

AGENDA
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING

MAY 30, 2024

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Reports

Supervisor

- Update Document Submitted to the State Comptroller and on File in the Town Clerk's Office for Public Inspection

County Legislator

Town Clerk

Historian

Agriculture/Agfest (Member VanEtten)

- Resolution to Approve Donation for Tent Rental at AgFest

Animal Control (Chair Kash, Member Sottolano)

Assessment (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Audit and Budget (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Buildings & Grounds/Recycling (Chair Downes/Member VanEtten)

Code Enforcement Officer (Chair Downes/Member Ruso)

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement (Member Dellisanti)

Grants/Promotions/Economic Development (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Greene County Planning Board (Sottolano)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Authorize the Highway Superintendent to Purchase Fuel Oil Per Greene County Resolution 183-24
- Resolution to Authorize the Highway Superintendent to Purchase Materials and Supplies by Greene County Resolution 195-24
- Resolution to Authorize the Highway Superintendent to Purchase Washed and Screened Crushed Stone by Greene County Resolution 197-24

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

Planning Board (Chair Downes/Member Kash)

Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

- Senior Picnic September 5, 2024 at 12 Noon at Cecil Hallock Park

Technology/Website (Chair Downes/Member VanEtten)

Town Courts (Chair Kash/Member Sottolano)

Veterans and Memorials (Chair VanEtten/Member Downes)

- Veterans Picnic July 28, 2024 at 12 Noon at Cecil Hallock Park

Wastewater Treatment (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

- Resolution to Approve Notice to Bidders for Mechanical Screen Replacement
- Motion to Accept Modification of Part-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Resignation
- Resolution to Increase the Hourly Rates of Pay for the Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator and Part-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
- Resolution to Approve an Advertisement for the Position of Part-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

Water Districts (Chair Kash/Member Sottolano)

- Informational Meeting with Mary Beth Bianconi from Delaware Engineering and Residents of Water District 2 at 6:30 PM at Town Hall

Youth, Parks and Recreation (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

- Motion to Refund Park Deposit for Cancelled Event on May 11 at Cecil Hallock Park for William Boehlke

Upcoming Meetings

- June 1-2, 2024 AgFest at VanEtten Farm
- June 5, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- June 10, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- June 13, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- June 19, 2024 Public Information Meeting with Mary Beth Bianconi from Delaware Engineering and Residents of Water District 2 at 6:30 PM at Town Hall
- June 24, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

- July 28, 2024 Veterans Committee Picnic at 12 Noon at Cecil Hallock Park, Rain Location at Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company on Gill Road
- September 5, 2024 Senior Picnic at 12 PM at Cecil Hallock Park
- September 21, 2024 Townwide Yard Sale Beginning at 9 AM
- October 5, 2024 Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic at Town Hall, Pre-Registration Required at jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org

Public Comment Period/Community Events

Audit of Claims

Adjournment

****** Agenda Subject to Change******

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC CONDUCT DURING TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

1. The Supervisor shall preside at the meetings of the Town Board. In the absence of the Supervisor, the Deputy Supervisor shall be the acting Supervisor. In the event both the Supervisor and the Deputy Supervisor are absent, the other members shall designate one of their members to act as temporary chairman. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn.
2. Town residents who wish to speak shall fill out a card at the entrances of the meeting room listing their name, contact information, and the subject matter in which they would like to speak. These cards will be collected prior to the beginning of the Town Board meeting and given to the Town Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor in the absence of the Supervisor.
3. Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer and then proceed to the lectern and state their name and address. They must limit their remarks on official town business to up to three minutes on a given topic and may not yield any remaining time to another speaker. They must address their remarks to the Board as a body and not to any member thereof and not to other members of the audience in the form of a debate.
4. Speakers should present their remarks in a courteous manner and may not make disparaging remarks or personal comments about public officials, town residents, or others. All speakers will observe the commonly accepted rules of courtesy, decorum, dignity, and good taste with no cursing, swearing, clapping, booing, finger pointing, bullying, whispering, or talking that disrupts the proceedings of the business of the Town Board.
5. Any speaker who disregards the directives of the presiding officer in enforcing the rules, disturbs the peace at a meeting, makes impertinent or slanderous remarks, or generally conducts themselves in an inappropriate manner shall be barred from further participation and will forfeit any balance of time remaining for their comments.
6. After a final warning, if a speaker willfully refuses to step down, the Town Supervisor shall contact the appropriate authorities to remove the speaker from the meeting room and to restore order.
7. The Town Supervisor, or in their absence the Deputy Supervisor, shall ensure compliance with these rules.

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Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Downes, Kash, Sottolano, and VanEtten; and 10 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; Town Clerk Finke; and Highway Superintendent VanWormer.

Supervisor Jeff Ruso

Supervisor Ruso: I don't have any specific reports, I mean I put everything into the Agenda. We do have a few things that are coming along. As you will all note later on we have a meeting about the Water District #2, a special meeting on the 19th of June with Delaware Engineering to discuss options and costs. So I think that the people in District 2 are particularly affected and the result of that is they will be getting, aside from our announcements, we're sending them a letter making sure they are aware of it. So I think that's the biggest issue. The second part of it is finally, based upon some problems with some computer issues and new accounts that the office of the Comptroller's, for the filing of my Annual Financial Documents, however, our account was, it didn't get renewed well. Between myself and the Bookkeeper and the Comptroller's office we weren't on the same page. Nevertheless, the annual financial report for the year 2023 is now complete and I believe you all have a copy of it. And once again we had a surplus for 2023. So now that we have our new account they'll undoubtedly change the reporting system for 2024 and we'll go through this process again. They keep changing processes.

Ellie Alfeld: Is there a penalty involved in this?

Supervisor Ruso: Oh, heavens no.

Ellie Alfeld: Thank you.

Supervisor Ruso: No, and we weren't the only municipality that struggled with that. Maybe I was worse than others. Anyway, our April financial reports have been forwarded to yourselves as well and I hope you've had that chance to review them. I would like to have a Motion to accept the April financial reports.

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: I will have a motion for the annual financial review. I didn't want to do it just for today, because we only just got it so I'd like to have you guys have a chance to go through it. So we will do that for the next meeting.

County Legislator Pat Linger

In May I attended eight regular committee meetings, one special committee meeting, one regular Legislative meeting, and multiple meetings involving current and planned projects. With the end of the State Legislative session in sight, we passed resolutions in support of current bills which are still pending. The first is a group of seven bills relating to rescuing EMS in NYS. This package would change laws to allow special taxing districts, modernize Medicaid reimbursements, remove EMS costs from the property tax cap calculations, and increase tax credits for ambulance workers. Senator Hinchey is a sponsor on some of these bills in the Senate. The ongoing EMS crisis in the State, and more specifically Greene County, dictates a need for change in how EMS is funded, staffed, and operated. Once again, Greene is leading the way in having already commissioned a study to investigate potential options here. Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti is attending a meeting tonight to meet with our consultants. While we will move forward with action items that will help our own residents, changes to State laws governing EMS will allow us far more consideration. We passed a supporting resolution requesting an equitable chargeback formula and requesting the State take over the cost of health insurance for Community Colleges, as they do for 4-year schools. We presented a Commendation in honor of Sylvia Hasenkopf, our 2024 Greene County Senior Citizen of the Year. We presented a Commendation in honor of Steve Whateley, recipient of the 2024 Greene County Outstanding

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Contribution by a Senior Citizen award. Certificates of Merit were awarded to Maggie Apgar, Jane and Jack Schane. We authorized the purchase of equipment to upgrade the Durham tower site to improve the radio communication in the area. We authorized an agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management to pilot a lease to supply vehicles for the Sheriff department, including upfitting equipment such as paint, decals, lights, and sirens. Given a 21 percent employee vacancy rate in DSS negatively affecting requirements from the State, we are also piloting a new artificial intelligence system to help us meet required goals. This Eligibility Verification Assistant (EVA) is expected to help us meet timeliness rates for temporary assistance and SNAP benefit evaluations. EVA can respond to 75 different spoken and written languages, and will reduce administrative burdens and manual processes, enable us to expedite eligibility determinations, and empower individuals and families to access the vital support they require in a timely manner. We authorized the purchase of two utility trailers. We awarded quick quotes for paving contracts, including CR54. We awarded bids for fuel oil, materials for highway, and washed and crushed stone. We authorized an amendment to the Highway employee contract allowing a four 10-hour day week from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Days off will be staggered so we still have coverage five days a week. We also authorized the distribution of mortgage tax, including \$39,025.63 for the Town of New Baltimore which I believe is down from just over \$50,000 last year.

