

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

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
AGENDA**

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Pledge of Allegiance

Bid Opening for Diesel Fuel

Approval of Minutes

- August 25, 2025 Town Board Work Meeting

Public Comment Period

New Business

- Resolution to Authorize the Supervisor to Sign Renewal Agreement with MVP Health Care Insurance
- Resolution to Authorize the Implementation of a “.gov” Domain Name for the Official Website and Department Emails of the Town of New Baltimore
- Resolution to Establish Cemetery Charges by the Town
- Resolution to Authorize the Town Court to Apply for a Justice Court Assistance Program Grant in the 2025-2026 Cycle
- Motion to Authorize the Highway Superintendent to Use the Town Pickup Truck to Attend the NYS Association of Town Superintendents of Highways Annual Fall Conference from September 23-26, Fill With Fuel Before Leaving the Highway Garage as a Town Expense, and Refill Fuel for Return Trip at the Highway Superintendent’s Expense
- Motion to Return Unused \$25 Park Rental to the New Baltimore Conservancy
- Audit of Claims

Upcoming Meetings

- September 11, 2025 Senior Picnic at Cecil Hallock Park at 12 Noon
- September 11, 2025 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- September 20, 2025 Townwide Yard Sale at 9 AM, Maps Available on Town Hall Steps at 8AM
- September 22, 2025 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- October 1, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- October 4, 2025 Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic at Town Hall, Pre-Registration Required at jkash@townofnewbaltimore.org
- October 9, 2025 Planning Board Meeting at 7:30 PM
- October 15, 2025 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- October 27, 2025 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

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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OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 6:59 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Downes, Kash, and Sottolano; Michelle Storm, Esq.; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; Town Clerk Finke; and 14 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Councilmember VanEtten and Highway Superintendent VanWormer

Invitation to Bid

The Town of New Baltimore, Greene County NY will receive bids for the supply and delivery of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel to the Highway Garage and Wastewater Treatment Plant for a period beginning October 1, 2025 and ending on October 1, 2026. The successful bidder will deliver a 60/40 blend of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel every seven days from December 1, 2025 to April 1, 2026 to the Highway Garage for winter usage in trucks and equipment, uncut fuel may be delivered prior to December 1, and after April 1. Delivery to the Wastewater Treatment Plant will be as needed. The Town of New Baltimore agrees to allow other neighboring municipalities or political subdivisions to piggyback on the above mentioned bid. The Town of New Baltimore also reserves the right to reject any and all bids at their discretion. Bids will be received in the Town Clerk's office by 4pm on Friday September 5 and bids will be opened and read aloud at the Regular Board Meeting on Monday September 8. Questions should be addressed to Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer by email at highway@townofnewbaltimore.org. By Order of the Town Board, Barbara M. Finke, Town Clerk

Town Clerk Finke opened the bids and reported that two bids were received, one from Main-Care Energy on September 3 at 12:07 PM and one from Bottini Fuel on September 4 at 4:15 PM.

Supervisor Ruso announced that the Bottini Fuel bid offered a variable price for a 60/40 blend at 28.2 cents over OPS out of Albany. Main Care Energy bid a variable price of 28.5 cents over OPS Albany. Bottini is the low bidder.

Councilperson Downes asked if both were OPS Albany and **Supervisor Ruso** confirmed that both are OPS out of Albany.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The August 25, 2025 Town Board Work Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Downes. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

Public Comment Period

Donna Carlson asked about the status of the water line.

Supervisor Ruso answered that the water line has been installed on the west side of the Thruway, that there have been conversations with the contractor and engineer for the east side of the Thruway, and that has not yet been resolved.

Donna Carlson questioned the hold up.

Supervisor Ruso added that the conversation is about the right-of-way.

Donna Carlson asked if it involved a fire hydrant being put in, she saw that in the Minutes, and if it was not going to go through and will stop where it was fixed at the Thruway, it will not

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continue on where the easement should go, if that were to break it still is the water district's responsibility to pay if it breaks if the water line is not replaced.

Supervisor Ruso noted the whole line whether it's replaced or otherwise is still the responsibility of the water district.

Donna Carlson said the money is there to replace it and questioned how much the project is over budget.

Supervisor Ruso explained that the cost is coming in at \$398,000, the Town has in reserve \$370,000, and needs to come up with about \$28,000.

Donna Carlson was under the impression at meetings held that that it was going to be covered and wouldn't cost the people in that water district any more money.

Supervisor Ruso responded that the additional cost will be about \$30,000 at this time.

Donna Carlson questioned that if the line cannot go forward because they can't get an easement, and that line is not replaced and they are still responsible to fix it, and that in her mind it made more sense to give the business the hydrant because it would be less cost if the line were to break in the future, it won't cost \$10-\$15,000 to fix, it will cost more money to fix and more burden on the water district, they are already paying an extra \$800 a year when the line broke under the Thruway, and if it breaks again then that's more added to the burden because there's nothing in the funds to take care of it.

