

**6:30 PM Public Meeting with Javier Barrios from Good Energy on Community Choice Aggregation**

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

**DECEMBER 23, 2024**

*Please silence cell phones while the meeting is in progress.*

**Reports**

Supervisor

- Resolution to Rescind and Re-Award Bid for Scheller Park Water Main Replacement
- Resolution to Reduce Speed Limit on West Deans Mill Road

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- November 13, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting
- November 25, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting
- December 9, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting

Historian

Agriculture/AgFest (Member VanEtten)

Animal Control (Chair Kash, Member Sottolano)

- Resolution Authorizing Supervisor to Execute Agreement with Columbia-Greene Humane Society

Assessment (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

- Resolution Setting Public Hearing for a Proposed Local Law to Establish a New Schedule of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Persons Sixty-Five (65) Years of Age or Over and Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes

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)

- Resolution Authorizing Councilmember VanEtten and Supervisor Ruso to Apply for 2025 Bank of Greene County Veterans and Seniors Grant

Greene County Planning Board (Sottolano)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Transfer Funds from the Highway Reserve to Highway Contractual Account

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

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

- Motion to Accept the Resignation of Planning Board Members

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)

- Resolution to Transfer Insurance Costs to the Sewer Account

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

Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

**Upcoming Meetings**

- January 1, 2025 Town Offices Closed for New Year's Day
- January 1, 2025 Town Board Organizational Meeting at 2 PM
- January 8, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- January 9, 2024 Planning Board at 7 PM
- January 13, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- January 20, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 27, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

## **Audit of Claims**

## **Adjournment**

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

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

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

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**COUNTY OF GREENE**                              **Adopted 1/13/2025**  
**TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087**  
**DECEMBER 23, 2024 – Page 1**

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:01 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; Town Clerk Finke; and 8 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Highway Superintendent VanWormer

***Supervisor Jeff Ruso***

The monthly financial reports for November have been sent out. Has everyone had a chance to review them? Good, I'll make a Motion to accept the November financial reports.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I'll second.

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Just as a matter of reflection if you don't mind folks, this is for the Board, the Guidelines for Public Conduct during Town Board Meetings that are public and available every meeting and we're probably gonna make some subtle adjustments between now and take care of it on the meeting of the first of January. So I would like everybody on the Board if you have some tidbit of change, email it to me and let me know if there's something you'd like to tweak one way, shape, or form. There's couple things that we need to adjust from my perspective and you might have your own thoughts on this. We'll take care of that January 1 with your input.

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

**RESOLUTION 159-2024**

**DECEMBER 23, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO RESCIND AND RE-AWARD BID FOR  
SCHELLER PARK WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Town of New Baltimore on behalf of Water District #2 (Scheller Park) directed Delaware Engineering, DPC to prepare plans and bid documents for the construction of new HDPE watermain to replace existing aging water main that serves Scheller Park; and

WHEREAS, Delaware Engineering, DPC prepare plans and bid documents, and is conducting regulatory review and permitting for the water main replacement; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Baltimore intends to commit American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the water main replacement project to eliminate the burden of the water main replacement on the property owners in Water District #2 who are already burdened with excessive debt from an emergency water main replacement project conducted in 2020; and,

WHEREAS, sealed bids for the water main replacement were received by the Town on November 13, 2024 from ten contractors; and,

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2024, the Town Board resolved to award the bid to Bellamy Construction as the lowest responsible bidder with modifications to the bid amount; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of New Baltimore subsequently received additional documentation and recommendation to award from Delaware Engineering, DPC; now,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

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1. The Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby rescinds the resolution to award the bid for the Scheller Park Water Main Replacement to Bellamy Construction with modifications to the bid amount; and
2. The Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby awards the bid for the Scheller Park Water Main Replacement to Bellamy Construction in the amount of the Base Bid of \$246,805.
3. The Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to take whatever actions are necessary to carry out the award of the bid including but not limited to executing the construction contract with Bellamy Construction.
4. This resolution hereby commits the Town of New Baltimore to expend \$293,269.50 of ARPA funds to conduct the Scheller Park water line replacement project.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Kash

