

**Town of North East**  
Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Avenue  
Millerton, New York 12546  
**Town Board Regular Meeting**  
**Meeting of August 14, 2025, 7:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

<b>SUPERVISOR KENNAN</b>	<b>HERE</b>
<b>COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON</b>	<b>HERE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN FEDELE</b>	<b>HERE</b>
<b>COUNCILWOMAN WINKLER</b>	<b>HERE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN MAYVILLE</b>	<b>HERE</b>

Town Attorney, Warren Replansky sat at the table.

**Acceptance of Agenda**

Motion to accept the Agenda was made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilman Mayville. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The Agenda was accepted.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only- none**

**Supervisor's Comments**

At 6pm this evening, just before this meeting, we had a meeting of the revamped Board of Ethics. We have two new members, Mary Herms and Karen Pitcher. It was an organizational meeting, and the members reviewed the Town's Ethic's law with the Town Attorney, Warren Replansky.

Last weekend was the Village Summer stroll and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oblong Books, which was established in 1975. It was a very moving event.

Recently, the North East Community Center (NECC) held their annual gala. Mayor Najdek and I were featured speakers and honored along with all the staff at the Village and the Town Hall.

The 2026 Budget process has started. Departments have been asked to get their numbers together for 2026 by the end of the month.

Legislation has passed both the Senate and the NYS Assembly that will have the impact of removing EMS (Emergency Medical Services) expenditures from under the Tax Cap. It will still be an obligatory expense, but if it is removed from the Tax cap it will help us stay under. I have written a letter to Governor Hochul asking her to sign the legislation. It will have a big impact on Eastern Dutchess Towns. On Saturday the Bank of Millbrook will be opening a new branch in our Town. They are hosting an open house from 9am-12 noon.

**Supervisor's Report**

**- Budget Adjustment**

**RESOLUTION #422025**  
**Budget Adjustment #5 of 2025**

A Fund had an expense increase of \$ 10,000 less a revenue increase of \$10,000 for a net change of \$00.

B Fund had an expense increase of \$5000 less a revenue increase of \$5000 for a net change of \$00.

DB Fund had an expense increase of \$50,000 less a revenue increase of \$50,000 for a net change of \$00.

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

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

NAYS- 0

The Budget Adjustment was accepted.

**- Monthly Bills: Special Abstracts & Abstract**

**RESOLUTION #432025**  
**Special Abstract dated July 22, 2025 totaling \$13,803.80**

Special Abstract dated July 22, 2025 totaling \$13,803.80 broken down as follows:

<b>A Fund</b>	\$ 3,482.80
<b>DB Fund</b>	\$10,321.00

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

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

NAYS- 0

The Special Abstract was accepted.

**RESOLUTION #442025**  
**Special Abstract dated August 11, 2025 totaling \$70,962.73**

Special Abstract dated August 11, 2025 totaling \$70,962.73 broken down as follows:

<b>A Fund</b>	\$70,962.73
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Motion to accept the Special Abstract was made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Fedele. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The Special Abstract was accepted.

**RESOLUTION #452025**  
**Abstract dated August 14, 2025 totaling \$192,042.59**

Abstract dated August 14, 2025 totaling \$192,042.59 broken down as follows:

<b>A Fund</b>	\$ 57,082.81
<b>B Fund</b>	\$ 23,396.60
<b>DB Fund</b>	\$111,286.20
<b>Payroll T&amp;A</b>	\$ 276.98

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 August: R. Fedele, M. Winkler**

**Department and Committee Reports**

- **Highway**— Bob Stevens, Highway Superintendent, reported that this month the crew had laid 900 tons of hot asphalt and chip sealed 4.5 miles of roadway with the shared paver (with Towns of Amenia, Milan, and Ancram). He asked the Board to authorize him advertising for materials bids for 2026. A Motion was made by Councilman Mayville to authorize Stevens to advertise materials bids for the Highway department 2026. Seconded by Councilwoman Morrison. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The Highway Superintendent was authorized to advertise.

- **Assessor**—Katherine Johnson, Assessor, gave the Board an update. Since the deadline for grievance her office has received six small claims cases and has had two Tax Certiorari filed. She should hear about court appearance dates in the next couple of months.

- **Town Clerk -- Planning, Zoning, & Building Department**- Reports previously sent to the Board members.

The Town has received complaints about shooting noises from the Gun Club from Dave Decker dated: Sunday afternoon June 29 4pm, Friday eve July 18 7:37pm, and Friday July 25 6:52 pm. Documents have been distributed to Board members regarding new NYS Law for local governments to report cyber security breaches to Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, as well as

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new required training for government employees starting January 2026. Good news is that we have already complied with the mandatory “.gov” requirement.

