

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
AGENDA**

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment Period

New Business

- Resolution to Authorize the Supervisor to Sign Renewal Agreement with MVP Health Care Insurance
- Resolution to Place Advertisement for Members of the Board of Assessment Review
- Resolution to Place Advertisement for Part-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator
- Resolution to Authorize Councilmember Sottolano to Attend 2024 Planning and Zoning School in East Syracuse, New York
- Audit of Claims

Upcoming Meetings

- September 12, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- September 21, 2024 Townwide Yard Sale Beginning at 9 AM
- September 23, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- September 25, 2024 Presentation of the 2025 Tentative Budget
- October 2, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- October 5, 2024 Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic at Town Hall, Pre-Registration Required at jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org
- October 10, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7:30 PM
- October 16, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- October 28, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

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.

This policy will be amended by Majority vote of the Town Board.

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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; Michelle Storm, Esq.; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; Town Clerk Finke; Highway Superintendent VanWormer; and 13 members of the public who signed the attendance book.

Public Comment Period

Betty Lord: The quickest way I can do this is read to you the letter that I was told to send to the Tax Department. But in 2022 I discovered I didn't get my STAR enhancement discount or credit for my taxes and came here twice with my paperwork, my application. There wasn't an Assessor here so one time I was told, I didn't even have an envelope, 'put your paperwork under the door.' No one was here. The second time I came back because I had to add my tax return for the previous year for it. Nobody was here again. I was told 'well, put your paperwork on the desk.' There was no Assessor. When I went into the room, I guess they were in transition for an Assessor, there was boxes piled from ceiling to the floor, the desk was covered with boxes. Anyway, so when my taxes came due in September I called again why I wasn't gonna get it. I was told over the phone a number of times, not sure who I talked to because I've never really come up here and dealt with the staff at the Town Hall, never had a reason to, and now it's a few years ago so. But I was told at the time 'oh, well, you weren't eligible for tax credit for the enhancement because your birthday was in August and you're not eligible until the following March after your birthday' and I couldn't argue the fact because I said I've had elderly neighbors for years bragging to me about you know how much less taxes they were paying than me once they turned 65 so I was looking forward to it and the reason...

Supervisor Ruso: Can I stop you for a sec. I don't like to interrupt you, but cause I was a little confused when we spoke on the phone and I'm not certain now, when did you submit all this stuff? What year was this because I was a little confused when we spoke?

Betty Lord: '22. You submit it in '22, it was probably the middle of February before March 1, and then when I got my school tax in September then it would have been credited on there.

Supervisor Ruso: I wasn't sure what year you were speaking of.

Betty Lord: Okay so in '22 I did not get it and you know I paid my taxes cause they were due and I had to in January the same. The following year my sister turned 65 in August and she submitted her paperwork I said 'you're not gonna get in because they're gonna tell you you're not eligible til the following March after your birthday.' Sure enough she got it so that's when I realized that it an error, I should have got it. Came in here, talked to Dawn. Dawn couldn't find any of my paperwork in the folder and said 'um I don't know,' says 'all I can tell you is to call the Tax Department and see what they can do to help to resolve it.' So they told me to write a letter to the Resolution Unit. I wrote that September 18 of 2023. Okay, now I'm confused. Anyway, I'll try to make this quick. I gave her my social security number, spoke with Katy in the Tax Department of Tax & Finance and regarding my school tax or my taxes for the STAR enhancement program rebate from '22, that's why this is dated '23, because my sister turned 65 in '23, I turned in '22. She got hers and that's when I realized I knew I was supposed to get mine. So she checked the records on the computer and informed me that I was indeed eligible for the STAR enhancement rebate for '22, but my application failed to be submitted. I had submitted my application form for the STAR enhancement program, brought my license and my New York State tax return from '21 to the Town of New Baltimore's Tax Assessor's Office twice by March of '22 and I already told you I was told to leave it on the desk or slide it under the door once. Anyway, I called the Tax Assessor's Office several times after receiving my school tax bill. Again was told I wasn't eligible, this time I did never spoke with Dawn on the phone. I have to say since Dawn has taken over she had been very helpful, did everything she could. Okay so they told me that you know well I wasn't eligible because I didn't turn 65 until the month of March following my 65th birthday. That was August 26 of '57. And so I said apparently they were misinformed at the Town Clerk's Office and my paperwork was never submitted. So then I told you how I found out the error when my sister got hers. So they

