

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

**AUGUST 12, 2023
AGENDA**

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation by Lansing Engineering on Shady Harbor Marina Project

Discussion of Expansion of Water District 2

Approval of Minutes

- June 10, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting
- July 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting
- July 22, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting

Public Comment Period

New Business

- Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of #2D Diesel Fuel Per Greene County Resolution 267-24
- Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of Gasoline Per Greene County Resolution 268-24
- Resolution Authorizing the Town of New Baltimore to Accept the Donation of a Rose Garden at Cornell Park
- Resolution Authorizing the Assessor to Attend the 2024 New York State Assessors Association Fall Conference

Upcoming Meetings

- August 26, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- September 2, 2024 Town Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day
- September 4, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7 PM (If Needed)
- September 5, 2024 Senior Picnic at 12 PM at Cecil Hallock Park
- September 9, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- 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
- October 5, 2024 Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic at Town Hall, Pre-Registration Required at jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org

Public Comment/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.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 1

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten; Michelle Storm, Esq.; Town Clerk Finke; and 15 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti, and Highway Superintendent VanWormer.

Supervisor Ruso: Seems as though our friends from Lansing are not here am I correct? So, they're not here, I'm going to describe a couple things since they're not here I might as well let everyone in on this as much as possible. There is discussion of about three potential projects in the Town of New Baltimore. Infrastructure projects. We have through, what's called CHPE, we saw a presentation six weeks ago with Rene VanSchaack, I don't know who was here and who was not. We have coming to the Town beginning in probably, well it's either gonna be tail end of '25 if not the beginning of '26. And, unfortunately, our fiscal year is not the calendar, so it's either gonna be in one year or the other for us. And it's gonna be to the tune, starting tune of \$206,000 and it ramps up by 1.5% ever year so next year it will be a little bit more, a little bit more, a little bit more. These funds, \$200-and-some-odd-thousand, we're gonna receive for 25, 30 years, excuse me. What do we do with that money? It must be used, under the guise of the agreement, the IDA is the one who did all the brokering and the getting the parties together for signature, it must be used for infrastructure, not for routine expenses and it has to have an economic development. It's gonna help increase business in Town. I just can't have them pave a road, that doesn't increase business, I mean, if you follow me or put some infrastructure in the back woods. That isn't going to add a business. So there's three business models, three business places that are being floated towards myself and I don't know. None of it seems like it's gonna work. That's my observation and I'll tell you why. One, project number one, they want to bring sewer and water to the Thruway exit coming north out of Coxsackie. Coxsackie water, Coxsackie sewer, and we're gonna have an extension of what's currently called Water District No. 3. Water District No. 3 is already in place, it's where the Antique Center is and of the like. This moves further north over the overpass or is it going to go under I'm not sure, and proceed along. There are a couple of businesses looking to go in that area and what they want is sewer and water. One of the places is, they want the truck stop, the current existing truck stop, wants to renovate and completely gut the place. They're already started gutting it, but they're looking to change and they need sewer and water. I'm informed the hotels would love to have sewer and water. There also is Camper's World want water, sewer, and also there's an outside outfit called Pilot. You have seen a Pilot Truck Stop. I know there's one in Schodack and I've seen them elsewhere. I think there's one in Duanesburg but I'm not sure if that's a Pilot. In any event the truck stop wants to come and I don't if I want to have two truck stops right there on 9W at the Thruway exit but these are proposed projects. According to the Engineers, it's gonna cost \$6.5 million. I have contacted the Bank of Greene County and I asked them for an estimate. Rule of thumb, at current interest rates if we were to float a bond with payments come out of this fund from CHPE, \$200,000, what size bond could I have? About \$3.3 million. Well, if that project comes to \$6.5 we're kind of a little short aren't we. So there has to be some alternative financing aside from our CHPE money if that's what we do. I have a meeting on the 20th at the IDA office. Actually, I have two meetings. One is actually at the Village at 8:00 in the morning with the Pilot people and then I have 10:00 on the 20th -- a week from tomorrow -- with the IDA and I want to know what kind of money they're gonna put on the table. It's not gonna be done by New Baltimore alone. It's just not gonna get there. Second project, I call that one the 9W South. There's a second one on 9W North coming from the Village of Ravena water. Actually, there is water already there, it comes down and supplies the homes and what was the hotel, it comes down as far as just right there by the cemetery. In fact you can tell where the waterlines are by the fact there's a fire hydrant right just inside the fence or along the fence rather of the cemetery. They want to put sewer in. I'm informed that there is an application forthcoming for a strip mall to be put in somewhere across from the Day Care Center, whatever the name of that is, Circle of Friends? And there's a little strip mall, don't ask me who the proposed occupants are, I have no idea. I've not had the brought to me. Third project, which was about what Lansing was going to come here tonight okay and I didn't want to steal their thunder, but I thought -- I even told Brian Donovan and Kathy Donovan they should come, I guess they forgot -- they want to have water. They want water. Why do they want water? They have two proposals that they want to do. One,

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 2

they are looking to build a 40-unit condo for lack of another term. Actually, it's supposed to be five eight-unit buildings along the escarpment and whatever expanse of land they have. They showed me prints and Engineer's mockups so they say they can do it, but they can't do it on well water. So, the proposal is, the conversations are, can we run water up 144 to at least the Boat House thereby creating a new Water District that will serve the residents of New Baltimore as well as the Boat House that far? That project, the estimate from Delaware Engineering -- this is a back of the envelope estimate, it's not an estimate, estimate, okay so don't mark it down and put in your book, it's an estimate -- about \$4.3 million. Well, I already told you we only have enough for a \$3.3 million, depends upon where interest rates go, of course. We have enough money for about \$3.3. Of course, I do believe Shady Harbor is looking to pony up some money. Now if we want to expand, this is again rough back of the envelope, because I said you know, I recall issues with the hamlet having water and if I recall correctly it seemed to be more dreadful along Main Street and maybe even further and I don't know who's house has and who's house does not have and I think that was the issue when this came to a vote back so many years ago. I got a good well, you don't, too bad for you. I don't know how it worked out. I don't want to mischaracterize it. So I do know some friends who live on White Burch and Cedar, and they've have water problems. This would include them if I'm not mistaken. But again, the house next door may be great. I just know that there's a family friend who's daughter used to come to my house, the family'd use our shower in the summer. unfortunately, and we'd just help 'em out. In any event that's what we have. That's a \$4.3 million. I don't have an estimate on the one from, coming from the Village of Ravena on 9W, I don't have that. However, I will have that soon. If we want to go, she said 'well, just let me put a dot on the property.' If we were to proceed on 144 and take a left onto Main Street and go as far as the intersection of Church and Main Street, that would add about \$1 million more, so that would be \$5.3. Every foot you go further is a greater cost. So now my question is, for the Board, what do you want to do with \$3.3 million? What project can we do? What project can we afford? We're going to need greater funding than just what we have. That's where it is and I have no idea. For instance, let's take the hamlet folks, I don't know who wants water and who doesn't. Is this going to be rakes and pitchforks and coming after us because we did this? And by the way, there's nothing free in this world. Nothing's gonna be completely scot-free for anybody, okay. I wish to say it were but it's not. Any thoughts because we kind of have to have a decision before long? This is just an introductory discussion.