**Supervisor Ruso:** So as I pointed out at the last meeting there were some adjustments in the costs and we had deducted them with conversations with Delaware Engineering. Subsequent to that Motion and that meeting, we had a meeting here about this bid, about what happened, and we brought the total cost from \$370,000 down to \$246,000, even more than we thought. So that's pretty much how it has worked out. How did these costs get put in there? I don't want to throw anyone under the bus, but some costs were not there to benefit the residents of that Water District, they were in benefit of people who lived in other communities and not New Baltimore and so we removed those items such as fire hydrants each of which costs about, how much was it Nick, do you remember?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** \$27,500.

**Supervisor Ruso:** \$27,500, two fire hydrants in Cocksackie, we were able to eliminate another fire hydrant in New Baltimore because the codes for new districts require more fire hydrants. However, the actual lines in that District, we're not talking about the line going to the District, that was an unnecessary charge as well. So if you take three of those at \$27,000, now we're already at \$106,000, and so there was a great deal of changes, I said we're glad we spotted it, and it will probably be less than the total amount of money that we have in ARPA. We may be able to save a little bit of ARPA for other expenses, other things, but let's cross that bridge when we get to it. How does that sound? I don't know if you have any thoughts or questions, I'm just giving you a little bit of the stuff that I knew because we had the meeting.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Delaware Engineering, they never spotted that?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Nope, it's okay; that's what they pay me for.

**Councilmember Kash:** I think it's great that it's coming in at the amount that it is and we might be able to save some funds.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Without denigrating any other parties, I think that part of this issue is, been compounded by things that have gone on the past roughly, I'd even go back as far as 20 years, but somewhere around 12 years ago there were two parcels swapped out from the Town of New Baltimore, we gave a parcel of property and it is now in the Town of Cocksackie. They in return gave us a parcel, it's now in the Town of New Baltimore, and the water lines come through those particular parcels and the water line for the Town of Cocksackie and the Town of New Baltimore meet in that very same section which has caused a lot of let's say, I don't want to say confusion, but it certainly muddies up the water and so it was easy for someone who doesn't live here to miss and that's all I want to say. I don't want to again throw mud at anybody, this is Christmastime.

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**Ellie Alfled:** Jeff, could this have happened when the boundary lines for the Town of New Baltimore and the Town of Coxsackie were finally adjusted?

**Supervisor Ruso:** It has a role, it has a role, and again how do the people that did that know something is gonna happen or that the water line is gonna break ten years later.

**Ellie Alfled:** Well, I understand that, I understand that, but that is the only thing that I could understand is happening with that and that is about 10 or 25 years ago.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It was before I was on the Board.

**Ellie Alfled:** I know who was on the Board.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Again, one doesn't know what's going to happen many years latter. So anyway that's the best I could do to explain it, I mean the water line swerves into and out of and back into the Town of Coxsackie and New Baltimore and who owns what?

**Ellie Alfled:** So what happens to the payments now that are gonna have to be made by certain people?

**Supervisor Ruso:** That section that was New Baltimore's costs. Those payments are still those payments, that's not affected. It's okay, we don't have to put fire hydrants in Coxsackie is basically what it comes down to.

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 160-2024**  
**DECEMBER 23, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO REDUCE SPEED LIMIT ON DEANS MILL ROAD**

**WHEREAS** the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore has been requested by the residents of Deans Mill Road, a town owned and maintained road in the Town of New Baltimore to lower the speed limit on said road, and

**WHEREAS** the Town Board supports this safety concern for the residents on said road,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board approves the reduction of the speed limit on Deans Mill Road from 40 miles an hour to 35 miles an hour, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be forwarded to both the Highway Superintendent for the Town of New Baltimore for the acquisition of appropriate signs and posts, and to the Greene County Highway Superintendent for his submission to the New York State Department of Transportation for their approval.

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Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmembers VanEtten and Sottolano

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Just so you know the approval from the State for the Acquetuck Road change took at least a year. It takes awhile.