Supervisor Ruso didn't know the answer at that time, this was public comment and the Board wanted to hear her opinion.

Donna Carlson said her opinion is that the fire hydrant should be put in because she felt it would be less cost and if it did not go through and the water line was not replaced and there is a break it will cost more money to fix it than it would be to put a fire hydrant in. She also requested that Bellamy Construction come and reseed and spread hay in her yard where the line was replaced and it was done on a windy day where all the hay and seed was blown away and it should be watered at least once.

Supervisor Ruso confirmed he would contact Bellamy.

Harold Vadney remarked that the public information session on July 27 meeting showed a lack of focus and the domineering of the public information by Councilperson Sottolano who has no engineering experience while Lisa Wallin from MJ Engineering should have been answering most of the questions. He felt the main takeaways from the session was the emphasis on sidewalks was very piecemeal and does not understand how that would be considered sensible putting sidewalks in an area on a day-to-day basis that has no traffic. He also felt that drainage was not a problem in the 25 years he has lived here, negligible pedestrian and cyclist traffic, and absence of law enforcement which might alleviate many of the problems that were addressed in the information sessions. The two main takeaways were a major concern about truck traffic and that truck traffic was significant. Some of the fixes that were proposed, he believes many of the people at the information session would have agreed, would not alleviate the problem. Some people don't know how to drive and don't observe what is out there already, no amount of widening or sign is going to help. If people are that ignorant not to look at the signs that are out there, and to drive carefully and cautiously, nothing else matters. Widening the road will only invite more truck traffic. One of the major problems is that DOT and law enforcement is not supervising and enforcing the DOT permitting. If scofflaws are riding through a restricted area who have been granted a DOT permit to use the route and they are not observing the road restrictions, then they have to rip the permit from out in under them. He noted in conclusion that he found it extraordinary that every member of the Town Board lives at least ½ mile away from

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the subject area, Ms. Sottolano is the nearest at .4 miles, Ms. Kash is 1.2 miles, Ms. VanEtten is 3.5, Ms. Downes is 8.3 miles, and Mr. Ruso is 1.5 miles. He finds it extraordinary that any of the Board Members can be in a position to make any decisions for residents who are immediately affected. He proposed the creation of an ad hoc advisory committee from residents in the affected area to advise the Board of their perception of the problems and what solutions might be. He suggested retired civil engineer Peter Melewski should be included on that committee of least five members, Ms. Sottolano could be appointed as an observer but not in a voting capacity, it is not subject to the Open Meetings Law, it does not have to be a public meeting, but he feels it would be a far better solution than what it is now. They know the problems and are the best ones to advise the Board.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 124-2025
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH MVP HEALTH CARE INSURANCE

WHEREAS the MVP Health Insurance Company has offered the Town of New Baltimore a renewal proposal for health insurance for town employees; and

WHEREAS the offering for continuation of the existing plan of the MVP HMO Gold 2 HSA represents an increase to the town for health insurance of 6 %. This will bring the total monthly cost to the town for the coverage for the following class of persons:

- Single Person Coverage - \$974.30 per person
- Employee + Spouse - \$1948.60 per employee
- Employee + Child - \$1656.56 per employee
- Employee Family Rate - \$2776.76 per employee

WHEREAS the town currently has 6 active employees receiving health insurance. Based on current and anticipated employee usage at the proposed rates the estimated expenditure for the new plan year is \$140,011.60.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to renew the agreement with MVP for employee health insurance beginning December 1, 2025.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes and Sottolano

Councilmember Downes questioned whether the figures are the Town's or employees' percentages.

Supervisor Ruso responded that they are the figures specifically for the Town and there are premium deductions based on when an employee was hired. All employees pay at least 10% of the premium and some more depending on when they were hired. In May of 2013 employees paid 25%, and there was a time when it was 20% from 2011 to 2013. It depends on when an employee is hired and what plan they choose. These figures were used on current and anticipated employee usage, the Town won't know the next employee, their family needs, and these figures are based on current usage.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 125-2025
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE IMPLEMENTATION OF A ‘.GOV’ DOMAIN NAME
FOR THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE AND DEPARTMENTAL EMAILS
OF THE TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE**

WHEREAS General Municipal Law §300 and 30(7) requires that towns with populations of 1,500 or more establish and maintain an official website and departmental emails with a ‘.gov’ domain name effective December 21, 2025.

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore approves quote #JW006861 from Intelligent Technology Solutions, Inc. for the migration to ‘.gov’ for the Town’s official website and employee emails at a cost of \$1,000.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 126-2025
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH CEMETERY CHARGES BY THE TOWN

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Law, the Town of New Baltimore has taken over the responsibility for abandoned burial grounds in the Town; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the orderly management of such burial grounds by the Town of New Baltimore, it is necessary that the Town Board establish rates and charges for proper management and maintenance of these burial grounds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby adopts the following rates and charges for the proper maintenance of cemeteries under the control of the Town to be effective immediately. Such charges shall be in addition to any contractor or agent providing funeral, excavation, monument or other cemetery services.

