

Town of North East
Town Board
Millerton, New York
July 9, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	HERE
COUNCILMAN MAYVILLE	ABSENT
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	HERE
COUNCILWOMAN WINKLER	HERE
COUNCILWOMAN COLE	HERE

Attorney Warren Replansky was at the table.

Acceptance of Agenda

The Supervisor requested amendments to the Agenda with the additions of a discussion with Bob Trotta regarding a Noise Ordinance, the possibility of a solar array on the Highway Garage and authorizing a delegate to the AOT Legislative conference in September.
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilperson Morrison and seconded by Councilperson Winkler. Votes taken.

AYES- 4 (Kennan, Morrison, Winkler, Cole)
NAYS- 0

The Agenda, as amended, was accepted.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only- none

Supervisor’s Comments

This weekend is the first weekend of 175th anniversary celebrations in and around the Village. There is a parade on Saturday. It will culminate at Eddie Collins Field with a groundbreaking for the pool, followed by a music concert.

Sunday the 11th at 4pm we will host an event to dedicate the new town Highway Garage to the memory of Bob Stevens, who worked 40 years for the Town, for the last 28 years as Highway Superintendent. We have received complaints about speeding electric bikes on the Rail Trail. The County Sheriff oversees enforcing regulations. The bikes, so quiet and fast, pose a threat to the enjoyment of the trail.

Supervisor’s Report

- Monthly Bills: Budget Adjustment, Special Abstracts & Abstract

RESOLUTION # 462026
Budget Adjustment #3 of 2026

A Fund had an expense increase of \$10,513, less an expense decrease of \$10,153 for a net of \$00
DB Fund had an expense increase of \$217,227, less an expense decrease of \$44,047 and less a revenue increase of \$173,180 for a net of \$00.

Motion to approve the Special Abstract was made by Councilperson Winkler and seconded by Councilperson Cole. Votes taken.

AYES- 4 (Kennan, Morrison, Winkler, Cole)
NAYS- 0

The Special Abstract was approved.

RESOLUTION # 472026
Special Abstract dated June 22, 2026, totaling \$7,394.07

Special Abstract dated June 22, 2026, totaling \$7,394.07 broken down as follows:

A Fund	\$2,817.47
DB Fund	\$4,576.60

Motion to accept the Special Abstract was made by Councilperson Cole and seconded by Councilperson Winkler. Votes taken.

AYES- 4 (Kennan, Morrison, Winkler, Cole)

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NAYS- 0
The Special Abstract was accepted.

RESOLUTION #482026
Abstract dated July 9, 2026, totaling \$275,896.35

Special Abstract dated July 9, 2026, totaling \$275,896.35 broken down as follows:

A Fund	\$ 83,210.93
B Fund	\$ 21,510.95
DB Fund	\$170,392.40
Payroll T&A	\$ 782.07

Motion to accept the Abstract was made by Councilperson Morrison and seconded by Councilperson Winkler. Votes taken.

AYES- 4 (Kennan, Morrison, Winkler, Cole)
NAYS- 0
The Abstract was accepted.

Voucher Committee for August 2026: C. Mayville and L. Morrison

Department and Committee Reports

- Highway- Joshua Schultz reports that the Town experienced major storms on July fourth. The North East Fire District and the Highway crew were able to respond quickly and get all the Town roads passable by morning. They are in possession of the new truck purchased since the last meeting. They collected the money from sales of auctioned vehicles and are exploring options for sale of the old chipper. Unfortunately, the Town’s shared paver is out of commission, and we are working with some paving contractors.

- Assessor- no report

-Planning Zoning, Building Department- Reports previously sent to the Board. The Clerk shared the ZBA department June report.

-Town Clerk: The Unpaid Tax roll has been returned to DC Finance and all accounts settled. NBT in Millerton is hosting a shred day Saturday the 18th. 9:00am-12:00pm. We have eight boxes so need two volunteer drivers.

The Town Clerk has received a complaint, dated July 5, from Mr. Dave Decker regarding noise from the Gun Club. It was forwarded to Anthony Robert. Robert informed her that the Gun Club is voluntarily halting shooting this Saturday from 3-6pm during the Village Parade.

Town Board Committee Activity

-Recreation-no report

-Housing- no report
Supervisor Kennan said he is keeping an ear on talk of the County legislature adopting a Local Law to make ADU’s tax exempt.