Councilmember VanEtten: (Unable to understand) it only covers about 25% of the project (unable to understand).

Supervisor Ruso: And I'll take another 25% on top of what we have is where I'm getting at.

Councilmember VanEtten: But it's still quite a bit short.

Supervisor Ruso: And there are certain things if we have the Pilot how much money they gonna put in? The Boat House how much money? How much is IDA gonna put in? I had a meeting with IDA and they talked about being a partner, but they talked about being a partner without money. Okay, so I said 'thank you so much' and they really were pushing the \$6.5 million one. That's who they really were pushing. Okay, I'm not convinced but again I don't have any particular project to present to you folks, but I want to have your observations, your input, your thoughts. We are not gonna make a decision tonight. This is for discussion only and for your knowledge. So what do you think, I know you have a thought.

Councilmember Sottolano: Do we have any idea from these people wanting the projects what the income would be in the Town, the number of jobs that would be created, things like that?

Supervisor Ruso: No, I don't have that. I mean look, the one over there at Shady Harbor, it's gonna be 40 new families moving in. They say they have people knocking on their door for this. I can't say that's true. They also suggest that the Boat House will be a 12-month program instead of seasonal. Okay, so I mean there's some jobs but you know...

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 3

Councilmember VanEtten: Minimal.

Supervisor Ruso: Year-round jobs but I can't say it's a lot.

Councilmember Sottolano: I mean I think that would be important for us to know in choosing.

Supervisor Ruso: Right, I don't have a number of jobs created in either case. I don't have an absolute cost in either case. Maybe I'll know more on the 20th, I don't know. But, just so you know the IDA is really pushing the 9W South. That's what they really want us to do.

Councilmember Downes: Well, yeah, because it makes them look good. They brought business in.

Supervisor Ruso: Right but again \$6.5 million project when we have roughly \$3.3. There's a lot of filling to go in this pie okay.

Councilmember VanEtten: So the IDA doesn't actually pay for any of these? They just...

Supervisor Ruso: The IDA hasn't paid for anything, no, no. It is CHPE giving us an annual, that's the CHPE -- everyone's calling it CHPE, I'm late to the game, I call it CHPE -- but CHPE is the \$200-some-odd-thousand annual for 30 years. That's the powerline that goes past my house, Ellie's house, and amongst others through the Town.

Ellie Alfeld: Could I ask, Jeff, with this thought of maybe combining like, Coxsackie's water coming up, would Coxsackie or Ravena whoever is going to be letting us hook in, would they be contributing as well?

Supervisor Ruso and Councilmember VanEtten: No.

Ellie Alfeld: Alright, well I tried.

Supervisor Ruso: No, they would not be contributing whatsoever so I'm quite confident of that.

Audience Member: Is the CHPE like a payment in lieu of taxes situation?

Supervisor Ruso: Kind of yeah. It's not a taxable event, no, it's like a PILOT yeah, yeah.

Audience Member: And this has to do with power lines?

Harold Vadney: It appears that this is pretty embryonic in it's stages. You have a promise for \$200 thousand a year for 30 years which basically cost-of-living calculations needs to be, excuse me inflation calculations have to go into this Engineering, traffic studies, environmental considerations, etc. for whatever of these projects that you're even contemplating. So at this point you mentioned you want discussion and, of course, no decision is gonna be made tonight because some of these might even require a referendum as a matter of fact if it considers the water district and something like that. So I think that what really should be done before this even comes to the table or it even comes out to the public is that you have some sort of data that you could present in support of one or three projects that you've mentioned. Otherwise what you're doing is you're just throwing something out here and you're on thin ice.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, that's exactly what I had said in the beginning, I'm just putting it out there. So you're absolutely right. Okay, no, we don't have anything absolute at this particular moment.

Councilmember Downes: This cost goes across that Water District or does it go across the Town?

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 4

Supervisor Ruso: It would be devoted to whichever district, Cossackie South or 9W South is a sewer and water. Ravena from 9W is just sewer.

Councilmember VanEtten: They have water.

Supervisor Ruso: And the hamlet area to the Boat House, or from the Coeymans line to the Boat House, is water only. That's what it is. These are infrastructure absolutely. Costs are not absolute. The first thing after we get done with figuring out things with the IDA and of the like is we have to get a full Engineering study. This back of the envelope is not enough folks. So an Engineering study is the next step. What can be done, what's the estimates?

Councilmember Downes: Right, but what I'm saying to you is if we went to that Water District down by Shady Harbor, Shady Harbor and everybody in that hamlet would be enduring the cost of the implementation correct or does it go across...?

Supervisor Ruso: I wouldn't say everybody in the Hamlet, everybody where the water lines go.

Councilmember VanEtten: Where the water is, yup, and also for the repairs on them.

Councilmember Downes: Right. No, the repairs I understand that, but I'm talking about the inception. The inception does not go across the Town as a whole, it only goes across the District, correct?

Supervisor Ruso: Correct and there are some project-based problems at the very front end okay. So if we have an Engineering project, let's say and this actually let's go to the hamlet issue from what, 15 years ago, remember the year, I don't. There was an Engineering study. We all know that it went up for a vote and we all know that it was voted down. Now the Engineering study should have been paid by the residents of the Water District and not to everybody in Town. You live on Gedney Hill Road, you paid for the Engineering, for the cost of the study for the hamlet getting water. I think it was \$50,000. If the District was indeed created, then the District would have paid for it, but they didn't get created so the residents of the Town in general paid for that study. The Engineer's gonna get paid. Engineer's gonna get paid. So, in a lot of ways I like the project that they're talking about down in the hamlet. I like the Boat House. Forty new homes, I mean, I don't know anything about who wants one, who doesn't. I'm not sure it could fit, it's not my opinion, but I will say I'm not sure I want to risk all this money and then have it turned down again. That's one of reasons that's holding back the creation of a, because I've had other people come here about the creation of a Water District down there. Am I gonna commit Town money to something that's going to be a dead duck? That's me. That's my thoughts. Just thoughts and you know that old saying once bitten twice shy? We did get bitten twice, so a third time is even shyer. I know it only missed by a little bit.

