

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

**JANUARY 22, 2024**

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

**Reports**

**Supervisor**

- Resolution to Request Greene County Board of Elections to Make a Presentation to the Town Board
- Resolution to Reduce Speed Limit on Aquetuck/Acquetuck Road
- Resolution to Authorize the Town Supervisor to Contract with a Mold Abatement Company

**County Legislator**

**Town Clerk**

- December 11, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting
- January 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting

**Historian**

Agriculture/AgFest (Member VanEtten)

Animal Control (Chair Kash, Member Sottolano)

Assessment (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Audit and Budget (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

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

Code Enforcement Officer (Chair Downes/Member Ruso)

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement (Member Dellisanti)

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

Greene County Planning Board (Sottolano)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Authorize the Town of New Baltimore to Participate in County Highway Purchases

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals (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**

- February 7, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- February 8, 2024 Planning Board at 7 PM
- February 12, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- February 19, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Presidents' Day
- February 26, 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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**OPENING OF WORK MEETING**

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Also attending Councilmembers Downes, Kash, Sottolano and VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; County Legislator Linger; Town Clerk Finke; Highway Superintendent VanWormer; and 17 members of the public who signed the attendance book

**Supervisor Ruso:** The monthly financial reports have been circulated, you've all had a chance to review them I hope and I'm going to make a Motion to accept them.

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

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 40-2024**

**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO  
MAKE A PRESENTATION TO THE TOWN BOARD**

**WHEREAS** it is the right of every citizen in the United States to have free and fair elections, and

**WHEREAS** the concerns expressed about the ability of the residents in the Town of New Baltimore to participate in an uncomplicated and private voting process contrary to what was experienced at the Town Hall of the Town of New Baltimore on the election of November 8, 2023, and

**WHEREAS** multiple residents of the Town of New Baltimore have come forward to the Town Board with issues they encountered, and

**WHEREAS** multiple election workers who were on duty during that election in the Town of New Baltimore have come forward to the Town Board issues they encountered, and

**WHEREAS** the Town Board believes that it is imperative that the residents and election workers of the Town of New Baltimore have confidence in the accuracy and privacy of our elections, so

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby requests that representatives of the Greene County Board of Election come to a Town Board meeting to explain to the residents of the Town of New Baltimore what occurred and inform the Town of measures to be taken to prevent recurrence of these problems.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

**Supervisor Ruso:** I heard from the group here last meeting that there have been some level of explanations about what occurred, but that explanation did not involve and include multiple residents throughout the Town and I just think they need to come in here and try to give us some greater level of confidence. Obviously, there's residents have spoken that they're not particularly confident that things went smoothly or went right so let 'em come in and explain it. So that's the background, I think we all sat here and heard them.

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AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'll be sending that off to our friends.

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

**RESOLUTION 41-2024**

**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO REDUCE SPEED LIMIT ON AQUETUCK/ACQUETUCK ROAD**

*WHEREAS* the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore has been requested by the residents of Aquetuck/Acquetuck 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 Aquetuck/Acquetuck 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 to the Greene County Highway Superintendent for his/her submission to the New York State Department of Transportation for their approval.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

**Supervisor Ruso:** A point of clarity, at one end of the road it's spelled one way and the other way it's spelled the other way so that's not a typo when I said the name twice and I think they're both pronounced the same.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 42-2024**

**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO CONTRACT  
WITH A MOLD ABATEMENT COMPANY**

*WHEREAS* the existence of mold in the basement of the Town Hall was identified and a certified Mold Assessment company was hired to perform the assessment of the conditions, and

*WHEREAS* the Town Supervisor contacted five certified mold abatement companies to provide an estimate to remove the mold, and

*WHEREAS* two of the 5 companies came to inspect the condition, and

*WHEREAS* only 1 of those 2 that came to the Town Hall submitted an estimate, and

*WHEREAS* the abatement work is considered to be a priority and potentially a health emergency to our employees and contractors,

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***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to contract with “Ready 32 Go Restoration” at the cost identified in their estimate of \$10,500.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

**Councilmember Downes:** I think we need to change the 3 to a 2 correct?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh, Ready 2 Go, thank you for that.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** You’ll see on this the email I sent to those companies with the names and all that, but I don’t have it, I don’t have anything. I can’t wait around.