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advised me at the Tax Department to send this cover letter and copy of my paid school tax bill from '22, along with the letters from the Town of New Baltimore Assessor's Office, and then the letter that they had me send was they call it a 'Intend of Good Cause Program' is to grant the exemption of seniors who missed the deadline for sufficient reasons, says if the determination is made too late to revise the school tax bill, the Resolution Unit after it's all resolved is supposed to issue you a differential check to the property owner. I just didn't make it clear I live at 129 Kings Road, Town of New Baltimore. I've paid my taxes on time for over 45 years. I'm asking for, now I've been going through this for a year to try to get this resolved and try to get somewhere and I spoke with, the Tax Department told me to call County Legislature which is Pat Linge

Councilmember VanEtten: Linger.

Betty Lord: And he wasn't happy about it, and said you know 'I don't want the responsibility, I don't want this ever to be on my office, go back to Town of New Baltimore, speak to the Town Supervisor, speak to Dawn again, and see what they can do about it.' I've printed some stuff off of the internet from Tax and Finance, says I have three years to dispute this. Then here you have other stuff I printed, delayed enhanced STAR application due to good cause in the letter. This says again that once it's resolved they will either send a differential check or they can also credit your following year tax. Then I have this other information correction of errors. This is where it says you got up to three years. Now I had Dawn copy all of this so she has copies of it all and she also sent it email to your email address and also to the Town Attorney who I've never met.

Michelle Storm, Esq.: Hi.

Supervisor Ruso: She's right here.

Betty Lord: And, hi, I'm sorry I didn't say hi and introduce myself.

Supervisor Ruso: You did already.

Betty Lord: I don't have a lot of experience with public speaking but when you told me I had three minutes.

Supervisor Ruso: It's okay, you're already at eight.

Betty Lord: I'm running.

Supervisor Ruso: So we blew past that, but you're a unique and new customer here.

Betty Lord: It also says you know that the State will pay in full amounts STAR exemptions if the tax roll and bill are corrected. The Tax Department's not gonna correct it without help from the Town Assessor. So I mailed and faxed everything to them. They did receive it.

Councilmember Downes: When you say 'they,' do you mean Dawn or the Tax Department?

Betty Lord: It was the Tax Department.

Supervisor Ruso: It was the Tax Department, New York State.

Betty Lord: New York State. You send everything to it's called ORPS STAR Resolution Unit and for tax bills and you can only send letters. I mean I looked online, I spoke to someone on the phone, I worked there for two years in the Tax Department in 2010 so luckily I knew some of their employees, but there's no way of getting through to them on the telephone. There's no email addresses. There's no manager you can speak to. There is no message machine that you can leave any one of them to call you. This is it. You write them a letter and then you get a

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letter back which you never get to deal with any of them. What I was told to do is to fill out these forms, like I said Dawn has copies of all of it because she faxed it for me. They said to send this form application for State Board Review of Tax Department Determination of STAR Exemption Ineligibility. That was one letter. Request for Conciliation Conference which I expected that's what I was gonna get when I send them all the information. You know they call you in and you have a little meeting there and you get to tell them exactly what happened instead of just this one letter, but I sent these in when I got this Notice of Determination of '22 STAR Exemption Ineligibility that they were disallowing any request for additional payment and because they had not received my enhanced STAR application on file by deadline which I do have, I don't have stamped copies, there was no one here to stamp my copies that I brought them in.

Supervisor Ruso: I think that gets to the core of the issue. Now if I may ask, the STAR has kicked in and you are now getting it. Is that correct?

Betty Lord: Yes. I have copies of my...

Supervisor Ruso: Okay and so what you're discussing here is the STAR discount for lack of another word?

Betty Lord: Yeah, they call it a credit.

Supervisor Ruso: As it relates to September '22 school taxes. Did you receive it on behalf of January '23 Town taxes?

Betty Lord: '23, no, not the Town tax either.

Supervisor Ruso: What about the school taxes for '23?

