

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

**NOVEMBER 13, 2024  
AGENDA**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Opening of Bids**

**Approval of Minutes**

- October 28, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting

**Public Comment Period**

**New Business**

- Resolution to Adopt the 2025 Budget
- Resolution to Accept Proposal for Senior Luncheon
- Resolution to Forward Delinquent Water and Sewer Accounts to Greene County Real Property Tax Service for Relevy onto 2025 Property Taxes
- Audit of Claims
- Reminder Hamlet Leaf Pickup Mondays November 18, 25, Bagged Leaves Curbside by 7:30 AM, Bagged or Loose Leaves can be Brought to the Highway Garage During Normal Business Hours M-Th 6 AM-3:30 PM, F 6-10 AM

**Upcoming Meetings**

- November 14, 2024 Public Information Meeting on Route 144 Complete Streets Project at 6 PM at Cornell Hook and Ladder Fire Company on Gill Road
- November 25, 2024 Public Meeting on Community Choice Aggregation at 6:30 PM
- November 25, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- November 28, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Day
- November 29, 2025 Floating Holiday Observed by Some Staff

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Audit of Claims**

**Adjournment**

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

## GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC CONDUCT DURING TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

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

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

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Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEitten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; Town Clerk Finke; and 8 members of the public who signed the attendance book.

**Opening of Bids**

**Supervisor Ruso:** First order of business we have bids that have to be opened and Barb is starting that. We have from Delaware Engineering in our audience, Mr. Alan Tavenner. Did I say it right, Sir?

**Alan Tavenner:** Yes, you did.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thought so and this is for our works at the Sewer Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant, so how many do we have, Barb?

**Town Clerk Finke:** There are ten.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Ten. More than typical.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** This is for the Water District.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Water District. I beg your pardon. I'm mixing up wastewater. We have another one going on shortly.

**Alan Tavenner:** Want me to tell everybody what... This is a public bid opening. Back in 2011 I think it was, no 2020, the water, you may remember the water main broke under the Thruway and Scheller Park was out of water for a week and so eventually we got that replaced with a big line underneath and a nice 8-inch line under it. This is using some of the unexpended recovery ARPA funds from Covid to try to replace the section and realign it on the West, on the East side of the Thruway and get it out from under the mobile home park. It goes under the mobile home park. It's going to get it out from under there, get it this way to the new Valvoline, put in out there and there's a bid alternate to go from the opposite side of the Thruway all the way through Scheller Park Road and that will eliminate all the very extremely old pipes.

**Supervisor Ruso:** And as I've explained to the people in the Town multiple times, you know the 100 year-old pipe that was underneath the Thruway has been replaced as Alan has indicated in 2020, this is for the extensions of that pipe that go from roughly 9W from the Town of Cossackie into, to the Thruway where the pipes have been replaced, and of course beyond that into the district, those are two separate areas that have to be fixed. We have at this moment \$292,000 of ARPA money, \$292,000 is not gonna get us too far, and, of course, there's other funding available to supplement that part but that's going to be the biggest chunk of it.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alternate Bid</u>
American Evergreen	\$344,800	\$164,160
Anjo Construction	\$549,400	\$302,700
BEB Drilling	\$272,638	\$149,362
Bellamy Construction	\$246,805	\$124,135
Birdsall Construction	\$255,640	\$171,070
Diversified Wireless Inc	\$409,370	\$133,527
William J. Keller & Sons	\$414,696	\$197,339
Peter Luizzi Brothers	\$404,900	\$164,518
Merritt Construction	\$486,352	\$260,186
RB Robinson Contracting	\$362,700	\$147,550

**Supervisor Ruso:** Mr. Tavenner, is there something you'd like to say? Are all these outfits qualified? I mean that's the first question that must be asserted.

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**Alan Tavenner:** Yes, they are. There's even another one who showed up which is also qualified that didn't end up bidding, a local fella, Mr. Halstead. I expected to get a bid from him but 10 is great.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's too bad, too late. I mean I'd love to have Halstead here, but...

**Ellie Alfeld:** What is the difference between the bid and the alternate?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Scope of work.

**Alan Tavenner:** The base was the side, the eastern side, going up to the Thruway and the alternate is from the Thruway up to the Scheller Park.