***County Legislator Linger***

January begins the final year of my 3-year elected term as the County Legislator for District #5. It is my distinct pleasure to serve our town assisting residents and guiding policy, and I do plan to run for re-election in this capacity in 2024. This month, I attended the Organizational Meeting, 8 regular committee meetings, 3 Public Hearings, and 2 special committee meetings. While many people can take a minute to enjoy some downtime during the winter season, the Legislature doesn’t get that opportunity. We’re busy juggling several projects like the Cohotate Preserve upgrades, managing upcoming projects like the Justice Center and Catskill Point shoreline restoration, and planning others like our new Community Services building or the Tourism Center. Much of our official business this month was rather mundane and included authorizing 2024 contracts or agreements. Sales tax receipts for 2023 came in \$11 million above estimated revenue. Once the books are closed for 2023, we will move any surplus funds into various dedicated and undedicated balances. We authorized the purchase of 3 busses for Greene County Transit. These busses will seat 14 riders and 2 wheelchairs, and 90 percent of the price is covered by grant funding. We held a public hearing and subsequently authorized land owned by GC Soil and Water to be added into Ag District 124. In March, we will authorize pay nearly \$11 million in unpaid taxes to make our schools and villages whole. Once again, this amount will be paid from reserves to avoid the extra expense of borrowing. We will hold a workshop this Wednesday at 6pm to go over some future projections and upcoming issues for the Legislature. In general, these workshops give the Legislature advance warning on things we’ll need to decide how to move forward on in the near future. Speenburgh grant funds are still available at this time. If you haven’t already, please go to the County website, [greengovernment.com](http://greengovernment.com) to sign up for Positively Greene. This monthly publication helps keep you informed about economic development across Greene County.

**Councilmember Downes:** Those three buses, will those be three new lines or are they replacing buses?

**County Legislator Linger:** They’re replacing 2016 buses.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It says here in your second paragraph that the sales tax revenue was \$11 million overbudgeted.

**County Legislator Linger:** Correct. No, that’s what we received was \$11 million over what we had in the budget so we had figured into the budget \$37 million. It came back when we got final revenues this year were \$48 million. So sales tax came in higher than what we projected it would.

**Supervisor Ruso:** By a big chunk.

**County Legislator Linger:** By a big size, yeah.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** So I received today as you probably know a resolution I can't remember the number from Greene County Legislature that indicates that the chargebacks to the Town, for those that don't know, the County charges us for election services somewhere in the neighborhood of \$12,000, they charge all of the other towns and I think the total is about \$140,000? \$160,000 thank you. So they charge the Towns \$160,000 when the other side of things they gained \$11 million more than they thought they would have.

**County Legislator Linger:** And I have voted against that for I don't even know how many years now.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I saw that. I am considering perhaps at the next meeting putting forth a resolution to, I don't know if the word reject is the right one, but certainly to express the feelings of the Board about them charging us \$12,000 when they got \$11 million that they didn't expect.

**County Legislator Linger:** Please do. I voted against this for many years. I have two other legislators that generally will vote against it as well, but for some reason, the reason is that we've always done it that way.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Whether we need the money or not.

**County Legislator Linger:** That's what I constantly hear so we've always done it. The law says that we can charge...

**Supervisor Ruso:** So, therefore, we do.

**County Legislator Linger:** Nothing says we have to charge. I believe there are 11 Counties who charge back some of these costs.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Right. I heard that the majority of the Counties do not charge their Towns.

**County Legislator Linger:** Do not, correct. I would agree with that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Greene County does so notwithstanding the fact that they don't need it at least if you read that.

**County Legislator Linger:** Yeah, and you know my feeling on this is the Towns don't have any say about Election Law. The Towns didn't have a say when the State said 'we're gonna go to ten days of early voting.' That cost is passed along through a chargeback to the Town.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Right.

**County Legislator Linger:** So you have no affect on that, but you're the one's that are gonna ultimately pay the bill.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Also, and correct me if I'm wrong, the County does receive from the State monies to run elections.

**County Legislator Linger:** To run elections?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Towards elections anyhow. I'll doublecheck that assertion.

**County Legislator Linger:** No, no, I think they get money for voting machines but not to run elections. We do that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Just so you know, for instance the Town, this is a voting site. The County pays us \$150 to rent the Town Hall for the day.