Betty Lord: For '23 I received it and I just received my school tax for this year and it's on there also so I received it for this year. But it's '22 that and you know, of course, when I come up to Dawn I was like 'you have all my paperwork. it's all sent in' 'yeah, everything is taken care of now.'

Supervisor Ruso: I have talked to the Attorney last year regarding this particular case and he, I'm trying to recall perfectly well, but he didn't, I think the biggest issue here is there is no documentation. That's at the heart of the whole thing.

Betty Lord: It's missing,

Supervisor Ruso: There's no documentation.

Betty Lord: I have it. I mean I have mine, but I don't have a stamped copy.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, there's nothing...

Betty Lord: And what I brought here is...

Supervisor Ruso: Who knows?

Betty Lord: Where to go.

Supervisor Ruso: And you don't recall who you spoke to when you dropped these things off?

Betty Lord: No, because like I said I...

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Supervisor Ruso: Because I did ask everybody I could think of and nobody knows anything about what I asked.

Betty Lord: A couple different times you know this.... Are they remembering two years ago, I mean I'm having my own problem remembering except for all this...

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, right. Well I asked them last year. I asked them in '23.

Betty Lord: Well, even so I can't tell you the name of. I can't tell you if it was Barb Finke. Let's see there was one girl I knew here that was Diane Jordan, but she...

Supervisor Ruso: So Diane Jordan left in 2010?

Councilmember VanEtten: No, it wasn't that long ago.

Supervisor Ruso: What year was it, I can't remember?

Councilmember Kash: Three or four years ago.

Supervisor Ruso: At least three anyway.

Councilmember Kash: And the Tax Collector was merged with the ...

Supervisor Ruso: Oh, I meant 2020, I beg your pardon, 2020.

Councilmember VanEtten: I was gonna say that was a long time ago 2020.

Supervisor Ruso: 2020, ends in a zero.

Betty Lord: So Dawn has been extremely helpful, but said 'you know, that's it, there's nothing I can do about it without the documents.'

Supervisor Ruso: I'm not sure what we can do on your behalf here either particularly since the...

Betty Lord: But the problem is I brought my documents here. You see since Dawn has took over I get letters, I get stamped copies of everything from her. Prior to that I didn't. And did I expect this to happen? No.

Supervisor Ruso: Of course, of course not.

Betty Lord: Am I the only one it's ever happened to? Probably not according to Pat Linger. I don't know which county it's happened in, but the thing is if it was any one of yous, I mean we're talking about a lot of money. A lot. It's like \$2,000. So if it was any one of yous, wouldn't you want the credit and the money due to you that I have overpaid. So you know how they always say 'well everything can be fixed' well, there's got to be...

Supervisor Ruso: I wish I knew a way to fix it, I would be glad to, but I don't know about the STAR exemption that never got processed. Your taxes were paid to the school, the school is the one who received the money.

Betty Lord: And then where, (unable to understand).

Supervisor Ruso: For instance, the Town can't make you whole because we can't reimburse you for the money we didn't receive. So even if we could find a way to get that Enhanced STAR

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retrospectively credited, and I know that things were sent to New York State as well as the County, and nobody gave a solution that I know of. Do you have thoughts on this?

Betty Lord: I've been going through the year and...

Michelle Storm, Esq.: The reality is is that it doesn't fall on the Town Board. There's nothing the Town Board can do to rectify something that happened two years ago wherein you said you dropped papers off and there's no document that it was received by the Town. So there's literally nothing to do, but for...

Betty Lord: So if a staff makes an error then and not just at here at the Town but at any agency, I have no way of correcting it? I mean is that fair to the taxpayer?

Michelle Storm, Esq.: Well, I can't speak to any error that was made because it's your word versus no one's word versus no documentation of it being received so there's no way...

Betty Lord: I understand that.

Betty Lord: And would I go through all this for a year?

Supervisor Ruso: Well, we're not disputing her integrity.

Michelle Storm, Esq.: No, not at all, not at all, but factually we can't make something that we don't have appear. There's nothing that the Town can do. I mean New York State Tax and Finance can't even.

Betty Lord: Well, it does say they can. It does say that there's a correction and that I have three years for the correction.