Audience Member: By one vote.

Supervisor Ruso: Oh, was it one vote. The first one was a little bit more. There was two votes. Two votes.

Councilmember Kash: Yeah, I think they had two different plans and two votes.

Supervisor Ruso: Two different plans.

Councilmember Kash: They revised from the first plan.

Peter Melewski: There were two plans. The first plan plan included parts of 9W corridor including the firehouse.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 5

Supervisor Ruso: And 144, yes. I know that every person who lives on my part of 144 voted no. Why? We didn't have any water problems. We certainly have no objection to the hamlet having water, but why were we being brought in on it?

Ellie Alfeld: They tried to get the Thruway to come in on it too if I remember correctly.

Supervisor Ruso: Right and they were gonna put Independence Road on it.

Ellie Alfeld: Don't even go there.

Supervisor Ruso: It was silly, yeah, it wasn't well-designed.

Unable to understand audience member.

Supervisor Ruso: I did a rough parcel count and I think I came up with 120 on this one and I'm thinking to myself 120 homes for \$3 million. Well, that's, what is that, that's about \$25,000 per home. Is my math right? Maybe not quite.

Audience Member: Over 30 years?

Supervisor Ruso: I know, but I could get more homes by digging everybody a new well because most wells cost less than that, well, most wells cost less.

Audience Member: And you still wouldn't have good water.

Supervisor Ruso: I know and that's the problem, that's the problem, and that's still a hit and miss thing. Absolutely right. So I don't know, this is what we have folks. What do you have in mind?

Councilmember Kash: This proposal near the Day Care Center is that the one that just came before the Planning Board?

Supervisor Ruso: It's coming before the Planning Board.

Councilmember Kash: Yeah, they had a preliminary meeting on it this week.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, that's the same one

Councilmember Kash: It's a gas station and what will probably be a fast-food restaurant.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, you know more about it than I do.

Councilmember Kash: It sounds very, very preliminary at this point.

Supervisor Ruso: But I didn't hear about who the occupants for the particular businesses would be.

Councilmember Kash: Yeah, the Planning Board has that. I can't remember the name of the group off the top of my head.

Ellie Alfeld: I don't even think the Planning Board has it so to speak. What I believe is they wanted the information as to what they have to go through to present to the Planning Board.

Councilmember Kash: Right and it's a five-acre parcel that they think they're getting ready to close on.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 6

Supervisor Ruso: We have a handful of points to make here. One, how much can we afford? Because we can only afford so much, are we thereby going to choose the cheapest of the batch? I don't know. I mean if we have a \$4.5 million, whatever it comes to, and we got \$200,000, we've got to finance another \$1 million worth, that would be financed by the Water District or Sewer District as the case might be that is created. There's where the referendum comes in -- the one your spoke of.

Bonnie Mion: So how much would our taxes go up (unable to understand)?

Supervisor Ruso: It's not taxes it's fees.

Bonnie Mion: It's fees, fees for using the water.

Supervisor Ruso: If you're in the District you would have User Fees and there's something called O&M, Operations and Maintenance, okay. That's in case a pipe breaks you know next year or whatever.

Ellie Alfeld: Like in Coxsackie.

Councilmember Downes: The Thruway caves in.

Supervisor Ruso: And there's also the bond payment. The bond payment itself. You know you spread it across the parcels in the District and that's who pays. So if there's 100 people paying that much, that's what you pay, and so people like you or others would have to sit back and weigh 'hum, I got crummy water or I have good water, how much do I want to pay for this versus what I'm already paying for' and those are personal decisions that everyone's gonna make.

Bonnie Mion: Would you have to get the water? Would you be required?

Supervisor Ruso: No, I don't think so, I don't think so. There is an O&M charge that I believe would be part of it, but the usage fee I think will be metered in my opinion so you're not gonna get charged. I mean let's face it, the Boat House is gonna use a lot of water. They're gonna be paying the biggest charge and as they do right now with the sewer by the way.

Councilmember Downes: Right, but the problem is is that even if you don't use it, you still have to contribute to the maintenance...

Councilmember VanEtten: Right, the O&M.

Councilmember Downes: And if God forbid we had another \$330,000 problem you would still be responsible even though you're not using the water. You would still be responsible to pay for that and that's where we were having a problem in Scheller Park...

Supervisor Ruso: Exactly right.

Councilmember Downes: That people were having wells because they couldn't get the water, but they were still responsible for that \$330,000.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, and there was other things that were happening. You know ostensibly one would think that, let's just take something more innocuous than the user, and that is the existence of a fire hydrant. Those are generally speaking preferred by yourselves and your insurance company and of the like. So if there's a hydrant one can claim they have a benefit. Now what we experienced, I did when I came on the Town Board, I wasn't a Supervisor, I was just a Town Board member, you were with me, we had a fire hydrant burst on Scheller Park Road and nobody seemed to have the foresight to say 'hmm, O&M, let's build up a pot of money

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 7

so that we can pay for repairs.’ The fire hydrant cost \$9,000. Where’d we get the money from? We took it out of Town General which you can do for one year and then the District has to pay it back. Same thing would exist for this. Has to pay it back within one year. Well, it wasn’t paid back in one year, took us two years. And we weren’t charging O&M for reasons or consistently charging O&M for the properties in Water District No. 2. Well, I know we are now and I would certainly intend to do this in the future. So you’re going to have an O&M sorry, but it’s going to have to happen. So these are just discussions.

Councilmember Kash: About \$40 a year in Sheller Park right for the O&M.

Supervisor Ruso: I think it’s \$80 now.

Councilmember Kash: Oh, that’s right, you doubled it.

Town Clerk Finke: \$20 per quarter.

Supervisor Ruso: \$20 a quarter for repair of pipes and water lines and fire hydrants and stuff like that.

Councilmember Downes: But they also have the fee for the money that we borrowed.

Supervisor Ruso: For the bond. For the bond.

Councilmember Downes: Right, so you’ve got an O&M, and you got bond money, and then you’ve got whatever you use.

Supervisor Ruso: Bond, right, that’s about \$63 a quarter? How much does the bond cost? I know we pay \$25,000 a year and it’s for 40 people.

Town Clerk Finke: So they pay \$157, and \$20 for the O&M, so it’s \$177.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, it’s \$157, \$157, that’s what Water District No. 2 is. They’re paying \$157 just for the infrastructure.

