

6:30 PM PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

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

OCTOBER 28, 2024

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Reports

Supervisor

- Resolution to Place Advertisement for Sealed Bids for Scheller Park Water Main Replacement

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- September 23, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting Minutes
- September 30, 2024 Town Board Special Meeting Minutes
- October 16, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Agriculture/AgFest (Member VanEtten)

Animal Control (Chair Kash, Member Sottolano)

Assessment (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Audit and Budget (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Establish 2025 Preliminary Budget

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

Code Enforcement Officer (Chair Downes/Member Ruso)

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement (Member Dellisanti)

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

Greene County Planning Board (Sottolano)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Approve Medicare Advantage and Vision Insurance Plans for 2025

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

Planning Board (Chair Downes/Member Kash)

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Technology/Website (Chair Downes/Member VanEtten)

Town Courts (Chair Kash/Member Sottolano)

Veterans and Memorials (Chair VanEtten/Member Downes)

Wastewater Treatment (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Water Districts (Chair Kash/Member Sottolano)

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

Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Upcoming Meetings

- November 5, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Election Day
- November 6, 2024, Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7 PM
- November 11, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Veterans Day
- November 13, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- November 14, 2024 Public Information Meeting on Route 144 Complete Streets Project at Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company on Gill Road at 6 PM
- November 14, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- November 25, 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 entrance 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 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.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 11/4/2024**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 11/13/2024**
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
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Supervisor Ruso opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 PM. Also attending Councilmembers Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; Town Clerk Finke; and 16 members of the public who signed the attendance book.

Supervisor Ruso: ‘The Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore will hold a Public Hearing on October 28, 2024 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087 to hear those members of the public who wish to be heard regarding the 2025 Preliminary Budget.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s Office at the Town of New Baltimore, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087.

Proposed Salary Figures of Elected Officials are as Follows:

Town Council (4)	\$ 5,411.00
Town Justices (2)	12,986.00
Town Supervisor	12,986.00
Town Clerk	43,285.00
Superintendent of Highways	61,682.00

By Order of the Town Board

Barbara M. Finke
Town Clerk’

Supervisor Ruso: We presented our budget at the last meeting and we’re prepared to hear the public and their concerns about what is contained herein. We’ll go a few minutes as we wait for maybe some late arrivals, seemingly there are not many concerns.

Judy Felsten: I just need clarification that personal service are salaries?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, they’re staff costs.

Judy Felsten: Then what are contractual?

Supervisor Ruso: Contractual is certainly non-salary. Every department typically has both personnel side and contractual. So I think someone asked about the Courts last meeting and in that particular case the staff are the staff and that’s just their salaries, Contractual will include office supplies, postage etc., etc. If you going and talking about the Highway Department, you’re talking about fuel, salt, abrasives, culverts.

Judy Felsten: Kind of like operating

Supervisor Ruso: Just routine expenses, yes, routine non-personnel related expenses, non-staff.

Motion by Councilmember VanEtten seconded by Councilmember Downes to close the Public Hearing at 6:45 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO
Town Clerk

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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, VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; Town Clerk Finke; and 16 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Highway Superintendent VanWormer

Supervisor Jeff Ruso

The financial reports for September have been forwarded to all members. Has everyone had a chance to review them?

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes to accept the September financial reports