**County Legislator Linger:** Right. And then the taxpayers charge it back.

**Supervisor Ruso:** And then they charge it back to us. So they charge us \$150 for the \$150 that they sent us which keep your check. But, nevertheless, I didn't know if people knew that part.

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**County Legislator Linger:** And State law requires the County Boards to keep these lists not the Towns, to keep voter registration lists. The County is the one that has to do that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I may reach out to my fellow Town Supervisors to see if they would want to sign on to such a thing. I don't know if it will be barking up a tree and there's no squirrel there.

**County Legislator Linger:** Well, I've asked our Legislature to do the same and go back to their Towns and to be quite honest with you I think there's only two or three other Legislators that actually go down and report to their Town Boards.

**Councilmember Downes:** To take that chargeback away would it have to be a full vote at the Legislature? Everybody would have to vote yes?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Everybody, no, it has to be a majority.

**County Legislator Linger:** No, you would have to have a majority.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's not so much to take it away, it's reauthorized every year.

**Councilmember Downes:** Right, no, but sometimes the vote needs a majority and sometimes it needs a full.

**County Legislator Linger:** No, it would be a majority. It's initially approved in the budget to do that which I did vote to approve the budget, but then you have to approve the chargebacks, the individual chargebacks. And it's not just Board of Elections stuff either, some of it is Real Property Services. On that I also vote no, not because I disagree there shouldn't be a chargeback, but there shouldn't be 100 percent cost chargeback which is what we do because the County itself Real Property Services uses some of that information just as much as the Towns do. It really should be a 50 percent split.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Our bill had County taxes on it as well.

**County Legislator Linger:** Correct.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So the Town paid for the County to send their tax notes out.

**County Legislator Linger:** So your assessment materials, all of that stuff, all gets charged back.

**Supervisor Ruso:** You know that I'm not a fan of that stuff. That's not my first time I brought it up.

**County Legislator Linger:** I'm one of fourteen.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I know. Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.

***Town Clerk Barb Finke***

1 CO Search Compliance Residential \$125, 2 Building Permits \$366.00, 4 CO Searches \$200, 5 EZPass Tags \$125, 2 Fishing Licenses \$0.56, 16 Dog Licenses \$102, 4 Late License \$20, 1 Solar Residential \$116, 8 Certified Copies \$80, 38 Photo Copies \$9.50, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$1,171.50, \$18 to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program, \$9.44 to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses, Total to Supervisor \$1,144.06.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The December 11, 2023 Town Board Regular 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:

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AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

The January 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Downes. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Audit and Budget Committee***

**Supervisor Ruso:** Actually, I want to ask Ms. Downes how's the audits going? Our annual audits have to be done after the first of the year.

**Councilmember Downes:** Right, we've started. Courts is finished. Petty cash is done throughout the building. So we've got Tax and Clerk, they're so busy this time of year and your audit and then we'll be done.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay, so it's well in hand, sounds like you're more than halfway done.

***Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley***

December 30, 2023-January 22, 2024 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastics) 8, 5 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 25 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 61 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, 1 Dryer January 3, and 1 Stove January 13.

***Animal Control***

**Supervisor Ruso:** Just to go up the ladder a little under Animal Control both for Councilwomen Kash and Sottolano, I sent an introductory email to yourselves regarding our Dog Control Officer. I hope you received it, but I want to make sure you had all the contact points. Did you receive it earlier today?

**Councilmember Sottolano:** No.

**Councilmember Kash:** I did not receive anything.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'll double back okay to make sure you have that.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Thank you.

**Councilmember Kash:** And what was it?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Sherry Vieta is our Animal Control Officer.

**Councilmember Kash:** Right.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So I wanted to make sure you had her contact email and such.

**Councilmember Kash:** No, we did not receive it.

***Building Inspector Allan Jourdin***

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for December, 2023, is as follows: Building Inspections: 21, Total Permits Issued: 4, Certificates of Compliance Issued: 4, Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 5, Demolition Permit Applications Received: 2, Demolition Permits Issued: 2, Residential Solar Permit Applications Received: 1, Residential Solar Permits Issued: 1, Total New Applications Received: 3, New Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 4, Open

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Building Permits: 220 Application Fees for December, 2023: \$482.00 Total Fees for Year to Date: \$28,206.71

***Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer***

December 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 to January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024 Replaced air tanks on 1985 Oshkosh plow truck, two were leaking and was unable to hold air pressure; Painted cab on 1996 International Dump truck; Washed all plow trucks and loader; Repaired flat tire on lawn mower trailer; New owner picked up 1985 International dump truck that was sold at auction for \$3550.00; Mounted 2 new tires for 2013 International plow truck; Located blocked culvert on Main Street at the south end of Mill street and removed blockage; Cleaned up fallen tree on Saw Mill Road; Cleaned up inside of shop; 12/29 had fallen tree on Deans Mill Road between Aquetuck Road and Route 143, with electric wires.; Put up road closed signs on both ends until Central Hudson arrived; Cleaned up tree on Deans Mill Road after Central Hudson was finished; Patched wash outs on Haas Hill Road; Picked up trash from Town Hall; Picked up mattress dumped on Schellar Park Road; Replaced wiper blades on trucks where needed; Washed backhoe; Took Boom mower to Saw Mill Road and cut brush back; Replaced one plow shoe on 1997 International plow truck; 1/5/24 checked all trucks over for incoming snow; 1/7/24 Called all in at 12am, worked until 6pm 18 hours; 1/8/24 Called all back in at 4am to check and clean up roads before school; Hauled in more salt, and mixed with magic minus Zero additive; Unblocked culvert on School Hill Road with help from Village of Ravena; Replaced lead ends for engine block heater on 1985 Oshkosh plow truck; Serviced John Deer Backhoe; Changed oil and filter on 2023 F350; Washed trucks again; Picked up plastic totes from Hudson to store salt additive; Replaced power harness for plow on 2011 F350; Cut leaning tree limbs on Old Kings Road; Replaced kick down cable 1997 International Plow truck; 1/15/24 called in one employee to salt icy spots on various roads; 1/16/24 light snow plowed and sanded all roads; Replaced blown hydraulic hose on 2013 International plow truck; Cleaned ramp and walks at Town Hall; 1/17/24 called all in at 4am scraped and sanded all roads before school; Replaced broken sander chain on 1993 International plow truck; Repaired rotted door frame in back equipment storage barn; Replaced temperature sending unit on 1997 International plow truck; Took backhoe to East Honey Hollow Road and Hillcrest Road and removed built up ice; Called county Solid waste about bags for recycle center, having trouble getting them.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Last month at the meeting there was some discussion during the Public Comment Period about the brush and tree limbs and like I stated we did send the boom mower out, he did cut back all he could reach, everything he could reach on Saw Mill Road, and as time and weather allows we will continue the process on all the Town roads as well. And a brief update on our two new employees that had their CDL permits. I talked to Tony Sadoti who is the trainer for the Teamsters and he said they're both doing very well and as long as they can get an appointment with the testing people, testers, he doesn't see any reason why they shouldn't be tested out and have their license by the end of January.

**Councilmember Downes:** The blocked culvert on Main and Mill, is that the one that the gentlemen was here about last meeting?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yes.

**Councilmember Downes:** Is that a continual problem?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Not anymore, it was.

**Councilmember Downes:** It was.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah, we got it open and I did talk to Jim Wilson from the County, I went to a seminar with him, and we've got to replace one on Mill Street in the spring. They're gonna do theirs at the same time, we're gonna work together, change them both, so that issue will be solved. I also have the TE9a form that has to go with the Request for Speed Limit reduction.

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

**RESOLUTION 43-2024**  
**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE  
TO PARTICIPATE IN COUNTY HIGHWAY PURCHASES**

*WHEREAS* Greene County has contracted for certain highway materials, equipment and supplies for 2024 and has adopted Resolution 20-24 on January 17, 2024 authorizing municipalities to participate in County highway purchases.

*WHEREAS* the Highway Superintendent will continue to follow the Procurement Policy adopted on January 1, 2024.

*RESOLVED* that the Town Board authorizes the Highway Superintendent to purchase certain highway materials, equipment and supplies during the year 2024, subject to the rules heretofore and hereafter adopted by the County pursuant to Section 408-A of the County Law.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Personnel***

**Supervisor Ruso:** Before we get to the Planning Board, this is under Personnel, I have a plan to discuss some issues with the Town Board in it's entirety and it's a Executive Session under the 'the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation.' So I move that we go to Executive Session on behalf of those very issues I just read.

