

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST
TOWN BOARD
MINUTES
June 14, 2018**

Councilman Present:

Supervisor Kaye
Councilman Merwin
Councilman Fedele
Councilman Kennan

Councilman Absent:

Councilman Midwood

Call to Order:

Supervisor Kaye called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda:

Supervisor Kaye made two additions to the agenda. One addition is an authorization to sign a support letter for Arlington Fire District to operate as an advanced life support first response agency and the other is to read a letter from David Decker into the record.

On a motion made by Councilman Kennan, seconded by Councilman Merwin, the following was:

ADOPTED - AYES - 4 (Kaye, Merwin, Fedele, Kennan)
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED, to accept the agenda as amended.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

There were no comments.

Department and Committee Reports:

POLICE – Sgt. Veeder was present and reported the total incidents for the month of May was 99. 17 were in the town and 82 were in the village. There were 19 arrests: six for drugs, eight for DWI, three for Aggravated Unlicensed Operation, one for a warrant, and one resulting from a domestic dispute. It was a busy month. Supervisor Kaye asked how it compared to last year. Sgt. Veeder said it was more this year than last. There has been traffic safety this month and it has resulted in the increase in incidents in the town and village. As far as arrests go, it is unknown why. Councilman Kennan asked if the 99 incidents were stops and if, in the future, we could get more information on the stops. Sgt. Veeder replied it will be difficult to get 100 percent correct. Councilman Fedele heard a concern regarding Millerton’s police department while he was in Pine Plains. The concern is the appearance of a problem when traveling into Millerton from surrounding areas and this will also affect the merchants in town. Sgt. Veeder said it could be traffic safety that is funded by NYS. There was a recent “Click It or Ticket” event and they must participate.

HIGHWAY – Superintendent Stevens stated for the past two and a half weeks, they have been working with the shared bucket truck and it is working out well. This is a significant savings for the town. For the month of July, the crew will be working with the shared paver roller and trailer on Scribner Road, Ridgecrest, Briarwood, and Shadey Glen Lanes. This is also another valuable tool for us. The new skid-steer is expected any day and will work in conjunction with the paver on paving jobs throughout the year. There are no major problems with the rest of the equipment. Supervisor Kaye made a comment that the shared-service equipment is working out well for the town. It would cost a great deal to purchase or rent. The shared service grants are very much appreciated. Councilman Kennan asked about the conditions of the town roads after this past winter. Superintendent Stevens replied the town roads are in much better condition than many state and county roads.

ASSESSOR – No report was provided.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS, BUILDING DEPARTMENT – A report was provided from each department.

TOWN CLERK – Clerk Cope stated that she is wrapping up the last of the tax collection so any unpaid taxes have been turned over to the county for collection.

CLIMATE SMART COMMITTEE – Councilman Kennan spoke about a meeting hosted by the Town of Dover. The Town Clerk had invited representatives of towns across Dutchess County to share their experiences relating to the Climate Smart initiative. Dover has moved very aggressively to start implementing different pieces of the program. We have just passed the pledge to become a Climate Smart Community. Points are accumulated for each program or activity performed. There is a lot of grant money available for these programs and activities. Most are on a 50-50 match. New York State, when awarding these grants, doesn't like in-kind services as part of the match. They are looking for funds of cash from the town but can be done over five years. It will help us and the CAC in moving forward. Supervisor Kaye said that we can also get points for things that have been done. The grant on the culvert is of extreme interest to us for Mill Road, the first culvert will go directly under the road and the other runs along the abutment to the Rail Trail.

Update on Solar Law:

Supervisor Kaye gave a brief update on the proposed solar law. Comments have been received from the planning board, zoning board, and the CAC. The comments of particular interest are from the planning board since that is where the effect will be greatest. After the town board has had a chance to review all the comments, and those comments from the attorney. There will be some work meetings to review how it is going to proceed with the law. Councilman Kennan said he spoke with Jon Arnason who thinks it would be useful to have someone from NYSERDA to come and make comments about the law because of their expertise.

Announcement of Submission of County Municipal Innovation Grant (Shared Services Grant) to the County as Lead Applicant for Engineering Services for the Storage Shed, Fueling Station, Salt/Storage Barn, and Main Garage and Admin Building in the Amount of \$383,500.00:

Supervisor Kaye made an announcement that we have submitted a shared-services grant to the county as lead agency for the engineering services for the storage shed, the fuel station, salt storage barn, and main garage and admin building in the amount of \$383,500.00. Recognition was given to Councilman Kennan for undertaking the writing of the grant.