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: In terms of some efforts in the last month, I have continued to make many efforts to gain funding for some of our water projects that we have been speaking about in the past number of meetings going back a few months. 1. The one effort that we did at the last meeting, the PDD, that has been referred to the Planning Board. I've a little bit of discussions with the Planning Board Chair on that topic and they're gearing up to take care of that. 2. The Cossackie 9W project, this is the project that would bring sewer and/or water to the Thruway exit from Cossackie. The County has submitted a proposal by which \$100,000 of our money, CHPE money, would be devoted towards the bond with the County supplementing the remainder of that bond. That total cost of that project is estimated at \$8 million. So the bond is gonna be floated by the Town, \$100,000 comes out of our CHPE monies, the remainder is going to be paid by the County, according to the proposal, but they have some caveats and that is, because they're anticipating is that the sales tax would pay for this and if the sales tax projections are not met, they want the Town to commit to funding the difference between the sales tax received and what they're gonna pay. I have had a brief conversation with the County about that and I suggested a bit of a risk sharing – I don't like that term as it goes to the Town – but, I suggested to them that is interesting, however, if the actual exceeds projections, would they be willing to pay more? They didn't expect that from me, but they're thinking about it. 3. I met with the DEC, the EFC, the Department of Health, and Senator Hinchey's office. I went down to Senator Hinchey's office I believe it was two weeks ago tomorrow, it was a Tuesday I know that, yeah it was a Tuesday, about getting the gap funding I call it for the Water District #2 Scheller Park project. That project is estimated to cost up to \$360,000. We have ARPA funds of \$294,000 which means we're gonna be \$64,000 short so I'm shaking the tin can outside of everybody's office hoping that they'll sprinkle a little bit of money our way so that those folks that are already paying for a bond don't have further indebtedness thrust upon them by getting security in water. So we're still working on it. The meeting I had last week with DEC, DOH, and EFC was not good. In fact it was worse than zero because at the end of the project one particular party said 'look it, we can't give you any approvals, that's not part of our department, however, we have the authority to say no.' So they can't say 'yes,' but they can say 'no' which is not much help because everybody had their own caveats. What I mean by that is 'oh, we only are here for new projects.' Well, it's not a new project. 'We're only here for contaminated water supplies,' well, it's not contaminated. So the list went on and on as to reasons why they don't do much. Hopefully, the Senator's office will say something like 'yes.' and we're hopeful. So we're not done yet. The last thing I did is I met with a potential developer of the project that anyone remembers, Mr. Schaack who came here six month ago, talked about a project on 9W towards the Ravena line. I met with the potential developers. They're actually quite satisfied with the services that are in place. They are happy that there is water available. We have a water district that goes as far as Acquetuck Road. They don't need sewer, they're planning on putting in their own septic. What they have in mind to do is put in a restaurant and a convenience store and it's gonna be in the area roughly across the road from that Day Care Center roughly there.

Ellie Alfeld: I saw the Surveyors there.

Councilmember Downes: What's the restaurant?

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Supervisor Ruso: I have no idea what it is, they wouldn't tell me.

Councilmember Kash: I got the impression when they came before the Planning Board, Ellie, you may remember that they were talking about maybe a fast food restaurant and a gas station I believe.

Councilmember VanEtten: Yeah, I've heard it was a fast food.

Councilmember Downes: Like a Subway?

Councilmember Kash: Duncan Donuts, a Subway.

Councilmember VanEtten: I doubt it's a Subway, there's a Subway right down the street.

Councilmember Kash: That's my recollection, it was a five-acre parcel directly across from the Day Care Center.

Supervisor Ruso: Those are the two gentlemen from Pakistan?

Councilmember Kash: Yes, and, Jeff, to clarify in my own mind, when you say the 9W Cocksackie project, is that the rest stop?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, the Pilot and...

Councilmember Kash: The Pilot proposal.

Supervisor Ruso: Whatever else might be in that area, yeah, yes.

Councilmember Kash: Does that include refurbishing the motel down there as well? Is that part of that?

Supervisor Ruso: That would be a private project, but bringing them water is another story. That would include sewer and/or water.

Councilmember Kash: Okay, I just wanted to make sure I had the right project.

Supervisor Ruso: There's been some confusion about it.

Councilmember VanEtten: The Town would not refurbish somebody's private property.

Councilmember Kash: Yeah, I just wanted to make sure I was looking in the right place.

Supervisor Ruso: The federal government would, but we won't.

Councilmember Kash: So it is the rest stop, it would become a Pilot, not a PILOT project, a Pilot company.

Supervisor Ruso: The Pilot planned for the parcel that's adjacent to the Campers World, it's on the south side of the Thruway exit.

Councilmember Kash: Right, it's the same place I'm thinking of.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 140-2024
OCTOBER 28, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO PLACE ADVERTISEMENT FOR SEALED BIDS FOR
SCHELLER PARK WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT**

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RESOLVED the Town Clerk is authorized to place one advertisement in the Times Union to solicit sealed bids for replacement of water mains in Scheller Park. Said advertisement to appear at least five days before bid deadline.

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received until **NOVEMBER 13, 2024 AT 7:00 PM**, at the Town of New Baltimore, Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, New York 12087 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Work is generally described as follows:

Contract No. 1 – Scheller Park Water Main Replacement: Work consists of construction of 1400' of new 8-inch HDPE water main and crossing of NYS Rt. 9W with a Bid Alternate to replace an additional 1250-ft of 8-inch water main.