**Supervisor Ruso:** In essence we broke it out so that one could bid on one part and the other could bid on the other part.

**Alan Tavenner:** I was a little bit worried about how high some of the numbers would come in.

**Supervisor Ruso:** With good reason.

**Alan Tavenner:** We got good numbers though.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yeah, we did.

#### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The October 28, 2024 Town Board Work 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**

#### **Public Comment Period**

**Ellie Alfeld:** The reason for my speaking to the Board is a number of things. First thing I'd like to do is thank the Greene County Legislators. They put on a beautiful program down in Catskill, I don't know if you saw it in the *News Herald*, but it was unbelievable. There were every Legislator that you could think of there. I think almost every service people there. There was a little ship there, all for this acknowledging this man that was named the Veteran of the Year. The next thing I'd like to discuss with you, I don't know that in fact any of you have been on the Board as long as what I'm gonna to tell you now, and that this is the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the luncheons down in the hamlet that we started when Dave Louis was Supervisor and it was to get the Seniors in New Baltimore an area where they could meet and get some kind of grouping together, get them out of their houses like we've done now for the picnic and for the Christmas party. We had 140 people at that luncheon today. That's a lot of people and it went really well. The meal was terrific. Now I just learned it's on today's agenda about the Seniors. I've been asked about that by a number of people so now I can give them a little more information than we had before. Could you tell me please, I asked in the beginning of the meeting, Jeff, approximately how much is in the budget for Seniors. I believe we came to the conclusion it's about \$1,700.

**Supervisor Ruso:** There's so many line items, I can't remember one from...

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** It's \$1,800

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**Supervisor Ruso:** I thought it was in that neighborhood.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Well, the only thing I want to point out to you is, when this first went to the budget line it was for \$1,000. In 15 years, we've only gotten up to \$1,800. I just want to impress upon you that we still have Seniors and they're dying by leaps and bounds that really need to associate with other people so in fact we can even find their needs. We have a couple of people that are medically, physically in peril and they don't have the neighborhood association that we used to have and if there's any way to improve on that I'd really like to see it with the help of the Board. Thank you.

**Harold Vadney:** I'd like to comment on Ms. Alfeld's remarks on Seniors. One hundred and forty appeared for a luncheon am I correct?

**Ellie Alfeld:** Yes, sir.

**Harold Vadney:** I wonder if we could work harder to get a portion of that 140 seniors to appear at some of these public meetings.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Well, if you can provide them the transportation, which is in the evening. Driving is not what they really need, it's how you get somewhere.

**Supervisor Ruso:** This should be more dialogue, not between the audience.

**Harold Vadney:** It would be interesting and that might be something we could look into getting them here with transportation, after all they are citizens and residents and should have a voice on what's going on here. This training issue, the issue I'm addressing here is the Town Board's failure of fiscal responsibility and trust specifically the unwarranted passing of Town Resolution 117, 117 of 2024 on September 9<sup>th</sup> unanimously approving payment of registration fees and hotel for Town Board member Debra Sottolano to attend the Planning and Zoning Board training course in East Syracuse on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The cost to New Baltimore taxpayers was at least \$215 for this training. We cannot overlook the other costs and must factor them into this waste such as fuel, time, and per diem for Sottolano's trip bringing the total to approximately \$375. Very, very conservative estimate. The course was held on Monday on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the date of Town of New Baltimore's Work Meeting but to her credit Miss Sottolano made the trip back to New Baltimore to be present at this meeting. Whether she was fully awake at that time is still an outstanding question. The official Minutes of September 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 are inaccurate and misleading. Council Member Downes stated 'Okay, so we're gonna send a Chairperson to this.' Sottolano is not a Chairperson, she's only a liaison Committee Member with Board Member Kash acting as liaison to the ZBA. She is nothing more than an observer. Sottolano was not a Planning Board Member, or on Planning Board Committee. Downes further stated, 'wouldn't it have been a better use to send these people on the Planning and Zoning Board to this? We're supposed to oversee, but we're not supposed to be involved in the decisions.' Very good observation, Miss Downes. You're quite correct. The Planning Board and the Zoning Board should have been able to send people to this particular event. Supervisor Ruso's response, however, is uninformed, but not surprising. Ruso states...