Councilmember Downes: Right, for \$330,000.

Supervisor Ruso: By the way some people can ask ‘why don’t we use that money to pay off their bond?’ Not allowed by law, can’t do it.

Discussion of Expansion of Water District 2

Supervisor Ruso: We’re getting into territory of which happen to be (unable to understand) my tenure on the Board, everyone else’s here. But I’ve been approached by a resident who lives just outside the boundaries of Water District No. 2. This is just for ourselves here, let’s keep it on the table here. Mr. Flach wants water. Back in 2012, is that about right Barb? 2012 we expanded Water District No. 2 by 2 properties. There was an Engineering fee of about \$15,000. There was the cost of extending the lines. The homeowners paid for that. It went from 38 parcels to 40 when that occurred. That’s where we are now. This parcel is next door to that most recently added one from 2012. They’ve owned the home a little while and I guess they got really cruddy water like everyone else over there. So the family has approached us and they are certainly looking at putting up the money and in fact the first step is we have to have the Engineer mock-up and the person has to install -- he can hire his own – but has to install per Engineer’s standards. Period. I don’t see them here today. Are they here? No. I told them to come too. So I don’t know what your thoughts are on this. I mean if it’s going to cost, actually Mary Beth Bianconi, who’s our Engineer was helpful in that last expansion and she has recollection that the Town paid for the Engineer study. I haven’t found confirmation for it. The Town General paid for the Engineering study to expand up to his property. He paid for the lines, but the Town paid

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 8

for the Engineering. The Town can pay for the Engineering for that or for the upcoming one, but it is subject to a permissive referendum. Permissive Referendum, it's not a Mandatory Referendum, Permissive, and that is where a number of residents fill out a petition and say 'we hereby wish to have this on the ballot' and it's in essence what it is and I don't know the minimum number. I just simply don't know. I'm not really much inclined to spend money on that 1 person, I don't know if it is a wise use of Town's money, but I'm not so much interested. Do you have recollection of that, you were here?

Ellie Alfeld: I truly don't remember the Town paying Engineering fees for one family or even two families like we did in Scheller Park.

Supervisor Ruso: I don't remember either. What is true is the Town would commit to the Engineering company and the Town would pay the Engineering company with the expectation that the Town would be reimbursed that money from the homeowners. Delaware Engineering is not gonna put a contract with him, it would be with us, but the funds would have to be there. So that's our conversation about water. What do you think over here on my left, either of yourselves?

Councilmember VanEtten: I'm wondering how much if we expanded to his house, I mean I'm just hoping they would pay for the whole thing and if it gets reimbursed (unable to understand) Engineers.

Councilmember Sottolano: Do they have one year to pay it back?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, that would have to be devil's in the details though.

Councilmember VanEtten: And so now anybody in between, let's say somebody builds a house in between, that could also be...

Supervisor Ruso: There's not gonna be a house in between because actually there's another parcel in between, but it's Central Hudson big giant power lines that's in between. The last house added and the house we're talking about now. There's the power lines.

Ellie Alfeld: Personally I think this is just the beginning for all of you because it's gonna come sooner or later and you're not gonna care whether it comes out of the south or the north, but as we heard at that meeting with Rene, they're asking New Baltimore because they want to see development up here.

Supervisor Ruso: You know I'll just say on a personal nature, I mean look, it's not a complicated Town, we don't have all kinds of big businesses here and I don't mind that. On the other hand sometimes I lament when I think there's no place in my Town that I can spend my money. There's no place.

Councilmember VanEtten: You can go to the Boat House.

Supervisor Ruso: I have to go, oh okay, I go to the Extra Mart, thank you very much.

Audience Member: Family Dollar.

Supervisor Ruso: That's not in our Town.

Councilmember VanEtten: That's in Ravena.

Audience Member: Oh, that's right.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 9

Supervisor Ruso: I lament that I would love to spend my money in my own Town, but there's nowhere, or not much anyhow. So that's just a personal point.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The June 10, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember VanEtten. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

The July 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Downes. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

The July 22, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Downes. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Public Comment Period

Ellie Alfeld: First of all, I wanted to thank the Town Board for providing us with the Vets luncheon. Everybody, I think had a great time and it was a good chance to mingle. I'd also like to make the Board aware to tell you about another Vets celebration. On July 4th a birthday get-together was held in Greenville by the American Legion. Members coming from multiple places here in Greene County with Dan LaMora, our resident, acting as their Chaplain. This was for the men and women to honor Stanley Maltzman as a Coast Guard Vet with service in World War II. Stanley was 103 years old on July 4th and we honor his service in the Pacific on at least three tours during active war time. Stanley was able to share some of his pictures and experiences. This is a true American who showed his love of County and we thank him and I have to thank Steve Mattazori, he's from Greenville, and Jim Stalker who were helpful in (unable to understand) and if you'd like to see a picture, we had a number of every person from a different branch of the service there.

Supervisor Ruso: Where was this held at?

Ellie Alfeld: We held it and it's a beautiful place down in Greenville at the American Legion place and this is just some of the vets and you have to understand most of 'em are in their late 60s, 70s. Stanley turned 103 on July 4.

Councilmember VanEtten: And he's still painting.

Ellie Alfeld: And he's still painting and if anybody wants to see some of his artwork, I have calendars that he produces every year.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 10

Tom Hamilton: I was wondering what the Town's next course of action is since six male cats have been returned to Mr. Ellison bringing the total number of 14+. Many of these cats are still not vaccinated, many are still in our yard every day which is quite a health risk for both my wife and I, especially my wife because she's a Type 1 diabetic.

Supervisor Ruso: I don't know what's the Town's next... I know that the gentlemen, the home has been red-tagged for that property. I don't know anything about his compliance with that. I have no knowledge of that.

Tom Hamilton: Well, he's gone into lockdown mode. He won't answer the door. Janet's tried to address...

Supervisor Ruso: So he's still there.

Tom Hamilton: We believe so. He pulled his car down around back. That's between him and the Town. I'm concerned about the cats in our yard. They're using our yard for a litter box. Like I said many are not vaccinated yet. They're all inbred and you know this is a serious health concern, serious health concern.

Supervisor Ruso: I know that you've put a lot of time into this, Ms. Kash. What can you offer?

Councilmember Kash: Well, the status that we have right now is that I worked with the occupant, the owner there and we had six cats neutered and vaccinated. To my knowledge he has made appointments for the rest of them, but I haven't been in contact with him lately. I called him a few times, but I haven't heard anything back.

Tom Hamilton: And there's two new litters of cats.