***Town Clerk Barb Finke***

4 Building Permits \$1080, 2 Building Permit Septic System New \$75, 1 EZ Pass Tag \$25, 8 Hunting & Fishing Licenses \$17.55, 6 Dog Licenses \$42, 1 Special Use Permit/Variance Non-Commercial \$40, 12 Certified Copies \$120, 1 Genealogical Search \$22, 2 Recycle Fees \$93, 1 Sign \$75, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$1,859, \$8 to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program, \$261.45 to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses, Total to Supervisor \$1,589.55. Amanda and I attended the Columbia Greene Town Clerks' meeting which included training from NYS Archives Records Advisory Officer, Michael Martin. I received a check for \$37,167 which is the first half of our Records Management grant. I would like to correct misinformation from the December 9, 2024 Regular Town Board Meeting. As the Board is aware, April Krien was appointed as a Part-Time Clerk for the Building/Planning/Zoning Office. We are so lucky to have her which has been affirmed by the Code Enforcement Officer, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Chairs. April Krien is not a Deputy Town Clerk, her title is Part-Time Clerk, and she reports directly to the Code Enforcement Officer and the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. It is from that position that she files the monthly reports to the Town Board and completes the Minutes. There is no job titled 'Deputy Clerk' in the Town of New Baltimore and there are two Deputy Town Clerks, Amanda Eldred and Sandy Trombley, and we work together to serve our residents.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The November 13, 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, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

The November 25, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting Minutes submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Sottolano. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

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The December 9, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Kash. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 161-2024**  
**DECEMBER 23, 2024**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT  
WITH COLUMBIA-GREENE HUMANE SOCIETY**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board does hereby authorize the Supervisor to execute an agreement with the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA for the period January 1-December 31, 2025 for shelter services at a rate of \$40 per dog per day for the first ten days of housing and \$350 will be added on the eleventh day where the dog will become the responsibility of the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA.

**Councilmember Kash:** These are the same rates that we paid last year.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Kash

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

***Dog Control Officer Sherry Vieta***

Dog Control Activities from September 1-12/22/24 On September 1 a malamute shepherd was charging out trying to attack vehicles on Acquetuck Road. The dog was chasing a mail truck. Our DCO spoke to the owner and asked her to confine the dog and also gave her a license application because the dog was not licensed. On 9/21 a pitbull and an Australian Shepherd mix was found on Old State Road. The owner was found and it was returned. On 11/15 a cat was found at the New Baltimore Service Area, the caller was asked to call AnimalKind to see if they might be able to come and trap the animal. On November 30 a basset hound wandered into a house on Route 54. The person who found the dog located the owner and returned it. On December 4 two stray cats were reported as hanging around on 144. The caller was advised to call AnimalKind to see if they would be interested in coming and checking it out and trapping them. On December 19 a deceased cat was found on the side of 9W by Albright's. It was reported and the kitty cat was removed by the authorities.

**Councilmember Kash:** Good news for people in our area, low income pet owners, the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA recently received two grants for \$100,000 which will allow them to increase their services for low income residents at their veterinary clinic which includes low cost spays and neuters, vaccinations, minor surgeries, dental cleaning, and a whole host of things that people would otherwise probably not be able to afford because they'll be getting them at reduced prices.

**Ellie Alfeld:** And food too.

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**Councilmember Kash:** I think that they sometimes have food there that they give out to low income folks, but this is the veterinary clinic.

**Audience Member:** They run a pantry.

**Councilmember Kash:** And appointments are needed so if anybody out there is interested, it's (518)828-6044, Ext.100.

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

**RESOLUTION 162-2024**  
**DECEMBER 23, 2024**

**RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING FOR A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A NEW SCHEDULE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PERSONS SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE OR OVER AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOMES**

*BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore will hold a Public Hearing on January 13, 2025 at 6:45 PM at the Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, New York to hear those members of the public who wish to be heard regarding proposed Local Law 1 of 2025, a Local Law to establish a new schedule of real property tax exemptions for persons sixty-five (65) years of age or over and persons with disabilities and limited incomes.