Proposals shall be submitted on bid forms which are contained in the detailed specifications available at <https://de.biddyhq.com>. Bid Forms and associated contract documents will only be available from the bidding service.

Contract Documents may be examined at no expense on line at the following website: <https://de.biddyhq.com>, or at the office of Delaware Engineering, D.P.C., 28 Madison Ave Extension Albany NY, 12203, (518) 452-1290.

Digital copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained online as a download from the website: <https://de.biddyhq.com>, which is the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information. All Bidders are urged to register to ensure receipt of all necessary information including bid addenda. Any Addenda will be emailed from bidding service and will be available at <https://de.biddyhq.com>.

Each bid must be accompanied by security in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. No Bidder may withdraw his bid within forty-five (45) days after the actual date of opening thereof.

The right is reserved to waive any informalities in the Bid and to reject any or all Bids.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 7, 2024 at 3:00pm** at the Town Hall at 3809 County Route 51. Bidding contractors are strongly encouraged to have an authorized representative of their firm present at this meeting.

Questions should be sent to Alan Tavenner at atavenner@engineering.com or via phone at (518) 452- 1290.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

Councilmember Downes: So we're gonna take bids up until the opening of our meeting?

Supervisor Ruso: At the beginning at our meeting, yes.

Councilmember Downes: So if somebody walks here at 7:00 we're gonna take their bid?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, actually Barb and I had discussed, we prefer to have it at 6:30, 6:45, however, Delaware Engineering had already sent out things through their contacts in the business to people that said 7:00 so we didn't want to have any disparity between bidders and so we just kept it the same time.

Councilmember Downes: So maybe going forward if we're talking about bids maybe we should shut it down at 4:00 and do the opening of the bids at 6:30.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, but the die had been cast. That's what the problem is.

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Councilmember Downes: No, no, no, I know but I think we should kind of...

Ellie Alfeld: Jeff do you have a price on that?

Supervisor Ruso: Well, we have an estimate of \$360,000.

Ellie Alfeld: I'm talking about the ad for this, \$1,000 for nothing.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, you submit it they tell you the price, but I expect it will be \$1,000 if not more.

Councilmember Sottolano: When it says here 'with a bid alternate to replace an additional' so they would actually possibly put in two bids for two different pieces of work.

Councilmember VanEtten: Yeah, and that's routine.

Supervisor Ruso: Correct, correct, I think that the 9W side is the lengthier distance okay, that's the 1,400 and the Scheller Park side of the Thruway is the 1,250 so we want to get bids on both. The estimate is, from Delaware Engineering, we had that meeting here, up to \$360,000. We won't know really what the cost is until bids are received and as I said we have \$300,000. I said that earlier about \$296,000 and so that \$64,000 question remains out there until we get funding and we'll have to address it according based upon what happens between now and when the work is done.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

County Legislator Pat Linger

As we work our way through the "silly season" known as this year's election, I'm happy to report that the Greene County Legislature continues to be responsive to the needs of the constituency we serve. In September I attended the regular legislative meeting #9, all committee meetings, one workshop, performed MC duties at the senior volunteer luncheon, the inaugural meeting of the ambulance policy committee, the official opening of the Conservancy Grassland Preserve trail, and tonight I'm attending the public hearing on the 2025 Tentative County Budget. If I don't make it out of there in time to read this report in person, I hope you'll understand. Last week I was notified by the County Highway Superintendent of a planned 3-week road closure by Kiewit on CR 61. This closure was said to be necessary for the construction of the CHPE line to avoid disturbance of a conservation easement property. This was an unacceptable closure. The 13-mile detour would split school bus runs, delay emergency service response times, and at the very least inconvenience residents along that route. I believe we have been able to negotiate an acceptable agreement to wait for the morning bus run to finish before temporarily closing the road, move equipment into place that will block a single lane, and re-open the road to alternating single lanes until completion. I don't have that in writing yet, but as a verbal agreement with the CHPE and Kiewit attorneys. There will be an internal meeting tomorrow to work out the remaining details. Sticking with Highway matters, we approved an opposing resolution to the NYS Advanced Clean Trucks Act. This poorly modeled state legislation will undoubtedly cause chaos in our road maintenance abilities, as evidenced by a recent NYS Comptroller report. We approved the purchase of Road Survey software that will record data from 20 or more county vehicles as they drive over our roads. Road conditions, signage, and hazards will be downloaded each time a vehicle parks within our wireless network range. Real-time data is then reported immediately. We also authorized the purchase of a towable tire shredding machine for solid waste to help control our costs of disposal. Paving and road striping has been completed for the season. We authorized repairs to our fire training center in the amount of \$77,000. These repairs are part of the normal wear and tear of such a facility and will be funded with capital project reserves. Given the red flag warning issued by NYS, please use extreme caution when burning outside. Brush fires are on the rise and have been a problem locally. We agreed to commit over \$2 million to the Town of Cairo to help fund renovations for