Councilmember Kash: I knew that there were two pregnant ones. Have you seen the kittens?

Tom Hamilton: So he's not gonna stop hoarding and we had addressed the fact that if the Sheriffs went there and presented him with a summons about animal abuse because they're not vaccinated that we go into Court and say 'look, give up the cats' we didn't care if he lived there. It's just that simple so we're at a standstill. We need resolution with this.

Supervisor Ruso: I recognize your efforts at getting these cats at least sterilized.

Councilmember Kash: And vaccinated.

Supervisor Ruso: But the sterilized cat is pooping in your yard I think is part of the issue.

Tom Hamilton: Well, if it was one or two cats it be one thing, but we have fourteen plus because twice he told you and the Sheriff there were ten, he told Allan Jourdin there was eleven, and he and I had a talk in the middle of the road on July 31 and he said there were fourteen now. So it's just growing. The situation is not getting better, it's getting worse and now you have a Vet that has some serious issues and now he's in lockdown mode. Anybody getting him any help? What if we burns our house down in the middle of the night. These are concerns we live with every day. You know you deal with it fifteen minutes, the Sheriffs were there twenty minutes, this is now eight years. Eight years we've done this. The Town has known he was living there with no water, electric, or sewer. Once again his problem, but these cats are overrunning our property.

Supervisor Ruso: Aside from that – I don't know, Michelle, do you have any thoughts on that - -what can the Town do about this overpopulation of cats? What can the Town actually do because cats are not part of your Dog Control Officer?

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 11

Tom Hamilton: Well, the paperwork I gave you stated that they also have to have suitable living conditions. They need heat, water, and all that and that's not being provided.

Supervisor Ruso: Do you have any thoughts on what we can do?

Michelle Storm, Esq.: This is the first thing I'm hearing of this.

Supervisor Ruso: If anybody has a next door neighbor has 15 cats, what can we as a Town do about those things?

Michelle Storm, Esq.: I'd have to look into it and get back to you.

Councilmember Kash: I can give you lots of background on it, Michelle, I've been working on this what since February with you and Tina.

Ellie Alfeld: Isn't there an organization in Hudson that takes these cats, picks them up, fixes them, does everything.

Supervisor Ruso: And brings 'em back.

Councilmember VanEtten: Brings them back, that's the thing.

Supervisor Ruso: And brings them back, that's the issue.

Councilmember Kash: Tom's worry is that they're being returned to the veteran. I do know that under New York State Penal Law it's grand larceny to take away somebody's cats without their permission.

Tom Hamilton: I realize that which is why I suggested several times about the Sheriffs with the summons. Because they were not vaccinated it is cruelty to animals. It's the statute. I have it here if you need to read it and the bottom line is that that could have been done/. They didn't have to fine him. They could have told him, the Judge can tell him 'no more animals, that's that' and then he would have to obey.

Supervisor Ruso: Just so you know, Tom, I have spoken to the Sheriff's Department about this and the Deputy that came up did not proceed any further. Well, you know.

Tom Hamilton: Well, in the Police Report he said he would follow up once all the animals were vaccinated and now that he's in lockdown, he's not gonna give those animals up. That's my belief. But like I say there were ways to do this where I think he has to be ordered to not have these animals. He can't take care of himself. He can't take care of these pets. They all have to be brought back next year for boosters. Is that gonna happen? Everyone I spoke to -- the Sheriff, Columbia-Greene Humane, two other people -- all said the same thing, he is not going to stop hoarding cats. That's that.

Supervisor Ruso: No, no, he's not going to. It is who it is. He moved in and that's what he's going to do. I recognize that exact point. I don't know what legal options and how to proceed. I've not dealt with someone with fifteen cats before personally and I wouldn't want to like you are doing.

Councilmember Downes: Well, we don't even know if it's just fourteen now right? You just said two litters, two more litters.

Councilmember Kash: I know that he has two pregnant cats that I was trying to place but I haven't been able to speak with him.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 12

Tom Hamilton: When Allan was there he said he heard kittens so we knew one litter was dropped, but we have pictures of the two different cats. Their bellies were huge so they could have dropped four or five kittens apiece.

Councilmember Downes: Right, that's what I'm saying.

Tom Hamilton: So this number escalates.

Councilmember Downes: We could have been to twenty now.

Tom Hamilton: And what stops him from hiding a couple of these animals and telling you that they died or whatever and go on with what he's doing because until she stepped in none of them were neutered or spayed so this is a serious health risk.

Councilmember Kash: I'm hoping that he will be back in touch with me. I've called him and texted him a couple of times.

Tom Hamilton: Well, I'd like to see him get him some help.

Supervisor Ruso: Agreed.

Tom Hamilton: But I'd also like to be able to enjoy my yard. Thank you.

Councilmember Kash: Absolutely.

Harold Vadney: Well, I'm gonna rehash something from the July 8 meeting and I'll just read a little bit of the Article 7 Open Meetings Law. 'It's essential to the maintenance of democratic society that the citizens of this state be fully aware of the performance of public officials. The people must be able to remain informed if they are to retain control over those who are their public servants. It is the only climate under which the commonweal will prosper and enable the governmental process to operate for the benefit of those who created it.' Upon review of the audio of the July 8, 2004 Regular Meeting of this Town Board for actionable issues arise. The first is how I conduct my remarks when allowed to speak without interruption and listening to my comments as recorded in contrast to my conduct and demeanor without the members of the Board. It would be convincing to anyone about a remark like 'you have no dignity' is unquestionably defamatory and slanderous, worse when spoken by an elected public official in a public meeting. The second is the childishness and disrespect of a member of the Town Council, Miss Kash, when she rudely and indecorously interrupted my remarks with a fake disgusting gaging cough. Point made and taken and clear message you sent to the community with behavior like that. Again there's a question of the quality of our elected public officials. Remarkably she was not censured by the Board and the Chair only ignored that behavior. The third point is the Chairman's threat that the Board may take action to ban me from participating in these public meetings. Your Town Attorney should have saved you, the Board, from imminent embarrassment because neither the Chairman nor the Board has that authority to ban any member of the public from any public meeting except in the event of disorderly or unlawful conduct and a lively back and forth if conducted decorously is not unlawful conduct. No member of the public can be barred from attending or participating in a public meeting. The fourth point is open adversity, bullying by the Board depending on who's on the Board. A fifth but general point is the fact that the Chairman cannot act or decide unilaterally on any question in a public meeting. He must obtain the majority's consent. The Chair doesn't seem able to grasp that principle. This is Town maladministration at it's most illustrative and may explain why so few residents appear at these meetings with the exception tonight. This Town Board has made a sham very frequently of the Open Meetings Law and despite many notices and recommendations has ignored the voice of good will and reason. I've reached the end of my time. I'll conclude here with the Board's indulgences I'll proceed directly to my second comment unless the Board would like to respond. Any comments from the Board? I'd like to