Supervisor Kennan, addressing the complaints filed by Dave Decker said that he had talked to the Mayor and they were looking at hosting a joint Town and Village meeting to discuss this and possibly other matters. We are waiting for the Mayor to suggest possible dates.

- **Tax Collector-** No report

**Town Board Committee Activity**

- **Recreation Committee-** no report

- **Housing Committee-** Councilwoman Winkler shared the status of our efforts to obtain the “Pro-Housing Communities” certification status. We had previously sent a letter of interest and passed a Town Resolution. We have just completed inputting our zoning maps/district information and all Residential building permits from 2019-2023 (with the help of Ann Deneen in the Building Department and the Assessor). We hope to be certified as a Pro-Housing community soon- joining the current 342 other certified communities in NYS. It can help with future grants and attract developers. Next year we will need to upload 2024 and 2025 records. Supervisor Kennan commended Councilwoman Winkler for doing a great job.

- **Public Safety Committee-** Councilman Mayville reported that the committee met on August 5<sup>th</sup> and framed out the table of contents. They are reviewing the County documents and feel ready to bring in members of the community- such as the Fire Department and Village. They hope to get something useful and implemented by the fall. Supervisor Kennan added that the County office of Emergency services, after a long vacancy, has just appointed a commissioner, Bill Beale. It is important to know who to contact for each type of emergency. Councilman Mayville said it has been “enlightening”. Councilwoman Winkler shared that the Village has signed up for Text.gov communication system that could be potentially a shared service with the Town. It is important to be able to communicate with the residents, and this Public service text might be something for the Board to consider.

- **Communications Committee-** There is an Agenda item, discussion of proposal from PCA to follow.

**Review of Proposed Altice Franchise Agreement with Public Input:**

Attorney Replansky shared that he had made some very minor changes and some more substantive changes to the proposed contract. He red lined the changes and sent it to Board members and Altice/Optimum. He said he would rather not discuss this in public before a representative from Altice has had a chance to look at the points. He asked the Board to encourage the public to give comments now. The Supervisor encouraged the Board to ask questions of Roger Conner, who was in the audience. His question was pertaining to whether or not Altice was maintaining the infrastructure adequately. Roger Connor said that the infrastructure has been evolving over the years with more fiber optics added continually. Fiber optics is mostly glass and has less chance of losing a signal. So the signal is stronger, cleaner and with greater capacity to hold more data. The ambition is to replace all the copper wires with fiber optics. That increases band width and data speed needed for the anticipated rise in number of devices in homes that need internet access. Altice has been increasingly investing more and more. Councilwoman Winkler asked to affirm that the proposed contract dealt solely with cable usage and that it was provided free to municipalities and the library. Replansky told her to look at the Public access provision section. Dave Sherman, resident and Trustee of the Village asked to comment. He had two points to make- one was that there seemed to be more and more digital distortions on Cable and he hoped the problems would be examined and resolved. Second, the price was raising above some household’s affordability. He hoped there would be an option of basic level service at a moderate price. Andrew Stayman, resident, said that years ago the Town looked into internet coverage and approached Altice for information, but that was not provided. The Town had to resort to hiring a third party to canvas the town and collect the information.

Roger Connor replied that the company has maps of coverage and those should be available for municipalities to view. He will follow up on that.

Replansky explained that the next steps of the process of accepting the Altice franchise agreement are for him to get together with a representative from Altice and go over the red line copy of the proposed contract. Since it is not ready, it is too early to schedule a public hearing. He will check with the Public Service Commission on requirements for notices posted before Public hearings. The contract options are for 5-10 or 15 years. Replansky recommends agreeing to a 10 year contract. The current one expires sometime in October or November. He encourages the Board to email him comments ahead of the next meeting.

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**Motion to approve Supervisor to sign contract with PCA for Information Technology Services**

The Board has received an IT agreement from PCA IT services. It was discussed at the last meeting. Since then Anthony Schmiderer has visited the Town Hall Departments. Warren Replansky now needs to look through the contract and extra addendums. PCA IT services also works with Towns of Red Hook, Rhinebeck, and Woodstock. It is a significant jump in expenditure for the Town. Attorney Replansky commented that if the Town Board is agreeable to the price, he will work out the contract details. Councilman Mayville asked if we could table the approval until after Replansky has looked over the contract. The Supervisor agreed and proposed that at the special meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> for discussing zoning issues, we could revisit this, stressing that we cannot delay. Replansky said he could go over it by the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion to approve Supervisor to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hudson Valley Regional Council for landfill bio-filter work**

Supervisor Kennan explained that bio filters on the landfill vents is a US EPA project to degrade methane emitted through the vents. This is a pragmatic solution and has been at no cost to the Town. Our insurance Company is comfortable but wants a contract that someone (from HVRC) is present on the landfill. He asked for a motion to permit the Supervisor to sign an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). Replansky said that the insurance provision has no mention that we are “additional insured”. A Motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the MOU with additional wording was made by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

The authorization was given.

