

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

**JUNE 24, 2024**

*Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.*

**Reports**

Supervisor

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- May 13, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting

Historian

Agriculture/Agfest (Member VanEtten)

Animal Control (Chair Kash, Member Sottolano)

Assessment (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Audit and Budget (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

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

Code Enforcement Officer (Chair Downes/Member Ruso)

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement (Member Dellisanti)

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

Greene County Planning Board (Sottolano)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Downes/Member Kash)

- Resolution to Establish Escrow Account Per CHPE Road Use Agreement
- Resolution to Hire Creighton Manning as Designated Engineering Firm for Cheema Gas Station and Establish Bank Account for Engineering Escrow
- Resolution to Hire Craw & Associates as Designated Engineering Firm for US Route 9W LLC Light Industrial and Warehouse Park Project and Establish Bank Account for Engineering Escrow

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Technology/Website (Chair Downes/Member VanEtten)

- Resolution to Approve IT Network Add-On

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**

- July 3, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7 PM
- July 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- July 11, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- July 22, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- July 28, 2024 Veterans Committee Picnic at 12 Noon at Cecil Hallock Park, Rain Location at Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company on Gill Road
- September 5, 2024 Senior Picnic at 12 PM at Cecil Hallock Park
- September 21, 2024 Townwide Yard Sale Beginning at 9 AM
- October 5, 2024 Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic at Town Hall, Pre-Registration Required at [jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org](mailto:jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org)

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Audit of Claims**

**Adjournment**

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

## **GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC CONDUCT DURING TOWN BOARD MEETINGS**

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

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

***Supervisor Jeff Ruso***

The monthly financial reports for May were forwarded to all Board members. Motion to accept AFR

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Supervisor Jeff Ruso***

A meeting was held on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in regards to Water District #2. The replacement of the remaining 100-year-old water line has been discussed for over 4 years and a plan was reviewed. The town withheld the \$330,000 ARPA funds from the Federal Government and it is estimated that these funds will pay approximately 90 to 100% of the cost. More information will be known upon the receipt of bids. The Supervisor's Annual Financial Report for the fiscal period 01-01-2023 to 12-31-2023 was submitted. 2023, the Town of New Baltimore for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row has a surplus in its finances. The Citizens Emergency Preparedness program with the Army and Air National Guard presented on June 29<sup>th</sup> with 17 residents in attendance.

***County Legislator Pat Linger***

In June I attended 9 committee meetings, the regular legislative meeting, and several meetings and events around the County. The State Legislative Session has now ended with no new mandates for counties this year, however, the package of EMS bills also was not included. This leaves us in a very challenging position to ensure the needs of our residents are met with respect to EMS response. The report from our outside consultants, Fitch & Associates, with recommendations for action is expected in July. Our goal is to support our residents with sustainable and equitable EMS service regardless of location within the County. While EMS is not a County service, we should all understand that without a hospital, we need to have a good EMS system. NYS has refused to acknowledge EMS as an essential service on multiple occasions, including this year, but we feel it needs to be. We have now completed the Cohotate Preserve project and the shoreline stabilization at the Historic Catskill Point. Bids on the new Tourism Office and Visitor Center at Exit 21 came in under budget. Subsequent to the opening of those bids, the bidder informed us that they had made a mistake and would not be able to perform the work. We are now looking at the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest bidder to make sure they meet all of the specifications. Construction is expected to start after Labor Day. We took a major step forward in replacing the Mental Health building in Cairo with the purchase of a 16-acre parcel at the former Cairo Fairgrounds. This will allow for construction of a new campus to include Community Services, Veterans Reintegration programs, and records storage. Spatial evaluations are now underway. The hope is that we can finish the Community Services building in 2026 with no increase in property taxes. We resolved this month to advocate against OSHA reforms for NYS firefighters. These regulations have not been updated in over 40 years. To require these changes immediately will cause widespread confusion and cost property taxpayers. We believe this is the best way to support our 27 volunteer fire companies in Greene County. We approved spending \$52,000 from NYS Interoperable Grant funds to add simultaneous dispatch to our fire service frequencies. This will make the fire response channel more operationally effective by dispatching from all towers at one time. We authorized a supplemental agreement for right-of-way acquisition for the CR61 bridge replacement. This will allow us to keep at least one lane open for traffic during construction. We authorized the purchase of vehicles for Mental Health and the Highway Sign Shop. I awarded two Speenburgh grants this month. One for the New Baltimore Agfest committee to help defray costs of the annual festival and the other for the RC Sportsmen Club for the youth fishing derby. Our committee meetings scheduled for July 3 have been moved to July 8, 2024. The 70<sup>th</sup> annual Greene County Youth Fair will begin Thursday,

