

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST
106 S. MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, MARYLAND 21901**

June 24, 2026

The Town Meeting was called to order by Mayor Kelly Benson at 7:01 P.M. Present were Vice Mayor- Kimberly Davis, Commissioners Hilary Crothers-Moore, Catherine Bernard-Dutton and Neil DeMatt. Also present were Police Chief Yates, Director of Finance Deanna Ittner, Water Superintendent, Ron Carter, Town Administrator Melissa Cook-MacKenzie, Assistant Town Administrator Grant Handley and Town Clerk Stephanie Racine-Dean. Absent from tonight's meeting, Director of Planning and Zoning Betsy Vennell.

A moment of silence was observed to give thanks to all the men and women that protect and serve us.

-ROLL CALL-

-APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2026 regular meeting, as presented, was made by Vice-Mayor Davis, seconded by Commissioner Crothers-Moore and approved by all. Commissioner Bernard-Dutton abstained due to her absence from the meeting.

-PUBLIC COMMENT-

None

-INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS-

None

-GUESTS-

None

-ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS-

Resolution 2026-05-09 - To Amend the Planning and Zoning Schedule of Fees, Charges and Expenses

Town Board Approved Minutes July 8, 2026

Mayor Benson requested Resolution 2026-05-09 be tabled until further discussion regarding the amendment to the Planning and Zoning Schedule of Fees, Charges and Expenses.

-INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES-

None

-ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES -

None

-REPORTS-

Mayor Benson

Mayor Benson reported he attended the following meetings since the June 10, 2026 Town Board Meeting:

- Attended Flag Day, Sunday, June 14th, North East Community Park. Mayor Benson thanked all who came for the celebration
- Attended various meetings, from Human Resources, Projects and Marketing. Mayor Benson is very happy with the momentum

Vice-Mayor Davis

Vice-Mayor Davis reported she attended the following meetings since the June 10, 2026 Town Board Meeting:

- 6.11.2026 - Volunteer through the Department of Community Services, Friendly Visitor Program. Spent time with her person, she is a resident from North East
- 6.12.2026 - Attended 2nd Fridays, Rocking through the Decades, it was very well attended. Vice-Mayor Davis represented the 70's era
- 6.14 – 6.17.2026 – Attended the Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference 2026. She completed her courses and will receive a certification in the month of September from the Academy of Excellence for Local Governments. She also joined Chief Yates, Assistant Town Administrator and Commissioner DeMatt to attend, "Top Cop" Breakfast. Maryland Governor Wes Moore presented the award and was the guest speaker
- 6.17.2026 - Voted early for the Primary Election here in Cecil County and she attended the Senior & Military Veteran Property Tax Credit Program at the North East Library along with Commissioner Bernard-Dutton
- 6.23.2026 Participated in the Maryland Municipal Chapter Scholarship Committee meeting, City of Aberdeen. The Committee selected 1 student from Harford County and 1 student from Cecil County, they will received \$1,000.00 each. Vice-Mayor Davis was also selected to be Chair of the Maryland Municipal Chapter Scholarship Committee next year, 2027

- 6.24.2026 – Served free lunches at the North East Library, Mauldin Avenue North East to children under the age of 18 years old. This program is scheduled Monday thru Friday, June 22nd – August 14th

Commissioner Bernard-Dutton

Commissioner Bernard-Dutton reported she attended the following meetings since the June 10, 2026 Town Board Meeting:

- Participated in the Cecil County Roadshow for Cecil County Credits to help Senior Citizens. Cecil County offers Seniors a 20% property tax credit on the county portion of their property taxes which is due by September 1st each year
- Attended a County Council meeting, Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton and praised the Town of North East how their meetings are organized compared to the County

Commissioner Crothers-Moore

Commissioner Crothers-Moore reported she attended the following meetings since the June 10, 2026 Town Board Meeting:

- Attended Flag Day, Sunday, June 14, 2026 at the North East Community Park

Commissioner DeMatt

Commissioner DeMatt reported she attended the following meetings since the June 10, 2026 Town Board Meeting:

- 6.12.2026 - Attended 2nd Fridays, Rocking through the Decades. Commissioner DeMatt was representing the 80's era
- 6.14 – 6.17.2026 – Attended the Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference 2026. He also joined Chief Yates, Assistant Town Administrator and Vice-Mayor Davis to attend, “Top Cop” Breakfast. Maryland Governor Wes Moore presented the award and was the guest speaker whom he also had a one-on-one conversation with
- 6.24.2026 – Attended the North East Chamber of Commerce Mixer, Snatchers Creekside, North East. The Unicorn Quest will be moving forward this year in the month of August. Commissioner DeMatt also reported, they will be scheduling their Mixer Events on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, so it does not interfere with the Board meetings along with people who would like to attend
- 6.13.2026 – He voted early for the Primary Election here in Cecil County

Town Administrator

Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie reported she attended the following meetings since the June 10, 2026 Town Board Meeting:

- Attended Flag Day, Sunday, June 14, 2026 at the North East Community Park
- Attended Senior & Military Veteran Property Tax Credit Program at the North East Town Hall and had a great conversation with the County Executive, Adam Streight
- Had the pleasure along with four North East Police Officers to attend the Baltimore Police Department Academy. Erin Mahaffrey is the newest graduate from the North East Police Department, she will receive her Oath of Office at the next town board meeting, Wednesday, July 8th

Town Board Approved Minutes July 8, 2026

- Thanked the Mayor & Commissioners for the Juneteenth Holiday, Friday June 19th
- Department Head meeting this week
- Met with the Director of Finance and the Water Department Superintendent
- Annexation is moving through the process, July 2nd the Planning Commission will vote to make the recommendation to the Mayor & Commissioners, for the July 8th board meeting. There will be a Public Hearing that night along with a vote for approval
- Working with the Director of Planning on several projects, Industrial Park has a parcel they are apply for grant funds. She contacted Sandra Edwards, Economic Development Director to make sure they are all on the same page and they will continue on receiving funding
- Continuing working with the Director of Finance regarding the budget, next crunch time is Tuesday, June 30th deadline

Assistant Town Administrator

Mr. Handley reported he attended the following meetings since the May 13, 2026 Town Board Meeting:

- North East Preserve cleanout is complete, and a primary trail has been established. Site conditions are currently very wet and muddy, so we are allowing additional time for the area to dry before conducting walkthroughs and planning next steps
- Ensured the Township is compliant with SB871. This new law, which pertains to cybersecurity requirements for water systems, goes into effect on July 1st
- New MS4 provisions are forthcoming, I am currently working to ensure compliance with those requirements as well
- Attended the Maryland Municipal League Conference and gained several valuable insights and ideas that may benefit the Township
- Legacy Bricks were installed today and will be completed tomorrow in preparation for our July 3rd event
- The Town Lock-Up will also be open on July 3rd, 2026 allowing residents and visitors to view the renovation work
- Editing of the Tourism Wonder Map remains underway
- Continuing work on North East Preserve advocacy efforts

Director of Finance, Ms. Deana Ittner entered in the record the list of payments issued since the last Board Meeting:

- General Fund Balance Sheet as of 5.30.26
- Statement of Revenue and Expenditures ending to 6.1.26 to 6.24.26
- Check Register as of 5.25.26 to 6.23.26
- She has been in constant communication with the town's auditors

Chief of Police

Police Chief Yates entered into the record the June 10, 2026 North East Police Department Monthly Report: Chief Yates also reported:

- Chief was notified last week, received \$9,000.00 for the Video Lottery Terminal (VTL) Grant. This will go directly to the community policing and the North East Sports Club. This will help with National Night Out and DARE activity
- 6.14 – 6.17.2026 – Attended the Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference 2026. He also joined Assistant Town Administrator and Vice-Mayor Davis, Commissioner DeMatt to attend, “Top Cop” Breakfast. Maryland Governor Wes Moore presented the award
- Saturday, June 27th the North East Police Department will be attending the Town of Rising Sun’s America’s 250th Birthday Celebration