**Supervisor Ruso:** (Alarm beeping) Finish up please.

**Harold Vadney:** 'This one's in Syracuse so this one is the closest one unfortunately.' No, Mr. Ruso, the closest one is in the Town of New Baltimore, accessible to anyone from the comfort of home or anywhere with internet connection. The training is available not only online but free. It's offered by the Department of State, Division of Local Government Services and several recent courses and presentations available free on YouTube. That will finish up on that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Going to topic number two, I expect, that's called Highway Department safety and maintenance issues.

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**Harold Vadney:** This is a perennial issue. Who has not seen the pothole that never seems to stay filled? The Highway Department keeps filling it with cold patch, a couple weeks later, maybe even days later, the pothole un-miraculously reappears as does the Highway Department to fill it in with more cold patch. In the end there's more cold patch coating the underside of residents' vehicles than there is in the potholes, but the Highway Department seems obsessed with repeating the same failures again and again but expecting to experience different results. We all know that this might be the definition of stupidity or insanity. Well, since 2016 Mr. Ruso, Mr. Dellisanti, as well as Highway Superintendent Alan and his brother, Deputy Scott Van Wormer of the New Baltimore Highway Department have been advised of these deficiencies in the Hamlet for the past some eight years. I recently witnessed the inevitable result of doing things halfway, when two weeks ago a vehicle attempting to back into a parking area ended up with his front wheel stuck in a deep drainage ditch. It was hidden by uncleared vegetation, impossible to see the ditch much less the incredible depth. In a statement provided by Highway Superintendent Alan Van Wormer in response to my FOIL demand of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Van Wormer states 'posts with reflectors can be installed along the edge of the ditch on the opposite side of the retaining wall,' which is also a controversial issue, if there were concerns about running into it. Well, a year ago, more than a year ago, there were concerns about running but into it. The posts and reflectors were never installed but on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Van Wormer responds after a vehicular incident involving the ditch. The weeds in the ditch line have been cut and removed and a small sign will be installed stating that there was an open ditch there that is as far as it will go. To date, there is no small sign, only a deep ditch but now it's filled with leaves and that is as far as it has gone. I'll conclude this one with, saying that this spending goes on and on but is anyone on the Board exercising their rights and responsibilities under the law to actually scrutinize and audit the vouchers being rubber stamp approved? There's apparently no monitoring of the operations of the Highway Department even though Supervisor Ruso and Councilmember Downes are on the Highway liaison Committee. Private property has suffered irreparable damage due to Town negligence while other private property is being protected using Town resources. We go on to make some statements on Highway Law §284 one of my next issues is FOIL responses.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Is this topic number three, Sir?

**Harold Vadney:** Well, here we are at FOIL responses.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It is number three right? I just want to make sure I got the right card. Topic three?

**Harold Vadney:** FOIL responses.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It doesn't say that. It says unreasonable delay record access. I guess that that's the same thing. Carry on.

**Harold Vadney:** Federal law and State law as enshrined in principle known as the Freedom of Information statutes. New York State Public Officers Law codifies the public's right to obtain records from public agencies. The two most important New York laws in this regard are Open Meetings Law and the Freedom of Information Law. The law provides that within five business days of receipt of a written request for record reasonably described, the Town must make the record available, deny the request in writing, or provide an approximate date which shall be reasonable when the request will be granted or denied. Law further provides that if circumstances prevent disclosure within 20 business days, the agency shall state in writing the reason for the inability to grant access and the date certain a date certain within a reasonable period when the request will be granted. There are exceptions, approximately nine of them, by which a record may be denied. To my knowledge there is no exception for unforeseen retirement of an employee. My question would be does the entire Town close down when a single employee retires? On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, I contacted the Town Clerk regarding the outstanding FOILs. I received a response from the Clerk on October 30<sup>th</sup> stating calling my

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attention to a letter attachment. I responded immediately that the date of December 3rd for production of FOILs that date back to August and September was totally unreasonable and unacceptable and constituted a constructive denial of my requests. The problem here is that to cast a blind eye on such a constructive denial would lead to the untenable result of incentivizing unreasonable delays in responding to FOIL requests. Some of the information demanded in those FOIL requests decays over time and the issues become moot. In other words, the information, and all the production and all the efforts to get that disclosure come to nothing. One of the reasons why I don't have total, the entire set of information I needed for this evening's presentations. Number four.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I just want to say I think I might have something to provide in response to both number three but it looks like it relates to number four as well so I'll withhold until you're done.