Town Administrative Charges

Foundation/Memorialization Application: \$25.00 per foundation/memorial

Interment: \$150

Interment – Cremation: \$150

Disinterment: \$200.00

Transfer of Ownership: \$50.00

Copy of Certified Ownership Certificate: \$25.00

Lot Prices

Single Grave: \$600.00 in addition to a Cemetery Maintenance Fee of \$25.00

Each Additional Right of Interment: \$500.00 in addition to a Cemetery Maintenance Fee of \$25.00

Grave specified for cremation interment only: \$500.00 in addition to a Cemetery Maintenance Fee of \$25.00

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such rates and charges may be amended from time to time as is necessary by majority vote of the Town Board.

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Upon motion made by Supervisor Ruso, seconded by Councilmember Downes, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Town Board on September 8, 2025 by vote of a majority of its members as follows:

Ellie Alfeld asked who will collect the fees.

Supervisor Ruso answered that the Town Clerk's Office.

Ellie Alfeld questioned who will be doing the labor.

Supervisor Ruso replied who the family hires. The Town will not be burying or digging up, the family would need to hire someone in addition to the fees the Town will be charging. The Town's charges were recommended by Featherstonhaugh who claimed they are the going rates in the Capital Region.

Supervisor Ruso	AYE
Councilmember Downes	AYE
Councilmember Kash	AYE
Councilmember Sottolano	AYE
Councilmember VanEtten	ABSENT

Motion carried.

It is hereby certified that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of that which was adopted by the Town Board on September 8, 2025.

Dated: September 8, 2025

Barbara M. Finke, Town Clerk

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 127-2025
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN COURT TO APPLY FOR A JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT IN THE 2025-2026 CYCLE

WHEREAS the New Baltimore Town Court wishes to apply for a grant for digitizing Court documents.

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the New Baltimore Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2025-2026 grant cycle up to \$30,000.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes and Sottolano

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso read Highway Superintendent VanWormer's letter: "Good morning all, I have been awarded a full scholarship to the NYS Association of Town Superintendents of Highways annual Fall Conference being held in Niagara Falls from September 23 to the 26. The cost for the conference, meals, and hotel room is \$1200.00. I would like board approval to drive the Town pickup to and from this conference. I will fill it with gas prior to leaving at the highway garage, and refill on the way back at my expense. Thank you for your consideration. Alan"

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Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano to authorize the Highway Superintendent to use the Town pickup truck to attend the NYS Association of Town Superintendents of Highways Annual Fall Conference from September 23-26, Fill With Fuel Before Leaving the Highway Garage as a Town Expense, and Refill Fuel for Return Trip at the Highway Superintendent's Expense

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Kash to Return Unused Park Rental fees to the New Baltimore Conservancy event this past weekend.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso announced the trophies received at the Greene County Firemen's Parade in Greenville and congratulated Medway-Grapeville who received 1st Place Tanker, 1st Place 11-15 In Line, and 1st Place Best Appearing Without Music; New Baltimore who received 1st Place Drumline, 1st Place Best Appearing Motor Driven Antique Apparatus Out of Service, 1st Best Appearing Unit 26 & Over in Line, Best Appearing Overall Auxiliary, and 1st Place Firematic Color Guard

Upcoming Meetings

- September 11, 2025 Senior Picnic at Cecil Hallock Park at 12 Noon
- September 11, 2025 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- September 20, 2025 Townwide Yard Sale at 9 AM, Maps Available on Town Hall Steps at 8AM
- September 22, 2025 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- October 1, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
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Councilmember Kash reminded residents that Sunday, September 14 will be the New Baltimore Music and Arts Festival at Wyche Park from 2-6PM, there are nine bands, the event is free, food vendors, it is family-friendly, rain date September 21.

Councilmember Downes added that with the weather changing if anyone is in need of food to please go to the Medway Church, they have an open-door policy for food, last week they had fish sticks, hummus, vegetables, canned beans, dry beans, pasta, and to contact the parsonage (518)731-2106.

Supervisor Ruso noted that he contacted the Greene County Office for the Aging who will have a representative at the Seniors picnic and have coupon packs of 25 to Seniors only or disabled that can be used at Farmers Markets, Black Horse, but not grocery stores.

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 128-2025
SEPTEMBER 8, 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 2025-09-01 to 2025-09-16 and 2025-09-18 to 2025-09-33 it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2025-09-01 to 2025-09-16 to 2025-09-18 to 2025-09-33.

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

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

Supervisor Ruso clarified that voucher 2025-09-17 was pulled and is missing from the batch.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

General \$46,453.86, Highway \$1,825.76, Sewer 1 \$1,902.69, Sewer 2 \$237.76, Water 2 \$147,730.27, Total \$198,150.34.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember Sottolano, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso wished everyone a good night.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO
Town Clerk