Supervisor Ruso: That's been going down for years.

County Legislator Linger: We established, or re-established in some cases, several reserve accounts. Of particular note would be the Real Property Tax Stabilization (Sales Tax) Reserve Fund at \$11.4 million, the Bridge and Road Reconstruction Reserve Fund at \$4.6 million which will primarily cover Route 61 when that needs to be redone, and the yet-to-be-built Community Services Building fund at \$24 million. A building which is not yet designed but will be paid for with no bonding required. The Greene County Outlaws approached me with a request for funding through the Speenburgh Grant to help with the costs of their lighting project in Hallock Park. As you recall they came to the Town as well for permission for that. They're looking at about \$100,000 project so I was working with all the other Legislators around the County and I was able to get them a total of \$12,000 from that fund toward that goal.

Supervisor Ruso: I have a question. The State laws governing EMS, I looked through them and I didn't see anything that would address the issue that New Baltimore has. As a fireman, you well know that the number of EMS calls we get at the Thruway Rest Area is substantial. You and I as neighbors of it, and we, the Town of New Baltimore, gets charged almost \$300 for each one, from Greene County EMS we get charged. It was \$260.

County Legislator Linger: I can tell you that even on the fire company side, the fire district side, they only get like a \$125 reimbursement on that. It doesn't cover it.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, anyway, but the remainder of the bill is charged to the municipalities. Yeah, I can show you.

County Legislator Linger: What bill? From Greene EMS?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes.

County Legislator Linger: For the Paramedic bill?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, haven't you not seen Nick's report every month?

County Legislator Linger: Yeah, but why are they are charging? I'm not sure why I understand why they're charging the Town for it.

Supervisor Ruso: They charge the municipality where the event occurred. These are, I mean they're travelers and I don't think we should hold off on, I mean people do drive our roads regardless of where they're from, but there is plethora of folks who stop at the Thruway, they are having issues whether it's chest pain or whatever, they stop there, and EMS goes there, and the Town gets charged for it. I mean it's nothing we can't handle, we have for years, but it's more

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than what other places have because they don't have a rest area. And furthermore let's not forget the rest area in its entirety is...

County Legislator Linger: It's North and Southbound, it's the busiest rest area on the Thruway.

Supervisor Ruso: Right and don't forget it's all tax exempt land so we don't get anything there and let's not necessarily remind you once again that we get no sales tax from them, that endeavor, we get the cost, we don't get the revenue.

County Legislator Linger: I still don't understand why they're billing the Town. The Town actually the County pays on the Greene EMS side, we pay \$1.6 million for their budget and then the Towns pay \$400,000.

Supervisor Ruso: I've looked for Nick's report and it's in every week, it's not in this one because he's not here. I looked for Nick's report, oh you have it here?

Councilmember Sottolano: It is here.

Supervisor Ruso: I missed it. What's it say what our costs is. It doesn't say it on there.

Councilmember VanEtten and Downes: No

Supervisor Ruso: But we do get charged for these calls.

Legislator Linger: Because we don't even backcharge the Town of Catskill who's not in the Greene EMS system. Greene EMS doesn't charge them for the mutual aid fee.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, we do get charged.

County Legislator Linger: I'll look into that because I don't believe (unable to understand)..

Supervisor Ruso: You, Nick, and I will look together okay?

Legislator Linger: But that just started.

Supervisor Ruso: No, been around forever.

Legislator Linger: That doesn't make sense because we pay that budget. You guys pay (unable to understand) doesn't make sense.

Supervisor Ruso: I agree it doesn't make sense. I'm with ya.

Legislator Linger: That's why you pay that \$19+,000 a year out of your budget for Greene EMS.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, and we also get some charges from the rescue squads themselves for Ravena and Coxsackie.

Legislator Linger: Annual contracts with them.

Supervisor Ruso: And we get charged. We have contracts with them, absolutely. Now Ravena's a little different because they charge insurance. They will give us some of the insurance reimbursement so that comes off. So we have a contract to pay them \$25,000 but they will give us, and that's for calls here and it's based upon the number of calls. That's where they come up with their formula, their charges.

Legislator Linger: But it's also based, because Greene EMS doesn't bill for service, right, so when the ambulance, when Ravena Rescue has Greene EMS show up to help them as a Paramedic, Ravena Rescue will then bill for that ALS service. The Town can't. The Fire company can't. So the rescue squad then bills that for Greene EMS. That's why you get a refund...

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Supervisor Ruso: If there is a reimbursement from the insurance, if the person has a chargeable event.

County Legislator Linger: Correct.

Supervisor Ruso: However, they estimate the number of calls, we update it annually, they divide the cost into that and so that's the basis of our charges, less the reimbursement. So we pay them \$25,000 and at the end of the year we get \$4,000 back. So we are still down \$21,000, but it is based upon volume and the volume is up because of, and by the way Coxsackie also is a responder to the Thruway as you would expect, we don't get any reimbursement for insurance from Coxsackie, zero. Okay, so there is cost to the Town \$200.

County Legislator Linger: Yeah, I'll look into the one with Greene EMS. To me that doesn't make sense why they would be billing per call.

Supervisor Ruso: You, I and Nick will go over it.

County Legislator Linger: Because we do a budget every year for them and as a matter of fact that's coming up in July so...

Supervisor Ruso: And maybe my dollar figures are in total not specific to one size. It comes to about \$250 per call.

County Legislator Linger: Are they doing it as a breakdown, a monthly bill as a breakdown over the previous year's cost, is that what they are doing so you don't pay a lump sum fee for Greene EMS every year?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, maybe that's how it works out. It's an aggregate estimated on a number of calls you have based upon the previous year. So if you had 200 calls last year, here's how much we estimate our charges for the upcoming year and if it goes down to 190 then our cost for the following year are reduced based upon the changes in the volume. So it is a volume-based bill.

County Legislator Linger: Right, so I'm wondering if that's what they're doing is they're pulling you actual budget number as a monthly charge then. It doesn't have any relation to the call volume that you're doing currently, it is actually related to last year's call volume.

Supervisor Ruso: Right. Right, and it will be updated for next year.

Legislator Linger: But that's how the Town pays in their 20% toward the Greene EMS budget

Supervisor Ruso: It is volume based at the end of the day.

Legislator Linger: Yeah, that's gotta be what it is, but I will look into that just to make sure.

Supervisor Ruso: It's not a specific bill. Anyone else have questions for Pat?

Councilmember VanEtten: No.

Ellie Alfeld: Jeff. I have to throw this in because my car insurance is based on the Thruway's accidents. That's inclusive, oh, yes, you check with your insurance man, I got it straight from him. That monies that are added to my account are because of the Thruway accidents.

Supervisor Ruso: They must know you. Thank you, okay, thank you, sir. Next on the docket we have the Town Clerk's report.