Michelle Storm, Esq.: My understanding is that you drafted the documents to be dated for 2022, the copy that you replicated what you believed you dropped off, and I believe that you wanted the Assessor to sign off on that, the current Assessor.

Betty Lord: I don't know, what do you mean signoff?

Michelle Storm, Esq.: Well, what are you asking the Town to do?

Many speaking at once.

Michelle Storm, Esq.: You shouldn't even really be having a back and forth, but I'm trying to explain that I don't understand what's before the...

Betty Lord: I'm asking you for your help and that there should be some way to credit me back the taxes that I overpaid because...

Michelle Storm, Esq.: To the school.

Betty Lord: Well, and to the Town.

Michelle Storm, Esq.: Do you know what that number is for 2023?

Betty Lord: No, but I'm sure it's in your computer.

Michelle Storm, Esq.: Well, it's not in mine.

Supervisor Ruso: And I don't have it either certainly.

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Betty Lord: Well, every time I paid it was entered into the computer. If you pay late, you're paying interest.

Supervisor Ruso: It exists, yes. It would exist here in the Town.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: Dawn was here in 2022.

Supervisor Ruso: I know.

Betty Lord: Well, she told me that the office was in transition so that all this happened just before she was there.

Supervisor Ruso: Seems to me she came in the fall of 2022 wasn't it?

Councilmember VanEtten: No, I think it was before that.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: She was here in 2022.

Councilmember VanEtten: I think it was before that.

Supervisor Ruso: I recognize what our Attorney is saying. I'm not certain...

Betty Lord: Justin, there was a Justin Matthews.

Supervisor Ruso: How we can resolve this on your behalf. I would love to if I had evidence, even the slightest evidence that the Town has mishandled, somehow made an error, I think our jobs would be relatively easier, but I don't have any evidence. At least I don't and...

Betty Lord: So do you know a Justin Matthews that was supposedly here at the time when there was a transition in the Assessor's?

Supervisor Ruso: Justin Maxwell.

Betty Lord: Okay, I wrote Matthews.

Councilmember VanEtten: But he was here before 2022.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, I don't have exact dates of when people came and left.

Betty Lord: Oh, that's what Dawn told me.

Supervisor Ruso: But you turned 65 in August of '22 as you said and you're telling me that you submitted paperwork in the spring of '22 before August, excuse me in the winter of '22.

Councilmember VanEtten: Before March

Councilmember Sottolano: Supposed to by the end of March.

Betty Lord: February. Yeah, I turned 65.

Supervisor Ruso: On behalf of the school taxes that would have been up and coming in September of 2023.

Betty Lord: Correct.

Supervisor Ruso: I'm just trying to make sure I have it right here.

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Betty Lord: And then the Town tax of January.

Supervisor Ruso: And the Town taxes, everything else subsequent to it. And you did receive it for School '23.

Betty Lord: Correct.

Supervisor Ruso: Maybe maybe not the Town and County taxes for '23, that we'd have to look up and it's the school taxes for 2022 that are the main issues that you're bringing forward. I even looked up things and I at one time spoke to you I said 'I don't know, maybe' – and that was a maybe, I was being speculative – I said 'maybe there's a Town Board resolution we could do,' but I don't even, I don't have the authority to do that. I just can't have – notwithstanding everything I believe in, I believe everything you said.

Betty Lord: Trust me, why would anybody go through all this?

Supervisor Ruso: But I don't have evidence of it is what I'm telling you and if I can take a person, such as you, I believe in your honesty, but without evidence say 'yeah, let's give you \$2,000, reimburse you \$2,000,' what do I say to the next Town resident and what do I say... It's a very difficult spot for a Town...

Betty Lord: I don't know, you make sure it doesn't happen for one.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, we could do that.

Betty Lord: Well, I'm asking for the Town Board to help. There's a problem, yeah.

Supervisor Ruso: I have asked our Attorney and...

Betty Lord: The paperwork's missing, the paperwork wasn't submitted but that's not on me and just gotta be some way of fixing it because this isn't fair to me. That's a lot of money.

Supervisor Ruso: I do think you've explored some avenues to fix it, I mean there is nothing that you know, you told me there was nothing you could find am I right?