**Councilmember Downes:** Second.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I will add any decisions that come out of that will be brought forward to the Town Board meeting as a whole.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

The Town Board adjourned for Executive Session at 7:26 PM

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten to return to the Work Meeting at 7:59 PM.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** So what we did in our Executive Session, we made no decision there. We went over issues and details and we are going to proceed with a resolution here in the public and it will speak for itself.

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

**RESOLUTION 44-2024**  
**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDED PAYROLL TIME SHEETS RELATED TO  
SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSION OF TIME SHEETS FOR THE WEEK ENDING  
NOVEMBER 24, 2023**

*WHEREAS* the original time sheet submitted for Highway Employee Scott VanWormer for the week ending November 24, 2023 did not indicate that he worked 6.5 hours of overtime, and

*WHEREAS* no time sheet was submitted for Part-time Highway Employee Hugh Sterritt for the week ending November 24, 2023, and

*WHEREAS* on January 5, 2024 a revised time sheet indicating that Scott VanWormer worked 6.5 hours of overtime on that week and another time sheet for Hugh Sterritt was also submitted indicating that he worked 6.5 hours for that same week, and

*WHEREAS* the original time sheet submitted in November had the required signatures from both the employee and the Highway Superintendent certifying the hours whereas the subsequently submitted time sheet submitted on January 5, 2024 did not have the employee signatures certifying the hours.

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the Town Board approves processing the revised time sheets for the week of November 24, 2023 with the additional hours added providing that the employee(s) sign the revised sheet.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS: Downes

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten***

The Planning Board met on January 11, 2024, with the following business transacted: Continued discussion with Central Hudson representatives regarding the proposed expansion of the substation on New Baltimore Road. Required Public Hearing on Site Plan Application was scheduled for February 8, 2024. ...Discussed with Brad Jourdin and Michael Carroll proposed plans for a Mulch and Compost Site on property owned by Mr. Carroll on Kings Road. Since this use is not a Permitted or Special Permitted use in our Town, applicants are being referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals for Use Variance consideration. ...The Board discussed the latest comments received from Crawford & Associates Engineers regarding review of material submitted to them for the New Baltimore Solar Project. Discussion to be continued at February 8 Planning Board Meeting with regard to moving forward with project consideration. ...It was the consensus of Board Members present that Ann Marie Vadney continue as Vice Chair and Michelle Stefanik continue as Secretary for the 2024 year.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- February 7, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- February 8, 2024 Planning Board at 7 PM
- February 12, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- February 19, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Presidents' Day
- February 26, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Ellie Alfeld:** As a member of the public for Planning Board meetings, I had requested one of those three-legged instruments for the display of all of these people that come before the Board

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where only the Board can see what they've got there. The public can't see it unless they come up front and I don't think if it's a public meeting it should be so that we can't see the display of the surveys and any other stuff and if you really want to see something Central Hudson as you've just relayed it, brought us huge white boards. The only problem is if they're showing it to the Board, the public can't see it unless they come up and then they're not sure of all the information because the Board is talking with the person that's presenting. Now on two occasions, I think one was a solar thing and then there was a thing that's on the agenda but hasn't presented and that's the property down by the Thruway that is being developed or hopefully and they brought their own easel. How much can it cost to keep it so that it's easy for the people in this Town to see what's coming before them. I ask again for it.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I wanted to briefly talk about the Town of New Baltimore's resolution to the County and ask usually when a resolution is prepared within the Town, the Town has the authority to implement what they're resolving. Now since we're dealing with the County and the Board of Elections, so that's double jeopardy there, what and how will you encourage the Board of Elections to come here?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'm gonna send them the resolution.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Okay.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I can't force the County Board of Elections to come here. However, I wanted to have the full weight and force of the Town Board to say 'here's what we want' and so I would like them to come and I would like to certainly have as many of you come so that you guys can hear it yourself.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Okay, now I have a second handout here because it was my understanding as this meeting we would be dealing with the resolution from our Town Board in regard to the Citizens Audit as we discussed, Jeff.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** So this is the resolution that the Citizens Audit has written?

