Town of North East
Millerton, New York
Town Board Workshop
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at 5:30 PM at Town Hall

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	**HERE**
COUNCILMAN MAYVILLE	**HERE**
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	**HERE**
COUNCILWOMAN WINKLER	**HERE**
COUNCILWOMAN COLE	**on Zoom**

Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda was amended for adding the Assessors report and for an Executive session to discuss a matter relating to the employment of a particular person or corporation. Motion was made to accept the agenda as amended by Councilmember Mayville and seconded by Councilmember Morrison. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

Supervisor Comments

We continue to move forward with the renovations of the new Town Hall. Today we held a site inspection for bidders at the site. Architect Peter Manouvelos was there for questions and to emphasize the timetable. The goal is for the Town Boar to accept a bid at the December meeting. The Specs are on the County Bidnet.

We will need a construction manager and are in the process of compiling names of potential candidates.

Separately we received an outside lighting scheme from LAN engineers, that deals with lighting of the parking lot and the sign and would be dark sky compliant. This will come to the Board at a later date.

Our landfill continues to be monitored by engineers from the Hudson Valley Regional Council cohort of Towns, which we are a part, who are trying to address mitigating methane emissions from the landfills.

Election day was yesterday. There were no local candidates up for election and our county legislator was running unopposed.

Labor Counsel Search

We need an attorney familiar with labor employment matters. The Town Highway department has chosen to affiliate with Teamsters 294. The Town has reached out to four different firms and will be bringing recommendations to the Board for next week's meeting. Once we have counsel we will know the next steps.

Highway Department:

Supervisor Kennan addressed the Town Board for Superintendent Heath, requesting an addendum to the accepted 2027 Highway Materials Bids which were approved at last month's October 8th Board Meeting. There were six items left off the list. Peckham Materials Corp from Brewster NY had the lowest or the only bid for:

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¼ Washed Crushed Stone	FOB per Ton= 25.00
¾ Washed Crushed Stone	FOB per Ton=23.80
1 ¼ Washed Crushed Stone	FOB per Ton=23.80
Light Stone Fill	FOB per Ton= 25.50
Cold Patch	FOB per Ton=130.00* (**Prices are based on the September 2026 NYSDOT Index Price of $794.00 per ton. Price is subject to escalation/ de-escalation)*
Liquid Calcium Chloride	2.00/ Gallon Applied

Motion to award these bids from Peckham Materials was made by Councilmember Winkler and seconded by Councilmember Mayville. Votes taken.

Ayes- 4 (Kennan, Mayville, Morrison, Winkler)
Nays- 0

The Highway Superintendent may accept the proposed additional bids.

Approval of Shared Services with Dutchess County

This is for the benefit of purchasing and bidding. It is a 5-year contract, and our attorney says it is un-objectionable. Motion to allow the Supervisor to sign a shared services agreement with Dutchess County was made by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilmember Morrison. Votes taken.

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

NAYS- 0

Understory Natural Resources Inventory Grant Application

This is a potential 100% grant (no match needed) for a resource inventory. Jim Cole is helping us with it. Partners for Climate Action has been renamed Understory. We did a resource inventory years ago with Hudsonia as part of the Climate Smart Community and Comprehensive Planning, but it is out of date now. More information to follow.

Highway Garage Solar project update

The original design of the Highway garage included a plan for solar panels. At the time it was too expensive to follow through on. There still are financial incentives to do it. Supervisor Kennan shared two options available- the first where the Town owns the system and gets all the revenue, the second is where we contract with another company to cover installation and maintenance costs. They would have most of the revenue, but we'd have the benefit of going solar**.** Councilmember Cole has participated in meetings to learn more. Councilmember Mayville asked about NYSERDA grants. Supervisor responded that those are partial options. He reminded the Board that they have already had analysis and a study of the capacity done pro-bono.

Councilmember Winkler asked that the Board also investigate making the highway Garage lights dark-sky compliant. An electrical engineer would be needed to understand how the lights are wired together. Councilwoman Winkler would like to help out if there is an opportunity in the facilitation of making these changes.

Review of credit card application for Town Clerk

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Clerk Strauss needs the Town Attorney to approve her signing a contract with a subcontractor of Edmunds for processing credit cards for tax payments. A resolution was passed by the Town Board in early summer to allow the Town Clerk/ Tax Collector to go forward with this, and everything is in place, except a final 22-page contract with CSG-Forte, which needs the Clerk's signature.

Supervisor Kennan promised to follow up with the Attorney and make this an actionable item on the agenda next week.

Assessor's Report

Katherine Johnson shared a report detailing the status of current litigation and the beginning of the new Exemption filing season. She helped the Board parse through the new NY State Alternative Veterans Exemption offer. It's an opt-in exemption that, because of its limitations, would not address the veterans in our community. She also shared a document that explained how the Military calculates disability percentages.

Councilman Mayville mentioned the good timing of the Dutchess County Veterans Benefit Mobile Outreach that will be held at the Town Hall next Tuesday.

Community Messaging Proposal

The Board discussed the importance of community messaging and avoiding a redundancy with the Village system, which is text-only. Councilmember Winkler supports the BRYX proposal for the wide range of opt-in choices and the free Fire Department App. She said at least 30% participation would be the goal, and speedy approval by the Board so that information could be included in with the January and February Tax receipt mailings. She would like the Town Attorney to look at the 2 ½ page appendixes. The Supervisor said the next step should be meeting with the Village to see if there is some way to work together. Councilmember Winkler will make an appointment with the Mayor.

Board discussion

Councilmember Cole asked if the Town secured any of the free furniture offered last week by a business moving out of the Village. We did- new filing cabinets, a credenza, a desk, and a copier/printer. Most of it is stored at the Highway Garage for our eventual move into the new Town Hall.

Councilmember Winkler asked about meeting with the Building Inspector, Ken McLaughlin and our Special Prosecutor. The Supervisor said he was coordinating that for the Board's December 2nd meeting. The Board would like McLaughlin to bring in a report of outstanding permits. Councilmember Mayville wondered if they couldn't have the information added to the monthly department reports. Councilmember Winkler wanted to know what, of the 6 forms used in best practices, do we send out.

Discussion with Empress re: EMS plan

Rob Stuck from Empress was invited to speak with the Board at 6:30pm. He joined in person, but also on the zoom screen to share charts and interactive maps. He has been monitoring the area for nine months and gathering data to define inefficiencies. He proposes a dynamic model rather than the current static model used by the Town of North East, Amenia, Stanford and the Village of Millbrook. If we form a coalition, we can save cost by reducing some units and repositioning ambulances between the four communities to still have the necessary coverage. He

demonstrated the GPS-aware dispatch that would continually minimize potential response times. There are also new initiatives such as the Community Paramedicine Program starting in January 2027 that works in conjunction with visiting nurses and urgent care facilities.

If we continue as we are and renew our existing contract the cost in 2028 would be 1.3 million dollars. This new system of collaboration and dynamic stationing would reduce the cost to $625K.

Next step is for the Supervisor and Mayor of the four communities to meet.

Executive Session

The Supervisor made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a matter relating to the employment of a particular person or corporation. and it was seconded by Councilman Mayville. Votes taken.

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:39pm

Motion to exit from Executive Session was made by Councilmember Mayville, seconded by Councilmember Winkler at 7:46pm

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Mayville and seconded by Councilmember Morrison. Votes taken.

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

The Board adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/: Elizabeth Strauss, Town Clerk

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

DRAFT: 11/5/2026

APPROVED: 11/12/2026