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 13

address an issue of concern which exposes some malconduct of the Board or individual members of the Board. In a recent email to the Supervisor and copied to all members of this Board, I addressed a matter that was brought to my attention by several New Baltimore residents. The issue relates to Board member Janet Kash's publication of Town news on a private restricted Facebook page monitored by a private individual, Melissa Ashby, and called What's Up In New Baltimore. I was not able to access that Facebook site so I have to rely on reports. Perhaps Miss Kash can corroborate what I have to say. A recent post attributed to Board Member Kash relates to a successful grant application by the Town Clerk which resulted in the award of monies for the acquisition of digital recording equipment. I'm not quite certain whether that's correct or not because nobody's confirmed to my emails. A grant of that type would certainly be of interest to the New Baltimore community but it does not appear that the official New Baltimore Facebook page. Kash allegedly published the information on the restricted What's Up In New Baltimore page, however, I was not able to bring up the What's Up New Baltimore page much less read what's on it which confirms that some members of this community have been blocked by the Administrator of that page. I question this to you, Mr. Ruso, in an email saying that Kash and you responded by saying Kash is posted information on What's Up In New Baltimore, but the rest of the Board including Miss Kash were silent. Has anyone addressed this issue of publishing on a private site versus our New Baltimore Town site which is probably go to site for most of our residents here? I'm an ardent supporter of free expression and I'd advocate for any citizen's right and privilege to publish privately on any platform he or she pleases, but I do take an exception for public or elected officials to take it upon themselves to publish information of public or community interest or concern not on available and accessible official town platform, but choose to do so on a private restricted monitored page accessible to only a few community members. If Miss Kash or any member of this public body wishes to publish information about this Town that is of interest or concern to the public and to this community, it should be first published on the Town Facebook site. What the elected public official does after that as a private citizen is his or her own concern. The importance of the Facebook site is because most people are familiar with the Facebook platform. It's easy, it's idiot proof, people move around on it very nicely, it's navigable, The Town website site is complex, sometimes it's even difficult for me to find something on that, so it's even that much more important to keep consistency and currency on the Town Facebook page. Not disbursing this information, if it's important like this grant, if this is in fact a grant that we did get for electronic equipment versus this stuff here, this is remarkable, this is great news.

Supervisor Ruso: Okay, okay, so I'll tell you briefly what the grant is. It was a grant that totals a lot of renovation in this particular site, including a handicapped ramp that will come along this side of the building because that's cruddy, and there is a component of the grant that includes "AV Equipment" and that's where the grant Barb worked on significantly for that particular part. I want to say it was \$39,000, \$37...

Councilmember Kash: This is the one from Senator Hinchey right?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, I never said...

Councilmember Kash: And it's been discussed in public meetings a number of times.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes.

Councilmember Kash: Because that's what you're using the buy the OWL which will be new technology (unable to understand).

Supervisor Ruso: This grant was applied for in 2022, not when you posted it though.

Councilmember Kash: It was a long time to get through the State bureaucracy.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 14

Supervisor Ruso: It wasn't done when you posted it. It was done long before you got on the Town Board.

Councilmember Kash: Right, it was discussed frequently recently at Town Board meetings.

Supervisor Ruso: I've noticed that a lot of people 'thank you for getting the money,' but Barb did the work, I just wanted to point that out. She didn't do the work. Those that thank her for doing the work had it all wrong. She's just the one who posted it. Barb did the work. I think that's important. Okay and again I note there's some people in the audience who thanked Janet for doing that work. No one corrected those folks. Nobody corrected those folks who posted it. So I'm gonna say from out here 'thank you, Barb.' And, yes, thank you, Senator Hinchey.

Tom Hamilton: Well, I just wanted to add one thing. A lot of this came to fester because the Town ignored that this guy was living there for eight years and he has no CO.

Carol Melewski I'm here representing the group who has organized the donation and maintenance of a rose garden at Cornell Park. Our intention is that the garden will serve as a beautiful and enduring tribute to honor the memory of Bernadette Rose Foley, born and raised within sight of the Park, who died tragically two weeks ago. And while this garden can't bring her back, it can ensure that she will never be forgotten in this community. It was made better by her having lived here. We would ask the Board to support this project which we will fund and maintain.

New Business

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 107-2024
AUGUST 12, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF #2D DIESEL FUEL
PER GREENE COUNTY RESOLUTION 267-24**

WHEREAS the Greene County Legislature advertised for bids for #2D Diesel Fuel and three bids were received, opened and publicly read and the lowest responsible bidder meeting all specifications was determined.

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the purchase of #2D Diesel Fuel from Main Brothers Oil Co., Inc. offered by Greene County Resolution 267-24 from August 16, 2024 to August 15, 2025.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 15

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 108-2024
AUGUST 12, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF GASOLINE
PER GREENE COUNTY RESOLUTION 268-24**

WHEREAS the Greene County Legislature advertised for bids for Gasoline and three bids were received, opened and publicly read and the lowest responsible bidder meeting all specifications was determined.

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the purchase of Gasoline from Bottini Fuel offered by Greene County Resolution 268-24 from August 16, 2024 to August 15, 2025.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 109-2024
AUGUST 12, 2024

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE TO
ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A ROSE GARDEN AT CORNELL PARK**

WHEREAS several New Baltimore residents would like to donate, create and maintain a small rose garden at Cornell Park, at no expense to local taxpayers, to honor the memory of Bernadette Foley, a life-long New Baltimore resident.

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore accepts the donation of said rose garden at Cornell Park and the residents will be responsible for the planting and all future pruning, mulching, watering and other basic maintenance as needed.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Kash

Councilmember VanEtten: I just have a couple concerns, Janet. First of all, I didn't realize, we are applying for grants to get the river wall redone 'cause it hasn't been in like twenty years and it's you know washing away. They would have to take that out in order to fix that so we're gonna have to come up with another solution. The second concern that I have is the roof of the gazebo and the gardens around that are in horrible shape and they were put in as a memorial and they're not being maintained. So I am concerned about the ongoing maintenance of this because gazebo roof is around \$9,000 to replace and that was put in there as a memorial.

Councilmember Kash: That was funded and I think placed by the New Baltimore Conservancy am I correct years ago?

Supervisor Ruso: The gazebo?