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, no, Ann Marie did.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Oh, Ann Marie, you wrote this?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I spoke with Jeff and Anna Brouker from this organization and we're all volunteers just so everyone knows in regard to completing this resolution, bringing it to the board for a vote. Our understanding was that this would occur this evening. When we reviewed the Agenda, we found out it wasn't on. We did see the resolution for the Board of Elections County. This resolution is requesting New York State Board of Election to do an independent third-party audit based on the facts that this volunteer organization has identified the information and the facts, does everyone have one of these, is based on the New York State Board of Elections data. This group is asking for all local towns to sign a resolution to find out and reconfirm 'is this true?' because if this is true we have some serious problems going on and we would think that everyone at all levels of government would like to provide clarity. In this resolution identifies several items that they're seeking. The first one is a complete end to end audit from registration to certification of the New York State 2022 General Election which in these flyers you will see all of that information. Also attached to this resolution which I drafted based from the original resolution which Jeff and I discussed was five pages and it was a little too long so we took the items out of the five-page resolution that seems to be most pertinent for Town Boards to review and support. This sheet provides the documents where all of the data referenced can be found. So this isn't a fly-by-night resolution where you're making reference to issues and items, it's all documented. So that is the first item. For the end-to-end from registration through certification that a third-party bonded auditing firm possess adequate insurance and indemnification and do an audit. The second one is to enact legislation that includes mutually agreed upon processes by which end-to-end audits would be triggered in any future elections because we don't have this. They do a three percent review of the machines. Well, obviously, that's not quite enough to ensure that people's votes are counted and that the machines are functioning properly. b. Defining a mutually agreed upon accuracy rate for the voter role databases. If you read the brochure, I'm not gonna get into those details of law

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provides that some inaccuracies can occur. Well, they're far and above the inaccuracies that are permitted. c. Allowing for anonymous vote verification and tracking by the voter, open-source, royalty-free patent pending) including automatic mechanisms. Bottom line that means that public information, voting records should be available to all people all citizens without FOIL. Anyone should be able to look at the voting information without having to jump through hoops. 3. Criminalize election misconduct explicitly with regard to State election law, and increase penalties to reflect the societal and generational harms inflicted by these crimes. Right now it's a misdemeanor I think if you get caught fraudulent cheating, whatever. Obviously that doesn't hinder these things from occurring. So there needs to be more restrictive and harsher crimes, these should be harsher penalties for these activities and crimes. So I did this and drafted it in order to expedite it because I don't know what the reasons are and why it isn't done and I think the public deserves an answer as to if there's a problem with this, what the problem is. Thank you.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** How many other towns do you have on the resolution?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I can't answer that because I'm not privy to that information.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** Seventy-four.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Seventy-four, okay, thank you.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Out of New York State towns?

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Is there a list available of the towns that have agreed?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** We don't have the list, we just know the numbers of who responded, but what difference does that make? This is the Town of New Baltimore. I don't really care who...

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Right, but we would like to have the Attorney look over...?

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Look over all the information.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, the attorney. We're the citizens here and we're requesting this.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Right, but responsibly we represent everybody so the Town Attorney needs to check this resolution just to make sure that everything is legally done.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Okay, Mr. Ruso, could you provide us as to what the next step of this will be?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I will do that because I think this card has a redundancy not necessarily but there could be differences so I thought let's hear from everybody before we proceed.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** I am a volunteer with NYCA not an official spokesperson. I joined the organization back in April and the information that I found at the first meeting I went to absolutely blew my mind. I couldn't believe what I was hearing and I know that the word Citizens Audit might trigger 'well, is this the fly-by-night people doing these types of things' and looking at this data, but this data was FOILED and we got the State's own data, the State Board of Election's own data, was brought in and it was looked at and we had people who really know their stuff. I won't want to call them nerds, but... It impressed me so that I started to attend each meeting each month and then I saw that this is something that really needs to be done and they had taken all of the information they had and they delivered it to those people who you would think would want to investigate it and do the law enforcement with this. And nobody wanted to touch it okay. That just like all kinds of red flags go off when the thing that is the most important to the American citizen is a free vote, a sovereign vote, a vote that we know is going to be honest and fair. That's not what we've been getting okay. We know that there's problems with these machines. We've experienced it right here in our own Town. Therefore, I do not understand why people do not want an audit. If you had money into your account more than you knew you put in there wouldn't you want to know where it came from? So if you've got I don't know 338,000 votes more than you've got people voting, where'd those votes come from okay?