**Petition to Amend Town of North East Zoning Code for Country Inn and Wedding Venues**

At the last meeting we discussed this Petition and it was sent to other Town Boards as well as Dutchess County for input. The Planning board met last night. The CAC is set to discuss it soon, and Nan Stolzenberg will get back to us in a week. So there is no more to report today.

Mr. John King, the petitioner, asked to speak. He said in his care to not have his request be spot-zoning, he may have opened code to potential broad differences. He would like to modify the language to make sure the intention stays close to Town Comprehensive Plan that extends farm use and rural/ agricultural tourism and keep the agricultural nature in the area protected.

Supervisor Kennan stated that the Board was in the process of reviewing feedback and making revisions. Replansky wondered if narrowing the language would influence the consultants. Councilwoman Winkler asked about the vineyard. Mr. King said that there was no need to plant a vineyard without an event venue to support it.

**Motion to accept renewal of BAN on Highway Garage**

Funds borrowed for the New Highway Garage expire tomorrow. Three banks have submitted quotes. The Bank of Millbrook, who currently holds the BAN has quoted a 3.25% rate. The Supervisor would like to renew this tomorrow with the approval of the Board. This is the last year to roll it over. Next year the Town needs to go out and look for permanent financing.

**RESOLUTION #462025**

**Authorize the Supervisor to renew a \$671,158 Bond Anticipation Note, for the new Highway Garage, at 3.25% rate with the Bank of Millbrook on August 15, 2025**

RESOLVED to renew the Highway Garage BAN with the Bank of Millbrook at 3.25%  
Motion to approve the renewal of the BAN with the Bank of Millbrook was made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Mayville. Votes taken.

**Roll Call:**

<b>SUPERVISOR KENNAN</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN FEDELE</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILWOMAN WINKLER</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN MAYVILLE</b>	<b>AYE</b>

The Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote of the Town Board on August 14, 2025.

**Motion to approve Supervisor to sign revised Court Officer Contract with Village of Millerton**

This Court Officer contract was approved at last month’s meeting. Since then some small changes were made at the Village. Board members were given a copy of the revised contract. The Supervisor asked the Board to vote on it again. A Motion was made by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilwoman Winkler to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract. Votes taken

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NAYS- 0

The authorization was given to sign the contract.

**Resolution to accept a local law permitting the Town of North East to exceed the NY State Tax Cap, and to set a Public Hearing for the September 11, 2025 Town Board Meeting.**

The Supervisor explained that the Town’s goal is always to plan a Budget that comes in under the NY State Tax Cap, or even close to the Tax Cap. The EMS Contract makes this very tough. He would like to schedule a Public Hearing and pass a Local Law to override the Tax Levy Limit.

**RESOLUTION #472025**

**ACCEPTING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PURSUANT TO GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-c FOR COMMENCEMENT OF THE LOCAL LAW ADOPTION PROCESS**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined that it may be necessary for the Town of North East to exceed the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of North East pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c for fiscal year 2026; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Town Attorney has prepared a proposed local law to override the tax levy limit for fiscal year 2026 pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and the same has been reviewed and approved by the Town Board members.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby accepts the proposed local law for the year 2025 entitled “Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2026 pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c” for commencement of the local law adoption process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby schedules a public hearing on said local law to be held on September 11, 2025 at the Town of North East Town Hall, at 7:30p.m. and that the public hearing be duly noticed by the Town Clerk as required by law.

MOTION: Councilwoman Winkler

SECOND: Councilman Fedele

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

This resolution was declared duly adopted on August 14, 2025.

**Town Board Comments**

Councilman Mayville would like the Board to consider adding a workshop meeting to discuss ahead of time things such as the Technology contract.

Supervisor Kennan proposed the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August and looking at a date in September as a possibility.

Councilwoman Winkler asked about the Fire Department Budget. The Supervisor told her we have nothing to do with the Fire Department’s Budget process.

**Public Comment Period-** none.

**Approval of minutes of Town Board Meetings of July 10, 2025**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of July 10, 2025 by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison. Votes taken.

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

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NAYS- 0  
The minutes were approved.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Morrison, seconded by Councilman Mayville at 8:30pm.

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

The Board adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted by

/s/:Elizabeth Strauss, Town Clerk

DRAFT: 8/20/2025  
APPROVED: 9/11/2025