

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

JUNE 23, 2025

Please silence cell phones while the meeting is in progress.

Reports

Supervisor

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- June 9, 2025 Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes

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)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

Planning Board (Chair Downes/Member Kash)

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Technology/Website (Chair Downes/Member VanEtten)

Town Courts (Chair Kash/Member Sottolano)

Veterans and Memorials (Chair VanEtten/Member Downes)

Wastewater Treatment (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Water Districts (Chair Kash/Member Sottolano)

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

Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Upcoming Meetings

- July 2, 2025 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7 PM If Needed
- July 4, 2025 Town Offices Closed
- July 10, 2025 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- July 14, 2025 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- July 28, 2025 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- September 20, 2025 Townwide Yard Sale at 9 AM

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 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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OPENING OF WORK MEETING

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

Supervisor Jeff Ruso

The resolution for Town Hall renovations has been pulled from the docket because Delaware Engineering couldn't get the bid specs in on time. He wants to get the bid out, get the renovations moving forward as soon as possible before the costs increase, and would like to have for the next meeting. The original grant in 2019 was for \$150,000 and costs have increased since then. He has been going to the EMS Supervisors Meeting for Greene County, the Town only has an advisory role, the decision rests in the hands of the County Legislature, and he will attend the next EMS meeting on July 7. Discussions have restarted concerning the PDD after a small timeframe interval. There's two PDDs, the first is the project at Shady Harbor Marina, bringing water to them as well as a few other things that relate, there are 40 homes in the project, and that is back on the docket. There may be action on that rather soon from the Town Board because it is not in the Planning Board's hands now. The other PDD is the Planned Development District on behalf of the existing Truck Stop, where they are looking at major renovations, absorbing more land, and adding an apartment or housing unit complex. The Town is still waiting for the start date with Water District #2 and will be working with Delaware Engineering. There are updates to the costs. Water District 2 has \$278,000 in ARPA Funds and the new cost is now \$298,000. The \$20,000 difference can be partially covered by the \$20/quarter/parcel O&M charges over the past 5 years which is about \$15,000. The Town is not allowed to pay for the cost of a Water District, but the Town could loan the District the remaining \$5,000 which must be repaid within one year. If all the O&M funds are used, there will be nothing left for emergency repairs like a fire hydrant replacement of \$12,000.

The monthly financial reports for May were forwarded to all Board members and the Supervisor hopes everyone has had a chance to review them. Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes to accept the May financial reports.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso congratulated the Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company for their 3 trophies at the Hudson Valley Volunteer Fire Association Convention Parade on Saturday, June 14 in Lake George – Best Overall Ladies Auxiliary Unit in Line, 2nd Best Appearing Fire Unit Dress Uniform 19-25 in Line, and 2nd Best Drum Line. Congratulations also to our Highway Department who received recognition for outstanding achievement in innovation through the NYSLTAP-CLRP's 2025 Build a Better Mousetrap Competition. Their "Low-Profile Deer Receiver Platform" makes the task of removing dead deer from roadways more efficient and safer for employees. It allows one person to drag the carcass onto the platform instead of lifting into a truck, streamlining the process, quicker response times, and reducing the risk of injury.

County Legislator Pat Linger

In the month of June, I have attended 8 committee meetings, 3 workshops, the RC Sportsman Youth Fishing Derby, and the regular Legislative meeting. We will have the grand opening of the new Greene County Tourism office on July 3, 2025 at 11:00 am. The location is on CR 23B in Leeds across from the Catskill thruway exit. The renovation of the former Stewart's Shop is complete and we're proud to show off our new space at the Gateway to Greene corridor. Next up for this location will be the new Hampton Inn. This was a light month for agenda items, relatively speaking. Paving for 1.44 miles of CR 54 between High Mount Rd and CR 51 was approved. You can expect culvert replacements to take place soon in that area. The CR 61 road slide and bridge replacement in the area of the Coxsackie Creek is in the design stage and working through right-of-way issues still. The RFP is out for a vendor to handle short-term rentals for the County. Services will include address identification, registration service, compliance monitoring, education, and outreach. This will provide valuable data for economic