Councilmember Kash: Yes.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 16

Supervisor Ruso: I believe that was...

Eilleen Vosburgh: I think we were the Beautification Committee at that time.

Supervisor Ruso: I thought it was Hallock, it was Hallock.

Councilmember Kash: The gazebo's at Cornell.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, I was here when Tim O'Dell came up because we sent him down there and painted.

Many speaking at once.

Supervisor Ruso: Because Tim O'Dell went down to paint it and came back here thinking he was in trouble because people told him who was he to paint this gazebo, this is in honor of such and such. Oh, yeah, I remember that.

Eilleen Vosburgh: That had been painted before. I don't know why everybody...

Councilmember VanEtten: But, who's responsible to maintain it, is the Conservancy?

Supervisor Ruso: It says here the residents. Who are the residents?

Carol Melewski: The people who are gonna maintain the rose garden are we talking about that or the gazebo?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, that's what I kinda think.

Carol Melewski: I'm responsible, Donna will be responsible, Eilleen's gonna be responsible, we have a group of other people too. And I don't feel like we should be punished for people who didn't maintain it. You know I understand what you're saying, Shelly, and I've gone down. Sometimes it's weedy and sometimes it looks great.

Councilmember VanEtten: It's in rough shape, but I'm more concerned about the fact that we're gonna have, that's a little Park and the playground equipment is going in the other place and when we do get that grant to redo the wall, that's gonna be pulled out and put back in. So I'm wondering if it would be better at like someplace like Long View because we don't know how long it would take to maintain it to get this grant to go through.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright, well, we have a resolution made and I don't want to get into a dialogue here so we have a resolution made and seconded if there's any other discussion up here?

Councilmember Kash: Shelly, I just wanted to follow up with you. The place that you and Nick, and I looked at, is that where...

Councilmember VanEtten: Yeah, I didn't realize that that would have to be... I brought Robby down because he did the original.

Councilmember Kash: Okay, so we didn't know about that when we looked at that site.

Councilmember VanEtten: No, we didn't. He did the original wall.

Supervisor Ruso: There is nothing in here about the specific location within the Park, there's nothing here about that.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 17

Councilmember VanEtten: Right, so we might have...

Councilmember Kash: I think it might have been in the original resolution draft I sent to all of you, but this has been cut down to two paragraphs.

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, we might have to talk about putting it somewhere else or something because if we have to put it in and let's say we get it in a year or two, it take like two years for the grant to go through.

Councilmember Kash: So that wall where it's all overgrown with grape leaves and a dead tree, and all of that. That's going to be taken.

Councilmember VanEtten: That should have been brushhogged to begin with.

Councilmember Kash: Because that wasn't anything that either you and I were aware of then.

Councilmember Sottolano: Can't we just pick another location in the Park?

Councilmember VanEtten: We'll have to look at something else and then discuss it from there because it's not a very big Park and we want the playground equipment and that stuff for the kids.

Councilmember Kash: The rose garden itself will only be 4 x 8.

Supervisor Ruso: I recognize your points made, I think they're all fine.

Eileen Vosburgh: I think that we could easily remove the roses temporarily when the new stones come in. It's not a big deal.

Councilmember VanEtten: I don't know how long it takes, I should have asked Robby. We put the original one in, it was over 20 years ago when our company did it, but they're washing away because of the water and stuff and it needs to be replaced and I wanted to get a grant for that and the canoe launch and I didn't realize until I brought down my husband to see that that would have to be pulled out to redo that wall.

Eileen Vosburgh: But why don't we just deal with that at that time when you get the grant, I mean it could be awhile from now.

Supervisor Ruso: I'm gonna refer my comments from a much more broader scope. It's public space. It's supposed to be for recreation. Setting up a side public space and where do we end for private mourning. Just doesn't seem right honestly and I don't want to interfere or denigrate the person who died, but I know two people who died in two weeks subsequent. Where's their memorial? Where do we put it? Does everybody who dies in Town get a memorial? I know where you're going and I recognize it and I don't know, for me it's a recreation place and not a memorial place and that's my opinion.

Eileen Vosburgh: I don't believe that the rose garden would have a big sign that says 'In Memory of Bernadette Foley,' age, whatever. You know it certainly wouldn't have a huge sign like the Hallock gazebo. I mean I don't think anybody, we may have a little plaque, but I don't think it's going to bother people. I think it'd be a beautiful thing to have roses regardless of who they're for.

Peter Melewski: First of all back up, great to hear that Cornell Park you're working on a grant for that. Rob did the original, the kayak launch. People in Town go to other towns to kayak because it's unsafe.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 18

Councilmember VanEtten: It's in rough shape.

Peter Melewski: So appreciate that. It's gonna be a small rose garden. The gazebo was made possible by volunteers dedicated at the time. The Town and the public in Town have enjoyed it, it's on the Town's website, I believe it's a picture of the gazebo. So it's a Town enjoyed facility and other things, the Halloran benches that were put in so far. Now it's enjoyed for everybody. Some of it's gonna be enjoyed for everybody, it's gonna be a small location. I'm sure we can find a location in the Park for it. And I hear you too, some people do great things for the Town. They don't get a plaque or a bench, other people do, but this is to me is a no-brainer. Thank you.

Harold Vadney: I think that recreation is basically in the eye of the beholder. You can have a recreational space that you can use for football or a recreational space that you can use for meditation. The fact that a group is willing to put a feature of beauty that can be appreciated by the community and by visitors I think is a very very important point that we have to take into consideration here. The fact that there might be a plaque is totally inconsequential, immaterial, since all the maintenance, the pruning, the care, etc. is being undertaken by the sponsors. I see this is a no-brainer, this is you know a gimme. I really encourage the Board to pass this resolution.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you. Thank you. Okay, anything from the Board and Board only?

AYES: Kash, Sottolano

NAYS: Ruso, Downes, VanEtten

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Did Not Carry

Supervisor Ruso: It's a Town Park folks, it's for recreation. I'll just end it that way. I'll just leave it at that.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 110-2024
AUGUST 12, 2024

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ASSESSOR TO ATTEND THE
2024 NEW YORK STATE ASSESSORS ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE

WHEREAS Assessor Dawn DeRose is authorized to attend the 2024 New York State Assessors Association Inc. Fall Conference to be held at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa in Fairport, New York from September 23-26, 2024.

RESOLVED that the Town of New Baltimore approves the \$200 Conference Pass, \$396 for meals, \$159 per night for hotel accommodations, and mileage.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano

Supervisor Ruso: This is an annual event for those that don't know and we usually share with the other towns that she does her Assessor's work for.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 19

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 111-2028
AUGUST 12, 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 2024-08-01 to 2024-08-55, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2024-08-01 to 2024-08-55.

