

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

**MARCH 25, 2024**

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

**Presentation by Michael Martin from the Greene County Outlaws Baseball and Softball**

**Reports**

**Supervisor**

- Resolution to Authorize the Supervisor to Renew Lease Agreement with Greene County for Repeater on Greene County Antenna
- Resolution to Approve Settlement of Assessment in the Matter of SERTA vs. New Baltimore
- Update of Rt. 144 Complete Street Study.

**County Legislator**

**Town Clerk**

- February 26, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting
- March 11, 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 Approve Rental of Sweeper by the Highway Department
- Resolution Approving 284 Agreement for Expenditure of Highway Moneys

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)

- Resolution to Authorize the Town Supervisor to Execute Agreement for Portable Standard Toilets

Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

**Upcoming Meetings**

- April 3, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- April 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- April 11, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- April 22, 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 REGULAR MEETING**

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Downes, Kash, and Sottolano; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; Town Clerk Finke; Highway Superintendent VanWormer; and 15 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Councilmember VanEtten

**Supervisor Ruso:** Before we get started I just want to talk a moment or so about the rules of order. They're on the Agenda. I know you've all seen them, they're all here. There is a proviso that does say three minutes. Now, look, I really want to avoid being rude and inconsiderate and try to hear everybody all the way through, yet I've been receiving complaints in the past as a result of the past few meetings that if I let one, I gotta let others. So I'm gonna try to gently remind people so please give me that opportunity to do that. If we approach the three minutes I'll just give a little tap and when it gets much longer, I'll be a little more assertive and I don't want to be rude. So if you don't mind let's proceed under that thought process. To many of our folks I want you to have a chance to be heard and, of course, again I want to be cordial as possible.

***Supervisor Jeff Ruso***

The monthly financial reports for February have been forwarded to all Board members. Has everyone had a chance to review them?

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Ms. VanEtten will not be joining us, she is subject to flight delays. She's in transit.

**Presentation by Greene County Outlaws Baseball and Softball Update**

**Tom Carroll:** For those that you don't know who I am, my name is Tom Carroll. In my second job I'm the President of the Greene County Outlaws Travel Baseball Organization. Also accompanied by Mike Martin who does everything at Hallock Park for our Organization. For those of you aren't aware, the Greene County Outlaws have been tenants I guess you would say at Hallock Park for the better half of 12 years now. We made a hefty investment, kind of kick in the pants a little bit by Nick Dellisanti to kind of move forward and bring something out to the Park and we've been out there enjoying ourselves for the better half of 12 years playing ball and providing this travel baseball experience to all the young kids from Greene, Columbia and Dutchess Counties. We're here today because we have I guess an energetic and awesome group of parents within our Organization who would like to bring lights to Hallock Park and just kind of staying within the three minute timeframe inside of all this, we're going to be responsible A-Z. Most of the stuff that will be needed in the form of either wooden poles, LED lights will be donated to us from people in the business. We were hoping that Frankie Grechi from Stone Creek Electric was gonna be here tonight, but he couldn't make it. He and his crew would be doing the install of electricity. We have a guy who's also who used to be a contractor for work for Central Hudson who has gone out on his own who's going to be providing the four poles, the wooden polls that would be necessary. He also could not be here tonight. There is a small, little leftover that the Organization will be responsible for and we hope to secure the remaining leftover in the form of grants, specifically from Walmart. We have an Attorney within our Organization who has done some stalwart work on this project and we hope to secure the \$10,000 that we need that's left over for the project from this grant and we're pretty confident that we gonna get it. So long and short, we'd like to erect four wooden poles, LED lights that could be used for the Town and also our baseball teams. We have a small little cost that we're going to take on. We hope to maybe start in August and they tell us, Mike, about four days to dig a couple holes and put up some poles and a few LED lights for each pole. We have everything written inside the proposal, a schematic of the diagram of where the lights would be situated, sort of a picture of what the LED lights would look like, and an estimate that we will be responsible for from Stone Creek Electric inside the proposal. Again, we've grown from one team when I started this thing twelve years ago to upwards of nine teams. So daylight becomes an issue for us so we're hoping to offset some of the loss of light by maybe playing a small

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percent of our games at nighttime. So we kind of envisioned a 75 percent daytime and a 25 percent nighttime sort of utilization of the park. We really enjoy being there, I have nothing more to say other than we've enjoyed our relationship with the Town of New Baltimore and Nick from our groundbreaking days into hopefully continuing to celebrate 15 years in a couple years of doing this travel baseball thing. But I thank you for your time. I don't know if there's any questions I can answer right now.