Michelle Storm, Esq.: Are you talking to me? There's nothing legally that we can do other than backdating documents. I wouldn't advise that. That's not appropriate.

Betty Lord: So if it was you that overpaid you would just say 'oh, well, it's only \$2,000.'

Michelle Storm, Esq.: I'm not criticizing your efforts, I'm giving legal advice.

Betty Lord: No, I'm just saying don't you think there's got to be a way to fix this mistake. It's a mistake, there's no other way.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, but we don't have evidence of a mistake. You keep saying we made a mistake. Maybe we did, but I don't have anything here.

Betty Lord: All I have is my folder.

Supervisor Ruso: I know, I know. I've seen much of your folder in times gone by.

Betty Lord: All I have is which I came across, here's what I brought it up in, I didn't leave it. Here's the application for '22. Here's my income tax return that they needed, but they also I think they also needed my license. It's taxable income.

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Supervisor Ruso: I wish I knew of a way to help, I don't have a way.

Betty Lord: But, but, there was nobody here to you know copy it and stamp it and give me, you know what I mean like with Dawn here now what she said is right every time I'm in her office.

Supervisor Ruso: I was just gonna ask you, you met with Dawn. Thank you.

Betty Lord: Many times on the phone and in your office. She's done all she can to help me, but she said it's not on her that I had to come to you.

Councilmember VanEtten: What?

Betty Lord: Pat Linger said I had to come to you.

Councilmember VanEtten: You don' have to come before us.

Betty Lord: So can you tell me then how else do we fix this if you want to call it an error? How do we fix this?

Supervisor Ruso: I don't know of a way. I don't know. If I had a way, I would tell you right now, but I don't know a way.

Betty Lord: There's got to be a way. I can't be the only person this has ever happened to and it will never happen to me again.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, if you could find a way I'll be glad to try it. I don't have a problem with that, but I don't know of a way to fix it.

Betty Lord: What it looks like with all the letters I get and all the information I get from Tax and Finance, they will help and they will fix it but only if they hear from the Town Board and the Town Assessor's office.

Michelle Storm, Esq.: Well, I would request that you submit whatever it says from New York State Tax and Finance, wherever they made that request to the Assessor or to the Town Board that articulates what it is that they're seeking. Maybe they need something from the Assessor to confirm that they actually received the paperwork and there was an error, but I doubt that they're involving the Town Board.

Betty Lord: That's what it sounds like.

Michelle Storm, Esq.: Well, what it sounds like and what it is are, there's are two different things.

Supervisor Ruso: Right, if you have a document from the State Department of Taxation that says 'Jeff Ruso, fill out this form and it will help Betty Lord, I'd be glad to do it. I don't know what that is though.

Betty Lord: I would think either one of you or Dawn should know the answer to that. I don't. You would have to look into it. I'm just a taxpayer. I've looked into every single thing I can.

Supervisor Ruso: Okay, I beg your problem.

Councilmember Downes: But you submitted the letter from Tax and Finance that you just received that said if they get something from us, that they'll do that.

Councilmembers VanEtten and Sottolano: No.

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Michelle Storm, Esq.: No, never seen that.

Betty Lord: No, it doesn't say that. It says that in the paperwork on their website.

Supervisor Ruso: I would love to have it. Can you forward that to me so that I can see it?

Betty Lord: I'm quite sure I copied everything, Dawn copied everything and she said she emailed it to the others.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, I've not seen any of this that shows a pathway and if I see one...

Michelle Storm, Esq.: I have seen the Tax and Finance (unable to understand). I've seen nothing that requests anything from the Town Board.

Betty Lord: I have to go through this.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, if there's a pathway, you know let's give it a shot. If you have such a thing please.

Councilmember Kash: Betty, the most recent people that you spoke with were that you couldn't get through to, that's ORPS STAR Exemptions.

Betty Lord: It's ORPS, Tax Resolution Unit and it's for exactly like this. If there's an error and they have a correction of error.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, I'll eagerly anticipate your submission of anything that can help me and give me a pathway to help you.

Betty Lord: I have all of this, all of this has been given to Dawn and she has emailed I'm not sure to you, Jeff.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright, alright, okay, I guess I mean you had spoken of something where they want something from me and I have reviewed a lot of documents and I don't remember anything, not for me but from the Town Board, I don't remember anything that clearly spells out something...