Water Plant Superintendent

Mr. Ron Carter entered into the record the May 2026 Monthly Report for the North East Rolling Mill and Leslie Water Plants. In addition, Mr. Carter reported the following:

- Leslie Water Treatment Plant, still waiting on the steele posts to finish the fencing around the pond
- Filter #1 is back in service. In July we have the Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), the TOC monitor went down, he contacted the HACH to fix

Mr. Carter entered into the record, Derstine Company LLC equipment repair report. Derstine Company LLC, does 6-month inspection, they found, failed equipment. Mr. Carter is asking for an emergency repair request for the TTHM and HAA5 equipment removal located in the Bayberry & I-95 Towers. The town uses Derstine for all installations, troubleshooting and repairs on this equipment. All repairs must be made ASAP due to the TTHM and HAA5 testing is scheduled in a few weeks. The total cost for the work, \$65,060.00.

Mayor Benson had a question regarding the permit for the mine water from the Maryland Department of the Environment. Mr. Carter stated they just got their permit. Mayor Benson stated he was never contacted regarding the permit request. The Town Administrator stated the town is still working with Rebecca Mason, LO., Project Manager for ENTECH Engineer, as far as going through things systematically.

-UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

Mayor Benson requested both Water Allocations Request & Extension be tabled until further discussion with the developer.

- Water Allocation Request: North East Developers, LLC., Chesapeake Club – 498 Equivalent Residential Units (ERU)
- Water Allocation Extension request: Mr. Eustace Mita, 12 ERU for residential units, North East Harbors

-NEW BUSINESS-

None

-MISCELLANEOUS-

None

-APPROPRIATIONS-

Budget Amendment 2026-012

Revenue

Fund Balances Resources **\$65,060.00**

Expenditures

Water Operations Operating Expenses \$37,260.00 –Derstine - Bayberry Tank

Property Services – R&M Services \$27,800.00 –Derstine - I-95 Tank

A motion to approve Budget Amendment 2026-012 was made by Vice-Mayor Davis, seconded by Commissioner DeMatt and approved by all.

Requisition R6-02466 – Derstine Company, LLC. \$37,260.00 - Bayberry Tank

A motion to approve Resolution R6-02466 to Destine Company, LLC in the amount of \$37,260.00 was made by Commissioner DeMatt, seconded by Commissioner Bernard-Dutton and approved by all.

Requisition R6-02467 - Derstine Company, LLC. \$27,800.00 – I-95 Tank

A motion to approve Resolution R6-02466 to Destine Company, LLC in the amount of \$27,800.00 was made by Commissioner DeMatt, seconded by Commissioner Bernard-Dutton and approved by all.

-BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR-

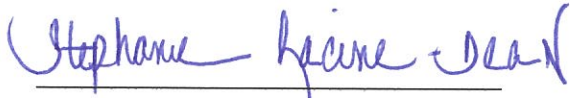
Cecil Classical Charter School (CCCS)

Kelly Sengstock, Board Secretary, Cecil Classical Charter School, 205 Mechanics Valley Road, North East gave a presentation regarding the background of the Charter School. Cecil Classical Charter School's Board of Directors have worked very hard over the last year, to create a plan for a new education option for the children and families of Cecil County. The Board of Directors are hoping to have the Cecil Classical Charter School to be housed in the North East Middle School as it is centrally located in the county. This is an existing school building that will be vacant soon after the completion of the new North East High/Middle School on Irishtown Road, North East. They are registered 501©3 non-profit through the State of Maryland and their first goal of CCCS is to launch a tuition free public school. The application is available for review on the Cecil County Public School website.

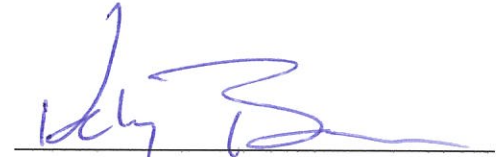
-ADJOURNMENT-

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Mayor Davis, seconded* by Commissioner Crothers-Moore and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephanie Racine-Dean, Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Kelly Benson, Mayor