**Supervisor Ruso:** You said the work, the installation of the poles would be done by somewhat professional is volunteer work?

**Tom Carroll:** Yeah, volunteer work, but this is what they do for their work.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Certified electricians involved with this?

**Tom Carroll:** Yeah, Stone Creek Electric licensed, insured.

**Supervisor Ruso:** By Greene County?

**Tom Carroll:** The owner's name is Frankie Grechie. He has a son in one of our teams so we would obviously present...

**Supervisor Ruso:** They're licensed through Greene County?

**Tom Carroll:** Yes, most definitely.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Tom, I'd just like to say that any of the contractors that come in on the property to do work just that they just give us a Certificate of Insurance.

**Tom Carroll:** What's that for?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** To coinsure the Town of New Baltimore. It's a short rider on their own policy. It will cost them about \$20.

**Mike Martin:** I think he does have it.

**Tom Carroll:** We did some upgrades last year at our expense. Electrical panel, stuff for the scoreboard, for our snack bar. So Frankie's pretty confident that we won't have to go through another upgrade of the electrical services at Hallock Park because we would be using LED lights so he's said the draw would be minimal so that's good news also for us from a cost perspective

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Do you turn them on and off when they're needed or would they be automatic on and off?

**Tom Carroll:** Well, we can do two ways to my knowledge. One would be a timer system; the second would be an on-off switch so if dusk presents itself during the middle of a game, we can flip the light on and then we could turn them off after.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So thinking out loud, I'd rather have it on and off because there's gonna be nights that you're not there any why burn up the electricity

**Tom Carroll:** I'm speaking specifically to like safety lighting that would be positioned as you enter or exit the Park not specific to say the illumination of the baseball field, The baseball field illumination would certainly be on an on-off switch. The illumination to leave at nighttime, because we've never really done anything at night at the Park would be on some sort of a time system so people could leave the Park and not stumble and/or fall.

**Audience Member:** Motion lights?

**Tom Carroll:** They do have those as well. I think this is what was sort of proposed to us, but that would be something that we could also consider.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** What about the Board here? Anybody else have any questions?

**Councilmember Downes:** Tom, are you looking at, once we get Silver Lake done, are you guys looking to utilize that at all?

**Tom Carroll:** That's I guess the plan at some point.

**Councilmember Downes:** Okay, so it's still the plan that we're gonna try to get up there too.

**Tom Carroll:** I think that the Town is hopeful that we will be engaged. I just got a lot of stuff going on all at once so we're trying to I think just kind of prioritize based upon what age groups we have moving through. So right now, Jeff, we have teams anywhere from 9-16 years-old so it's a broad spectrum of 9 and 12 years-old kids play on more of a Little League base field like Hallock Park that we made 12 years ago and then once you hit 13 to that 17, 18, 19 years-old range. Right now we currently go to McQuade Park in the Village of Cossack. Mark Evans has let us use that field for as long as we've been using Hallock Park, but then Silver Lake was brought to our attention by Nick and a host of others and I think that's something at this point that we're also considering. It's just a big undertaking for a small group of volunteers.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So these nine teams are all local?

**Tom Carroll:** For the most part they're all Greene County. They're all Greene County.

**Supervisor Ruso:** The Outlaws themselves have had teams from elsewhere. In fact last summer I recall a team from I want to say it was from Quebec or was it Ontario? I can't recall.

**Tom Carroll:** That was a Canadian-based team.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, it was.

**Tom Carroll:** So we're part of a travel organization that can encompass teams that will travel believe it or not that distance, but most of the teams that will visit Hallock Park, Silver Lake, McQuade Park travel I guess within a 45-50 mile sort of radius to come play ball.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I believe on more than one occasion the hotels in Town were pretty well booked.

**Tom Carroll:** That Canadian team being one and the biggest complaint from most teams that do travel was we don't really have a lot of services so we utilize our snack bar. We've made good money utilizing our snack bar. I guess that's the advantages of being out here you know for us.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, very good. Well, thank you so much. I appreciate your time.

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

**RESOLUTION 62-2024**  
**MARCH 25, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO RENEW LEASE**  
**AGREEMENT WITH GREENE COUNTY FOR REPEATER ON**  
**GREENE COUNTY ANTENNA**

**WHEREAS** the Town of New Baltimore executed the original five-year agreement with Greene County by Resolution 128-2019 for the installation of equipment on the County Antenna on High Rock Road.