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

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

General \$26,491.92, Highway \$12,882.35, Sewer 1 \$6,140.91, Sewer 2 \$191.86, Water 2 \$8,006.00, Streetlighting 1 \$1,606.27, Streetlighting 2 \$262.09, Total \$55,581.46

Upcoming Meetings

- August 26, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- September 2, 2024 Town Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day
- September 4, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7 PM (If Needed)
- September 5, 2024 Senior Picnic at 12 PM at Cecil Hallock Park
- September 9, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- 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
- October 5, 2024 Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic at Town Hall, Pre-Registration Required at jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org

Public Comment/Community Events

Harold Vadney: I'm just gonna piggyback this on what I was talking about earlier about the communications and information. I think that basically we're falling short of optimum communications between this Board and this band of five we have here. You're not exactly doing a stellar job of informing the community. Recent event organized by the New York State National Guard to conduct a Citizen's Preparedness Training Program was held at the New Baltimore Town Hall on June 22. This was published in the Newsletter Volume No. 1 and it advertised the event to be limited to 100 participants and preregistration is required. I didn't see anything on the Town Facebook Page or on the community news. The interesting thing here is that we were limited to 100 and only 17 showed up. I wonder if that might have been a better showing had the published some more effective communications. Another event placed in the hands of Ms. Kash, I believe it was for neutering and spaying, we discussed this at the last Regular Town Board meeting mentioned a target of 40 animals or something of that nature?

Councilmember Kash: Minimum of 40 surgeries.

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COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 20

Harold Vadney: A minimum of 40. That was on July 8. I'm just wondering how many you managed to attract?

Councilmember Kash: We probably have about 15 now, it's on October 5. I ask people to...

Harold Vadney: Fifteen, so there's still time. Again, I haven't seen anything on any of the community news on the Town website nor on the Facebook page. Then again it might be on What's Up New Baltimore which I...

Councilmember Kash: Yes, it has been. And, Harold, Mr. Vadney, I'm sorry...

Harold Vadney: No, wait a minute, wait a minute, (unable to understand) I want to get through this. I wonder if that is, I mean don't kill the messenger, just grasp the message. I wonder if you're hearing what I'm saying. I certainly hope so. You're talking about Veterans' and Seniors' picnics and that's not really what I have in mind. A handout is not engagement with the community. It's simply a handout, it's a luncheon, it's not engaging the majority of the community. What you need to do, fill this room and engage them in a participative democracy, our democratic process, not the decisions of a block of three that will vote something down or a block of two who vote in favor of something. That's not democratic process. In any case I'm just gonna cut it off there because I think I've made my point. I hope I've made my point yes?

Councilmember Kash: Mr. Vadney, may I respond to you though, some information that you might need to know. I do post on What's Up New Baltimore because it is available to me and I know that you have an issue with the administrator.

Harold Vadney: I have no issues with anybody, I have issues with not getting the information.

Councilmember Kash: Well, you aren't able to see it, but I just want you to know that I personally have no authority to post on the Town Facebook page. We have been discussing this about possibly allowing Town Board members to access that and to post. There has been no decision.

Harold Vadney: It sounds very strange to me. I would think that the Town Board...

Councilmember Kash: But that's the way that it is right now.

Harold Vadney: That the Town Facebook page would be the go to place for Town Board members.

Councilmember Kash: I have no authority.

Harold Vadney: Highway Department. I see stuff on there for Highway Department, I see some stuff on there for the Veterans, I see stuff on there for the Seniors. I wonder if this is true or if this is not true. If it is true then there's a problem here.

Councilmember Kash: I think that everyone in this room can say that we do not have authority as Town Board members to post there. The Facebook page and the web page are under the authority of the Town Clerk.

Harold Vadney: I don't understand why that would be. That's something that you people have to iron out.

Councilmember Kash: We've had discussions about but nothing has changed as of yet.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 9/27/2024**
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TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 21

Harold Vadney: That's something that you have to iron out. Every community information, community calendar page is yet another place and I think that that is something that you need to iron out amongst yourselves. I've made my point, I'd like to see more information.

Ellie Alfeld: Mr. Vadney, I don't know if you are aware.

Harold Vadney: Are you addressing me or the Board?

Supervisor Ruso: It should come from the Board.

Ellie Alfeld: I'm addressing you. I said Mr. Vadney.

Harold Vadney: Violation of the guidelines.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, it is. Everything should be addressed to the Board.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, I take exception to what Mr. Vadney said.

Supervisor Ruso: So tell us.

Ellie Alfeld: New Baltimore is the only Town in Greene County that does not have anything pertinent to Seniors. That was made clear to us by the Department for the Aged down in Catskill at one of the meetings. Second, as far as us having meetings for the Vets once a year, this is a social thing to encourage the mingling of some of our older Vets in this Town who appreciate being able to get out and enjoy the comfort of similar people and if Mr. Vadney has a problem with that maybe he should take it up somewhere else, but as far as I'm concerned everyone on this Board knows I stand behind the Seniors which we started 20 years ago without benefit of Mr. Vadney and we've been doing the Vets now for quite some time too.

Councilmember Downes: This is just something Townwide. I want everyone to know that if you know someone that's in need for food, they're having problems with food, the Medway Church, Congregational has food that they're welcome to. They have lots and lots of food. So please get that out.

Supervisor Ruso: We can put that on our Town Facebook.

Councilmember Downes: There's frozen food, there's meats, there's refrigerated food right, Jeff:

Jeff Etu: There's cans, there's everything.

Councilmember Downes: Cans, everything, and they get a new...

Supervisor Ruso: Do they take donations of food too?

Councilmember Downes: Yes, they do take donation.

Jeff Etu: They have so much that they're worried about expirations dates.

Councilmember Downes: So they want it out for the Town.

Supervisor Ruso: I think that's great to know because there's not that many resources of that in our Town. Last but not least I will tell you that the Citizen Preparedness program was posted on the Town Facebook page. So, nevertheless, and I do believe it was shared because I think you shared it with the What's Up New Baltimore.

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COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 10/16/2024**
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 12, 2024 – Page 22

Councilmember Kash: I did, I shared it on What's Up New Baltimore.

Supervisor Ruso: I think it was you.

Councilmember Kash: Most of the things that I post on What's Up New Baltimore are the agendas.

Supervisor Ruso: Because it just tells me it was shared. I think it was like four shares. I think Pat Linger shared it. I can't remember, it was at least two months ago.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO
Town Clerk