-Personnel Committee- The handbook is ready. Councilperson Morrison said they need the form for department heads to perform standard evaluations of staff. There is a looming deadline. The District HR has approved our handbook changes. Councilperson Cole asked about training resources. Councilwoman Morrison said she would follow up. Supervisor Kennan spoke about Donna Morrison, our Assessor Aide, who is retiring this week after 40 years.

-Communications- Councilpersons Winkler and Cole said the website review is about done. We are still waiting for some department updates, and the Ethics Board information. Will continue to update the site as needed. Especially in light of the recent major weather events in the area, Councilperson Winkler wants the Town to look into a Weather/Emergency Citizen Notification System. She asked if that would be appropriate for the communications committee to look into now.

Conversation followed about posting the open job positions at the Highway Garage. Councilperson Cole wanted to know where we would be posting and how interested candidates would take the next step to find more information. It was discussed that potential interested parties should contact the Town

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Clerk's office for the three-page description. The Clerk will scan and post the longer description on the website. The shorter version will be posted online on our Town website, Facebook, and Indeed.

Review of Proposed Altice Franchise Agreement

Town Attorney, Warren Replansky, sent the Board members a copy of the proposed agreement with red-line changes. There was a delay because of changing personnel at Altice. There are still four issues to be resolved, which include review of the map and their extension minimum of 25 houses per mile. Replansky would like to see that be 10 houses per mile. Also, he would like to see the offer of free cable for the Town Hall. He wants Board members to contact him with any questions. After a final agreement is drafted, we will need to schedule a public hearing before approving the 10-year contract. Supervisor Kennan reminded the board that Rich Stalzer did a survey years ago, driving all the town roads and checking connectivity. He will look for the report. Councilperson Winkler also stated that there are maps of coverage and lack of coverage, that she was able to access and share with Board members from the public domain.

Introduction of Local Law to remove the residency requirement for position of Highway Superintendent

Supervisor Kennan explained that there are State law residency requirements harking back to when Superintendents were elected and not appointed. By waiving the requirement, we can cast a wider net of candidates.

RESOLUTION #492026
INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW NO. B OF THE YEAR 2026
ENTITLED: "A LOCAL LAW CHANGING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE OFFICE OF TOWN HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT"

WHEREAS, due to the untimely death of the Town's current appointed Highway Superintendent, Bob Stevens, the Town of North East will need to retain the services of another individual to assume the duties of North East Highway Superintendent Bob Stevens for his unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, the Town is desirous of retaining the services of the most qualified individual to fill the unexpired term of office for Bob Stevens and, hopefully, to fulfill the duties of appointed Highway Superintendent thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the current limitations in New York State law which require an appointed Highway Superintendent to be an elector of the Town may limit the ability of the Town Board to find and employ the person most qualified to assume the appointed position of Highway Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, Section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law has been amended to provide, in relevant part, that the Town may adopt a local law which provides, in relevant part, that the person appointed as Highway Superintendent need not be an elector of the Town of North East; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney to the Town has drafted a proposed local law changing the residence requirements for the office of Town Highway Superintendent to permit the appointment of the Highway Superintendent even if that individual is not an elector of the Town of North East; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that this is a Type II action under SEQRA which does not require an environmental review; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the proposed local law is acceptable in form and content for purposes of commencing the local law enactment process.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts Local Law No. B of the Year 2026 entitled: “A Local Law Changing the Residence Requirements for the Office of Town Highway Superintendent” for purposes of commencing the local law adoption process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby schedules a public hearing on said Local Law for August 13, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. at the North East Town Hall; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board directs the Town Clerk to post notice of, and publish, the said public hearing as required by law and to provide notice of the proposed law and public hearing on the same to adjoining municipalities as required by law.

This motion was offered by Town Board member Winkler and was seconded by Town Boardmember Cole.

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	Voted Aye
COUNCILWOMAN COLE	Voted Aye
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	Voted Aye
COUNCILWOMAN WINKLER	Voted Aye

The Resolution was carried by a 4-0 vote of the Town Board members on July 9, 2026.

North East Fire District presentation

Chief Keith Rogers, Commissioner Dave McGhee, and Larry Selfridge addressed the Board over concerns that the Town’s contracted ambulance is spending too much time out of district, in particular answering low priority calls in Milan and Pine Plains. There are times when our town is not covered by an ambulance and we do not get to use the County-fly car. They suggest limiting our contracted ambulances being dispatched to Pine Plains or Milan for level 3 and 4 calls with a letter written by the Town Supervisor addressed to the County 911 Dispatch Center. They would like County Executive Sue Serino and the Fire District to be copied on the correspondence. The Board and the Supervisor were receptive and in agreement.