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a new senior center. We authorized \$36k to be used for matching funds for the GC Historical Society. We will be purchasing 7 new GC Transportation buses with a local share of over \$800,000. These buses will replace 2016 models. I voted against over \$22,000 in county chargebacks related to BOE and Real Property services. New Baltimore had one of the highest chargeback totals due to the primary election held last year. The resolution did pass the full board vote. Early voting began this past Saturday with hours of operation posted on the county website.

Supervisor Ruso: We did get the \$22,000, Pat didn't know about it, but I did have communication with the County. That figure is closer to \$11,000, it got cut in half and \$7,500 of the \$11,000 is charges by the County Board of Elections. As I've told others, the County Board of Elections pays for the people that work the elections. They also pay the venue that the elections are held in. So they'll send \$150 to Medway, \$150 to Gill Road, and \$150 here and then they charge us for the money that they sent to each of the venues and to the people that are here and then there's some administration costs down there. So we pay for the elections, the Town does even though it might not be a Town person on election, maybe a County person or federal or state. It's the way it is. By the way I will ask Pat if he's watching if you can provide \$2 million to the Town of Cairo for a Senior Center and \$800,000 for seven new Greene County transportation busses that I don't even know if it comes to the Town of New Baltimore anymore. I haven't seen it in forever. Can we get \$64,000 for a water district? How's that for a question?

Councilmember Kash: I think I did see something on the news yesterday that they are delaying the regulations for the advanced Clean Trucks Act for five years because nobody is able to comply with them right now.

Town Clerk Barb Finke

8 Building Permits \$730, 1 Building Permit Septic System New \$50, 2 CO Searches \$100, 1 EZ Pass Tag \$25, 13 Hunting & Fishing Licenses \$68.85, 21 Dog Licenses \$144, 3 Late License \$15, 2 Marriage Licenses \$35, 1 Demolition \$75, 1 Park Rental \$25, 1 Return Check Fee \$20, 1 Renovation Permit \$175, 1 Solar Residential \$100, 25 Certified Copies \$250, 1 9 Photo Copies \$4.75, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$2,988.75, \$27 to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program, \$45 to New York State Department of Health for Marriages, \$1,074.15 to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses, Total to Supervisor \$1,146.15. We received 3 FOILs in September bringing the total for the year to 24 as of September 30th. We are collecting Water 2 and 3 bills with the following interest rates: 22% for third quarter 2023, 16% for fourth quarter, 10% for first quarter 2024, and 4% second quarter 2024. Sewer 1 payments are collected with 18% penalty for first quarter and 4% for second quarter. Payments can be made until October 31, after that date they will be turned over to Greene County for relevy onto 2025 Property Taxes. I attended a Columbia-Greene Town Clerks Association meeting in Stuyvesant on September 20 with Lori Mithen-DeMasi from the Association of Towns. The Townwide Yard Sale was held on September 21 with 36 sales on the map. An ad was placed in the Times Union, the event was on the National Bank of Coxsackie outside sign, copies of the map were on Town Hall steps, the Town Park, New Baltimore Reformed Church, and other sales throughout the Town. Special appreciation to Lynn Taylor for her assistance as well as the Highway Department for updating the date on the signs and putting them up and taking them down.