**Harold Vadney:** One is Article 6 which is the Freedom of Information and this is Article 7 which is the Open Meetings Law.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I understand that.

**Harold Vadney:** Oh, okay, okay, I don't want to confuse the FOIL with the two different issues. On November 12, 2024 I was researching operations of the Town of New Baltimore's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals and my searches included the 2024 agendas and minutes of the respective meetings, public meetings. Since both the Planning Board and ZBA are public bodies according to Public Officers Law Article 7 §100-111 and as public bodies, they're required to keep minutes of any meeting of the quorum of members and since there are agendas, which by the way are not required by law but published, I could find no minutes which are required by law. So on November 12<sup>th</sup> I contacted the Clerk's office with the question of where are the minutes located? Where are they located for the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals? I did not receive a response by November 13<sup>th</sup> so I contacted the Clerk's office again on November 13 requesting the location of the minutes by close of business since I was preparing my comments for tonight. The Open Meetings Law defines a public body as an entity required to conduct public business by means of a quorum and one that performs governmental functions and carries out their duties collectively, ZBA and the Planning Board are therefore public bodies. But here the issue is not of agendas or definitions of public bodies, it's §106 of the OML, which deals specifically with minutes and states that minutes shall be taken at all public meetings of the public body and the law states that minutes shall be available within two weeks of the date of such meetings and even if they are not finalized they must be published even if labeled with draft. I also requested, and the Clerk complied with my request, by forwarding my emails to the Chairs of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals, Mr. Robert VanEtten and I don't know who the other person was, it's not listed in the directory, but Mr. VanEtten receives \$2,437 to serve as Chairman of the Planning Board and his Deputy Chair receives \$914. It would seem reasonable that one of them could respond to a resident's inquiry, but this is at least the second or third time that neither have responded. I don't think I'm expecting too much to have them answer a simple email inquiry as to for instance was anyone recommended to attend the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals training or where are your minutes? I'll finish here, it seems that the salaries are indeed poorly allocated and may need some review. I'm done.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'm gonna give you a bit of information for the general public, very much related to your topics here. Where are the minutes? They don't exist. Clearly as you've well pointed out is a violation of the Open Meetings Law open records and the paradox with topic three as you... because some of your FOIL requests have to do with minutes, we are supposed to present and provide documents that exist. We don't provide documents that don't exist. However, we have documents that should exist.

**Harold Vadney:** I think that's called word salad.



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would be, I would like to have some focus training as it relates to some of these records and all of that stuff and not just every planning topic that might exist but those that are pertinent to this void. So, nevertheless....

**Harold Vadney:** Tug Hill Commission on public meetings and OML, do you know what the Tug Hill Commission is?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, I do, thank you.

**Harold Vadney:** Okay, just checking. I don't want to be throwing things out there and not people understand what I'm talking about including comprehensive planning which is a role, a Planning Board role. These are all available. I don't understand why people don't pay attention to them. Okay, proceed to the next topic, I think I've got enough ammunition on that one already.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, you've got an admission from me, that's a fact.

**Harold Vadney:** Yes, thank you. No, I appreciate...

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'm providing candor here. Anyway, carry on.

**Harold Vadney:** I appreciate your coming forward with that information and that admission. That takes some cojones.

**Councilmember Downes:** But it's not even just on an admission, Jeff. I've been in here probably 40 to 60 hours in the last two months when it came up and we are doing everything we possibly can to get those minutes. Nobody ever thought. Every month we get a report, it was they just didn't say that there was no minutes because the report we get we assume those are the minutes.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, if the report speaks of a lot line adjustment or a subdivision etc., etc.