Attorney Bob Trotta presentation. A letter was previously received and shared with the Board requesting that the Town take up a noise ordinance like the Village’s, the text which was attached to his letter. Trotta represents a resident who is being bombarded by boom box noise night and day as a retaliatory measure. Trotta would like the Board to take up a local ordinance, respect a common law provision for enjoyment of your own property, and thereby avoid expensive litigation for his client. Supervisor Kennan said he and the Town Attorney would investigate it and get back to the Board.

Grant for a Solar Array on Highway Garage

There is an opportunity to install a solar array on the roof of the new Highway Garage. There are a variety of tax incentives to bring the cost considerably down. The Supervisor thanked Kathy Chow and Steve Fahmi for their help. Steve Fahme responded that the Municipal Solar Partners were very helpful and he hopes that, with this Climate Smart Communities Grant and State and Federal incentives, the project could be completed next year. The Supervisor estimated that with the annual electric cost savings the Town’s investment would be paid off in 2-5 years. Fahmi responded that the savings will benefit the Town budget. Supervisor Kennan thanked Councilperson Cole for agreeing to help put the grant application together by the July 31 deadline.

RESOLUTION #502026
AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE SMART
COMMUNITIES GRANT

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Whereas, the Town of North East hereby requests financial assistance from the New York State Climate Smart Communities Grant Program pursuant to the Environmental Conservation Law Article 54, Title 15, and

Whereas, the Town of North East certifies that it has identified \$29,360 of matching funds from the Town’s General Fund pursuant to the requirements of Environmental Conservation Law Article 54, Title 15,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of North East hereby authorizes Christopher Kennan, Supervisor of the Town of North East, to act on its behalf in submittal of an application through the Consolidated Funding application for \$29,360 to be used for the construction of a solar array on the Town’s recently completed Highway Garage.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winkler, seconded by Councilperson Cole. Votes taken.
AYES- 4 (Kennan, Morrison, Winkler, Cole)
NAYS- 0

The resolution passed by a vote of 4-0 and was adopted this 9th day of July, 2026.

NYAOT resolution- for a delegate to the legislative session in September 2026

RESOLUTION #512026

Authorization for Delegate to Legislative Meeting of the New York Association of Towns

A motion is made by Councilperson Cole, seconded by Councilperson Winkler, to wit:

WHEREAS Supervisor Christopher Kennan will attend the New York Association of Towns (“NYAOT”) Legislative Conference and Meeting on September 22-23, 2026; and

WHEREAS the Town of North East benefits from having a delegate vote on what to include in NYAOT’s 2027 legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS the Town of North East has the authority to designate any officer, employee, or representative of the town as a delegate for this meeting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Supervisor Kennan be designated as a delegate for the Town of North East. Votes taken.

AYES- 4 (Kennan, Morrison, Winkler, Cole)
NAYS- 0

Supervisor Kennan will be the Town Delegate to the September Legislative Conference and Meeting.

Town Board Comment- no comments

Public Comment

Anthony Robert, representing the Gun Club, contradicted details of the most recent complaints submitted by Dave Decker. He believes the sounds Mr. Decker is upset by may be emanating from other neighbors. He shared with the Town Board the Gun Club fliers ruling out shooting on July 4th and said no one was shooting on the 4th. According to the Gun Club logs, the only person at the club on the 3rd of July was there between 5 and 6 pm and the last person at the club on July 5th left at 2:30pm. He also addressed that shooting trap cannot travel as far as Decker’s house. He asked the Board to continue to let the club know anytime there was a complaint.

Bill Kish said he was happy about the solar possibility at the Town Highway Garage and asked that this be an opportunity to address the lighting problem there. He emphasized new zoning regulations, environmental impacts, and the availability of motion sensors.

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Acceptance of Minutes from Meetings of June 3 and June 11, 2026

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Councilperson Morrison and Councilperson Cole seconded. Votes taken.

AYES- 4 (Kennan, Morrison, Winkler, Cole)

NAYS- 0

The minutes were approved.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Morrison and seconded by Councilperson Cole. Votes taken.

AYES- 4 (Kennan, Morrison, Winkler, Cole)

NAYS- 0

The Board adjourned at 8:12pm.

For verbatim information please refer to recorded video on the Town website.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/:Elizabeth Strauss, Town Clerk

APPROVED: 8/13/2026