**RESOLVED** Greene County has indicated their consent to extend the original agreement and the Supervisor is authorized to renew the lease agreement with Greene County for an additional five years.

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Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

**Supervisor Ruso:** The current lease expires in September so this new lease will start upon expiration of that lease so this will cover us through 2029.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 63-2024**  
**MARCH 25, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT OF ASSESSMENT IN THE MATTER OF SERTA SIMMONS BEDDING, LLC AND SSB MANUFATURING COMPANY VS. THE ASSESSOR(S) FOR THE TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE. THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW FOR THE TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, AND THE TOWN OF NEW BALTMORE IN THE COUNTY OF GREENE, NEW YORK**

**WHEREAS** the Attorney representing the Town of New Baltimore in the matter of Serta Simmons Bedding, LLC and SSB Manufacturing Company vs. The Board of Assessment Review for the Town of New Baltimore, The Board of Assessment Review for the Town of New Baltimore, and the Town of New Baltimore in the County of Greene, New York has negotiated a settlement with the Attorney for Serta as indicated on the attached conditional stipulation of settlement and judicial order, and

**RESOLVED** the Town Board hereby approves said settlement.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Kash

**Supervisor Ruso:** As a matter of conversation at the time is considered a legal matter that we can't disclose a lot of thing, but I can do that now. This is a lawsuit again about their assessment. The total taxes that these outfits and we as individuals pay, the Town of New Baltimore receives about 12.5 percent of all taxes paid, the school being the biggest batch and the County being the second batch. We get 12 1/2 percent, but in this particular legal bill we get 100 percent and if we win the cost of the legal bill is less than what we would retain and insurance. And nobody is offering and say 'we'll help you pay for it' so they can have their reimbursements maintained. So we settled. We're gonna get a little bit less, not a lot less. It will cost us more to fight it than it would be to negotiate. So that's the results of this and that's the purpose of it.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

**Motion Carried**

**Update on Route 144 Complete Streets Study**

**Supervisor Ruso:** We had a meeting here on March 6, 2024 in this very room with MJ Engineering and three reps from the Department of Transportation. They left Ms. Debra Sottolano out and that was not right. We all know that, but she was also with us. Meeting Summary; Introductions were made; Study Limits, the attendees confirmed that the study limits are from the intersection of NY Route 144 with Gill Road to the north Town Line. DOT stated they would determine the federal funding source and provide the dollar value of the grant. The estimates have ranged, I think I want to speak of the high side of this, and it could cost for this study \$125,000. If it's \$100,000, great, we're all happy. If it's \$90,000 we're all happy. I'd just like to be prepared for the worst and hope for the best. So let's say \$125,000. New York State is going to verify the local match and they assumed it to be 20%. So the cost of the local match is

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20%, 20% of \$125,000 is \$25,000 and New York State has verified that CHIPS money could be used for the local match. I know that I did talk to Mr. VanWormer, he's not like jumping up and down over that, but nevertheless it's true. There's a lot of other details throughout. In terms of something people would really want to see and I'm looking for it here is the public involvement. We're gonna start, probably have two meetings, probably to be here. The next steps, here they are, thank you. MJ Engineering will develop a scope and fee, that will be coming shortly. MJ will draft a letter to NYSDOT. The Town will submit a letter along with the scope and fee to NYSDOT. New York State Department of Transportation will develop the SLA. I don't know what the SLA is. Someone help, I'm not a government person.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** That was the grant request.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay, thanks. Basically the work will begin. Now we will have two public sessions is how they described it. I still don't see that here.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Like an open forum so it would be where it would be open all day. People could come in, look at documents, and ask questions.

**Supervisor Ruso:** They could come in 4:00, they'll be here. If you can't get in until 5:00, they'll be here and they'll take questions throughout, kind of like an...

**Councilmember Sottolano:** An Open House really.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Open House, yeah.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** And they'll have a public website that they'll create for the project, throughout the project period.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So that's coming soon. At least there's some progress moving on that.