Betty Lord: Well, I think they're going to want to deal with the Tax Assessor. I forgot how it's worded.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright, I don't know, is there anything more we can say here?

Councilmember VanEtten: No.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright, I wish if we can find a way to help, I guess we will. Is that fair enough? That's all I can tell ya.

Betty Lord: That would be wonderful, but you know I've been hearing that for a year and then I've gotten nowhere. That's why I'm here tonight. I mean that's it. The last thing I can do is what go to small claims court and I don't want to have to do that.

Michelle Storm, Esq.: I mean I can't give you legal advice on that. You can consult an attorney certainly and I'm not trying to be coy. I'm in a conflict here where you're saying you're gonna take the Town Board to small claims court and I represent the Town so I can't...

Michelle Storm, Esq.: Correct and I can't respond to that.

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Supervisor Ruso: None of us can respond to that.

Betty Lord: Well, you're asking me. What am I supposed to do? How am I supposed to correct this error? I think it's kind of on the office that made the error to correct it. Yes, I know you're saying you can't prove it.

Supervisor Ruso: I don't have evidence of it.

Betty Lord: How can I prove what...? You know what I saw that office, my paperwork that sits on the desk could have ended up in any one of those folders or any one of those boxes. I don't know the answer to that. All I know is I'm out a lot of money.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, if there's a way I can support you and file something that would provide that support, I will do that. I will not backdate or falsify a document. I won't do that.

Betty Lord: I don't think there's any falsifying. I think it's...

Supervisor Ruso: Backdating a document and saying that, I will not do that.

Betty Lord: It's saying that ORPS will issue a differential check to the property owner. What happens if the determination is made too late to revise the school tax bill?

Supervisor Ruso: I think we're going around in circles here and I wish I could give you a resolution and I'm sorry that I cannot.

Betty Lord: So I'm not gonna get any help.

Supervisor Ruso: I don't know what we can do to help. I would be glad to if I could. I just don't know what it is. There's no legal means that I've been advised exists.

Betty Lord: You did tell me if I came here and talk to the Town Board that they may find a way to resolve it by the Town actually.

Supervisor Ruso: That was before I talked to the Town Attorney yes. I was being speculative, I didn't know, but I hadn't spoken to the Attorney at that point.

Betty Lord: Are you gonna be in touch if you can figure out a way to resolve this for me?

Supervisor Ruso: I would be glad to, I really would. Thank you.

Betty Lord: And when I spoke to Dawn a number of times, she had a hotline and she could get right through to them.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you folks and I wish we could be of help.

New Business

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 114-2024
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH MVP HEALTH CARE INSURANCE

WHEREAS the MVP Health Insurance Company has offered to the Town of New Baltimore a renewal offering for health insurance for town employees; and

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WHEREAS the offering for continuation of the existing plan of the MVP HMO Gold 2 HAS represents an increase to the town for health insurance of 11%. This will bring the total monthly cost to the town for the coverage for the following class of persons:

- a. Single Person Coverage - \$917.72 per person
- b. Employee + Spouse - \$1835.44 per employee
- c. Employee + Child - \$1560.17 per employee
- d. Employee Family Rate - \$2615.50 per employee

WHEREAS the town currently has 6 active employees receiving health insurance for a total estimated expenditure of \$149,460.48 related to this resolution, representing an estimated increase for 2025 of \$13,993.20.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to renew the agreement with MVP for employee health insurance beginning December 1, 2024.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano

Councilmember VanEtten: Unfortunately, I think everybody is seeing this increase. We're seeing it with my company, too. It's ridiculous.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 115-2024
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO PLACE ADVERTISEMENT FOR MEMBERS
OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

WHEREAS the Town of New Baltimore is seeking applicants for the Board of Assessment Review and the Town Board approves the advertisement.

RESOLVED, the wording of the advertisement has been approved by the Attorney for the Town and following approval from the Town Board, the advertisement will be submitted to the Town Clerk for publication in the *Times Union*.