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July 25, 2024. One of our New Baltimore residents will be named 2024 Youth of the Year. Attend the opening ceremonies at 10am on Thursday to find out who it is!

***Town Clerk Barb Finke***

May 1-31, 2024 7 Building Permits \$524.80, 1 CO Search \$50, 4 EZ Pass Tags \$100, 3 Fishing Licenses \$1.94, 32 Dog Licenses \$240, 6 Late License \$30, 5 Marriage Licenses \$87.50, 4 Beer Permits \$80, 2 Demolition Permits \$150, 1 Non-Resident Park Rental \$50, 9 Resident Park Rentals \$225, 8.5 Major Subdivisions \$850, 3 Minor Subdivisions \$225, 20 Certified Copies \$200, 1 Genealogical Search \$22, 31 Photo Copies \$7.75, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$3,037.55, \$48 to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program, \$112.50 to New York State Department of Health for Marriages, \$33.06 to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Fishing Licenses, Total to Supervisor \$2,843.99. To date we have collected \$2,977,326.66, Penalties of \$9,389.94, Returned Check Fees of \$20, and Notice Fees of \$40. This represents 81% collected and remaining uncollected of \$680,798.04. Water 2 and 3 billing for April-June and July-December Sewer 1 billing will be sent out mid-July. Payments can be made penalty-free until August 15. We send our thoughts and prayers to the Irving Family on the loss of Patty on June 11. Her celebration of life will be held on Saturday, July 13 from 12-4 PM at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Coeymans Hollow. Everyone always enjoyed when Patty stopped by Town Hall, her sense of humor was contagious. Patty did our 911 signs. She enjoyed making them and said it was relaxing for her. We remember texting her about a request and shortly after the text she stopped and dropped it off. The resident was amazed and had it in their hand a few hours after their request and on the same day. Every time we see a blue 911 sign, we will think of her.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The May 13, 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**

***Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley***

60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastics) 7, 6 Bundles of Magazines & Phone Books, 18 Bags & Bundles of Newspaper, 44 Boxes & Bundles of Cardboard, 2 Air Conditioners, 1 Microwave Oven, and 1 Refrigerator, Large on 06/08/24

***Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin***

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for May, 2024 is as follows: Building Inspections: 27; Total Permits Issued: 8; Certificates of Compliance Issued: 7; Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 1; Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 1; Demolition Permit Applications Received: 1; Demolition Permits Issued: 2; New Septic System Application: 1; Septic repair/addition: 1; Roof Top Solar Permit for Additional Panels: 1; Total New Permit Applications Received: 9; New Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 23; Open Building Permits: 227; Application Fees for May, 2024: \$599.80 Total Fees for Year to Date: \$7,154.45

***Greene County EMS Representative Nick Dellisanti***

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. There were 18 EMS calls in May for a total of 98 for this year 2024. Strokes-6 Overdoses-5 Narcan-2. We had 171 calls for all of 2023.

***Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer***

May 27 to June 24 2024 Paved Featherbed Lane; Moved Picnic tables, truck for garbage, and trash cans to Ag-Fest; Mowed Saw Mill Road with boom mower; Patched large holes at District one park; Mowed all parks as needed; Mowed Town Hall as needed; Started to haul dirt from Carver to District 3 park but contractor made us stop; Straightened Carhart Road sign; Weed

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whacked under guiderails on New Baltimore Road; Alan & Scott attended Highway School June 3-5; Made repairs to ramp at Town Hall; Serviced Bobcat Skid steer; Removed old equipment from WWTP; Replaced mud flaps on 1996 International # 8; Picked up 2012 International #13 from HL Gage, and dropped off 2023 International #5 for recall work; Finished ditch and Shoulder work on East Honey Hollow Road Continued mowing along roads; 6/12 sent two truck to Town of Athens to help ship seal; Patched holes with winter mix; Mowed around highway garage; Picked up used equipment trailer; Started to chip seal featherbed lane, had to stop due to weather; 6/18/24 worked together with WWTP operator and fire company to flush all sewer lines in hamlet; Put stone along a portion of High Roak Road for erosion control; Applied ceramic coat to 2023 F350 #1; Started to clean and reshape ditch on lower portion of School Hill Road; Sent one truck to Town of Athens to help finish chip sealing; Picked up debris along roads from weekend wind; Continued mowing roadsides; \*\*\* Chips paperwork for Saw Mill Road has been submitted in the amount of \$194,875.11 payment will be received in September. \*\*\* we will be completing the chip seal on Featherbed Lane within the next two weeks and I have asked Gorman Construction/All State Materials to provide an invoice as soon as possible after so I can submit the paperwork and hopefully get both payments in the September cycle. \*\*\* for anyone who has not seen it I'm very proud to say that myself and our Highway Department were featured in the June issue of the NYS Superintendents profile magazine. This is something that you have to be nominated for by your peers in other Highway Departments. I am currently looking into a basket for the front of our loader to allow us to trim trees along our roads. We do not have a bucket truck, nor do I want to get into the bucket truck business, way to much liability. This basket is both OSHA and PESH approves and will allow us to do much needed tree trimming on our town roads. The price will be less than \$5000.00. I will have more details including prices before next meeting.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I would like to know more on that. Something to clear with the insurance company. Just something about one of you guys sitting in a bucket of a payloader doesn't seem right.

**Superintendent VanWormer:** The loader comes off and this goes in place of the bucket

**Supervisor Ruso:** Ok, ok.

**Superintendent VanWormer:** We can be hooked up to it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I can be convinced but...

**Legislator Linger:** The safety lanyard that you hook onto, that hook....

**Supervisor Ruso:** Hold on, there was one thing I wanted to point out. You said you started the whole dirt from Carver to District 3 Park, the contractor made us stop, actual I don't know if you reviewed it or not but the originating document from Delaware Engineering the details of Delaware Engineering's recommendations were that the dirt be tested and so the contractor said if it hasn't been tested with the accordance with that. So anyway, it's more of something that was stopped a long time ago when the contract from Delaware Engineering first come out.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We just got to get that stuff done.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** How is this basket controlled?

**Superintendent VanWormer:** The person in the loader controls it.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Ok so there are no hydraulics in the basket itself.

**Superintendent VanWormer:** The guy standing there with....

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 97-2024  
JUNE 24, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH ESCROW ACCOUNT  
PER CHPE ROAD USE AGREEMENT**

*WHEREAS* the agreement included a provision that CHPE will present to the Town \$15,000 to be held in escrow and to be used to repair minor repairs to Town roads, if any.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the Town Supervisor to establish a new bank account to hold the \$15,000 submitted by CHPE.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Again this is an escrow account, so if you spot something that needs minor repair that's the funds to fix it. I hope you remember that. But it was from last fall.

**Superintendent VanWormer:** I've been checking the roads sometimes two or three times a week. I've been talking with the guys, very pleasant to work with. They've been very nice.

**Supervisor Ruso:** And they say we can keep \$5,000 of it, ok fine but regardless whether you have repairs.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten.

**Councilmember Downes:** Wait, I've got a question. \$15,000 to be done for minor repairs. God forbid if something major happens, where do we go from there?

**Supervisor Ruso:** We get to sit down and talk with them. They've agreed to go over those major repairs in the event there is such.