***County Legislator Pat Linger***

In March, I attended 8 regular committee meetings, 1 special committee meeting, one public hearing, and the regular Legislative Meeting #3 for 2024. The public hearing was held on a CDBG application for Gray Willow, Inc and was approved at the subsequent regular meeting. Gray Willow is a new business at the former Brennan's on Rt 81. Their grant application for \$180,000 comes with a requirement to create 7.2 FTE positions for new employees. We also issued a Proclamation to GC Human Services recognizing April as Global Volunteer Month. One hundred eighty-one volunteers from GC Human Services donated 11,681 hours in 2023 delivering 8,608 meals and provided 1,339 rides to medical appointments. In dollars, this amounts to a savings of \$417,000 to taxpayers. We cannot thank our volunteers enough! Nominations for the 2024 Youth of the Year are open through the end of the week. Contact GC Human Services if you have a youth who you would like to nominate. We approved funding for up to 20 individuals for EMT training through the Greene EMS Council. We approved the purchase of two Ford Escapes for Mental Health. These vehicles are paid for through Federal and State grant funding for off-site services. We re-appointed Kira Prospesal as Commissioner for GC Social Services. We awarded bids for a compact track loader with a planer attachment and bids for a hydraulic angle broom. We authorized purchase of two 4-wheel drive pickups for highway/solid waste. We authorized purchase of 4 trucks with snow and ice control equipment. We authorized the extension for the contract with MXI Environmental to provide services for two household hazardous waste events. One will be in Windham in June and one will be in Athens in September. We authorized the purchase of a new fuel management system which will be offered to municipalities fueling at our stations at no charge. We also authorized the establishment of a new capital improvement project for a new residential drop-off center at the Catskill Transfer Station. We have set aside \$2.2 million for this project with electrical and general contractors also awarded. We also passed an opposing resolution to a new alcoholic beverage control law proposal. This new law would allow for the sale of wine at supermarkets in NYS. Given the fact that alcohol is the most abused drug in GC according to our Mental Health Director, making wine more accessible would not help reduce this statistic. We have significant concerns for our small businesses who provide wine and liquor sales to be able to sustain themselves if this is allowed. I also have a Speenburg grant check for the Town to purchase an AED for Town Hall.

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**County Legislator Linger:** So I sill submit that to Barb with the check, the agreement, and a form to be filled out after we have it in place.

***Town Clerk Barb Finke***

5 Building Permits \$3,348.06, 29 Dog Licenses \$192, 1 Late License \$5, 2 Marriage \$35, 1 Demolition Permits \$75, 1 Residential Solar Permit \$114.24, 1 Certified Copies \$10, 2 Photo Copies \$0.50, 2 Recycle Fees \$213, 1 Site Plan Review \$300, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$4,372.80, \$35 to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program, \$45 to the New York State Department of Health for Marriages, Total to Supervisor \$4,292.80. To date, we have collected \$2,755,451.56 in Property Taxes, Penalty \$1,679.99, 1 Returned Check \$20, representing 75% collected. Uncollected amount is \$902,673.14. We are currently collecting a 2% penalty until April 1. There is a 4% penalty on Sewer 1 and Water 2&3 bills until April 15.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The February 26, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmembers Downes and Sottolano. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

**Motion Carried**

The March 11, 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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

**Motion Carried**

***Animal Control***

New York State Agriculture and Markets: ‘Enclosed is the **Dog Control Officer Inspection Report** completed on 01/30/2024. This inspection relates to Agriculture and Markets Law and Regulations which may be viewed on the website below. As the report indicates, DCO services were rated “Satisfactory”. Please make note of any comments listed on the report. Dog control officer services are subject to inspection by this agency on a regular basis. Please notify this office within 30 days of any changes in DCO services. If you have any questions regarding this inspection please call me. Christina Cookingham Animal Health Inspector

1. Equipment is available for proper capture and holding	Yes
2. Dogs are held and transported safely	Yes
3. Equipment maintained in clean and sanitary condition	Yes
4. Veterinary care is provided when necessary	Yes
5. Dogs are euthanized humanely	Yes
6. Complete seizure and disposition records are maintained for all seized dogs	Yes
7. Dogs transferred for purposes of adoption in compliance with Article 7	Not Applicable
8. Redemption period is observed before adoption, euthanasia or transfer	Not Applicable
9. Owners of identified dogs are properly notified	Yes
10. Redeemed dogs are licensed before release	Not Applicable
11. Proper impoundment fees paid before dogs are released	Not Applicable

**Number of Dogs Seized:**

Number of dogs seized since previous inspection Athens – 1, Cairo – 1, Catskill - 2, Town of Coxsackie – 4, New Baltimore – 0, Village of Coxsackie – 0.