**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2025**

**A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A NEW SCHEDULE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PERSONS SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE OR OVER AND PESONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOMES**

*BE IT ENACTED* by the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore, as follows:

SECTION 1. This Local Law is adopted pursuant to the authority of Real Property Tax §459© and §467. All definitions, terms and conditions of such statute shall apply to this Local Law and are incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. Local Law #5 of 2023 is HEREBY REPEALED.

SECTION 3. The Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore will follow the Greene County Senior Citizen Tax Exemption and hereby establishes the following sliding scale of property tax exemptions for real property owned by persons sixty-five (65) years of age or over and for real property owned by a person with a disability whose income is limited by such disability, and used as the legal residence of such person, based on the income limits set forth below:

<u>Maximum Income Limit</u>	<u>Property Tax Exemption</u>
\$36,000.00	50%
\$36,000.01-\$36,999.99	45%
\$37,000.00-\$37,999.99	40%
\$38,000.00-\$38,999.99	35%
\$39,000.00-\$39,899.99	30%
\$39,900.00-\$40,799.99	25%
\$40,800.00-\$41,699.99	20%
\$41,700.00-\$42,599.99	15%
\$42,600.00-\$43,499.99	10%
\$43,500.00-\$44,399.99	5%

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SECTION 4. Any person who qualifies for a property tax exemption as a person with a disability shall not be eligible for a property tax exemption as a person who is sixty-five (65) years of age or over.

SECTION 5. The maximum income limit set forth in Section 3 above shall be offset by medical and prescription drug expenses actually paid which are not reimbursed or paid for by insurance.

SECTION 6. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

**Supervisor Ruso:** To set forth what we're doing here, the first part of this reading is what we're agreeing to tonight and that is to have a meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> is about the last part of that, the income limits and of the like.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

***Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley***

December monthly report 11/27-12/23/24, 22 Tires up to and including 16" without rim \$88, 4 Tires up to and including 16" with rim \$20, 60-gallon bags of plastic 8, 27 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 30 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 86 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, Total Income \$108.

***Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin***

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for December 2024, is as follows: Building Inspections: 22; Total Building Permits Issued: 3; Certificates of Compliance Issued: 3; Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 1; Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 2; New Building Permit Applications Received: 3; Demolition Permit Application: 1; New Septic System Application: 1; Building Permit Renewals: 1; Open Building Permits: 241; Building Department Fees for November 2024: \$702.63  
Total Fees for Year to Date: \$23,330.33

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

The regular monthly meeting was held not held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. There were 25 EMS calls in November for a total of 224 for this year 2024. Year to date: Strokes – 85 for all of Greene County, Overdoses – 53 for all of Greene County. We had 171 calls for all of 2023.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** So we still have December to go and we're already at 224.

**Supervisor Ruso:** What's our charges per call?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I want to say \$252-and-change in that area, not all of these calls were transports.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Subtle variance.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** There is a variance in them.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So we're up 50, at least 53.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** But the whole County, we're probably up about 700 calls for all of the County this year so that's a lot of calls.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Because we're sicker or we're getting older, or doing what?

**Ellie Alfeld:** Or is it overdoses?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I think we're getting older. It's all coming to fruition right now in Greene County, 750 extra calls is a lot of calls.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Nick, are the overdoses increased over previous years?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Fifty-three is about average. It's a terrible example but that's the whole County. That's not just drugs itself, it's also medication as well, but 85 strokes is high.