**Councilmember Downes:** I mean, hopefully they will all be minor. I just wanted to know what our backup plan is.

**Supervisor Ruso:** As it was explained by our attorney at the time, as well as their attorney. They do not want to look at every little crack and every little dimple that's what this \$15,000 was for. However, there's something more substantial we will have to sit down and talk with them.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten***

The Planning Board met on June 13 with the following business transacted: Public Hearing was held on the Donald and Sallyanne Russo Minor Subdivision Application for two-lot subdivision of property owned on High Mount Road. In the Regular Monthly Meeting that followed: ...Russo Minor Subdivision Application was approved. ...The Board continued discussion on outstanding matters relating to both the Hannacroix Solar Project and the New Baltimore Solar Project.

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**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**

**RESOLUTION 98-2024**  
**JUNE 24, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO HIRE CREIGHTON MANNING AS DESIGNATED  
ENGINEERING FIRM FOR CHEEMA GAS STATION AND  
ESTABLISH BANK ACCOUNT FOR ENGINEERING ESCROW**

*WHEREAS* the Planning Board of the Town of New Baltimore has selected Creighton Manning as town designated engineer for the Cheema Gas Station and Convenient Store project, and,

*WHEREAS* Creighton Manning is listed among the Town’s approved Engineering Firms per resolution by the Town Board at the Town’s Organizational Meeting of 1-1-2024,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* the Town Board approve Creighton Manning as the Engineer for Cheema Gas Station and Convenient Store, and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the Town Supervisor to establish a new bank account to hold required Engineering Escrow deposit, paid by Cheema Gas Station, upon receipt.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**

**RESOLUTION 99-2024**  
**JUNE 24, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO HIRE CRAWFORD & ASSOCIATES AS DESIGNATED  
ENGINEERING FIRM FOR US ROUTE 9W LLC LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AND  
WAREHOUSE PARK PROJECT AND ESTABLISH BANK ACCOUNT  
FOR ENGINEERING ESCROW**

*WHEREAS* the Planning Board of the Town of New Baltimore has selected Crawford & Associates as designated engineer for the US Route 9W LCC Light Industrial and Warehouse Park Project and,

*WHEREAS* Crawford & Associates is listed among the Town’s approved Engineering Firms per resolution by the Town Board at the Town’s Organizational Meeting of 1-1-2024,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* the Town Board approve Crawford & Associates as the Engineer for the US Route 9W LCC Light Industrial and Warehouse Park Project, and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the Town Supervisor to establish a new bank account to hold required Engineering Escrow deposit, paid by the US Route 9W LCC Light Industrial and Warehouse Park Project.

Motion by Superintendent Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Just so you know, I have not yet established these bank accounts but I will when I receive money from these various people. This brings us up to I believe 26 bank accounts that I have to reconcile monthly. So, nevertheless.

**Councilmember Downes:** Do you know how long they have to get the money to us?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I didn't give them a deadline, but the Planning Board is handling that.

**Councilmember Downes:** I didn't know if it was 10 days after signature or...

**Supervisor Ruso:** No. I just need a place to put it when it comes in that's what the purpose of this resolution.

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**

**RESOLUTION 100-2024**  
**JUNE 24, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IT NETWORK ADD-ON**

**WHEREAS** the Town of New Baltimore needs to upgrade numerous lines and ports on the town's network, and,

**WHEREAS** Intelligent Technology Solutions, Inc. (I.T.S.) has submitted a quote for said network lines and ports for a total of \$1,572.15,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign quote JW005928 from ITS for \$1,572.15

Motion by Superintendent Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Town Court***

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

- Total March monies received was \$20,915.00
  - Hon. Huff                      \$ 14,671.00
  - Hon. Konsul                      \$ 6,244.00
- Total 2024 monies received (January-May) \$76,655.50
- Total new cases received 134

\*State Report not available (May)

***Veterans and Memorials Chair Shelly VanEtten***

I just want to remind everybody that the Veterans' Picnic is July 28<sup>th</sup> at Noon at Cecil Hallock Park.