Announcement of Submission of Hazard Mitigation Grant for Lower Mill Road under the Railroad Trestle:

Supervisor Kaye stated we also submitted a hazard mitigation grant for the lower Mill Road that runs under the railroad trestle. This is a much more competitive grant and, while the odds of actually winning this grant are more limited than with the shared services grant, we feel it is necessary to try wherever we can to seek funds where possible.

Announcement of Submission of Grant for a Road Grader as a Municipal Innovation Grant Co-applicant with the Town of Milan:

Supervisor Kaye stated that, a grant was submitted with the Town of Milan for \$306,615.60 for a shared road grader.

Announcement of Submission of Grant for a Dirt Roller and Trailer as a Municipal Innovation Grant co-applicant with the Towns of Clinton and Milan:

Supervisor Kaye stated that, along with the Town of Milan and the Town of Clinton, we have submitted a grant for a dirt roller and trailer in the sum of \$162,750.00.

Approval of Insurance Company to Cover the Town's Workers' Compensation:

Supervisor Kaye introduced the need for the approval of insurance to cover workers' compensation. There are two different companies that have been quoted. The first company is Glatfelter in the amount of \$43,718.00. The second company is W.C. Alliance in the amount of \$31,499.00. At first glance, it does appear to be a big difference; however, NYSIF gives back a dividend annually. With this, Glatfelter would actually be less expensive and we have been with them in the past. There has never been a year without a dividend. The smallest dividend in years past has been 20 percent.

On a motion made by Councilman Fedele, seconded by Councilman Merwin, the following was:

ADOPTED - AYES - 4 (Kaye, Merwin, Fedele, Kennan)
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED, to continue coverage with Glatfelter for workers' compensation insurance

Appointment of Gail Wheeler as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics:

Supervisor Kaye mentioned the appointment of Gail Wheeler as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics. At the last meeting, we appointed her as Deputy Town Clerk. The usual process is to appoint her as Deputy Registrar.

On a motion made by Councilman Kennan, seconded by Councilman Fedele, the following was:

ADOPTED - AYES - 4 (Kaye, Merwin, Fedele, Kennan)
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED, to appoint Gail Wheeler as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics

Authorization to Sign Letter of Support:

Supervisor Kaye mentioned a letter from the Arlington Fire District requesting a letter of support to operate as an Advanced Life Support First Response (ALSFR) agency. It will either enhance their ability to continue to operate as an advance life support first response agency or it may be a requirement that they have this. Councilman Merwin commented we should support them and perhaps the rest of the county will support us with our EMS problem. Supervisor Kaye stated we received a grant about five months ago for \$190,000 to look into the best ways of handling the EMS issue as a district and it involves the Towns of Dover, Amenia, and North East and the Village of Millerton. It is a study to determine the best way to provide services to the area in the least costly manner. The amount is not just for our area. Eventually, it is designed to decide how the county, overall, may respond to this need. Each of these areas has a far different aspect of what issues they face and the differences in their areas. The Town of North East has a call volume of about 200 people per year. There is absolutely no way to cover the cost; therefore, our costs will be higher than Poughkeepsie. There needs to be 100 calls a day to be able for the cost to wash itself or result in no cost to the taxpayer. We will need to reconcile a small town being paired up with a large town. The large towns will not want to pay for us. This will affect the whole county.

On a motion made by Councilman Kennan, seconded by Councilman Fedele, the following was:

ADOPTED - AYES - 4 (Kaye, Merwin, Fedele, Kennan)
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED, approve a letter of support letter for the Arlington Fire District to operate as an Advanced Life Support First Response agency.

Letter from David Decker:

Supervisor Kaye asked Clerk Cope to read the letter from Mr. Decker. This letter is a second complaint against the Millerton Gun Club's activities for excessive and loud gun fire.

absolutely no choice but to listen to that gun fire from that one member who simply decided it was a convenient time for him or her to do so.

Similarly, on Thursday, June 7th, another member was shooting well after 7pm. AND on Saturday, June 9th the gun fire started again at 8:40am in the morning continued for the most of the morning.

Even though there are many other daytime hours during the week for them to shoot, the gun club continues to allow its members to shoot at any time, every day, including early mornings and into the evenings with no restrictions, when most of us are home trying to relax. It is somewhat irresponsible and shows that the club seems to have very little, if any concerns, for those of us who live nearby especially when shooting on a Sunday evening or at any time on a Sunday.

Therefore, we respectfully ask the Town Board to set aside at least one day a weekend without gun fire (Sunday), no shooting before 10 am, and NO shooting after 5 pm when people get home from work during the week. And what happened to the no rapid fire rule? The gun club and its members should show some common courtesy for the rest of us in the community, unfortunately, some do not. We are only asking for a few hours a week, after all we live here too....