Town Clerk Report

Deputy Town Clerk Amanda Eldred: 7 Building Permits \$1,360.70, 3 CO Searches \$150, 8 Fishing Licenses \$19.71, 27 Dog Licenses \$204, 8 Late License \$40, 12 Minor Subdivisions \$900, 1 Beer Permit \$20, 1 Non-Resident Park Rental \$50, 6 Resident Park Rentals \$150, 4 Certified Copies \$40, 96 Photo Copies \$24, Recycle Fees \$25, Total State, County & Local

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Revenues \$3,269.50, \$41 to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program, \$245.29 to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Fishing Licenses, Total to Supervisor \$2,983.21. To date, we have collected \$2,878,028.91 in Property Taxes, Penalty \$5,418.03, Notice Fees \$38.00, Returned Checks \$20, representing 79% collected. Uncollected amount is \$780,095.79. At the 2024 NYS Town Clerks Association 2024 Conference I attended the Athenian Dialogue on the “Perfect Strangers” by Roseann Sdoia Materia, a survivor of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, she also gave the Keynote address. We attended the Opening ceremony, annual NYSTCA meeting, Fraud Prevention and Detection, Building Cyber Threat Resilience, Hybrid Meetings, Equalization/Taxable Value, Preventing Hostile Work Environments, and NYS DOH general session regarding updates to Birth, Death, and Marriage records.

Supervisor Ruso: I’m going to pull the AGFEST because we did this one already, back in April. This resolution, I don’t know how it got back on our docket again, but I’m going to pull that. Is there anything you want to tell us.

Councilmember Downes: Tent rental?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah. Anything you want to report Member VanEtten?

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, no, except that everybody’s really busy now setting up for it, getting ready.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, you got two days.

Councilmember VanEtten: We’ve got tomorrow. Jeff.

Deputy Clerk Eldred: Is that the resolution for the AGFEST tent rental? She could not find it so that’s why she put it in there.

Councilmember VanEtten: Because she told me she did it in April when I was gone.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, she told me that too.

Deputy Clerk Eldred: We only have the two ones for the Lease Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding.

Supervisor Ruso: We can do it and it doesn’t hurt because we are only going to pay it once.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 88-2024
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RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DONATION FOR
TENT RENTAL AT AGFEST

WHEREAS AgFest is being held at the VanEtten Farm on Saw Mill Road on June 1-2, 2024 and the Town wishes to

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore approves the donation of \$2,000 from Cultural Programs for the rental of tents for the gathering for musical performances and the community dinner at AgFest.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmembers Downes and Sottolano

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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Animal Control

Councilmember Janet Kash: On Saturday, October 5th local residents will be able to take advantage of reduced cost spay and neuter surgeries for their cats, companion or feral, and also receive rabies and distemper vaccines for their dogs and felines at the New Baltimore Town Hall. Upstate Spay and Neuter Services is bringing their mobile surgical unit to New Baltimore at a cost of \$90 per surgery, which includes a one-year rabies vaccine. Appointments are required and we will need to confirm 40-50 surgeries to bring the mobile clinic to town. Check in and drop off for services will be from 7:30 to 8:30 AM and pick up times will depend on when the surgeries are completed for each cat with the clinic ending at 5PM. All cats scheduled for spays or neuters must be confined in a carrier or trap and cannot have food after midnight although water is fine. Rabies and distemper vaccines for dogs and cats not having surgeries will be provided from 9 to 10AM. To participate dogs must be licensed. Those with unlicensed dogs seeking vaccinations will be able to complete the necessary paperwork and pay the licensing fee with the Town Clerk's office on site that day or visit the Town Hall in advance. Prices are \$10 for a one year rabies, \$20 for distemper and \$20 for a three year rabies shot with proof of prior vaccination. To register for an appointment or to get more information interested residents may email Janet Kash at jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org. Questions about the event may also be directed to the Town Clerk's office but Councilmember Kash will handle scheduling. New Baltimore residents are asked to register for appointments no later than Friday, September 6th and will receive preference in participating. Non-residents may also reach out to be placed on a waiting list in the event we are having trouble meeting the 40-50 appointment threshold. Since spay and neuter surgeries often cost hundreds of dollars, we are happy to bring this affordable animal health care option to local residents. The cost of the mobile clinic services will be completely borne by the pet owners themselves.

Councilmember Kash: We will be reaching out to all Town residents to give them information about this. It's going to be in the Newsletter, we'll do it on our Facebook page and I've asked that people get back to me because I'm gonna take care of the scheduling by September 1st. IF we're having trouble getting 40-50 appointments we need here from New Baltimore residents specifically, I will ask people also from outside out Town who might need these services for their cats to be put on a waiting list so we get up to that 40-50. It should be a great service for out Town for people to get these low-cost spay and neuter services and there is absolutely no cost to the Town except for the fact that we will keep the Town Hall open that day so the vets can I don't know use the restroom. So we're going to be promoting that and hopefully it will be a good service for the people of the Town. I also have for the first time I believe in many years, after speaking with Sherry Vieta, our Town Dog Control Officer, we've been talking about how it might be a good thing for the Town to have regular reports from her on her activities for taxpayer accountability just so we all know what's happening out there in her Dog Control activities. So she's given me a brief summary of what she has been doing since January through the end of this month. January 4th, she got a call from the New Baltimore Fire Department about a lost dog, they were able to find the owner. On March 3rd, there was a complaint about a trespass of a dog on another property and a dog complaint, there was also in this complaint a suspicion that there might have been a dog attack. It does not seem like there was an actual attack on an human and Sherry also got a call back from the Sherrif because they were called into this as well. On April 15th she got a call about two stray cats, she referred them to Animal Kind in Hudson to help them possibly trap and spay and neuter the animals. As you probably know Sherry is really a Dog Control Officer, she does not deal with cats, opossums, etc. etc. On April 16th we had a dog bite here in Town. The owner was bitten, Sherry responded to that. The Sherrif's department was also there to make a report on the occurrence. On May 14th there was a complaint that was brought to the Town Hall about a dog that had attacked the neighbor's chicken coop next door trying to get into, obviously to eat the chickens, but she was also concerned that the dogs were being rather aggressive, so the State Troopers actually responded to that. On May 18th Sherry received two calls about a Pit Bull that was loose on Liberty Street, the owner was found. On May 19th she got a call about a lost dog. I don't have any more information about that. On May 21st there was a call about a barking dog. She called the owner and the husband said he was going try to take care of the barking so we'll see where that goes. We got a call over the weekend, that Jeff and I are aware of, of a dog bite here in the Hamlet and the Sherrif has been called in for that as well. We got no resolution to that case. And on May 28th Sherry got a call on her phone that just said, and she thinks it may have come from New Baltimore, can you find Barney? So we've told her that if we see a purple dinosaur wandering

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the streets of New Baltimore we will let her know immediately. And that's for Animal Control for today.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, I think it's is a step in the right direction. There's one thing I keep thinking to myself each time you made a report about a dog here or a dog there, were they licensed? I'm not hearing so maybe that could be added to it.

Councilmember Kash: In some cases. I have spoken to Barb about this and Amanda knows this as well, that we do have a database here where Barb and Amanda can look up to see whether the dogs are licensed. The problem that we've had in looking up one of the last ones is that the complainant does not have the name of the person with the dogs. We could not find whether the animals at that particular address were licensed and without a name.

Supervisor Ruso: But when you fins a missing dog, or when Sherry finds a missing dog, here it is and okay are you licensed?

Councilmember Downes: Can you show me your license?

Supervisor Ruso: Or can we look it up because by then I would hope we would have their last name. In that case I know what you mean, I know all about that one. So I've been looking at the Town Code and I don't see, there is no incentive to license your dog. You license you dog you get charged \$7. You don't license your dog, and if your dog is caught later on and we have to do all the tracking and perhaps even housing, you know what your charges are? According to our Town Code there are no charges. So I think we need to probably look at that.

Councilmember Kash: Right. We have to do more outreach. Sometimes people don't even know that they have to have their dogs licensed, and one thing I forgot to mention...