**Associated Municipal Shelter(s):**

Name of Shelter(s): Columbia Greene Humane Society

**Holding Facility:**

Dogs held before transport to shelter? (Yes/No) No

Location(s) N/A



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**Councilmember Kash:** That's pretty much..., except Sheri Vieta was present for the inspection.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I think I had a note and I know I passed it off to you, there's a move afoot to put a new animal control center

**Councilmember Kash:** Greene County.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Greene County shelter rather.

**Councilmember Kash:** Yes, not-for-profit that's in the works now.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's in the works. I don't know where that's going.

**Councilmember Kash:** A lot of fundraising is going on so it's off in the future, but it would be great if Greene County had one since we now rely on Columbia-Greene and the need is always going to exceed the capacity for cats, dogs, and any other animals that need shelter.

***Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley***

02/28/24-03/25/24 1 Tire Up to and Including 16" Without Rims \$4, 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastic) 8, 7 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 23 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 46 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, Total Income \$4

***Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin***

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for February, 2024, is as follows:  
Building Inspections: For: January 19; For: February 22; Total 41; Total Permits Issued: 5;  
Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 1; Certificates of Compliance Issued: 3; Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 1; Demolition Permit Applications Received: 1; Demolition Permits Issued: 1; Pellet Stove Application: 1; Residential Solar Permit Applications Received: 4; Residential Solar Permits Issued: 4; Roof-Top Residential Solar Application: 4; Roof-Top Residential Solar Permits Issued: 4; Total New Applications Received: 7; Orders to Remedy Issued: 1; Open Building Permits: 220 Application Fees for February, 2024: \$3,537.30 Toal Fees for Year to Date: \$4,497.26

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

The regular monthly meeting was held Tuesday, March 19, 2024. There were 17 EMS calls in February for a total of 46 for 2024. We had 171 calls for all of 2023.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** So we're over where we were last year. There were 10 overdoses in Greene County, 7 of them had to use Narcan, and there were 3 strokes in Greene County for the month of February. So those numbers have not decreased at all. I would like to make one comment about the Outlaws while I'm up here. They've been a great group of people to work with, they've put in a lot of time and effort at Hallock Park, and I think their project is worthy.

***Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer***

Highway Report February 26 to March 25 2024 Two employees took and passed their CDL road tests; Patched holes with winter mix; Measured culvert pipe on Mathews Point for repair; Met with Callanan to measure roads for 284 agreement; Patched washed out driveway entrance on High Mount Road; Cleaned up some lawns that were damaged by snow plows; Checked out lights on Equipment trailer for inspection; Took old V-Plow to W&J for scrap metal; Checked drains in Hamlet before rain; Cleaned up inside of shop; 2/29/24 light snow at night, sanded all roads; Checked all roads for debris from wind; Washed all trucks and loader; Repaired broken sign on Alcove Road; Replaced Pinion seal on 2006 F350; Picked up screen plant in Albany for the Village of Ravena; Added 10 foot extension to culvert pipe on Mathews Point Road; Adjusted the tracks on the John Deere Excavator; Prepped and repainted 1991 International Dump Truck; March 6 attended advocacy Day at the Capitol along with around 400 other highway Superintendents from across the State in an attempt to secure our funding that the Governor proposing to cut, which would be 100 million Dollars state wide and about a \$20,000 loss for our town; Replaced mirrors on 1991 International Dump truck.; Replaced worn out

