS crisis around the county and state. The County Executive has prioritized this issue and he believes she “gets it”. She plans for regional meetings and a listening tour. This is also Budget time for the County and Drago promises to advocate for the Towns he represents. He will lobby for a piece of the budget to get what we need for our community. It is unfortunate about Dana Smith retiring. This Tuesday is an opportunity for Town Supervisors to make a public comment at the Albany Legislature.

Supervisor Kennan added that the Supervisors had met with Empress, another ambulance company, but their proposal was even higher.

RESOLUTION #682024
Accept Tentative Budget and Set Public Hearing Date

RESOLVED, to accept the Tentative Budget and set the Public Hearing date on November 14, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

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

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

NAYS- 0

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

Renewal of contract with North East Community Center

RESOLUTION #692024
Approve Renewal of 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 made by Councilwoman Winkler and seconded by Councilman Fedele. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The Resolution was adopted on October 10, 2024

Re-appointment of Lisa Cope to Board of Assessment Review

RESOLUTION #702024
To Re-Appoint Lisa Cope to the BAR

RESOLVED, to reappoint Ms. Lisa Cope to a 5 year term on the Board of Assessment Review that runs from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2029. A motion was made by Supervisor Kennan and seconded by Councilman Mayville to reappoint Lisa Cope to the BAR for a term that will end September 30, 2029. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

Lisa Cope was appointed to the BAR for a 5-year term.

Public Comments

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Scott Culbreth, Town resident and Planning Board member, was appreciative of the Food & Water Watch presentation and wants to encourage the Board to act on it. He threw out the question of any possibility of Sharon Hospital providing ambulance services.

Chris Drago, Dutchess County Legislator, reiterated that there was State grant monies available for ADUs and this was an opportunity for the Town to help middle and low income people receive money to renovate or build a new ADU. It's the first step in more affordable housing. He said he was happy to help and will work with the NECC as well. Also he shared about the Certified Tourism Ambassador Training that will take place next week in Pine Plains.

Katie Cariello, NECC School to Work Coordinator, shared about a teenage driven Youth in Democracy event that will be held on October 27th from 12-4pm at the Eddie Collins Village Park. There will be food trucks. She had fliers to share.

Ed Covert, Town resident, and resident of Cooper Road shared a letter written by his neighbor Tyler Graham (letter read aloud). Graham wrote that he was concerned about the lack of enforcing zoning laws and will pursue legal action against the Town. Covert said he had talked to the DEC, the Sheriffs, and the Troopers. They all referred him back to the Town.

Jim Cole, resident and representative of the Friends of State Line Road, thanks the board for the resolution to reduce the speed limit and the signs. He has submitted a letter by email with other suggestions, including the purchase of a digital speed sign. He also asked if the contract with the Village police covered where the police would patrol.

Supervisor's Report
- Budget Adjustment

RESOLUTION #712024
Budget Adjustment #8 of 2024

A Fund- An expense increase of \$23,508, less an expense decrease of \$3,920 and a revenue increase of \$19,588, for a net change of \$00.

B fund- An expense increase of \$200, less an expense decrease of \$200 for a net change of \$00.

Water District SW1- An expense increase of \$539. Less an expense decrease of \$539 for a net change of \$00.

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

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

NAYS- 0

The Budget Adjustment was approved

-Special Abstracts

RESOLUTION #722024
Special Abstract dated September 24, 2024 totaling \$13,093.81

A Special abstract dated September 24, 2024 totaling \$13,093.81 broken down as follows:

A Fund- \$3409.71

BD Fund \$9684.10

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

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

NAYS- 0

The Special Abstract was accepted.

- Monthly Bills Abstract

RESOLUTION #732024
An Abstract dated October 10, 2024 totaling \$196,721.25

An Abstract dated October 10, 2024 totaling \$196,721.25 broken down as follows:

A Fund \$ 73,182.30

B Fund \$ 1,436.04

DB Fund \$112,830.89

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Water District SW1	\$ 7,626.88
T&A2 Escrow	\$ 1,386.67
Payroll T&A	\$ 258.47

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

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

The Abstract was accepted.

Voucher Committee for November: Fedele, Winkler

Approval of Minutes from Meetings of September 12, 2024 and October 7, 2024

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

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

The Minutes of September 12th, 2024 were approved.

The Minutes of October 7, 2024 were approved.

Executive Session

Motion made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilman Mayville to enter into Executive Session. Votes taken.

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

Executive session started at 8:32pm.

Motion made by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to exit the Executive Session. Votes taken.

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

Adjournment

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

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM

DRAFT: 10/15/2024
APPROVED: 11/14/2024

/s/: Elizabeth Strauss, Town Clerk