Supervisor Ruso: It is a state law.

Councilmember Kash: Yes. About the clinic, when we have the spay and neuter clinic, and we have the one hour where people can bring their dogs and cats to get their distemper or rabies shots, on the advice of the Town Clerk and Amanda over there, we are telling people that if they want to bring their dogs in to participate in the vaccine clinic they need to bring proof of licensing and if they aren't licensed, they can come in ahead of time to get that done. But Amanda and Barb have also offered to do that on site on the day of the event so that people...

Ann Marie Vadney: That may stop people from coming in if they are nervous so if they do it on site that might be helpful.

Councilmember Kash: Yes, they can do that and they will have that option.

Supervisor Ruso: They are afraid to license their dog? I'll just go to a previous time when we did have the rotating rabies clinics to the various towns, Barb was at Medway typically. She was there and if you were a New Baltimore resident, you filled out the form, \$7 and that was I except if they're not spayed or neutered then its \$15. I think it's \$15. Doesn't matter. Nevertheless, we don't do that, we just have it down at the Angelo Canna Park and they do it like three or four times a year. Any thought of bringing it back out to the Towns?

County Legislator Linger: It was up to the vet actually.

Councilmember Downes: We lost the vet that was doing it.

County Legislator Linger: It was the vet's decision.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright well I recall a better time when we would have it done here and I don't think people were reluctant to bring their dog in because Barb was there to license them. I don't think so.

Audience Member: I'm wondering if they need to be told there is no penalty if they show up with an unlicensed dog.

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Supervisor Ruso: Right and my thought is actually the opposite, because if there is no penalty, why bother?

Councilmember VanEtten: If you register them late there is a penalty. What is it Amanda, \$5?

Deputy Clerk Eldred: Late to register?

Councilmember VanEtten: To register your dog.

Supervisor Ruso: But if they never register there is no late fee.

Deputy Clerk Eldred: But if they lose their dog or it bites someone it's worse in court.

Supervisor Ruso: When's the last time we had a dog bite go to court?

Councilmember VanEtten: Oh God in the Hamlet it sounds like a lot.

Supervisor Ruso: Let's move on. We don't want to be here all day.

Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley

May monthly report 4/24-5/29/24. 60 gallons of plastic 12, 14 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 40 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 98 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, 1 Air Conditioner 5/8.

Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for April, 2024 is as follows. Building inspections 26, Building permits issued 6, Building permits renewed 3, Certificates of compliance issued 3, Certificates of occupancy issued 1, Certificates of occupancy search requests 3, Demolition permits applications received 1, Fireworks sale tent permit application request 1, New Septic System Application 1, Pool Permit Applications 1, Pool Permits Issued 1, Roof Top Solar Permits Issued 2, Total New Permit Applications Received 10, New Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance 8, Open Building Permits 226. Application Fees for April, 2024: \$1,360.50 Total Fees for Year to Date: \$6,554.65

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement Member Nick Dellisanti

The regular meeting was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. There were 14 EMS calls in April, for a total of 80 for this year 2024. Strokes 5, Overdoses 8, Narcan 2, We had 171 calls for all of 2023.

Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer

Cut 5 large trees with tree company, one at Highway Garage and 4 on Saw Mill Road. Finished removing old blacktop at intersection of Roberts Hill and High Rock Road. Mowed all parks as needed. Built new walkway from parking lot to pavilion at District 2 park. Cut rebates on Saw Mill Road and had road swept by Village of Ravena. Painted 1997 International plow truck Truck # 14. Replaced left front brake caliper on 2011 F350. Picked up new fenders for Lawn Mower Trailer and installed. Put water tank on 2006 F350 for paving 4/29 paved Saw Mill Road with true and level course. 4/30 paved Saw Mill Road with top course. Washed John Deere Backhoe and loader. Cleaned ditches and removed shoulders on Dugway Lane. Backed up driveways on Saw Mill Road with Item 4. Picked up trash bags on Hillcrest Road and Alcove Road. 5/4 took part in Cornell Hook and Ladder Community Day. Picked up excavator from Dug Way Lane, and moved to East Honey Hollow Road. Put up new flags at all parks and Town Hall, thank you to the Village of Coxsackie Highway Department for getting the tattered flag down at Cornell Park. Cleaned ditched and removed shoulders on East Honey Hollow Road. Put up paving signs on Featherbed Lane. Repaired lawn on Mill Street that was washed out due to a plugged culvert. Repaired hydraulic oil leak on 1991 International truck number 12. Began Roadside mowing. Picked up large glass table dumped on Sunset Hill Road Straightened signs on various roads. Checked over all trucks for paving. Replaced some blades on Case international mower. Changed water filter at Town Hall. Patched large holes at entrance to WWTP with blacktop. Patched large area at Entrance to Lydon Lane with blacktop. Three trucks worked with Town of Coxsackie paving. Picked up orange bags from roadside cleanups

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2 bags West Deans Mill Road. 3 bags and 5 tires Sodom Road. 2 bags Rt. 26. 5/21 Town of Athens swept Featherbed Lane for us before paving. Replaced blades on small zero steer and John Deere Lawn mowers. 5/23 Started paving Featherbed Lane with help from Town of Coxsackie, Town of Athens Village of Coxsackie, Town of Catskill, Town of Greenville, Town of Durham, and Greene County Highway. 5/28 finished paving Featherbed Lane with above help Moved picnic tables, trash cans, and truck for garbage to Ag-Fest. Mowed Saw Mill Road before AgFest. Small Roadside mower broke down needs parts including Hydraulic motor witch will cost \$2200.00. Patched some holes at District 1 park.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 89-2024
MAY 30, 2024

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO PURCHASE FUEL OIL PER GREENE COUNTY RESOLUTION 183-24

WHEREAS on Greene County Legislature advertised for bids in the *Times Union*, the *Mountain Eagle*, and the County website for the furnishing of fuel, two bids were received, and the lowest responsible bidder meeting all specs was determined.

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 408-a of the New York State County Law, and any other political subdivisions, fire company or district may receive the Tank Car Price \$2.6197, Delivery Charge \$0.2785, Total Cost Per Gallon \$2.8982. The bid price is subject to increase or decrease during the Contract period corresponding with the changes in the reseller's posted tank car price at the port of Albany as published in the Oil Price Daily for the date of delivery.

RESOLVED the Town Board hereby authorizes the purchase of fuel oil at the contract price offered by Greene County Resolution 183-24 for one year from June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025 from Main-Care Oil Co., Inc.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso and seconded by Councilmember Downes.

Supervisor Ruso: Its's heating oil for the Highway garage, it's not Town Hall

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 90-2024
MAY 30, 2024

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO PURCHASE MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES BY GREENE COUNTY RESOLUTION 195-24

WHEREAS the Greene County Highway and Solid Waste Superintendent advertised for bids in the *Times Union* and *Mountain Eagle* for various materials and supplies to be used in the maintenance, construction and reconstruction of County roads and bridges under the jurisdiction of the County Highway Superintendent for one year.

RESOLVED the Town Board hereby authorizes the purchase of materials and supplies at the contract price offered by Greene County Resolution 195-24 for one year from May 22, 2024 to May 21, 2025.

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Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten and Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 91-2024

MAY 30, 2023

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO
PURCHASE WASHED AND SCREENED CRUSHED STONE
BY GREENE COUNTY RESOLUTION 197-24**

WHEREAS the Greene County Highway and Solid Waste Superintendent advertised for bids in the *Times Union* and *Mountain Eagle* for washed and screened crushed stone to be used in the maintenance, construction and reconstruction of County roads and bridges under the jurisdiction of the County Highway Superintendent for one year.