***Wastewater Treatment Plant***

Task 3 – Removal of older headworks grinding equipment and replacement with a new mechanical screen. COMPLETED over the course of the week of June 10<sup>th</sup>, the highway department dismantled and removed the large, older headworks grinding equipment that is being replaced by a new, more efficient screen. Specs for new screen were developed and bids for new screen have been solicited. Task 7 – Investigate the sanitary sewer collection system – COMPLETED on June 18<sup>th</sup>, as scheduled and despite the terrible heat, the highway department, fire department and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) operator went through the New Baltimore hamlet and I flushed the sanitary sewer system lines all together, using approximately 9500 gallons of water to do the job. They worked on lifting approximately 18-20, 200 lb. manhole covers to inspect the flow, determine any blockage, and watched down-stream as they

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flushed the lines to assure the flow came through and the lines were cleared. The crew noted a lot of sludge while flushing and some areas, particularly Nodine mountain road, required a lot of flushing to get a clear flow. The plan for doing ongoing maintenance of the lines in general is annual inspection and flushing with more vulnerable junctures potentially being done twice a year. Tast 8 – Removing chains from the out of use digester – Update”: Highway staff scheduling a date to be on site with WWTP chief operator, Lou Betke, for Safety and assistance.

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**

**RESOLUTION 101-2024**  
**JUNE 24, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GENERATOR SERVICE CONTRACT FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

**WHEREAS** THE Waste Water Treatment Plant in Sewer District #1 in the Town of New Baltimore has an emergency generator that automatically starts up upon a power outage, and

**WHEREAS** Stark Tech Emergency Power Systems, LLC contract for maintenance and testing has expired,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the service contract with Stark Tech Emergency Power Systems LLC for \$1,690 each year.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano

**Councilmember Downes:** Each year, am I missing it? Is it a three-year contract, is it...?

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, it's renewable each year so it's ongoing and it's cancelled upon a 30 day notice from either party. Now \$1,690 is technically not the full thing, there are two separate generators. One is at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the other is at the Pump Station, so we have to service two generators, so it is \$845 each.

**Councilmember Downes:** Oh, ok and how long is that \$1,690 good for, do we know? Is it renegotiable at the beginning of the year or, it says each year...

**Supervisor Ruso:** At the end of each year. Yes, at the end of each year from the date of signing.

**Councilmember Downes:** So, the \$1,690 is only for this year.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Correct and here is the copy of the contract. This only came in today. I wish to say it had been in sooner but here it is. It came in today, isn't that right Amanda? Oh never mind. So, it's a semiannual package and they come in and look at it twice a year. There is pricing is subject to change upon annual review.

**Councilmember Downes:** Ok so, we should really take that 'each year' out then because it is only \$1,690 this year. We don't know what it's going to be...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Ok, 'for \$1,690 for 2024.'

**Councilmember Downes:** That will work.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So we have an amendment to the original resolution. The amendment would read the last line 'service contract Stark Tech Emergency Power Systems LLC for \$1,690 for 2024.'

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Motion to amend by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**

**RESOLUTION 102-2024**

**JUNE 24, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GENERATOR SERVICE CONTRACT FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

*WHEREAS* THE Waste Water Treatment Plant in Sewer District #1 in the Town of New Baltimore has an emergency generator that automatically starts up upon a power outage, and

*WHEREAS* Stark Tech Emergency Power Systems, LLC contract for maintenance and testing has expired,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the service contract with Stark Tech Emergency Power Systems LLC for \$1,690 for 2024.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Bill Boehlke***

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on June 5, 2024, with following business transacted: ...Public Hearing was held and recessed on the AJC Green Solutions, LLC Variance Application for a mulch and compost site to be accessed from Kings Road. ...In regular monthly meeting that followed, the Brian and Mary Lynch Area Variance application for relaxation of rear setback was requested to allow for construction of residential garage on property owned at 64 Madison Avenue, West. Required Public Hearing on application was scheduled for 7 pm., July 3. NOTE: Since the June 5 meeting, a June 13, 2024, request has been received from JoAnne Haelen, attorney for AJC Green Solutions, LLC, for withdrawal of the Variance application with permission to resubmit it at a later date. Reason given for withdrawal request is due to information disclosed during the Public Hearing regarding the property which applicant and principals were heretofore unaware of.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you. Just as a matter of clarity, when you say residential garage is that in opposition to a commercial garage? It's just a garage on a resident's property?