Supervisor Ruso: The percentage charges for the sewer and the water, even though there are these fines and penalties, there are a host of people, both district, Sewer District particularly, the dollar figures are higher, they never pay their sewer bill even or haven't ever to our recollection or knowledge. What happens at the end of the year, those charges and the penalty and the interest are put upon their tax bill from which they have... I mean I would encourage people to pay their bill otherwise it cost them a lot more and I just thought I'd say that especially if anyone is gonna listen to us on the YouTube channel. Pay the bill, it's important and it's cheaper.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The September 23, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting Minutes 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:

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AYES: Ruso, Downes Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

The September 30, 2024 Town Board Special Meeting Minutes 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 October 16, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes 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

Animal Control

Councilmember Kash: The October 5 mobile spay and neuter clinic for cats at the Town Hall was very successful. We got a lot of cats, both domestic and feral, fixed and vaccinated at affordable prices. One woman told me she was actually asked to pay \$700 for what she got her for \$95, which I think was a bit excessive. We also got a few dogs licensed and updated on rabies. Thanks to my fellow board members for supporting this effort, and to Deputy Clerk Amanda Eldred for coming out on a weekend to handle dog licensing and also special thanks to Barb Finke who gave me the Wi-Fi.

Town Clerk Finke: I was also here that day.

Councilmember Kash: Oh, I didn't see you. Okay, thanks for you coming out too, but we had a problem with the credit card thingamajigger, and Barb was nice enough to send us the Wi-Fi so that they could get that working and we ended up getting the front page story in the Ravena News Herald taking about our efforts here so that was very gratifying. I and Dog Control Officer Sherry Vieta attended a day-long DCO training session this past Saturday sponsored by the Greene County Sheriff's Office with speakers from Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, including their top animal law cruelty investigator. It was very valuable learning more about animal law enforcement, especially in terms of DCO responsibilities, the role of State Agriculture and Markets investigators, court intervention, and the various statutes governing animal cruelty, dangerous dog complaints, and other important topics and I thank the organizers for providing this opportunity.

Councilmember Downes: What is going on with our red tagged house with all the cats? What is the status of that? Where we are going?

Councilmember Kash: Without giving away personal privacy information, my understanding is that the veteran who has lived there obviously cannot be there anymore and the entire building and property has been red tagged. I think he is spending some time there, but not living there obviously in his car so that he can take care of the remaining cats that are there so that they're getting their water and their food.

Councilmember Downes: Winter is right around the corner so what's going to happen to these...?

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Councilmember Kash: Well, they actually do have shelter inside of the building. I mean they can go in but he can't and there's just a lot going on behind the scenes with that because the owner is getting help from a veterans program for that. I understand that he's working toward getting the building up to Code which is gonna be a lot.

Councilmember Downes: Right, I'm not so worried about the building side. We had somebody here last meeting regarding the cats.

Councilmember Kash: Right, Mr. Hamilton and I've spoken to him since then.

Councilmember Downes: Since you've been back.

Councilmember Kash: And I can't give much more of an update.

Supervisor Ruso: Our worries about the well-being if he's not there.

Councilmember Kash: Well, he is actually taking care of the cats. He's spending time going there to make sure that they are fed, and that they're watered because he will not speak to me any longer to give me a personal update after he got red tagged. He doesn't trust me anymore. I can't give any specifics as to what is actually happening there, but I do know that he cares very much for the animals and he would never abandon them. So they are getting care.

Supervisor Ruso: Certainly not intentionally, no. No one is suggesting.

Councilmember Kash: This has been the most complicated and heartbreaking situation since the very beginning and hopefully there's a path forward and you know the animals are being taken care of to the best of my knowledge, but I've been told that he's gotten more of them vaccinated, but since he does not speak to me personally anymore, you know I can't give you an actual update on his actions.

Supervisor Ruso: It's all speculative and it's secondhand at best. Okay, thank you for that, let's move on to Audit and Budget.

Audit and Budget

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 141-2024 OCTOBER 28, 2024

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH 2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby establishes the 2025 Preliminary Budget from the 2025 Tentative Budget.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

Supervisor Ruso: I want to make a particular thanks to Deputy Supervisor Mr. Nick Dellisanti for enormous help on putting the budget together. There is I think over 20 pages, I don't even know how many line items on every single page and we went over every single one of them. There is one void that's in this which will be in the Preliminary that you will see in the Final because on Friday the Fire Department, Medway, I was in receipt of Medway Grapeville Fire Department's 2025 budget. Those figures are not in what you see before you, but they will be before the Final. Okay what's missing, you could say 'hey, what's missing?' Actually, that's what Deb already asked that question. So, in any event that's the only known update that we will have. Again, sometimes I'll get some things from the County, State, Federal, whatever that will make a change in the cost of the budget up until the Final. up until the day before the Final. That happens every year.

