

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 February 09, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Supervisor Garry F. Colarusso

Councilman Richard J. Maxam

Councilwoman Melanie L. O’Neil

Councilman Frank P. Albertine IV

Councilwoman Tami M. Seaman

Absent:

Attorney Anthony Hallak

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

Supervisor Colarusso recognized the public in attendance. No one had any questions at this time.

RESOLUTION #3

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

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board approve the minutes of January 2, 2026 as printed.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Garry F. Colarusso	Aye
Councilman Frank P. Albertine IV	Aye
Councilwoman Melanie L. O’Neil	Aye
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Aye
Councilwoman Tami M. Seaman	Aye

Supervisor Colarusso read the resignation letter from Officer Knight.

RESOLUTION #4

Upon motion by Councilman Maxam, seconded by Councilwoman Seaman, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board accept the resignation of Horace effective January 18, 2026.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Garry F. Colarusso	Aye
Councilman Frank P. Albertine IV	Aye
Councilwoman Melanie L. O'Neil	Aye
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Aye
Councilwoman Tami M. Seaman	Aye

RESOLUTION #5

Upon motion by Councilwoman O'Neil, seconded by Councilwoman Seaman, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board to appoint Robert Roberts as Part Time Police Officer.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Garry F. Colarusso	Aye
Councilman Frank P. Albertine IV	Aye
Councilwoman Melanie L. O'Neil	Aye
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Aye
Councilwoman Tami M. Seaman	Aye

Supervisor Colarusso opened the meeting to discussing the Host Community Agreement. Councilwoman Seaman had a document to pass out to the Board along with a letter from Stephen Mair. Councilwoman Seaman spoke of her previous job, and raised concerns about decommissioning, solar companies putting the costs on the Town. She also referenced a fire near Watertown in 2023, this fire went on for several days. Councilwoman Seaman says our firefighters are not educated or equipped to deal with solar farm fires. Councilwoman Seaman would like a moratorium on solar. Wayne Franz asked about the debt the town could inherit. He also asked what was on fire in the fire Councilwoman Seaman spoke of earlier. Lithium batteries were on fire that were part of a solar array. Mr. Franz is concerned about our farmland being consumed by new housing, solar fields, and wind farms. Stephen Mair read a letter he wrote in opposition to solar farms. Mr. Mair's main concerns were whether the Town of Kirkland have an emergency plan for solar fields, Does the Clinton Fire Department have the required training or equipment, and has the Fire Department done a walkthrough of the solar

farm on Kirkland Ave. Neither firefighters at the meeting could say a walkthrough has been done. Councilwoman Seaman claimed we get no taxes from solar. Supervisor Colarusso explained that the revenue from these fields is split three ways. The Town of Kirkland, the Village of Clinton, and the Clinton School district. The final decision will be made by the Planning Board.

Supervisor Colarusso addressed a circulated document claiming the Town gets \$5000 per year from the Kirkland Ave. solar farm. The town receives \$5000 per megawatt. He asked have the fire departments investigated the solar farm? A resident asked what is the process, do we notify the county? Every county agency, including fire departments. Everyone gets a chance to come forward. Supervisor Colarusso said just because we approve this document tonight it is still in the hands of the Planning Board. Another resident asked in 30 years when all these solar farms expire, who removes all the equipment? Supervisor Colarusso responded that every year these solar arrays are in existence, there is a decommissioning fee that gets added to that. A resident said that the Kirkland array is close to wetlands. Supervisor Colarusso stated the project met the regulations at the time. While zoning regulations can change, the current regulations were last changed 4 years ago. The Kirkland array does not have batteries, nor will the new proposed one.

RESOLUTION #6

Upon motion by Councilman Albertine, seconded by Councilwoman O'Neil, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board approve the Limberlost Host Community Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Garry F. Colarusso	Aye
Councilman Frank P. Albertine IV	Aye
Councilwoman Melanie L. O'Neil	Aye
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Nay
Councilwoman Tami M. Seaman	Nay

Jan DeAmicis of the Underground Railroad of NY State spoke to the board about a previously sent packet about the proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railway Byway and handed out a new letter. Some of the board had questions regarding the billboard restrictions. Mr. DeAmicis said it was specifically against new billboards, not new signs for existing, or new businesses. Town of Kirkland Building Inspector Robert Harris said we already do not allow new billboards with our current code.

RESOLUTION #7

Upon motion by Councilwoman O'Neil, seconded by Councilwoman Seaman, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board approve support of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Garry F. Colarusso	Aye
Councilman Frank P. Albertine IV	Aye
Councilwoman Melanie L. O’Neil	Aye
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Aye
Councilwoman Tami M. Seaman	Aye

Supervisor Colarusso asked for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a new personal.

A motion was made by, second by Councilman Maxam, second by Councilwoman O’Neil to enter in to executive session at 6:45. All in favor.

A motion was made by Councilman Albertine, second by Councilman Maxam to come out of executive session at 7:05. All in Favor.

GENERAL ORDER

Attorney Anthony Hallak – Absent

Town Clerk Michael Gaska – Two responses from NY DoT about speed studies sent out last year.

Highway Supt. Jon Scott, Councilman Albertine- No report

Police Dept. - Administrative Officer Occhipinti – Potential new hire to meet.

Building and Grounds Liaison Councilwoman Seaman – No report

Recreation Liaison Councilwoman O’Neil – No report

Seniors Liaison Councilwoman Seaman – Senior center door doesn’t lock. Mold growing on a back wall. Drainage issues.

Sewer Liaison Councilman Maxam – No report

SWOCO Liaison Councilman Maxam – No report

AUDIT BILLS

RESOLUTION #8

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

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

- A -** 31916.94
- B -** 6201.62
- DA -** 112450.04
- SF -** 376106.00
- SL1-** 864.38
- SL2 -** 297.65

SL3- 164.24
SL4 - 1046.95
SS1 - 1532.28
SS2 - 586.67
SS4 - 467.18
SS5 - 5371.00
Cap Fund H - 214215.46
Trust - 21574.41

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Garry F. Colarusso	Aye
Councilman Frank P. Albertine IV	Aye
Councilwoman Melanie L. O'Neil	Aye
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Abstain
Councilwoman Tami M. Seaman	Abstain

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, upon motion by Councilman Maxam, seconded by Councilwoman O'Neil, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Michael D. Gaska Jr., Town Clerk