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Yes, personal property, it's a personal garage.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Just making sure. Thank you.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- July 3, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7 PM
- July 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- July 11, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- July 22, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- July 28, 2024 Veterans Committee Picnic at 12 Noon at Cecil Hallock Park, Rain Location at Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company on Gill Road

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- September 5, 2024 Senior Picnic at 12 PM at Cecil Hallock Park
- September 21, 2024 Townwide Yard Sale Beginning at 9 AM
- October 5, 2024 Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic at Town Hall, Pre-Registration Required at [jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org](mailto:jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org)

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Ellie Alfeld:** I know from the Times Union that we had a bid with a deadline and opening on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Amanda, do you know about this? Am I correct?

**Deputy Town Clerk Eldred:** Yes.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Why are we having it in the middle of the week without benefit of a Town Board meeting of a Planning Board meeting or Work Meeting? I've never seen us open bid without having a Board present.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I mean there is no particular reason, we just picked a date.

**Ellie Alfeld:** When you pick a date, you didn't advise the public. Right? And I think they're supposed to be and that's why we asked for bids.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** That's not true. The public doesn't have to be present in order to open them.

**Ellie Alfeld:** I didn't say it has to be but I'm wondering why it is.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, thank you.

**Ellie Alfeld:** And could you tell me what this bid is going to be covering?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'm trying to remember the particulars. What is it Amanda?

**Deputy Town Clerk Eldred:** The mechanical screen replacement.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh yes, for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Alright thank you.

**Harold Vadney:** Rather amused when you mentioned about this waterline or whatever that's running under the thruway truck stop or whatever but it's not running under anybody's homes or private property and as you mention that buildings got approved but no one thought about the pipeline but that is a great segway what I have to say about what is going on here in New Baltimore specifically pertaining to the activities of the New Baltimore Highway Department and interventions being undertaken or interventions that have been undertaken on School Hill Road in the Town of New Baltimore. Preliminary information, it appears that there are some significant questions relating to the involvement of the New Baltimore Highway Department and offices of the Buildings Department and Code Enforcement Department and that the Town Board have been complicit or at least negligent in their duties of supervision in the order of these activities. It can be argued that the various boards such as the Zoning Board of Appeals is required by law the opposite of the Planning Board should and often do operate and function autonomously it is without the intervention or interference of the Town Board or Town Board members individually, save for the assignment of the honorable members to various comities but all in some way and some degree are involved in activities and questions relating to the properties on School Hill Road. I would be remiss to not point out to the current Board that in the past cases of alleged impropriety of the Highway Department operations and the operations of administrative and executive boards of the Town have been reported. I can't even attempt to list or outline those cases in the few minutes I have to speak here. We sit here meeting after meeting hearing the Board approve spending request after spending request, but nobody here has had, would be hard pressed to recall an instance in which the Board Members have actually argued

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the necessity of such expenditures. I stand a bit corrected tonight because you did, irregularly, question some things and ask about a basket. North of the rational of such requests submitted by the Highway Department. In fact, one of the extremely rare instances of any real discussions occurred at your last meeting where I was informed of Ms. Sottolano actually shows signs of life confronting Ms. Downes on the subject of a pay increase of a Waste Water Treatment Plant employee by an irregular method in which was not done in executive session which I would presume is the proper venue for discussing those issues. Bottom line is that the Highway Department is probably the biggest consumer of tax dollars in this Town but receives very little oversight in spite the fact the Town Board controls the purse strings but also has the power pursuant to Town Law who audit Highway Department and require the Highway Superintendent show cause while not usurping direct involvement in human resources or operational aspects of the department. I am aware of other Town residents who continue to be concerned about the latitude afforded to the Highway Department and serving what may be called special interests using public resources. I further suggest closer scrutiny and I've demanded documents that would either dispose of these suspicions or confirm them. That would plausibly confirm those irregularities in operations, not only the Highway Department but other organs the Town government. In conclusion I do urge the Town Board to make their own inquires and to be prepared to respond to residents' concerns or possible outside investigation.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you, Sir. Now you have topic number two which is renewable energy projects, capabilities of the Town Boards ad hoc comity on renewable energy. That's a lot of stuff. Go ahead, give it a shot.