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AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Assessment

Councilmember Sottolano: We were able to hire a woman, Allison Dooley. She is very experienced, has worked with the State, has taught about Assessment, she is going to be working, she's a temporary and part-time person to assist the Assessor with looking at where building permits have not been received their CO or they're CC and so to see if there is any assessment value that can be gained, she's gonna be going and looking into some of these properties so she'd only be working six weeks, eight weeks at most.

Ellie Alfeld: Will she be doing investigating?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes.

Councilmember Sottolano: She's gonna be on the road most of the time.

Supervisor Ruso: They call that data collection.

Councilmember Sottolano: Yup, data collection.

Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley

60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastics) 12, 21 Bundles of Magazines & Phone Books, 39 Bags & Bundles of Newspaper, 143 Boxes & Bundles of Cardboard, 1 Dishwasher on 10/05/24, and 1 Refrigerator, Large on 10/05/24

Greene County EMS Representative Nick Dellisanti

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: This is the 10th year in a row the Town of New Baltimore has lowered taxes and there over 940 towns in the State of New York and there's no other Town that can come up to that level. I would like to compliment the Town Board for approving this budget. It's another one, ten years in a row so that's a very long time in government.

Supervisor Ruso: If I can actually speak back on that. You and I actually found lots of way to get monies in that aren't part of taxes which is how we are doing that. I'll use the interest rates as a more recent event. We went from earning less than \$5,000 to making over \$50,000 on interest.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: And that saves our behinds as they say. The regular monthly meeting was held Tuesday, October 15, 2024. There were 8 EMS calls in September for a total of 174 for this year 2024. Year to date: Strokes 69 for all of Greene County. We had 171 calls for all of 2023 and at the end of September 174 for 2024. We are already over 2023 number even though September was down to eight, we've been in the high 20s the last few months so I'm hoping that our numbers continue to be low. We definitely are going to get pretty close to 200 calls for this year. Greene County EMS last year had over 4,000 calls and we are closing in on that number already.

Supervisor Ruso: Why?

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: We're getting an aged population, and people are getting sick more frequently.

Ellie Alfeld: Nick, when there's a problem over at the hot shops say a stroke or something like that?

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: We get charged for that, New Baltimore gets charged for that and there are a few every month. Good question, Ellie.

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Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer

Finished grader patching on Paradise Hill Road. Grader Patched Haas Hill Road with blacktop. Marked Mill Street for Culvert replacement. Ordered and received 300 tons of salt. Replaced alternator on Champion Grader with used one we had. Cut tree limbs sticking out on Roberts Hill Road. Finished rear brake replacement on 2013 International truck #7, painted wheels and put back together. Installed hidden driveway sign on Reservoir Road. Cut brush and weeds around road signs. Replaced stolen 35MPH sign on Saw Mill Road. Grader Patched on Dug Way Lane with blacktop. Met with Town resident on Old Kings Road regarding a water issue. Replaced 15"x50 feet of culvert on Mill Street. Graded School Hill Road on Rt.51 side. Picked up mattress dumped on Scheller Park Road. Took load of scrap tires from recycle to Catskill transfer station. Had glass dumpster emptied at recycle center. Installed hidden driveway sign on West Deans Mill Road. Serviced 2011 International truck # 13. Mowed parks and Town Hall as needed. Replaced starter on 2011 F350 truck #11. Serviced John Deere Loader. Serviced 1093 and 1997 International Plow trucks. Cut limbs on High Rock Road that were hitting fire trucks Paved 850 feet of School Hill Road, Thank You to the Town of Bethlehem for the use of their paver and three-person crew, and Towns of Coxsackie, Athens. And Coeymans for trucks to haul blacktop. Using Bethlehem's paver saved us \$5000.00. Mowed behind guiderails on Carhart Road with boom mower. Cleaned up broken glass on Roberts Hill Road from car accident Called Denoyer Chevrolet about new truck, we should receive it mid-week this week, will need a check.

Town Clerk Finke: Check was sent.