***Grants, Promotions, and Economic Development***

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

**RESOLUTION 163-2024  
DECEMBER 23, 2024**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COUNCILMEMBER VANETTEN AND  
SUPERVISOR RUSO TO APPLY FOR 2025 BANK OF GREENE COUNTY  
VETERANS AND SENIORS GRANT**

**RESOLVED** that Councilmember Shelly VanEtten and Supervisor Jeffry Ruso, Chair and Member of the Youth, Parks and Recreation Committee and the Grants/Promotions/Economic Development Committee, are authorized to apply for a 2025 Bank of Greene County Veterans and Seniors Grant.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

***Greene County Planning Board***

**Supervisor Ruso:** I will say that's probably gonna come off our list for 2025 because they've reconstituted the Planning Board, Greene County Planning Board, and it used to be that there was a representative from each Town and they have indicated that there will be five members of the new Greene County Planning Board and that they are "to represent a broad based representation of the community." So the five people are inclusive and I don't have perfect recall here, one of them is from the IDA, one of them is from the Greene County Economic Development, I know the County Highway Department Chair is on it, and heaven help me I can't remember the other two, but I don't think there's much reason for us to report that anymore. Yes, we've had someone but they've not met in two years.

**Ellie Alfeld:** I know we've had someone, but it doesn't sound like we have any coming anymore for us.

**Supervisor Ruso:** They're cutting out the Towns in essence. So that's a thing of the past. So, Deb, you only have eight more days to have to worry about that.

***Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer***

**Highway Report November 25 – December 20 2024** Picked up bagged leaves in hamlet; Vacuumed leaves from ditches and drains in Hamlet; Repaired exhaust leak on 2011 F350 truck

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#11; Put summer equipment away for the winter; Installed spill guards on new salter; Installed flashing lights on new salter; Helped thruway maintenance haul waste dirt out of Service area on 144; Cut low hanging limbs along roads after heavy snow; Replaced blown hydraulic hose on 1985 Oshkosh plow truck; Installed headlight risers on 2023 6500; Repaired backup lights on 2013 International plow truck; Met with Highway Rehab to look over road for paving next year; 12/5 called all in early for snow, plowed and salted all roads; Washed all trucks; Adjusted rear brakes on 1997 International plow truck; Worked on turbo on 2006 F350, it working again at the moment but will need to be rebuilt at some point.; Installed new Town Radio in 2023 6500.; Radio company will be coming in January to install the antenna.; Replaced water filter at Town Hall; 12/13 called in one person to salt ice on School Hill Road at 7:30 pm; 12/15 light snow all night, all in at 4am plowed and salted all roads; Welded cracks in wing on 1997 International plow truck; Picked up pumpkins from in front of Town Hall; Cut several dead trees along roads; Took 1996 International haul truck to Albrights for inspection; Picked up deer parts dumped on Scheller Park Road. Earlier this month we received two loads, around 80 tons of salt that were unusable due to very high moisture content and large frozen lumps. I contacted American Rock Salt and they are delivering us two new better quality loads, and taking back what was unusable. This has been a problem with some highway departments throughout the County, including State DOT, and County Highway. I have also spoken to OGS and they have told us that if the problem continues, they will allow us to purchase salt from a different vendor. I am happy to report that for the second year in a row, our Highway Department has been awarded a work zone safety Grant from Cornell Local Roads, and we will be receiving around \$2500.00 worth of work zone safety equipment at no cost to the Town. Some items that will be received are Ansi class 2 vests, hard hats, 2, 18” stop slow paddles, 6 36 9nsh roll up signs, 2 Road work Ahead, 2 One Lane Road ahead, 2 Flagger ahead, 6 sign stands, and 20 28” reflective road cones. We will also receive a work zone safety class for our employees at no cost.

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

**RESOLUTION 164-2024**  
**DECEMBER 23, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE HIGHWAY RESERVE TO  
HIGHWAY CONTRACTUAL ACCOUNT**

*WHEREAS* the Town Board authorizes the transfer of up to \$170,709.25 from the Highway Reserve Account to cover the following expenses:

2023 Chevy Silverado	\$ 94,500.00
Plow and Sander	17,000.00
Engineering Report	24,209.25
Truck Repairs	35,000.00

*BE IT RESOLVED* the Town Board approves the use of the Highway Reserve account to pay the bill for the 2023 Chevy Silverado, Plow and Sander, Engineering Report, and additional Truck Repairs of \$35,000.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We had \$250,000 in our Highway Reserve. We spent, wasn't budgeted for, it was not known of before the year started, \$114,000 for that new truck with plow and sander. Secondly, the Engineering Report is the MJ. Now upon conversation, I believe Councilwoman Sottolano was there with me when we talked to the DOT, that we're gonna have a grant for up to \$100,000 to pay for the Engineering costs for the Safe Streets Study. That is a grant that will come in, but the issue with all grants is, it's particularly from the State, is you have to spend the money first and then you get reimbursed. So it does cause and can cause a deficit in the year you spend it and you don't get that money back in the same year. So, anyway, that money has gotta come from someplace and so it's coming out of the Highway Reserve and going to be reimbursed upon reimbursement and the last one was for the truck repairs.