The Town of New Baltimore is seeking applicants for the Board of Assessment Review where training is required. Applicants must be residents of the Town of New Baltimore. Members will receive \$210 and the Chair \$263 for Grievance Day in May of each year. A letter of interest should be sent to Town Clerk Barbara Finke at New Baltimore Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087 or clerk@townofnewbaltimore.org by September 20, 2024.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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Councilmember Kash: Did we have resignations and how many people do you need to have on the Board of Assessment Review?

Supervisor Ruso: I think we may end up with two, but we don't have that absolutely confirmed. We have someone who might be moving away, but hasn't yet and that would make the third person and I think another person is beyond the date or...

Town Clerk Finke: One person filled the remainder of a one-year term.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, that's right, thank you.

Councilmember Kash: So you need three altogether?

Town Clerk Finke: No, two.

Councilmember Kash: Two altogether.

Town Clerk Finke: One and we're holding on the second.

Supervisor Ruso: Resolution 116. Didn't we do this already?

Councilmember Kash: Is this an extension?

Councilmember Sottolano: It's because the date is changed on for the application.

Councilmember Kash: Right, September 30, 2024.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 116-2024
SEPTEMBER 9, 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,

WHEREAS, the June, 2024 posting for this position in the *Albany Times Union* did not result in the Town receiving applications from any qualified applicants, based on the position qualifications required by Greene County Human Resources & Civil Services, and

WHEREAS, the Town is still in need of filling this position.

RESOLVED, that 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 posted on the INDEED job posting website for one (1) month, 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.

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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.

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 **September 29, 2024**. All qualified applicants will be considered and interviewed for the position.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano

Councilmember Downes: How much is this one costing us?

Supervisor Ruso: It's gonna be on Indeed and I think it will cost us in the neighborhood...

Councilmember Sottolano: This is the free one for Indeed.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, yeah. The last advertisement that we received no applicants for cost us \$2,300. So for those who are in the Wastewater Treatment Plant it was my observation is particularly people much younger than I, they're not looking at the newspapers any longer. They're just not.

Ellie Alfeld: Is that approved by Civil Service?

Councilmember Sottolano: That was Civil Service's.

Supervisor Ruso: And I do believe that honestly, again you're talking to a person who does not have a long experience with government services, I think this is a silliest advertisement because they're so lengthy. Nobody would do this but a municipality. That's just my opinion, but we gotta follow the rules. I will withhold my objections, doesn't mean I won't say them.

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AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 117-2024

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNCILMEMBER SOTTOLANO TO ATTEND
2024 PLANNING AND ZONING SCHOOL IN EAST SYRACUSE, NEW YORK**

WHEREAS the Association to Towns will be holding the 2024 Planning and Zoning School in East Syracuse, New York on September 23, 2024.

RESOLVED Councilmember Debra Sottolano is authorized to attend at a cost of \$80 for registration and \$135 for hotel.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Kash

Councilmember Downes: Okay, so we're gonna send a Chairperson to this. Do we send the people on the board to this school?

Councilmember VanEtten: No, isn't it for board members only?

Supervisor Ruso: Board members could ask to go, the answer is 'yes,' but no one asked to go. So we could send people, I mean we could have it before us here as a resolution, but...

Councilmember Downes: Right, but wouldn't it have a better use to send the people on these Planning and Zoning Board to this?

Supervisor Ruso: We can ask 'em. Do you want to amend this resolution to include others who want...

Councilmember Downes: I was just wondering because we're supposed to oversee but we're not supposed to be involved in the decisions on the Planning and Zoning Board so I was just wondering.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, I, myself, had thought at one point, but I don't want to drive out there for half a day.

Councilmember VanEtten: Nick, we did the training in Albany and part of that was Planning and Zoning, that three-day training that we did, but it wasn't just Planning and Zoning, there was a lot of different...

Supervisor Ruso: They have this at three sites. One is in Buffalo, the other is in Corning, and this one's in, I believe it's Corning.

Councilmember Sottolano: Syracuse, yeah.