RESOLVED the Town Board hereby authorizes the purchase of washed and screened crushed stone at the contract price offered by Greene County Resolution 197-24 for one year from May 22, 2024 to May 21, 2025.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten

The Planning Board met on May 9 with the following business transacted, Public Hearing was held on the Marie Cross Ostoyich Minor Subdivision Application. In the Regular Monthly Meeting that followed, Old Business; the Ostoyich Minor Subdivision was approved. Continued discussion with New Baltimore Sunny Farms, LLC authorized representatives regarding their three Minor Subdivision Applications. All three applications were revised from two lots to three lots because of the railroad passing through the lots creating the third lot. Revised sketch maps were presented. The parcels, even though subdivided, will remain landlocked parcels. Thus, pursuant to Chapter 50, Sub-Section 7 of our Town Code, the Board waived the need for a Public Hearing on the applications and approved the subdivisions with condition that final maps be presented for signature and stamping. New Business: Discussed with Sunny Bates and Santos Rodriguez their plans for an amateur radio antenna system and the paperwork they have submitted to date. It was determined that a Site Plan would need to be completed bringing together the Site Plan information appearing on several documents as presented. Discussion will be continued at June meeting if required Site Plan is ready for presentation. Alan Lord from New York Land and Lakes Development, LLC Realty came before the Board with Major Subdivision Application and sketch plan maps for a 10-lot subdivision of the former Schoenborn property located in the Town on east side of Route 51 south of intersection with Route 26 and along both sides of Route 26. Mr. Lord advised the Board that New York Land and Lakes Development has purchased all the former Schoenborn Associates property in both the Town of New Baltimore and the Town of Coxsackie and will be subdividing the parcels which will result in around 50 new building lots. Mr. Lord will be back before the Board in two or three months with maps drawn after further survey work on property is completed. The Board reviewed the proposals received from Engineering firms for the proposed U.S. Route 9W Light Industrial and Warehouse Project and for Cheema Petrol LLC proposed gas station and convenient store. The Board's Engineer recommendations for the two projects are being sent to the Town Board for required authorization.

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Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Bill Boehlke

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on May 1 and continued discussion with Michael Carroll and Brad Jourdin (AJC Green Solutions, LLC) regarding Use Variance Application for their mulch/compost site proposed for 1881 River Road. Public Hearing on the Application will be held 7 p.m., June 5.

Seniors

Councilmember VanEtten: We just had the Senior Picnic which is scheduled for September 5th at 12 Noon at Cecil Hallock Park

Technology/Website

Supervisor Ruso: We are looking at some upgrades but not quite ready to announce it because I haven't gotten absolute confirmation.

Town Courts

The following is the Town of New Baltimore Court monthly report for April 2024.

- Total April monies received was \$14,643.00
 - Justice Huff \$ 8,847.00
 - Justice Konsul \$ 5,796.00
- Total 2024 monies received (January-April) \$55,740.50
- Total new cases received 113

State Report not available

Supervisor Ruso: We are looking at the purchase of an Owl. The Owl camera system and it will sit here and it has three cameras and it will focus the camera and the microphone to those who are speaking.

Councilmember Kash: Picture an owl moving its head around and looking at everyone.

Supervisor Ruso: It's called an owl, it doesn't look like one. It will focus on people. We're looking at the purchase of that and we're actually looking to have it in place by the 19th of June.

Ann Marie Vadney: Can it transcribe?

Supervisor Ruso: No, no, it doesn't.

Ann Marie Vadney: So we will still have to listen to a...

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, well, until further notice let's crawl before we walk okay and we'll get there.

Veterans

Councilmember VanEtten: The Veteran's Picnic is July 28th at 12 Noon at Cecil Hallock Park.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Report

A site visit/meeting was held on May 15th at the WWTP with the following participants:

- Chief WWTP Operator: Lou Betke
- Town Board members: Supervisor Jeff Ruso and Council Person Debra Sottolano
- Highway Department: Superintendent Alan Van Wormer and Deputy Superintendent/Foreman Scott Van Wormer
- Delaware Engineering: Robert Flores

The purpose of this site visit was to have Alan and Scott discuss/view the WWTP tasks that the highway department will be assisting on, which include Tasks 3, 7 and 9;

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See any task updates below:

<i>2024 Tasks</i>	<i>Status Update</i>
1. Calibrate the flow meter used to provide data for submitting discharge monitoring report electronically to the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES), as is required annually for the SPDES permit.	<i>Completed</i>
2. Digitizing sewer maps.	<i>Completed</i>
3. Removal of older headworks grinding equipment and replacement with a new mechanical screen.	<i>Update: Highway Dept to assist once Task 7 is completed; Screen purchase: Board will be voting on a bid advertisement for screen with preferred specs</i>
4. Install a shed structure over the headworks grinding equipment to protect it from environmental impacts.	<i>Update: Necessary specs under development; To be purchased upon completion of task #3</i>
5. Continue announcements to the public regarding the damages to WWTP equipment caused by the flushing of wet wipes that are actually not disposable.	<i>Initial announcements completed; additional to be distributed with sewer bills.</i>
6. Expand alarm systems and alerting capacity.	<i>Initial discussions with vendor (Time Warmer)</i>
7. Investigate the sanitary sewer collection system - Coordinate manhole inspections required for SPDES permit and flushing of any sewer lines identified with potential blockage after inspection.	<i>Update: Start date is expected to be the 2nd week of June</i>
8. Update the WWTP Process Control Plan. Compliance with effluent standards and cost reduction	<i>In progress</i>
9. Removing chains from the digester	<i>Update: Highway staff will be on site for safety and assistance to Mr. Betke</i>
10. Replace the concrete panels that serve as walkways/access to the Rotors with a non-rusting, fiberglass grating system.	<i>Currently identifying contractor.</i>
11. Post, interview, hire new part-time, WWTP operator due to resignation of current part-time operator.	<i>In progress</i>
12. Replace the roof of WWTP due to failing tiles and roofing materials.	<i>Currently identifying contractor</i>

Councilmember Sottolano: We had a site visit meeting on May 15th at the plant and we had Lou Betke who is the Chief Operator, we had Jeff Ruso and myself were there, and Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer and Deputy Superintendent Scott VanWormer were there, and also a representative from Delaware Engineering. The purpose really of the site visit was because we have several tasks that the Highway Department is going to assist us with on the work, of the overall work on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We have a number of tasks but I'm just gonna update on the ones we spoke about. I mentioned that we have screens that need to be replaced which grind up the stuff and clean it up and the Highway Department is going to assist on removing the old screens and put that in. So they came and they observed everything. We have to have an electrician come in and remove all the electrical stuff before they can kind of just take it out and leave it out. We're gonna be voting on a bid advertisement tonight for the new screen. We are going to have to install a shed over those new screens to keep it protected from the weather. One of the screens we're looking at actually has its own heating element which would protect it and keep the water from freezing which has been a problem at times. We're also gonna be investigating the sanitary sewer system very soon. Week after next the Highway Department is gonna be pulling the manhole covers looking for those that are clogged. The Fire Department is going to assist with flushing those lines and that's gonna be throughout the Town so that those will be clean and ready to go. And then finally, there's an old building that has an old device, it's called a digester but we're not needing that. There are chains on there and it's a very deep building so we need assistance from the Highway Department mainly for safety and assistance with the Chief Operator to make sure everything goes well with that so that's gonna save us

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some money because it will all be done inhouse rather than hiring someone to help us. And then we're gonna be hiring a new part-time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator as well.

Councilmember Downes: But it's not throughout the Town, it's throughout the Hamlet.

Councilmember Sottolano: Sorry I apologize. I did misspeak.

Councilmember Downes: It doesn't affect anyone up on the hill.

Councilmember Sottolano: I apologize.

Supervisor Ruso: I believe the building that is going to be covering the headworks that we have to build, there was some conversations we didn't need to have it heated because the sewage that comes in is already warmed up from being in your homes. So what did they say it is 55 degrees?