It is important to remember that the gun club is a private, recreational organization and should be required to comply with some reasonable, commonsense restrictions from the Town that are fair for all of us who live here.

We also ask that the Town enforce existing town codes, section 180.54, etc. regarding gun club activity which, at present, appears are not being enforced at all. The gun club does not seem to comply with several sections of the code, especially involving noise pollution and other potential types of pollution resulting from the unchecked increase in membership and subsequent additional gun fire, etc.

Finally, as longtime citizens of the community, myself and others just want and deserve to be treated equally and fairly.

Please read this complaint into the minutes of your next meeting and make this complaint part of the written business records for the Town of Northeast.

Respectfully yours,


Dave Decker- Millerton, NY

Supervisor Kaye said the Millerton Gun Club is "grandfathered in" and the zoning laws are not applicable. He spoke with the gun club when this complaint first arose. We do not have control over how many members are in the club or who can be a member. There are going to be rows of trees planted along the swamp over to Wakeman Road to help mitigate the noise issue. We do need to meet with the gun club and explain to them that this is still an issue and will continue to be an issue if further steps are not taken. Councilman Kennan mentioned a similar noise problem at Lime Rock. The race track's response was voluntarily and it won't engage in racing on Sundays to allow for at least one day when it is quiet. The gun club should understand that we are initially coming to them on a good faith basis to ask for some sensitivity to the concerns of residents. Supervisor Kaye said the major violators at the gun club now are police from the state and county going there to train.

Meeting with Counsel:

There were no legal matters to discuss.

Supervisor's Report:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – Supervisor Kaye said there is a budget adjustment #4 for 2018. It is in A Fund – General Town-wide. There is an expense increase of \$4,000 less an expense decrease of \$2,000 less a revenue increase of \$2,000.

On a motion made by Councilman Merwin, seconded by Councilman Kennan, the following was:

ADOPTED - AYES - 4 (Kaye, Merwin, Fedele, Kennan)
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED, to approve the budget adjustment #4 of 2018.

MONTHLY BILLS ABSTRACT/SPECIAL ABSTRACTS –

Supervisor Kaye presented a Special Abstract, dated May 22, 2018, totaling \$7,584.56 broken down as follows:

A Fund -	\$3,001.96
DB Fund -	\$4,372.45
Payroll T&A -	\$210.15
Total -	\$7,584.56

On a motion made by Councilman Fedele, seconded by Councilman Merwin, the following was

ADOPTED - AYES - 4 (Kaye, Merwin, Fedele, Kennan)
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED, to accept Special Abstract dated May 22, 2018 in the amount of \$7,584.56.

Supervisor Kaye presented an Abstract, dated June 14, 2018, totaling \$90,525.38 broken down as follows:

A Fund -	\$62,218.34
B Fund -	\$1,001.84
DB Fund -	\$27,305.20
Total -	\$90,525.38

On a motion made by Councilman Merwin, seconded by Councilman Kennan, the following was

ADOPTED - AYES - 4 (Kaye, Merwin, Fedele, Kennan)
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED, to accept Abstract dated June 14, 2018 in the amount of \$90,525.38.

VOUCHER COMMITTEE FOR JULY 2018 –

The voucher committee for July will be Councilmen Midwood and Fedele.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

The town board reviewed the minutes of May 10, 2018. Supervisor Kaye said there were some grammatical errors that have been amended.

On a motion made by Councilman Kennan, seconded by Councilman Fedele, the following was

ADOPTED - AYES - 4 (Kaye, Merwin, Fedele, Kennan)
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED, to accept the minutes of May 10, 2018 as amended.

General Comment Period:

Andrew Stayman asked about the purpose of the grader and dirt roller. Supervisor Kaye stated we do not have this equipment and the primary use is for dirt roads, especially in the springtime. Mr. Stayman also asked where the CAC meeting was going to be held here on Monday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. Lastly, Mr. Stayman asked if we still have look for turtles when doing the culvert. Supervisor Kaye said we put a bid out for the lower Mill Road for the \$225,000.00 that we received from the county for this project. The actual bid opening was on May 22; however, no bids were received. No one was interested in doing the work. One of the problems relates to many construction companies not wanting to get involved in the bog turtle issue. It puts such restrictions on builders and construction companies to do anything and still be able to comply with the restriction. We have called out for bids again. The bid openings will be on June 25. We believe we do have some firms that are going to bid on it now. We need to get this done in short order otherwise there is the possibility we will lose the \$225,000.00.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Councilman Merwin, seconded by Councilman Kennan, the following was:

ADOPTED - AYES - 4 (Kaye, Merwin, Fedele, Kennan)
NAYS - 0

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail J. Wheeler
Deputy Town Clerk