Supervisor Ruso: This one's in Syracuse so this is the closest one, unfortunately. It would be great if it was in Albany, but I do agree that I mean if we want to amend this and say, how about allow me to amend this, okay. I'll make an amendment and it will read:

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WHEREAS the Association of Towns will be holding the 2024 Planning and Zoning School in East Syracuse, New York, and

WHEREAS Councilmember Deb Sottolano has requested to attend at a cost of \$80 for registration and \$135 for hotel, and

WHEREAS other members of the Town Planning or Zoning Board may wish to attend.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Councilmember Deb Sottolano and up to one member from each of the Planning and Zoning Board is authorized to attend at a cost of \$80 for registration and \$135 for hotel.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes to amend the original Motion.

Supervisor Ruso: So for the amendment, do I have approval?

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: That's the original resolution as amended. I'll call for a vote.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: So I think that was a great question, Kelly, thank you for that because the others, they should go too if they are so able to do so. Obviously if they don't, they don't. I know I already sent them a copy of this to the Planning and Zoning Board Clerk. I did send that.

Supervisor Ruso: So now I have something that came to me this afternoon and I'm just gonna do this in the form of a Motion and not a resolution, but I'm going to make a Motion to allow a company by the name of Highway Rehab who will be doing the paving work for County Route 54. They have asked if they could stage their equipment at the Highway Garage for three to four days beginning on or about Monday, September 16. I'll make a Motion to allow them to do so.

Councilmember VanEtten: It has to be pending that we get back the paperwork.

Supervisor Ruso: Oh, yes, pending the submission of a Certificate of Insurance

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: It should be in your email.

Councilmember VanEtten: The paperwork, the Facility Use.

Town Clerk Finke: And Also the Facility Use.

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: That should be with it.

Town Clerk Finke: I couldn't open that up.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, we had trouble opening it up.

Councilmember VanEtten: Yeah, I couldn't open it up.

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Supervisor Ruso: So you say it's there, but...

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: I can open it on my computer (unable to understand).

Supervisor Ruso: Just make sure we have it, thank you.

Town Clerk Finke: Or even just a copy, drop it off.

Supervisor Ruso: I couldn't open it either, she asked me to try so.

Councilmember VanEtten: I couldn't do it at home.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT

Motion Carried

Upcoming Meetings

- September 12, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- September 21, 2024 Townwide Yard Sale Beginning at 9 AM
- September 23, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- September 25, 2024 Presentation of the 2025 Tentative Budget
- October 2, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- October 5, 2024 Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic at Town Hall, Pre-Registration Required at jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org
- October 10, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7:30 PM
- October 16, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- October 28, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Councilmember Kash: The Mobile Spay and Neuter Clinic now has 50 appointments with a waiting list. So that's gonna be completely full on October 5 and we'll also have a little room for vaccinations for rabies and distemper first come, first served from 9-10 in the morning.

Supervisor Ruso: I'm gonna make a Motion that we go into an Executive Session to discuss 'the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.'

Councilmember VanEtten: I'll second.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

The Town Board entered Executive Session at 7:48 PM.

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The Town Board returned to Regular Session on a Motion from Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes at 8:42 PM.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: And as a matter of public information, the Executive Session resulted in no...

Councilmember VanEtten: Actions.

Supervisor Ruso: Actions, motions, or resolutions voted upon. So let's proceed.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 118-2024

SEPTEMBER 9, 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 2024-09-01 to 2024-09-27, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2024-09-01 to 2024-09-27.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until October 31, 2024.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes and VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

General \$28,542.69, Highway \$5,722.32, Sewer 1 \$2,037.11, Sewer 2 \$209.29, Street Lighting 1 \$5,802.50, Total \$44,117.93

Councilmember Kash: I just wanted to have all of you join me in congratulating our Medway Grapeville and Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Departments for the wonderful awards that they got during this last weekend at the Greene County Volunteer Firemens Convention. Medway in particular got the top trophy, the Millenium, as the best overall fire unit in the County, first place best appearing 9-15 marchers in line, first place best appearing 1-5 years truck, best appearing overall unit in the County, and also received the Mardi Gras Chairman Choice trophy and Cornell got second place best overall Drum Line, second place in the best appearing unit 25 and over, second place apparatus 1.5 years, and first place in best appearing motor driven antique apparatus out of service. So just wanted to say that it's really great that our volunteer fire departments here in New Baltimore have gotten these, that's just great recognition.

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Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO
Town Clerk