Councilmember Sottolano: Yeah, but then the new screen will also occasionally it does get cold if there's not a heavy flow of water it will freeze so we do need to protect it from freezing.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 92-2024
MAY 30, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR
MECHANICAL SCREEN REPLACEMENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE - NOTICE TO BIDDERS

**WWTP MECHANICAL SCREEN REPLACEMENT
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, GREENE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Town of New Baltimore until **Wednesday, June 26th, 2024** at 1:00 p.m. local time at the Town Clerk's Office, County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087, at which time and place said sealed bids will be publicly opened and read out aloud for "WWTP MECHANICAL SCREEN REPLACEMENT." No bids will be received or considered after the date/time stated above.

This work consists of installing a 3mm mechanical screen in the existing influent channel, along with a washer-compactor, including all associated preparation, and electrical work.

A Pre-Bid conference will not be held. Bidding contractors are strongly encouraged to visit the project site before submitting bids.

Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may be reviewed at the Town Clerk's Office, County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087 beginning on **Tuesday, June 4, 2024** in-person at the office during regular business hours.

A bid bond, certified check, or bank check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid must accompany the bid. Bids may not be withdrawn within forty-five (45) days after the closing date/time for receipt of all bids.

All proposals must be submitted by hard copy in a sealed envelope clearly marked:

(SEALED PROPOSAL)

WWTP MECHANICAL SCREEN REPLACEMENT

Performance and labor bonds are not required. There are no MWBE or AIS requirements.

The Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any informalities at its discretion, and to make such bid award that it deems is in the best interest of the Town of New Baltimore even if such award is to other than the lowest bidder.

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/s/JEFF RUSO
JEFFRY RUSO
Town Supervisor
Town of New Baltimore

Dated: Thursday, May 30th, 2024

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: This I received yesterday, today excuse me, as you can see by the date of this email from David. ‘Dear New Baltimore Town Board After conversations with Louis Betke and Jeff Russo I would like to modify my resignation.’ If those recall he had resigned completely. He is modifying his resignation. ‘To help along until another employee is hired I will work in a limited capacity a couple days a week and then after the position is secured, I will stay on as a backup employee.’ So he was going to be gone completely but he is going to reduce his hours. Furthermore, he’s going to continue beyond that in the event of an emergency, someone’s away, there is a flood down there. He’s still gonna stay on our payroll as basically an on-call employee, not as a regularly scheduled employee. So I think we will only need is a Motion to accept his modification of resignation. So I’ll make that Motion.

Councilmember Sottolano: I’ll second.

Councilmember Downes: I have a question. So his resignation was the 16th, we had a Board meeting the 13th.

Supervisor Ruso: Correct.

Councilmember Downes: So what’s been happening since the 16th till today?

Supervisor Ruso: I can tell you what happened. I was getting mixed signals because I came across Lou Betke, the Plant Operator, and I said ‘What’s going on?’ ‘Well, he’s thinking this and he’s thinking that’ and I know there was some outreach to Deb as well so I just said ‘I’m just gonna go the source. So I called David.’

Councilmember Sottolano: Right.

Supervisor Ruso: Just to find out what’s going on. So that’s the answer.

Councilmember Downes: So he’s been on the payroll since the 16th till today which now he’s told us he’s staying.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, that’s correct. That’s correct and the only way to fix it is to approve his continuity. That’s the issue we have here. Alright, so Motion made and seconded, any further discussion?

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: This doesn’t mean we don’t need to hire someone, we do.

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 93-2024
MAY 30, 2024

RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE HOURLY RATES OF PAYMENT FOR THE NEW BALTIMORE, CHIEF WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR AND THE NEW BALTIMORE PART-TIME TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

WHEREAS, a review of current, industry data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), GovSalaries and Indeed shows that the average, hourly rate of pay in New York State, for wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) operators, varies from 23.04/hr to \$29.73/hr, based on factors such as location, experience, and the specific town,

WHEREAS, the town recognizes that Louis Betke, who was appointed on January 1, 2024, and currently serves in the position of Chief Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator (part-time) for the Town of New Baltimore, possesses a Grade 3A certificate, issued under the provisions of the New York State Sanitary Code and is highly qualified and experienced in this field,

WHEREAS, the town recognizes that David Varade, who was appointed on January 1, 2024, and currently serves in the position of Part-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, under the supervision of the Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, and who possesses a Grade 2A certificate, issued under the provisions of the New York State Sanitary Code and is highly qualified and experienced in this field,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the hourly rate of pay for Louis Betke will be \$25.49/hour and the hourly rate of pay for David Varade will be \$22.00/hour for a combined total of 35 hours per week.

Motion by Councilmember Sottolano seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

Councilmember Downes: So where did this come from? Where did this all of a sudden come from? We are responsible to the Town people. This is not a personal business where we can just raise people's salaries. We went through this before with the Highway Department, now all of a sudden something's come up that we just are gonna raise people's salaries?

Ann Marie Vadney: What were they before?

Councilmember Sottolano: We recognized that the salaries were well below the standard and Jeff had...

Councilmember Downes: Six months later? Six months after he took the position, we decide that we're gonna pay him more?

Councilmember Sottolano: Because he's staying on. Because...

Councilmember Downes: No, but, so somebody says that they're gonna stay on, so what stops Amanda...

Councilmember Sottolano: That's not why.

Councilmember Downes: That's just what you said. You said because he decides to stay on.

Supervisor Ruso: That's not all of it.

Councilmember Downes: If Amanda decides to leave, what says that she can't go to us and we say 'okay then we'll just give you more money.'

Councilmember Sottolano: So what happened is...

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Councilmember Downes: This is a bad precedent.

Supervisor Ruso: They didn't come to us asking for more money.

Councilmember Sottolano: What happened in between was that we already voted to try to raise the salary of both the new person we will hire to the standards that are out there because we are well, well below them. And then after that we found out that David was going to stay and so we discussed whether or not we would give him that salary when he stayed.

Councilmember Downes: We didn't discuss. Wait a second. Who discussed? You and Jeff?

Supervisor Ruso: Deb and I and that's why it's here.

Councilmember Downes: Right, but the rest of the Board. This is the first time the rest of the Board has found out about it.

Councilmember Sottolano: Right.

Councilmember Downes: This is money and that's not fair just to make a decision by yourself that we need to raise.

Councilmember Sottolano: I didn't make it by myself.

Supervisor Ruso: She didn't make a decision by herself. That's why it's here.

Councilmember Downes: Yes, you did.

Councilmember Sottolano: No, I spoke to Jeff. I spoke to Nick.

Councilmember Downes: Any time we have a payroll or a personnel issue we go into Executive Session with all of us. This was a decision that you decided that we should do. That's not the way it's supposed to go.

Councilmember Sottolano: We are bringing it up.

Councilmember Downes: This is not your personal business. This is a government business.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, that's why we have a resolution before us here for voting.

Councilmember Sottolano: Exactly.

Councilmember Downes: We should have discussed this.

Councilmember Sottolano: Exactly. That's why we have the resolution. I thought discussing it in the public by presenting the facts.

Councilmember Downes: It's a personnel and payroll issue that should have been discussed for Executive Session where this came from.

Supervisor Ruso: In my own involvement, we had found out that our payroll rates were well below the standards and were concerned about being able to recruit, not just about who's on board and who's not.

Councilmember Sottolano: Exactly.

Supervisor Ruso: But I'm not just gonna hire a new person at a lower rate than people who've been here for years. That's a perspective that I have, that's me, so it's somewhat reflective here in the resolution.

Councilmember Downes: We didn't do it with the Highway Department but yet we're doing it for the Wastewater. I don't understand why we're going two different directions. That's not fair.

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Councilmember Sottolano: They are unionized though.

Councilmember Downes: No, we told them time and time again that we could not do that but now we've decided, or you've decided, that this is a good plan.

Councilmember Sottolano: I didn't decide. I just want to clear that I did not decide this on my own.