**Harold Vadney:** I appreciate that and you have people on the Planning Board that have been on there for years and years and years. What I don't understand is when you're paying, say Mr. VanEttten over \$2,000 to be the Chair of that board, isn't it part of his purview to ensure that the laws that the Board is complying with the law?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I mean you're going to ask me to say something specific about a specific individual and I really don't want to do that. We have had, just to point out to you, there has been conversations. I will say that there have been conversations about this very topic in Executive Session as it relates to personnel things that I cannot and shall not disclose. To suggest there's nothing happening is wrong. To suggest it's everything you want, I'm not going to say it's that either okay. So, that's all I want to say so topic five if you would please.

**Harold Vadney:** I've already commented on the irresponsible approval of this Board, Town Board member Sottolano's attendance at a Planning and Zoning Board training event in East Syracuse that cost taxpayers at least \$215. I think that the Town Board needs to put the service back in public servant and demonstrate some commitment to accountability. Now isn't that interesting. One start would be for Ms. Sottolano to reimburse the Town any monies received to attend the training that was absolutely local and free. Locally available and free. Ms. Sottolano would not be disadvantaged by doing so since she's receiving at least \$70,000 per year state income tax free in State pension. In fact, she could waive the \$5,253 salary of Town Board members and not feel a thing. Ms. Kash could do the same and waive her \$5,253 in stipend since she receives more than \$52,000 per year in State income tax free.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, I don't know if I want to get into any individual's finances.









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New Baltimore Sewer Fund

Expense	Final Budget		Actual		Final Budget		Actual		Tentative Budget		Final Budget	
	2022	12/31/2022	2023	12/31/23	2024	07/31/24	2025	7/31/24	2025	2025	2025	2025
DISTRICT 1.												
RS1674 - Sewer, Equip & Capital Outlay												
SS4284 - Legal		0.00		0.00				0.00				
SS1884 - Other General Govt Support		6,000.00		0.00				0.00				
SS9104 - Administration SD1	9,500.00	7,543.03	9,500.00	6,427.73	9,500.00	6,278.09	15,200.00	15,200.00	15,200.00	15,200.00	15,200.00	15,200.00
SS9101 - Sewage Treatment Personal Serv	39,169.00	33,047.34	40,147.00	35,489.16	41,151.00	20,941.00	47,500.00	47,500.00	47,500.00	47,500.00	47,500.00	47,500.00
SS9102 - Sewage Treatment Equipment	7,500.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
SS8104 - Sewage Treatment Cont Exp SD1	30,000.00	24,903.88	25,000.00	24,191.54	25,000.00	19,237.82	33,000.00	33,000.00	33,000.00	33,000.00	33,000.00	33,000.00
SS9108 - State Retirement	1,950.00	1,448.00	1,950.00	2,167.12	1,950.00	0.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00
SS9308 - Social Security	2,895.00	2,528.12	3,071.00	2,714.59	3,148.00	1,501.91	3,594.00	3,594.00	3,594.00	3,594.00	3,594.00	3,594.00
SS9488 - Workers' Compensation	620.00	609.59	820.00	604.23	620.00	606.02	620.00	620.00	620.00	620.00	620.00	620.00
SS9058 - Disability Insurance	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
SS9706 - Debt Service Principal	65,000.00	62,482.90	61,805.00	45,495.44	61,809.00	62,384.92	62,385.00	62,385.00	62,385.00	62,385.00	62,385.00	62,385.00
SS9709 - Debt Service Interest	3,450.00	3,449.45	4,500.00	2,931.31	4,500.00	2,189.16	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
SS9303 - Repair Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total DISTRICT 1.	159,834.00	142,010.11	151,247.00	119,919.62	152,328.00	115,216.91	171,799.00	171,799.00	171,799.00	171,799.00	171,799.00	171,799.00
DISTRICT 2.												
SS9110 - Administration SD2	425.00	444.19	425.00	471.44	450.00	288.31	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
SS9130 - Sewage Treatment Cont Exp SD2	3,000.00	5,277.22	3,000.00	4,761.45	5,000.00	3,915.83	5,700.00	5,700.00	5,700.00	5,700.00	5,700.00	5,700.00
Total DISTRICT 2.	3,425.00	5,661.41	3,425.00	5,232.89	5,450.00	3,504.14	6,200.00	6,200.00	6,200.00	6,200.00	6,200.00	6,200.00
Total Expense	163,259.00	147,671.52	154,672.00	125,172.51	157,778.00	118,821.05	177,999.00	177,999.00	177,999.00	177,999.00	177,999.00	177,999.00
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE USED												
	(28,934.00)	2,888.20	(75,169.00)	(37,915.71)	0.00	(44,740.74)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(when negative)												