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Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

**Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten**

The Planning Board met on November 14, 2024, in which the following business transacted:

...Mr. Slavik Kiselev came before the Planning Board requesting advisory on how to purchase his driveway easement from his neighbor Mr. Boehm. Mr. Kiselev's property is located on a land locked parcel within another parcel in the Town of Coxsackie. Mr. Kiselev is also buying the parcel owned by Mr. Boehm in which his parcel is located. He would like to connect his driveway to the parcel that he is purchasing from Mr. Boehm. The issue being that the parcel is located in the Town of Coxsackie and the parcel the driveway is located on is in the Town of New Baltimore. The Board discussed why it could not be a lot line adjustment because the two parcels are located in different municipalities. They also discussed a possible subdivision of the driveway piece but the lot the driveway is located on is a non-conforming lot, essentially making two non-conforming lots from one. Another possibility was discussed about the possibility of a flag lot being made to solve the issue. The Board agreed that something needs to be done to ensure that Mr. Kiselev can access his property. The Board suggested that it be sent to our town lawyer for review and also to the Zoning Board for their opinion on the matter. ...Cheema Proposed Gas Station/Convenience Store. Rich from Nolan Engineering was there to represent this project along with Mr. Cheema. The board asked for clarification that both the parcels this project would span were purchased by Mr. Cheema. It was confirmed that the last sale went through in late October. The board also asked if the two parcels had been dissolved into one yet and the reply was it is still being worked on. The board asked about the well for the project since the well is not located on the parcel. They were assured there is an easement for the well and also for the sewer drainage. The Board asked if there was enough water for a fire suppression system, Mr. Nolan replied that it was not required because the square footage is all at ground level. The Board reviewed the memorandum from the town designated engineer. They went over all the conditions that need to be corrected by Nolan Engineering. Then the board also reviewed the EAF pertaining to the project. The Board accepted the site plan Application on the conditions that two parcels be combined and that all the conditions on the memorandum from the town designated engineer were met. A motion was made to accept the Site Plan Application with conditions. Motion was carried. ...A resolution for the Ground Mount Solar Array for David Mancini represented by Kasselmann Solar was brought back to the Planning Board for final approval. A motion was made to approve the variance for the solar array. Motion was carried. ...A resolution for the lot line adjustment for Monington/Catsaros was read. A motion to accept the lot line adjustment was made. Motion was carried. ...Motion to approve October 10, 2024, meeting minutes was made and carried. ...Motion to approve November 14, 2024, meeting minutes was made and carried. ...A brief discussion was had on when to approve back meeting minutes. ...A brief discussion was had on the expired Bristol Manor/William Brandt project which was going to be located on the property where the Cheema Proposed Gas Station/Convenience Store will be located. ...Chairperson Lee Salisbury announced his resignation.

Michelle C. Stefanik 'Please accept this letter of resignation from my position as member of the Town of New Baltimore, NY Planning Board as of December 31, 2024. I have recently begun a new job that requires travel and extensive time commitment and I cannot give the Planning Board work the time that it deserves.'

Leland Salisbury Jr. 'I, Leland Salisbury Jr., do hereby resign from the Town of New Baltimore Planning Board, as of 12/31/2024. It has been an honor to serve the Town of New Baltimore as a Planning Board member.'