Supervisor Ruso: It's not decided. That's what the resolution is here.

Councilmember Sottolano: This was discussed with the Supervisor, the Deputy Supervisor, and I researched...

Councilmember Downes: Once again...

Councilmember Sottolano: I researched the information, I presented it to them in an email. I gave them all the facts that I found and we discussed whether or not that's how we wanted to go ahead and that's where we (unable to understand). I wrote the resolution so that everyone would see it and approve it in public and that's where we are.

Councilmember Downes: Once again that should have been in Executive Session where we discussed it before we went completely...

Councilmember Sottolano: That was not told to me when I presented the information.

Councilmember Downes: Well, no, because you don't, that's the problem.

Councilmember Sottolano: I don't what?

Councilmember Downes: You don't try to figure out how it's supposed to be done.

Councilmember Sottolano: I've tried very hard to figure out, Kelly, and I worked very hard on this and I spoke to people and I tried to do everything step by step the right way. So if there was supposed to be an Executive Session that was not told to me.

Supervisor Ruso: Ok. Time out. Time out. We didn't have an Executive Session, we did not. This was brought forth and I was involved in the conversation and I think I just described my perspective on this and I don't think I threw anyone under any bus. I'm not about to do that.

Councilmember Downes: I'm not saying you did that.

Supervisor Ruso: I really do believe that if we're not in keeping with industry standards that we adjust it accordingly and I do want to hire new people as well.

Councilmember Downes: So what are we gonna do about the clerks in the office because they're below industry standard too.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, I don't have that in front of me.

Councilmember VanEtten: Yeah, we don't know.

Supervisor Ruso: I don't have that in front of me.

Councilmember Downes: No, but you understand what I'm saying?

Supervisor Ruso: I understand what you're saying.

Councilmember Downes: We've got to make a decision if we're going by industry standards or everybody gets the same 2% raise that they've gotten all along. This is coming down the road, it's gonna be a problem. It's gonna be a problem and I'm sorry you don't see it, but it's gonna be a problem for everybody else in the Town.

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Supervisor Ruso: Any further discussion?

Councilmember Downes: And how much was this pay raise?

Councilmember VanEtten: Two dollars.

Supervisor Ruso: I think it's two dollars.

Councilmember Sottolano: I have it here.

Jeff Etu: The Highway department will go on strike. It's going to happen. Is this budgeted? Was this raise budgeted for the budget for this year?

Councilmember Downes: No.

Supervisor Ruso: Discussions amongst the Town Board only folks. This is not a public discussion. Carry on. Any other?

Councilmember Downes: So how much was it?

Councilmember VanEtten: Two something.

Supervisor Ruso: For David I think it's \$3.

Councilmember Sottolano: For Louis its \$3.37 an hour and for David it's \$4.13. The total additional cost for Lou's salary at the end of the year would be \$3,370 and for David's it would be \$3,097. However, the new person we hire may not be paid at that same rate if he doesn't have the same credentials as David so that may be a lesser value for that person. Kelly, I'm not disagreeing that we need to consider this going forward in the future but when we get to that situation where we are in that situation as you mention the clerks or others we would have to discuss that. This came up and this is how we had to handle it.

Councilmember Downes: They weren't leaving, they weren't leaving, we just made the decision to increase their pay. That's what was done. It wasn't that somebody was leaving and we needed to keep 'em, that wasn't it at all.

Councilmember Sottolano: We needed to replace him.

Councilmember Downes: We need to replace everybody that leaves, but we don't automatically up the pay scale. I mean that's what, \$6,000 more out of the Wastewater budget that we didn't budget for.

Supervisor Ruso: My figures aren't as high as that, but nevertheless its up there.

Councilmember Downes: That's the figures she just gave us, \$3,000 for...

Supervisor Ruso: I know I heard her. I said my figures. Okay, what I just said was my figures are not that high. Slightly less, I have about 20% less. Alright, carry on. This is getting interesting.

Councilmember Downes: We got to realize we are not a personal business. We're a government agency. We have to be responsible. It's not our money, it's the Townspeople's money and that's what we have to look at so...

Supervisor Ruso: Well, we can do two things. We have a resolution.

Councilmember Downes: We can just vote.

Supervisor Ruso: We have a Motion made, a Motion seconded. We can do two things, we can vote on it or we can table it. So, does anyone want to make a Motion to table this resolution?

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Councilmember Downes: Have we already told them that that’s what we’re doing?

Supervisor Ruso: No, I haven’t told them this, but nevertheless it doesn't matter if they were told this.

Councilmember Downes: Well, it does. It’s not the right thing to do if they were told.

Supervisor Ruso: Do I have a Motion to, so that further discussions can be had, is there a Motion to table this?

Councilmember Downes: Go ahead and vote.

Supervisor Ruso: Ok, so then I’ll call for a vote.

Councilmember Kash: This is to pass it not to table it, right?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, to pass it.

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS: Downes

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: I might as well say Aye. I was going to abstain because I do want to have further discussions, but I wasn’t going to do that if I was the only one interested. I’m not going to talk to myself about it.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 94-2024
MAY 30, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF
PART-TIME WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR**

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of Part-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator in the Town of New Baltimore,

RESOLVED, the wording of the advertisement has been approved by the Attorney for the Town and following approval of the within Resolution by the Town Board, the following advertisement will be submitted to the Town Clerk for publication in The Albany Times Union for seven (7) consecutive days in the public notices section, with additional copies posted on the Town sign board and on the Town website:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore is seeking persons interested in being appointed to the position of Part-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Operator.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: Has responsibility during an assigned shift, for the operation and maintenance of a WWTP, performed under the general supervision of the Chief WWTP Operator.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Starts, stops pumps and makes minor repairs to pumps, motors, air compressors, and related mechanical and electrical machinery and equipment;
- Records readings from meters, scales, gauges; Maintains log of plant operations and related records;
- Treats and disposes of sludge; Operates trickling filters; Adds chlorine to sewage;
- Samples sewage for testing; Makes necessary tests for control of plant operations;
- Performs custodial duties in connection with maintenance of buildings and grounds, including simple, manual labor activities needed at the WWTP.

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must possess a strong, working knowledge, and at least one year of satisfactory experience with the actual operation of a WWTP, the necessary practices and equipment used, and the following education/training and personal characteristics:

- Current and valid license(s) from the New York State Department of Health, or any other necessary agency for sewer plant operation;
- Completion of an appropriate course of instruction approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation
- Possession of or eligibility for a Grade 2 or 2A certificate issued under the provisions of the NYS Sanitary Code at the time of appointment
- Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma;
- Ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions; mechanical aptitude; alertness and dependability;
- Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position

HOURLY RATE: \$20 - \$22, depending upon applicant experience; approximately 20 hours/week.

HOW TO APPLY: A letter of intent for the position and a resume should be sent or delivered to Town Clerk Barbara Finke at New Baltimore Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087 and must be received by the close of business on June 17, 2024.

All qualified applicants will be considered and interviewed for the position.

Supervisor Ruso: That's our resolution and that will be our advertisement, two full pages. It's gonna cost probably \$1,500 because this is how government does it.

Anne Marie Vadney: Ouch.

Councilmember Downes: Really?

Supervisor Ruso: It is. I compressed this down to one paragraph. It was rejected because that's not how a government does it.

Councilmember Sottolano: That came from Greene County Civil Service and I cut it back a page at least from them too.

Supervisor Ruso: And I sent it to the Attorney with the cut down version and she sent it back to me, says 'no you got to put all that stuff in there.' So, and this person is going to work not quite 20 hours a week, but it should say up to. It's gonna be more than 15, but nevertheless that's our advertisement. It's a pretty big one.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano

AYES: Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS: Ruso

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Nay, only because I object to this. I just think it's stupid.

Councilmember Downes: Didn't we already put that in like a long time ago?