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development, housing needs, and property development, as well as other potential services. Work continues on the Justice Center with an expected move-in date of March 2026. Architectural Services and Construction Management Services contracts have been awarded for the new Community Services buildings in Cairo. We plan to move GC Soil and Water and the Vet to Vet program to this campus as well. The county-wide ambulance task force continues to forge ahead. Town Supervisors met and gave a report to us with their requests and a potential timeline. While nothing has been finalized yet, I'm encouraged to say we have a vast majority of Towns, Legislators, and EMS providers all rowing in the same direction for the first time in my service as Legislator. The hope is to use 2025/2026 to begin a merger of sorts with Greene EMS Paramedics and the County to start a transition that will provide a sustainable system and build a career path. In 2027, we would bring transporting agencies into the mix as county employees. There are many details to be worked out still, not the least of which is the effect to New Baltimore Fire District No. 1, currently serviced by Ravena Rescue in Albany County. Response times and service levels are important aspects being considered. One of the goals here is to get consistent ALS transport service everywhere in Greene County. We'll get there, but not without some serious work and growing pains. We affirmed our commitment to this goal with a resolution this month to declare EMS an essential service in Greene County. In NYS where police and fire protection are essential, EMS is not. This is a commitment we've asked our State Representatives to do on multiple occasions without success. I believe we're the first to do so. I provided two Speenburgh grants this month to the RC Sportsman Club for their Youth Fishing Derby and the NB Agfest.

County Legislator Linger added that the State Assembly ended last week and the County was told one of the things that was not going to be in new legislation for this year from the Session was the ability for municipalities to remove EMS costs in their tax cap. The County Legislature was told it was a dead issue and wasn't going anywhere last month, but in the waning hours it passed the Senate and Assembly and is heading to the Governor's desk. What that would do is they were looking at an approximate 20 percent increase in property taxes for the County if the EMS system came in with all expenses at once. They were concerned with that number and this would allow them to not have to pass the resolution saying that they would not reach the tax cap and would take the cost of providing EMS service out of that calculation. If the Governor signs it, it will help but they will be spending extra money.

Supervisor Ruso expressed concerns that the costs to Town of New Baltimore residents will be on the increase and the estimate received from the County Administrator's office was that it would be \$215,000 and assessment based.

County Legislator Linger does not believe it will be cheaper than what the Town is paying now.

Supervisor Ruso agreed that the Town currently pays \$95,000 and will go to \$215,000 and expressed concern the new higher cost will be covered by a County tax rather than the current Town tax, and residents may receive less services if the plan goes forward.

County Legislator Linger stated that there won't be any less services.

Supervisor Ruso believes that Ravena Rescue would not be part of the future plan, which would force longer wait times for ambulances to arrive on scene.

County Legislator Linger noted that their numbers are in their assessment right now, their call volume, their response times, with the ambulance provider. If they can't come up with a way within the county-wide system to meet the same response times that everybody else is getting, they can contract with Ravina to handle calls until they have enough people on board and enough ambulances because he doesn't think that ambulances are going to do what needs to be done to begin with. He believes this will be a bigger system than what was proposed.

Supervisor Ruso stated it was more reassuring than the information he received in his meetings because they said that's not in the picture, but they don't know everything at this time.

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County Legislator Linger explained that the whole process is still under discussion with Ravena Fire and Ravena would probably be needed to continue covering part of New Baltimore for the next three years.

Supervisor Ruso pointed out that Ravena Rescue is two miles from the town line and Coxsackie is considerably further and he is concerned about response times.

County Legislator Linger said he didn't know where any new stations might be located and it would be up to the new administration to decide if any new ambulance services or stations would be needed. He noted that Greene EMS uses extra medic trucks and that the whole County is on medic response time of just over nine minutes."