**Harold Vadney:** I'll start off with what most of you know already proposed resolutions so I'm going to say there should be somewhat novel for you. I'm addressing solar, wind, biomass and removal renewable energy projects in and around the Town of New Baltimore as we are well aware climate change, global warming, cow farts, fossil fuels, renewable energy has been a very big distraction for a couple of decades now. Visit YouTube at any given moment and be prepared for the onslaught. If you live within 50 miles, 90 miles of Westchester County you can see \$100,000 promising free solar panels. The frequency of that particular advertisement and others like it indicate several things. One, current state and federal interest in promoting renewable energy solutions, the impression that these programs are receiving desperate efforts to push them through and the public is not being fully informed, but baited by very tempting but likely impossible benefits. In 2019, Andrew Cuomo signed into law climate leadership and community protection act touted as one of the most impressive climate change legislations in the nation, which requires 40% reduction of 1990 levels of greenhouse gasses by 2030 and by 85% by 2050. These targets, even if we accept that they are attainable, are speculative and very ambitious, placing a huge burden on local communities. Article 10 section 2A of New York State constitution as you are aware or should be aware establishes the so-called Home Ruled provision. It's supposed to grant local governments certain rights, powers and authorities. Time does not permit me to elaborate but all the precursor legislation coming out of Albany and our elective legislative officers have steadily eroded local governments autonomy over their own territories. Title 7 CLCPA article 10 section 94C of the executive law all work to the detriment of local governments particularly in terms of citing renewable energy installations, particularly solar energy. The courts generally favor the legislature and the vague and ambiguous language of legislation. Unfortunately, it has been my observation and to the frustration of many outsider observers who go to Town councils and their administrative and executive boards are poorly informed and ignorant of the plethora of issues involved in making decisions relating to renewable energy. These concerns have been extensively addressed at several New Baltimore Town Board meetings in this year alone. The situation allows local governments to be bullied not only by legislatures and of course but more egregiously by applicants seeking to access local land for siting their installations. The problem is further complicated by my oft repeated axiom, 'ignorance and arrogance are travel companions. We find one, you'll likely find the other.' We find both on our administrative and executive boards, locally and at the county level. This is indeed a very dangerous situation. Several weeks ago I recommended, in view of the developments in the Town of New Baltimore and Greene County, the Town Board adopt and provide for an ad hoc comity on solar and renewable energy. Everyone on this Board was provided with a copy. No one save with the exception of Ms. Sottolano bothered to acknowledge receipt.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** We are over time already so I hope you sum it up.

**Harold Vadney:** It's kinda ridiculous to confine important remarks on local government and of local public interest to three minutes and then to try to gavel someone silent.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'd rather not do that I'd hope you would sum up.

**Harold Vadney:** I will sum up.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Proceed, but be prompt.

**Councilmember Downes:** Do we have the next one?

**Harold Vadney:** Are you finished?

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, I was anticipating you were.

**Harold Vadney:** You can anticipate quite reasonably that it will be finished shortly. This issue of renewable energy installation siting is another issue that should be addressed to and by Greene County Supervisors. Siting is complex and so are the legal, political, social, environmental, and ethical issues. If an elected body and their appointed board members remain ignorant and arrogant in their ignorance, you're working against our interests, in the interests of the public locally and far beyond locally. Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to finish or get off the pot.

***Audit of Claims***

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**  
**RESOLUTION 103-2024**  
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**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-06-01 to 2024b-06-37, it is

**RESOLVED** that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2024b-06-01 to 2024b-06-37.

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

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

General \$30,329.48, Highway \$4,082.28, Sewer 1 \$332.88, Sewer 2 \$166.30, Ambulance 1 \$4,751.46, Ambulance 2 \$2,790.54, Total \$42,452.94.

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**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO  
Town Clerk