Councilmember Sottolano: Yeah, but the date to submit was May 29th so they had to do it again.

Councilmember Downes: So we knew we didn't have somebody.

Supervisor Ruso: We never got an applicant with the last one.

Councilmember VanEtten: Yeah, that's the problem.

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Water Districts Report

Supervisor Ruso: I know that Chairperson Kash and Sottolano are part of the Water District, but some of this dialogue happens because I was here when this happened on the 1st of June, 2020 and it's an informational meeting with Mary Beth Bianconi from Delaware Engineering and residents of Water District #2 at 6:30 PM at Town Hall. So, I just want to say that's why they reached out to me because I was the lead person on this so you understand.

Councilmember Kash: Then you and I, Jeff, we had a good background meeting about a month ago.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, we discussed it.

Councilmember Kash: You gave me background on it which I appreciated.

Supervisor Ruso: We have some ARPA money. We have some information about the replacement of much of the water main. As a quick reminder, the water main that cost the residents of that district \$330-some-odd-thousand dollars is in place but that was only the section of pipe that is actually under the Thruway. It was 100 years old but the sections of pipe on the west side and east side of the Thruway are still the 100-year-old pipe. Ready to go. So, the ARPA money we have is going to go towards replacement and we're looking at foot by foot. I don't think the money we have is going to replace the entirety of it, but if we can get one side or much of both sides, I don't know how, Delaware Engineering is here going to explain some of it to us. We already know that the State agencies have weighed in on this already and oh gosh what the name of this state agency?

Councilmember Sottolano: DEC?

Supervisor Ruso: It's not DEC. It's an agency that wants to have an archaeological review so in order to put the pipe in at the place where the current pipe exists it's gonna cost probably \$6-7,000 just for that.

Legislator Linger: SHPO?

Supervisor Ruso: I can't remember the name. Typically, it used to be that it was fresh ground work and not if you replacing something, but the ground was already disturbed when they put this 100-year-old pipe in. And the pipe will, unfortunately, it will not be able to follow the same path as the old pipe because people's homes and dwellings and buildings have been built over the old pipe because nobody knew where it was. It was there. There's a barn over it right now. In order to replace the pipe we've got to take his barn down. We aren't going to do that. That's the informational meeting. It's here on the 19th at 6:30 and maybe we'll have our OWL here to display. Okay, it's an informational meeting, it's not quite the same as every other meeting we have. There will be no minutes and of the like.

Youth, Parks and Recreation Report

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes to refund Park Deposit for cancelled event on May 11th at Cecil Hallock Park for William Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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Upcoming Meetings

- June 1-2, 2024 AgFest as VanEtten Farm
- June 5, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- June 10, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- June 13, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- June 19, 2024 Public Information Meeting with Mary Beth Bianconi from Delaware Engineering and Residents of Water District 2 at 6:30 PM at Town Hall
- June 24, 2024 Town Board Work Meetat 7 PM
- July 28, 2024 Veterans Committee Picnic at 12 Noon at Cecil Hallock Park, Rain Location at Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company on Gill Road
- September 5, 2024 Senior Picnic at 12 PM at Cecil Hallock Park
- September 21, 2024 Townwide Yard Sale Beginning at 9 AM
- October 5, 2024 Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic at Town Hall, Pre-Registration Required at jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org

Public Comment Period/Community Events

Ellie Alfeld: The reason I wanted to speak to the Board was I received the Greene County Round Table News. I don't know how many of you gets it, how many of you know about it, but its available to any Greene County senior person and its because I was going through it I understand the youth employment program of SYP has youth opportunities for employment for July and August and this is for Columbia Greene Workforce Investment Office has begun recruiting process for youth between the ages of 14 and 20 in Columbia and Greene counties for the summer youth employment program. This has a lot to do with summer programs which we are not going to have this year and I understand completely because of lack of volunteers that are available for the employment. However, I think it would be appropriate for New Baltimore to get on the list of people who would be willing to do the paperwork to hire this kids that we can't get from our own local. They are doing the housework (unable to understand) for approximately 20 hours per week earning a minimum wage of \$15 per hour. I think its something that we should look into, now maybe as I understand, Shelly, it's kinda late in the day for this but I think it should be on the agenda for thought of maybe looking to get somebody else if you can get the workers, that's what you need. However, I think it's a balancing act here. I was not exactly happy with paying \$100,000 for each park or thereabout for all the equipment for all the kids and what have you. That is District 1, Hallock Park, and District 3. If we are going to have these parks outfitted for the kids, let's see if we can get a little bit more of the kids involved.

Councilmember VanEtten: I do have to say the taxpayers did not pay for a dime of it. It was all done by grant.

Ellie Alfeld: I didn't say anything about who paid for what and I'm not going to get into an argument about who did pay it. I'm saying that one way or another you got the parks, how many people do you see coming and using the parks?

Councilmember VanEtten: Oh, a lot. Quite a bit as I drove down to District 2 tonight, there was quite a few people there playing on the equipment.

Ellie Alfeld: And are they for Owls?

Councilmember VanEtten: No, there was no baseball game, it was just kids playing in the park, and I understand that park is busy quite a bit.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, it may very well be busy, that's all well and good and before I'm gonna make another pitch for all the seniors this is the magazine that comes out once a month. It is available for seniors. It's got menus that...

Supervisor Ruso: You need to address the Board with your comments, its not for the public. Please proceed.

Ellie Alfeld: Okay Board, I'm addressing you.

Supervisor Ruso: You were turning the other way so we're trying to follow protocols here.

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Ellie Alfeld: Excuse me.

Supervisor Ruso: It's okay.

Councilmember Kash: That is posted on the Town's website I think. I did see that the other day.

Supervisor Ruso: It has been but don't know if that one was.

Ellie Alfeld: New Baltimore is on this as well.

Supervisor Ruso: Next, we have Ms. Ann Marie Vadney and she says she wants to be talking about consistency.

Ann Marie Vadney: Well, no there is something else. First thing was the dogs. How much money do we make on dog licenses and what happens to that money? Does the Town keep it?

Supervisor Ruso: This is a Public Comment Period so please make your comment. It is not a public questionnaire period. This is a public comment period and I'm going to stick with that and I'm trying to stick with the three-minute rule.

Ann Marie Vadney: And I understand you are so I will do a FOIL to find that out and then I will make a public comment about that.

Supervisor Ruso: If you call me I can tell you what the monies are by the way.

Ann Marie Vadney: Okay, I'll call you. Just curious because sometimes I know our court fees we only get to keep a small part of that as well as many other fees that are charged. And consistency, I understand that we have to increase salaries because we're below but I do think that maybe it would be a good idea to look at all our salaries now before you guys get hit with people saying, 'okay I'm not the national, the state, whatever average salary' because consistency is good.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you.

Councilmember Kash: Supervisor, may I just make one announcement before we do the Audit of Claims.

Supervisor Ruso: Please go ahead.

Councilmember Kash: This is not a Town-sponsored event but I did want everybody to know that hopefully on July 14th, which is a Sunday, my husband, I, and our friend, Brian Melick, are working on putting together the New Baltimore Music and Arts Festival. Again this year with vendors, we hope ten bands. It will be at Wyche Park, probably run 2 to 6 in the afternoon. If we get rained out, like we did last year, we're going to try it on July 21st. So, I'll be sending out some information with that about all of that and everybody is welcome.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 95-2024
MAY 30, 2024

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO PAY AUDITED CLAIMS

WHEREAS the Town Clerk has presented claims to the Town Board for audit and review, and

WHEREAS the Town Board has audited claims 2024b-05-01 to 2024b-05-47, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2024b-05-01 to 2024b-05-47.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until June 30, 2024.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

General \$27,766.94, Highway \$8,032.83, Sewer \$1,659.38, Total \$37,858.75

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO
Town Clerk