Put up driveway markers on Dugway Lane where plow truck turns around. Blacktopped culvert crossing on Mill Street. Grader patched on Main Street from Church Street South with blacktop paid for by County Highway. Looked at dead trees to be cut on Hilcrest Road, will have to wait for bucket truck availability. Vacuumed leaves from ditches and drains in Hamlet and a few other roads. Marked culverts to be changed on West Deans Mill Road before next year's paving. Cut two large dead trees on Medway Earlton Road and Mirror Lake Road with help from Town of Athens Bucket truck. Wednesday October 9th highway Crew attended mandatory annual safety training, this year's training was provided by the Greene County Highway Superintendents Association at no cost to the towns, and the topic was work zone safety.

Supervisor Ruso: I know you read it the way it reads, I wish Alan was here, but on the first page at the bottom, the service 1093. I believe that would be 1993. Our trucks are old but not that old. Okay, that's one. Two, 'Grader patched on Main Street from Church Street South with blacktop paid for by County Highway.' I'm curious as to why the County didn't do that themselves? Maybe I'll have to ask Mr. Linger because that's a County road and I just don't think that's a... unless they asked for help. I suppose I don't have a problem with that, but you know they're the ones that bought like 12 new. There's Mr. Linger. Did you guys ask for help on black topping Main Street?

County Legislator Linger: Not that I'm aware of.

Supervisor Ruso: Okay, I'll have to ask Mr. VanWormer or who's the County Highway guy?

County Legislator Linger: Scott Templeton.

Supervisor Ruso: Oh, yes, that's right. Because apparently, we blacktop, but you guys paid for the blacktop, we did the work. Does that make sense? I mean if you guys need the help.

County Legislator Linger: Not really, we don't do any patching. We contract it. We don't have blacktop machines to lay blacktop.

Supervisor Ruso: I'll have to figure that out.

Ellie Alfeld: I would like to know how we take care of the Town of Bethlehem when they give us help. Do we pay them?

Supervisor Ruso: No, we provide reciprocal services.

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Ellie Alfeld: It seems like we've got a lot of reciprocals in here with Athens, with Coxsackie.

Councilmember Downes: Yeah, but we've been down to Athens and Coxsackie. I don't know how Bethlehem works.

Supervisor Rush: Yeah, I don't remember Bethlehem much. We do indicate when Bethlehem helps us, but it's not typical in the report when we go to help other towns. It's not as commonly.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, the only reason I asked that is because people that are working from Bethlehem or Athens are getting credit on their work for the State when they work, they get credits on their time for...

Councilmember Downes: It doesn't exchange anything so it's not like they're getting time from us and time from Athens, they just go on their Athens time or their Bethlehem time. So, when our guys go there, they don't get extra time for working in Bethlehem or Athens. It's just our time.

Councilmember VanEtten: Straight time.

Insurance

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 142-2024
OCTOBER 28, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE
AND VISION INSURANCE PLANS FOR 2025**

WHEREAS the Medicare Advantage Plan for retirees age 65 and above will be MVP USA Care with Part D PPO at a cost of \$332.46 per person per month starting January 1, 2025 for a total estimated monthly cost of \$2,992.41 per month based on current usage; and,

WHEREAS the Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Vision plan is renewed as of December 1, 2024 for a total estimated monthly cost of \$114.58 based on current usage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the agreements for each of the above insurance plans.

Supervisor Ruso: So, the Medicare Advantage is for those over age 65 who are former Town employees and the Vision plan is for any of those folks be it current employees -- at least part-time or above -- and as well as retirees. So that's who that's for. We were running with the CDPHP for a good number of years. They raised the rates to \$436 and some-odd-cents, raised it by \$110 per person per month and so we asked the brokers to shop it around and MVP did not raise their rates, and the cost of MVP is similar to the cost of what we have been paying with CDPHP. I think it's \$6 more a month, \$6 more, and the coverage is similar. That's what I asked them to do.

Ellie Alfeld: I don't know if you're heard complaints from the people here in Town, I've gotten phone calls that CDPHP has dropped some of your seniors and given them until December 31 to find new insurance.

Supervisor Ruso: That's in part a conversation I had with our broker that MVP has raised their rates so much with the anticipation people will drop out. That's what they're hoping for. I mean it went up by 25 percent.

Ellie Alfeld: They didn't say that they were offered even by raising the price, they were told they must change their insurance company.

