

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Kirkland, held at the Town of Kirkland Municipal Building, 3699 State Route 12-B, Clinton, Oneida County, New York on July 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Supervisor Robert J. Meelan

Councilwoman Donna E. Yando

Councilwoman Melanie L. O'Neil

Attorney Anthony Hallak

Absent:

Councilman Garry F. Colarusso

Councilman Richard J. Maxam

Supervisor Meelan called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and asked those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Meelan recognized the public in attendance and asked if there was anyone who wished to address the Board. Sharleen Machold, Director of the Senior Center, wanted to thank Jon Scott and his crew for the awesome job they did cleaning up White St. after the tornado. She said the Senior Center was open and she had coffee made in the days following. There will be a picnic held on July 22 and a bus trip in August.

Mike Champlin a resident of Clark Mills addressed the Board regarding the tornado and the way people were or were not warned about the approaching storm. He did want to praise the community and local government for coming together during this crisis. He asked why only ½ the residents of Clark Mills received the severe weather warning, he stated that according to WSYR in Syracuse, NOAA is now using a polygon approach, rather than a county wide bulletin to warn areas they determine will be affected by severe weather, the way this polygon was drawn it completely missed the Clark Mills Fire Department, Police and Volunteer Ambulance. The National Weather Service in Binghamton was asked why there wasn't a more uniform warning, the response was that this can happen because people don't always set their cell phones correctly to receive weather warnings. Mr. Champlin asked then why wasn't at least the Fire Department notified so they could warn the residents with the siren, he said the siren is used all the time and promised they can all hear it. He listed several recent storms, they are becoming more common. He would like to see a better way of warning the communities, not everyone has cell phones. If there is no changing the polygon approach for warning people, he would like to suggest NOAA at least makes sure a person reviews the borders so in the future the first responders are not excluded. He feels the Fire Department is the best way to send a warning to the Hamlet.

John Winterton, Trails Committee Chair (Snowmobile), addressed the Board and asked if there is anything the club can do to get the Trail back open so multiple users can make use of the Trail, snowmobilers, walkers, hikers, horseback riders. Mr. Winterton sits on the NYS Board and is the Trails Committee Chairman. He asked if permits or insurance was an issue, his concern is people are still going to use the Trail so if it can be controlled with speed limits or whatever they need to do to work with the Town.

Supervisor Meelan said that there was a grant received and the DEC said no motorized vehicles on the Trail. Mr. Winterton said that in NYS snowmobiles are not considered a motorized vehicle, he also said that anyone on or near the Trail is insured. The snowmobilers have the right to petition the state and then the Board can accept. Attorney Hallak thinks there should be a conversation before the Board weighs in on this. Supervisor Meelan said they will move forward within 30-60 days.

Jennifer Spring of Brimfield Street wanted the Board to know that she and her neighbors are opposed to the solar project, she said that it would be right behind her house and there is an easement to her well that she would no longer be able to access, also concerns about possible well contamination. Supervisor Meelan told her that it had not come before the Planning Board yet.

The minutes of June 23, 2025 will be tabled until the next meeting, there are not enough voting Board Members present.

RESOLUTION #57

Upon motion by Councilwoman O’Neil, seconded by Councilwoman Yando, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board approve the submittal of a speed reduction for College Hill Rd from Anderson Rd to Griffin Rd, reducing the speed from 35 MPH to 25 MPH.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Robert J. Meelan	Aye
Councilman Garry F. Colarusso	Absent
Councilwoman Donna E. Yando	Aye
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Absent
Councilwoman Melanie L. O’Neil	Aye

GENERAL ORDER

Attorney Anthony Hallak – No report
Town Clerk Donna Maxam – No report
Highway Supt. Jon Scott – A lot of brush, at least 350 loads to dump and the yard is full
Police Dept. - Administrative Officer Occhipinti – Absent
Building and Grounds Liaison Councilwoman Yando – No report
Recreation Liaison Councilwoman O’Neil – Heard good and bad regarding fireworks location
Seniors Liaison Councilwoman Yando – Sharleen gave report!
Sewer Liaison Councilman Maxam – Absent
SWOCO Liaison Councilman Maxam – Absent

The monthly Safety Inspectors’ Reports and Animal Control Officer’s Reports were reviewed by the Town Board Members.

RESOLUTION #58

Upon motion by Councilwoman Yando, seconded by Councilwoman O’Neil, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

WHEREAS, The Town of Kirkland wishes to apply for a Comprehensive Planning Grant through the NYS Department of State Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure’s Environmental Protection Fund Smart Growth Program; and

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Kirkland is in total support of such an application.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS:

RESOLVED, That the Town Budget Director is hereby authorized to Transfer funds to the Capital Fund from the General Fund in the amount of \$15,000 for the sole purpose of matching funds, and it is further

RESOLVED, That the Budget Director is authorized to create a new Capital Fund Appropriation of \$150,000 for the purpose of handling the Grant heretofore established.

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Robert J. Meelan	Aye
Councilman Garry F. Colarusso	Absent
Councilwoman Donna E. Yando	Aye
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Absent
Councilwoman Melanie L. O’Neil	Aye

RESOLUTION #59

Upon motion by Councilwoman O’Neil, seconded by Councilwoman Yando, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board authorize Supervisor Meelan to sign the First Extension of Traffic Diversion Program Agreement to extend for five (5) years commencing July 8, 2025 and terminating July 7, 2030.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
-------------	-------------

Supervisor Robert J. Meelan	Aye
Councilman Garry F. Colarusso	Absent
Councilwoman Donna E. Yando	Aye
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Absent
Councilwoman Melanie L. O’Neil	Aye

Supervisor Meelan reminded the Board about the Pro Housing Community Program and asked permission to start the ball rolling, all Board Members present said yes.

RESOLUTION #60

Upon motion by Councilwoman Yando, seconded by Councilwoman O’Neil, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board review and approve the bills as audited. The totals were:

A -	23,223.26
B -	5,884.73
DA -	32,324.34
DB-	5,575.92
SS1 -	9,791.49
SS2-	538.46
SS4-	496.95
Cap Fund H –	34,168.00
SW3	625.
SW4	625.
SW5	625.
SW6	625.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Robert J. Meelan	Aye
Councilman Garry F. Colarusso	Absent
Councilwoman Donna E. Yando	Aye
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Absent
Councilwoman Melanie L. O’Neil	Aye

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, upon motion by Councilwoman O’Neil, seconded by Councilwoman Yando, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Donna B. Maxam, Town Clerk