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmembers Sottolano and Kash

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AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

***Town Court***

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

- Total November monies received was \$14,836.00
  - Hon. James W. Huff    \$ 6,121.00
  - Hon. Anthony C. Konsul    \$8,715.00
- Total 2024 monies received (January-November) \$163,505.50
- Total new cases received 153

**Town Clerk Finke:** State \$8,106, County \$60, Town \$6,670, From January to November, State \$84,294, County \$2,240, Town \$76,971.50

**Supervisor Ruso:** The budget for 2024 was \$80,000 so only a little bit less and there is still a little time left.

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

**RESOLUTION 165-2024**  
**DECEMBER 23, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER INSURANCE COSTS FROM THE GENERAL FUND  
TO THE SEWER DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS** the Town General Fund paid for liability insurance for all accounts in the Town, and

**WHEREAS** the amount of funds paid to the Town from account A1910.4 totaled \$48,792.33, and

**WHEREAS** \$5,308 of said amount was expended on behalf of Sewer operations.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board transfer costs from A.1910.4 for the amount of \$5,308 to account SS8110.4.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

**Supervisor Ruso:** For a brief discussion, we've done this last year and so on. We didn't always do it. A portion of the cost to the Town comes from sewer operations, the liability, so that's what this is.

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

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

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on December 4, 2024, in which the following business transacted... A Public Hearing was held on December 4, 2024, regarding a variance for a Ground Mount Solar Array for the property of David Mancini represented by Kasselmann Solar. The solar array exceeded the town's maximum kilowattage of 25kW by 4.63 kW for a total of 29.63kW.

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The resolution was read, and a motion was made to grant a negative declaration for the purpose of SEQRA. The variance was granted with no conditions. Randy Lent came to the board with a variance application for setbacks. His new proposed house and garage would not meet the required setbacks for the Town of New Baltimore. The required setback for a property in the RA district is 15 feet from the sides and Mr. Lents proposed garage setback would only be at about 3.5 feet on the left side of the property. The board discussed the situation. Some members suggested Mr. Lent could ask for a lot line adjustment from his sister's neighboring property or possibly change the square footage of his proposed garage. The board advised Mr. Lent they would have to look into it more.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- January 1, 2025 Town Offices Closed for New Year's Day
- January 1, 2025 Town Board Organizational Meeting at 2 PM
- January 8, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- January 9, 2024 Planning Board at 7 PM
- **January 13, 2025 Public Hearing on Local Law 1 of 2025 at 6:45 PM**
- January 13, 2025 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- January 20, 2025 Town Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 27, 2025 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Ellie Alfeld:** First of all I'd like to make an adjustment to that as far as speaking. I think I did what I needed to do with the representative that was here, but I would like to know if the Board has seen the writeup in the *Times Union* about Greene County bond rating. It was upgraded and I thought this was very important to us as members. They have 'a credit rating mainstay has upgraded Greene County bond rating. The upgrade was announced by Moody's investors which changed the Hudson Valley County bond rating from AA to AAA.' We're at the top of the line and the reason being is it goes on a little bit more to tell you that the way that the legislators have maintained their sales tax and the handling of their collection of monies has put us really over the top as far as rating. I think that's a very good comment for the Town and the County.

**Councilmember VanEtten and Supervisor Ruso:** It is, thank you.

**Ellie Alfeld:** One other thing I didn't hear in the Board's minutes meetings has the hotels in our Town had their inspections done yet?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I don't know.

**Ellie Alfeld:** I would think that the Board would look into it when you're coming to the end of the year. We do collect monies for this process and when I notified the Board probably two months ago or more they still had not been done. That's I believe an annual thing.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Fire safety.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Yes.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, we can check on that.

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

**RESOLUTION 166-2024**  
**DECEMBER 23, 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 2023b-12-01 to 2023b-12-24, it is

*RESOLVED* that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2023b-12-01 to 2023b-12-24.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until January 31, 2025.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

General \$17,995.96, Highway \$6,838.21, Sewer 1 \$2,538.08, Water 2 \$12,470.00, Ambulance 1 \$5,085.99, Ambulance 2 \$51,494.38, Total \$96,422.62

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember VanEtten seconded by Councilmember Kash, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO  
Town Clerk