Supervisor Ruso: CDPHP is...

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Ellie Alfeld: Might hear more.

Supervisor Ruso: Just to let you know from my knowledge of health care services, CDPHP is, they're trying to hold it together. That's the best way...

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: By the way we have not yet received our Dental. We usually have it by now, but we don't have our Dental so that will be a resolution coming soon. That plan begins on January 1 so we have time, but we'd like to get it done because people need to know.

Seniors

Councilmember VanEtten: We're in the process of planning the Christmas Party.

Supervisor Ruso: Do you have a date?

Councilmember VanEtten: Not yet because we have to call a couple more restaurants. We have to get...

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: Quotes.

Councilmember VanEtten: I'm not sure that every restaurant can do the same date.

Town Court

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

- Total September monies received was \$14,450.00
 - Hon. James W. Huff \$ 9,116.00
 - Hon. Anthony C. Konsul \$5,334.00
- Total 2024 monies received (January-September) \$130,714.50
- Total new cases received 153

Town Clerk Finke: I just received the breakdown today. Justice Huff was \$72,110.50. Justice Konsul was \$58,604. Total as you mentioned was \$130,714.50. The State share \$66,338. The County share \$2,130, the Town share \$62,246.50.

Supervisor Ruso: Where do you get those figures from?

Town Clerk Finke: It comes in from the State Comptroller's Office.

Supervisor Ruso: It has been inconsistent.

Town Clerk Finke: It depends on when they get the bills, or they get the reports. It's all different.

Supervisor Ruso: I just thought it would be good if it was all...

Councilmember Kash: Sometimes we had them and sometimes we didn't.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, it's been inconsistent, you're right.

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Bill Boehlke

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet on October 2, 2024, since there were no applications to come before the Board.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Councilmember Sottolano: So we were able to hire a Part-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator and he should be beginning work this week. And also at the Wastewater Treatment Plant there's some overgrowth of brush and trees right around the power pole and the property between the driveway and Route 144 is the Town's, so we're seeking some bids for the cleanout of that brush to clear up that because it did cause a power outage at one point.

Councilmember Downes: Can't the Highway Garage look at that?

Councilmember Sottolano: I had spoken to them and Lou Betke and there was a concern because they're actually operating right around the pole and the Highway Department doesn't have a bucket truck.

Councilmember Downes: Yeah, but we've borrowed a bucket truck all the time right?

Councilmember VanEtten: That's true.

Councilmember Sottolano: I think that was the main concern was that operating around the power lines there was I guess.

Supervisor Ruso: Maybe it's we're operating around the power lines I'd prefer to have a professional tree person maybe.

Councilmember Sottolano: And the insurance that goes with it.

Supervisor Ruso: I don't want something to go wrong.

Councilmember Downes: No, but I'm sure we do this all the time.

Supervisor Ruso: Trees are around power lines.

Councilmember Downes: Yeah, that's what I mean. We don't even go to Alan. We should at least go to Alan and see what he says.

Councilmember Sottolano: Actually, I sent when I was first was told about it by Lou I did speak to Alan and he actually recommended some other...

Supervisor Ruso: Well, he said he couldn't do it.

Ellie Alfeld: How tall are these trees?

Supervisor Ruso: The vines go right up the pole and everything.

Councilmember Sottolano: It's got to be cleared all the way up to 144.

Ellie Alfeld: I thought it was just at the base.

Councilmember Sottolano: No, no.

Councilmember VanEtten: Sometimes though the power lines like that they have to use a man lift rather than a bucket truck to get in smaller places.

Supervisor Ruso: There's not a lot of room there.

Upcoming Meetings

- November 5, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Election Day
- November 6, 2024, Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7 PM
- November 11, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Veterans Day
- November 13, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM

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- November 14, 2024 Public Information Meeting on Route 144 Complete Streets Project at Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company on Gill Road at 6 PM
- November 14, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- November 25, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Public Comment Period/Community Events

Audit of Claims

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 143-2024
OCTOBER 28, 2024

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO PAY AUDITED CLAIMS

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

WHEREAS the Town Board has audited claims 2024b-10-01 to 2024b-10-22, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2024b-10-01 to 2024b-10-22.

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

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

General \$25,049.31, Highway \$106,285.03, Sewer 2 \$182.65, Total \$131,516.99

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO
Town Clerk