New Baltimore Water Fund

Income	Final Budget		Actual		Final Budget		Actual		Tentative Budget		Final Budget	
	2022	12/31/22	2023	12/31/23	2024	07/31/24	2025	7/31/24	2025	2025	2025	2025
DISTRICT 1.												
SW1001 - Real Property Tax	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00
Total DISTRICT 1.	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00
DISTRICT 2.												
SW1030 - Special Assessments	25,090.00	21,548.39	25,091.00	19,171.73	25,090.59	10,592.52	25,090.00	25,090.00	25,090.00	25,090.00	25,090.00	25,090.00
SW142 - Water Rents 2	26,770.00	15,473.42	28,770.00	19,344.99	17,090.00	4,953.21	16,300.00	16,300.00	16,300.00	16,300.00	16,300.00	16,300.00
SW244 - Water Service Charges	3,200.00	2,250.00	3,200.00	2,480.00	3,200.00	1,353.33	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00
SW248 - Penalties & Interest 2	800.00	1,055.47	500.00	441.46	300.00	189.83	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
SW2401 - Interest & Earnings		15.05		272.90	100.00	181.51	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
SW2704 - Refunds of Prior Years						422.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SW6091 - Interfund Transfer				20,516.53		22,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total DISTRICT 2.	55,860.00	40,352.34	55,561.00	61,774.80	45,690.59	40,383.40	47,190.00	47,190.00	47,190.00	47,190.00	47,190.00	47,190.00
DISTRICT 3.												
SW3142 - Water Rents 3	2,000.00	3,838.41	2,960.00	4,507.80	3,960.00	5,141.37	5,940.00	5,940.00	5,940.00	5,940.00	5,940.00	5,940.00
SW3744 - Water Service Charges	400.00	460.00	400.00	1,120.00	400.00	890.00	1,120.00	1,120.00	1,120.00	1,120.00	1,120.00	1,120.00
SW3746 - Penalties & Interest 3		429.58		128.35		185.13	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Total DISTRICT 3.	2,400.00	4,728.99	3,360.00	5,756.15	4,360.00	6,217.50	7,360.00	7,360.00	7,360.00	7,360.00	7,360.00	7,360.00
Total Income	58,665.00	45,704.33	58,548.00	68,153.96	50,675.59	47,225.80	55,175.00	55,175.00	55,175.00	55,175.00	55,175.00	55,175.00

New Baltimore Water Fund

Expense	Final Budget		Actual		Final Budget		Actual		Tentative Budget		Final Budget	
	2022	12/31/22	2023	12/31/23	2024	07/31/24	2025	7/31/24	2025	2025	2025	2025
DISTRICT 1.												
SW8220 - Source of Supply, Power & Pump1	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	312.50	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00
SW8889 - Other Water Expenses 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total DISTRICT 1.	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	312.50	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00	625.00
DISTRICT 2.												
SW8220 - Source of Supply, Power & Pump2	24,550.00	13,056.40	24,550.00	15,181.09	15,000.00	9,602.86	16,500.00	16,500.00	16,500.00	16,500.00	16,500.00	16,500.00
SW9707 - Bond	25,090.00	25,090.59	25,091.00	25,090.59	25,090.59	25,090.59	25,090.00	25,090.00	25,090.00	25,090.00	25,090.00	25,090.00
SW8889 - Other Water Expenses 2	2,720.00	1,343.03	2,720.00	1,529.50	2,400.00	0.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
SW8895 - Other Expenses = ARPA				20,618.63		22,700.00						
SW882 - Reserve for Repair	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00
Total DISTRICT 2.	55,560.00	39,470.02	55,561.00	60,319.71	45,890.59	37,903.45	47,190.00	47,190.00	47,190.00	47,190.00	47,190.00	47,190.00
DISTRICT 3.												
SW8220 - Source of Supply, Power & Pump3	2,400.00	2,520.47	2,400.00	3,500.70	2,400.00	3,706.90	6,400.00	6,400.00	6,400.00	6,400.00	6,400.00	6,400.00
SW8889 - Other Water Expenses 3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SW882 - Reserve for Repair	2,400.00	2,520.47	3,360.00	3,500.70	4,360.00	3,706.90	7,360.00	7,360.00	7,360.00	7,360.00	7,360.00	7,360.00
Total DISTRICT 3.	4,800.00	5,040.94	5,760.00	7,001.40	7,760.00	7,413.80	13,760.00	13,760.00	13,760.00	13,760.00	13,760.00	13,760.00
Total Expense	59,595.00	42,815.49	59,546.00	64,445.41	50,675.59	61,412.85	65,175.00	65,175.00	65,175.00	65,175.00	65,175.00	65,175.00
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE USED												
	0.00	3,088.84	0.00	3,708.55	0.00	(14,186.95)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(when negative)												
If positive, overage is for reserve												