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Unable to understand.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** We've got a real problem not just in this State, it's not just in this State, it's in other states and other states are pursuing the same thing. When you say 'well, how many other towns have signed onto this,' are we followers or are we leaders? I just really implore you to please take a stand on this and do something about it, be a leader and let the other towns in our County, you could be the first town in this County to sign onto this and if you look into the data, if you get on to their website and you look, it's gonna blow your mind as much as it blew mine and that's all I have to say. Thank you.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I'll get on to say from this particular step and this moment, I am prepared to take what was presented to me and read out a resolution if our Town Board is prepared to hear one. Would you want to take time and absorb this or you want me to just go for it?

**Councilmember Downes:** Well, I could have a question. Has this been brought to the Comptroller's Office or just to the Legislature or where has this information been brought to?

**Sherrie Salisbury:** It was brought to the Attorney General, she didn't want to look at it. It was brought to the State Board of Elections, they didn't want to touch it. It was brought to Sheriffs, they didn't touch it. We don't know where to start.

**Councilmember Downes:** But the Comptroller's Office is the overseeing auditor for the State Agencies.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** I'll have to get back to you on that one.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I didn't hear anyone prefer me to read a resolution that resembles much, I wrote some things down while you guys were talking. Do you want me to read a resolution that resembles much what we heard?

**Ellie Alfeld:** You can always table it.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yeah, I think we should table it until the Attorney looks it over.

**Supervisor Ruso:** But I have to read it first before I can table it.

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

**RESOLUTION 45-2024**

**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO  
TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TO ASSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY  
THROUGH PROVISIONS OF FAIR AND HONEST ELECTIONS**

**WHEREAS** a complete end-to-end audit, from registration through certification, of the New York State 2022 General Election, for both paper and electronic records, including ballots, by mutually agreed upon external, third party bonded auditing firm, possessed of adequate insurance and indemnification for the handling and protection of the personal identifying information of millions of New York citizens, in order to determine the true error rate. This audit will provide a comprehensive report and analysis of all lapses and errors with the explanation of a cause there it can be determined and

**WHEREAS** the legislation defining a mutually agreed upon process by which an end-to-end audit would be triggered in any future elections, defining a mutually agreed upon accuracy rate for the voter roll database, and allowing for anonymous vote verification and tracking by the voter (open-source, royalty-free patent pending) including automatic mechanisms to report and remedy errors during the canvass period following an election, regardless of ballot entry source and

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*WHEREAS* regulations to criminalize election misconduct explicitly with regard to State election law, and increase penalties to reflect the societal and generational harms inflicted by these crimes needs implementation.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore stands in support with the concerns and remedies presented here. We implore your cooperation to fulfill these firm requests of the people of this community, the Town of New Baltimore, New York.

**Supervisor Ruso:** There is the resolution slightly amended from what was provided to me. I'll make the Motion, do I have a second?

**Councilmember Downes:** I will make a Motion that we table this.

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

**Supervisor Ruso:** The resolution was made and a subsequent resolution was made to table this. We have to define or table it to for when? Shouldn't we define that?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yeah, until the next meeting so we can have the Attorney just check this over before we...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay, so the resolution was made and this resolution will be tabled to our next meeting providing opportunity for not just the Town Board members, but our Town Attorney to review said document. So amendment to table this was seconded, I guess we have to have a vote on that. All those in favor of tabling this resolution until the next meeting say aye.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** So the resolution tabled until the next meeting. I can type it up more formal instead of my notes all over it too.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** You have tabled it to your next meeting which is the same night as the County's meeting which we will also be at.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Well, we can do the meeting after that.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** Table it to the following.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I think that's not a bad idea, that gives the Attorney a little extra time. Why not? Okay, Table it to the Work Meeting of February 26, 2024. Okay, so now we're amending that amendment.

Motion by Councilmember Downes to table it to the February Work Meeting seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you and thank you everybody.

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

**RESOLUTION 46-2024**  
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**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO PAY AUDITED CLAIMS**

*WHEREAS* the Town Clerk has presented claims to the Town Board for audit and review, and

*WHEREAS* the Town Board has audited claims 2024b-01-01 to 2024b-01-37, it is

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

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until February 28, 2024.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

General \$3,504.62, Highway \$16,376.13, Sewer 1 \$102.00, Water 2 \$25,090.59, Lighting 1 \$1,859.20, Lighting 2 \$307.65, Total \$47,240.19

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO  
Town Clerk