Supervisor Ruso went on to ask about County Route 61 and when work would be accomplished.

County Legislator Linger answered that the slide will be done this year and the bridge will probably be in the 2026 season.

Supervisor Ruso said that we need to make sure the public is aware.

County Legislator Linger responded that the County is trying to get the project situated with the angle and width on the bridge, they need an in-place detour to go over which will be a right-of-way clearance on that one house and that's where the hold up is right now. There is an agreement, but the County doesn't have a signed document and they can't move forward without it. Design is mostly done, they're just waiting on the right-of-way.

Ellie Alfeld asked about changing the Senior Program for food services. She was concerned about rumors that there will be a lot of cutbacks for services for seniors, some who are housebound and unable to drive, and cutbacks on food delivery and transportation services would cause serious problems for those seniors.

County Legislator Linger responded that the cutbacks are based on reimbursement rates from the federal government. The line item for Meals on Wheels is zero right now with no federal reimbursement, that entire cost would have to be covered by the County in addition to the \$1.8 million in services already provided.

Ellie Alfeld mentioned that she thought the building being used for Seniors in Coxsackie was paid for by the Village.

County Legislator Linger added that the County pays the lease on that space at \$1,200 per month and they pay another \$1,000 per month at Jewett and last week there was one person.

Ellie Alfeld noted that she knows two seniors that go to Coxsackie that it is their main meal of the day.

County Legislator Linger said that they are going off of the Office for Aging standards and did away with the meals program during COVID and did not bring it back after COVID. The Director at the Greene County Department of the Aging did not make the changes, so for the past two years, the County has been paying the bill without the reimbursement they received before COVID.

Ellie Alfeld responded that she did not care where the money comes from, those seniors that need the meals need to continue receiving them and it's not right to abandon them just because the State cut the funding.

Councilmember Sottolano questioned whether the Town would be reimbursed by the State for any essential EMS services provided.

County Legislator Linger answered that his fear is that before this program is started another Town says they can't afford to provide it anymore. That would then give the County the authority to step in and cover the costs since they can't leave somebody without EMS service.

Greene County EMS Representative Nick Dellisanti

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025. There were 17 EMS calls in May for a total of 96 for this year 2025. YTD for all of Greene County 44 Strokes and 25 Overdoses We had 243 calls for all of 2024.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti noted that we are on pace for about 230 right now which is down from last year which is a good thing.

Grants/Promotions/Economic Development

Councilmember Dellisanti noted that the Town applied for a CHPE grant about six weeks ago and he had an email on Friday afternoon that the Town received \$30,000. Projects in the grant included radios, garage doors for the Highway; playground, launch, sign at Cornell Park. He suggests the radios for Highway and Councilmember VanEtten was looking at the playground for Cornell Park. The radios are \$20,000 and playground \$22,000, leaving \$12,000 short. The Park Reserve can cover the \$12,000. Decision doesn't have to be made today, CHPE will give to the Town, it can be used for the projects wanted, he asked the Highway Superintendent what he wanted to do and to let him know.

Supervisor Ruso announced the PERMA grant he submitted for a flat screen TV and laptop for educational programs was received and it can also be used for budget presentations.

Councilmember Kash questioned if some of the funds could be used to fix the Highway Garage doors and **Councilmember Sottolano** mentioned that the Clerk's office also requested a safety glass window for the Clerk's office.

Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer

May 26 to June 20 2025 Cut paving rebates on West Deans Mill and LimeKiln Roads, Paved West Deans Mill and Lime Kiln Roads, Backed up driveways after paving, Installed shoulders on newly paved roads, Thank You to the Greene County Highway Department for the use of their shoulder machine and operator for 3 days, Patched roads with blacktop, Thank you to the NYS Thruway maintenance division for the loan of their hot box, Installed fabricated grate over culvert pipe on Gill Road to eliminate danger of children or animals going into it. Mowed along roads; Mowed parks, and Town Hall as needed, Went to Fabcon to look at concrete slabs for Kayak launch at Cornell Park, Repaired damages to gazebo at Cornell Park, Repaired leaking hydraulic pipe on Roadside boom mower, Replaced leaking oil pan on 2013 International Truck number 7; Moved boxes of records at Town Hall, Picked up orange bags from roadside cleanup Our highway department received state wide recognition at the 2025 highway school for participating in a competition called build a better mouse trap. We were in the top five finalists, unfortunately we didn't win, the top prize, but we will likely try again next year.

Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten

The Planning Board met on June 12, 2025, in which the following business was transacted: ... **Tortoise Ventures, LLC Minor Subdivision** A Public Hearing was held regarding the Minor Subdivision for Tortoise Ventures, LLC on Old Kings Road with one member of the public offering comment regarding the terrain of the land and the depth of wells in the area. ... **Cheema Gas Station/Convenience Store** Kevin Pultorakk and Collin Parsons were present representing Mr. Cheema, also in attendance was the Town's designated engineer Kamil Baraniewicz from Creighton Manning. The Board reviewed all of the conditions that were on the resolution with all parties determining that most of the conditions would have to be met before a Building Permit could be secured. An in-depth conversation was had on the well and septic for the project and the State and County agencies that they will need approval from moving forward. All questions and concerns were addressed. The Planning Board read the resolution with conditions, there was a motion to approve the Site Plan with all board members in attendance in favor and the motion carried. ... **Colburn/Meredith Lot Line Adjustment** After review of the conveyance deeds from the Town's attorney and further review of the maps by the Planning Board the Colburn/Meredith Lot Line Adjustment was approved with all board members in attendance in favor. The Maps were stamped and signed for filing with the Greene County Clerk's Office.

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Town Court

The following is the Town of New Baltimore Court monthly report for May 2025.

- Total May monies received was \$12,466.00
 - Hon. James W. Huff \$6,393.00
 - Hon. Anthony C. Konsul \$6,073.00
- Total 2025 monies received (January-May) \$67,050.00
- Total new cases received 108

Veterans

Councilmember VanEtten noted that the Veterans picnic will be held at the end of July.

Youth, Parks, and Recreation

Supervisor Ruso announced that cameras have been installed at District 2 Park.

Discussion included vandalism of the gazebo at Cornell Park, metal grate that was removed, garbage cans that were stolen, and the length of time that images are saved on cameras.

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Bill Boehlke

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on June 4, 2025, in which the following business was transacted ... **Boehm/Kiselev Area Variance** Mr. Boehm was present, he had his authorized agent Mr. Kiselev submit an application for an Area Variance. The Planning Board referred them to the Zoning Board of Appeals to request Variances for the subdivision of the land. The current driveway/right of way located on Mr. Boehm’s property allows Mr. Kiselev access to his current land locked parcel. This subdivision does not meet the minimum required lot acreage or the minimum required road frontage for a flag lot. This subdivision of a small 0.291 acre non-buildable driveway lot will eventually be joined with the current land locked parcel located in the Town of Coxsackie via lot line adjustment. The application was accepted and given a negative declaration for the purpose of SEQRA. A resolution was read and accepted with conditions. A Public Hearing on the Variance was scheduled for July 2, 2025 at 7pm. ... The Public Hearing for this Variance has since been postponed awaiting comment from the Greene County Planning Board because of the proximity to the town line.

Upcoming Meetings

- July 2, 2025 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7 PM If Needed
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Public Comment Period/Community Events

None

Audit of Claims

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 103-2025

JUNE 23, 2025

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 2025b-06-01 to 2025b-06-35, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2025b-06-01 to 2025b-06-35.

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

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

General \$14,321.82, Highway \$437,423.99, Street Lighting 1 \$1,774.58, Street Lighting 2 \$206.60, Ambulance 1 \$5,085.99, Ambulance 2 \$2,987.01, Total \$461,799.90

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC, CTO
Town Clerk