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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 145-2024  
NOVEMBER 13, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL FOR SENIOR LUNCHEON**

*WHEREAS* two proposals were procured for a Senior Luncheon to be held on Wednesday, December 4.

*RESOLVED* that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby accepts the proposal from Pegasus Restaurant for \$24 per person.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downs, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 146-2024  
NOVEMBER 13, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO FORWARD DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS  
TO GREENE COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE FOR RELIEF  
ONTO 2025 PROPERTY TAXES**

*WHEREAS* the Town of New Baltimore has 10 delinquent Water District 2 accounts in the amount of \$6,630.81.

*WHEREAS* the Town of New Baltimore has 1 delinquent Water District 3 account for \$181.46.

*WHEREAS* the Town of New Baltimore has 44 delinquent sewer accounts in the amount of \$27,102.04.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that any and all unpaid water and sewer accounts for the year 2024 will be sent to Greene County Real Property Tax Services for relief onto 2025 property taxes.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano

**Supervisor Ruso:** For everyone who doesn't know this is, you didn't pay your water bill, its going automatically onto you tax bill in January. Okay, that's what happens.

AYES: Ruso, Downs, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 147-2024  
NOVEMBER 13, 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 2024-11-01 to 2024-11-56, it is

*RESOLVED* that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2024-11-01 to 2024-11-56.

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

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downs, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

General \$70,072.26, Highway \$68,657.26, Sewer 1 \$4,660.68, Sewer 2 \$42.36, Water 2 \$719.49, Street Lighting 1 \$1,816.04, Street Lighting 2 \$312.97, Total \$146,281.06

**Supervisor Ruso:** Here is a reminder for the Hamlet folks, Leaf Pickup Mondays November 18, 25, Bagged Leaves Curbside by 7:30 AM, Bagged or Loose Leaves can be Brought to the Highway Garage During Normal Business Hours M-Th 6 AM-3:30 PM, F 6-10 AM.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Jeff, can we make an announcement about tomorrow night as well?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, that's next. It's okay, we'll get there. See I'm not the only one. So, the leaves are Monday November 18 and November 25<sup>th</sup>. Can the leaves be brought to the Highway Garage for everybody else? That's what I'm asking.

**Ellie Alfeld:** As long as they follow the procedure of bringing it up there, it can't be....

**Upcoming Meetings**

- November 14, 2024 Public Information Meeting on Route 144 Complete Streets Project at 6 PM at Cornell Hook and Ladder Fire Company on Gill Road
- November 25, 2024 Public Meeting on Community Choice Aggregation at 6:30 PM
- November 25, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- November 28, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Day
- November 29, 2025 Floating Holiday Observed by Some Staff

**Councilmember Downes:** There's a Planning Board Meeting tomorrow, right?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh yeah, we have a Planning Board meeting and the public information meeting on the same day.

**Councilmember Kash:** Planning Board is at 7 here tomorrow night.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you for bringing that up. Okay so we've already done Audit of Claims so there's nothing more there so I'll entertain a motion.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Can I ask a question first, Michelle?

**Michelle Storm Esq.:** Sure.

**Town Clerk Finke:** I have a resident who sends me emails, requests that I send them to other people, requests that I acknowledge receipt. Am I obligated to do that?

**Michelle Storm Esq.:** No.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Thank you.

**Michelle Storm Esq.:** I think the email can be sent directly to the individual and not go through you.

**Town Clerk Finke:** There's another part of that when we have a permanent clerk that things can be changed but I'm not required to acknowledge, send, reactnowledge?

**Michelle Storm Esq.:** No, I mean obviously it depends on what the correspondence is, if it's a FOIL.

**Town Clerk Finke:** No, it's not that.

**Michelle Storm Esq.:** There's an acknowledgement requirement or something like that but just a correspondence, no.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Thank you.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I think...

**Harold Vadney:** Before you adjourn I'd like to (unable to understand).

**Supervisor Ruso:** Hold on please, no, sir, you had your chance. I have an announcement to make.

**Town Clerk Finke:** I didn't say it affected anyone. I said for...

**Harold Vadney:** I haven't and you know damn well it's me.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, please stop. I do want to have an announcement. I see there's no one present who lives in the Hamlet, with the exception of Mr. Vadney, but there is something that is already underway and that is complete audit of the existing point systems in the sewer district. The point system is the basis of the bills for everybody who's in the sewer district and as a brief typical home has a value of 10 points, a two-family home has 20 points and there are various things such as commercial property like the Boathouse, which I believe has over 80 points if I'm not mistaken. I don't remember the numbers, nevertheless, the costs are prepared in our budget, they're in here, the costs are then divided by the total number of points in an aggregate for the entire sewer district and then you have a total cost per point, and you upload it based upon the points in that particular parcel. Multiply by 20, 10 whichever the case might be. Well, there are changes in the district down there. Some have not been well-known to or identified and some have been well hidden, but there are some homes who were two-family and now they're one-family. They get a reduction. There are some properties that, there's one particular house that doesn't exist anymore. They're not getting charged, I think it's five points for a vacant lot and 10 points for a house, so obviously that has to be changed on behalf of that parcel owner. There

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are homes that have two-family homes now. They're two-family homes and they have to be doubled. In essence they go from 10 points to 20. So, we're doing a complete audit. There are ways about which we will discover this. We have some people in our Code Enforcement Officer and our Assessor's Office who are going to be helpful on that and one of it is to drive around town looking for two separate entrances and look for two separate meters. That tells you if you got two separate, of course it doesn't tell you everything. Okay, the problem is some places haven't had permits, they just did it, okay didn't fill out a permit and the second part is the linkage between the existing permits that gave a new apartment, for lack of another story, were never presented to the sewer department. Which I guess I'm the Sewer Department, well me and Lou, well and you guys too. Nevertheless, but in times gone by, so we got a lot of changes in our Sewer District but basically what we're going to do is recalculate all the points, come up with a base point, a cost per point, and that's what the basis of the bills are. I can't tell you at this point with the changes because they're both sides of the coin whether your bills are going to be changed by much at all, they might be rather similar going I don't know.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Are you going to have identification on the cars for these people so that when they go on somebody's property to look or do whatever they're identified as you know like Central Hudson does or anybody else?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, yeah, yeah we're gonna do all that. Anyway, much of the audit's gonna be financial audit. It's not going to be, you know, door-to-door thing okay. So I just wanted to let people know and for our audience out there that, you know, coming soon. So, this is not..., the first bill doesn't go out until after the first of the year. Nevertheless, we're not doing it for 2024 but for 2025, we want it to be as correct as possible so that's coming up and I think I've told everybody everything. Anyway, that's all I have.

**Harold Vadney:** Okay, now that you made your announcement we have a Public Comment.

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, no, no Public Comment Period's already over, Sir. I have already moved on

**Harold Vadney:** You have a second one here.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I've already done Audit of Claims so I'll entertain a motion to adjourn...

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten.

**Alan Tavenner:** You want to award this contract, right?

**Multiple Voices:** No. Not tonight.

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, not tonight.

**Alan Tavenner:** Well, I can recommend that you award it if you want. We don't have to decide about the bid alternate, you've got 45 days to do that so we can, you can do it at your next meeting, that's fine.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, we'll do it at the next meeting.

**Alan Tavenner:** Then I will send you a letter and tabulate all the results and I will get that to you this week and all these numbers add up and I've worked with them before, so I think we've got a deal.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We have too.

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**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEttten, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEttten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you everybody.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO  
Town Clerk