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sander bearing on 1993 International plow truck; Cleaned up fallen tree on Haas Hill Road; 3/7/24 attended press conference with Assemblyman Tague and others, to once again ask the Governor to reinstate our funding; Pulled down hanging tree limb on Deans Mill Road with help from Town of Athens bucket truck; Welded broken plow support on 1993 International Plow truck; Completed February fuel usage reports; Took 1991 International Dump truck to Albrights for NYS inspection; Cut 2 large pine trees from roadway on Paradise Hill Road; Cut and removed tree from Honey Hollow Road; Removed fallen tree from roadway on Mill Street; Chipped brush from fallen tree on Honey Hollow Road; Marked culvert pipe on Saw Mill Road for UFPO; Saw cut Saw Mill Road and replaced culvert to eliminate persistent flooding, I would like to thank Rod VanEtten and Dale Hitchcock for allowing us to go onto their property to make the necessary repairs.; Replaced stolen Sarles Road sign; Started to clean ditches and shoulders on Saw Mill Road in preparation for paving; Cut and trimmed trees on Saw Mill Road for several days on with help from Town of Athens Bucket truck, still have a couple more day worth to do; Went to the old Brennans bar on Route 81 to look at backstop and fencing that is being donated to the town, we will get it taken down and brought to the highway garage later this week; 3/23/24 All in at 5pm for snow, plowed and sanded all roads, and removed fallen trees on several roads; 3/24/24 Called in two employees to salt icy spots and remove large fallen tree on Sunset Hill Road; 3/25/24 cleaned up fallen trees on High mount road, Dug way lane, Jennings Road, and High Rock Road; The Highway Department is in need of a replacement trailer to move our Skid steer and roller. The one that we currently have is from the 1960, and has broken. I was given the ok to bid up to \$3500.00 on one on auction international, but unfortunately we were over bid. I will keep looking for another one if the board would be willing to pass a resolution allowing me to spend up to \$3500.00 on one. A new one is around \$12,000 Our current drug testing company Kingston Worx will no longer accept samples taken by emergent care in Cossackie, they said that they make to many errors, so at this point whenever someone needs to be tested, they have to travel to Kingston. I have found another company called Energetix they actually have the NYS DOT contract for testing, and we would only have to go to Glenmont. Their pricing is \$55.08 for drug test, and \$39.78 for alcohol, which is considerably less than Kingston Worx. I would suggest that we consider switching our drug testing company to Energetix. We are scheduled for the third week in April or there abouts for the sweeper, we have booked a two week rental, my hope we can get it done in one. School Hill Road I'm happy to say that Jeff, Nick, Kelly and I met with the Wolfe family regarding their take over of a portion of School Hill Road, and the process has started.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Energetix, I think we'll be giving them a call, let's see if we can get a contract.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** So on the Wolfe family, are they gonna be plowing for the last resident who lives down at the bottom of that road because I think there was another resident who...?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We're still gonna plow from 51 to the first Wolfe house going up the hill and then they will plow the rest of it from there up til the top. So the people at the bottom still have service and they'll still be able to access their property because there's property right across Wolfe.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Service from the Town.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** On the 284 Agreement it looks like you were gonna be flush on the CHIPS money. Is that decided yet or...?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Flush on the CHIPS money?

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Yeah, did you get any final...?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** No, but even if we lose the 10 percent we'll still have enough money to do what we want to do, but I still hate to lose it.

**Councilmember Kash:** Alright now they're in the process of doing the budget. Senate has done their one house bill, I think the Assembly has done it as well and were expecting it over the next few weeks.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Lacking in this is somewhat nebulous dollar figure that we don't have as it relates to the Complete Streets. We don't know if it's gonna be \$20,000, \$25,000 so certainly if it's less than the \$25,000, that CHIPS money would get another 12 feet.

**Highway Supervisor VanWormer:** I think, I'm pretty sure that even with the 10 percent cut, I think we could still do we want to do and have money left over for that.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** I think you put \$30,000 on the 284 so that would probably cover us on that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** And you know we have the sweeper on tonight's..., mention it somewhere it's on our Agenda. There was a couple things I did have.

**Councilmember Downes:** I just have a quick question. I wanted to know we picked up a screen plant in Albany for the Village of Ravena?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** They didn't have truck big enough to tow it so we went up and picked it up for them and brought it down. They screen top soil. They take like leaves and everything from the Village then put it through a screen plant and make top soil. So we went up picked it up for them and then we brought it back when they were done.

**Supervisor Ruso:** There's another thing I want to bring up. Moving forward you're fuel report, I sent it to each of everybody, and I just prefer instead of you send to me and me send it to others...

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Send it to everybody.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Send it to everybody. You know there has been a lot of push from the Comptroller's Office, not immediately past, but they look to the fuel reports. Has everyone seen the fuel reports?

**Councilmembers Kash and Sottolano:** Yes.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Are you okay with them? Please say 'no.'

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** I wish we had a system that would automatically register it, but it's a huge amount of money.

**County Legislator Linger:** That's what we just bought and it's a huge amount of money.

**Supervisor Ruso:** You know there are some things that are a little problemsome. I mean I don't know, how much do you look at them, I'm just asking?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** I do 'em.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So truck #6 end of the month with less mileage than it started with.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** I don't remember. He probably made a mistake.

**Councilmember Downes:** Well, that's a consistent problem though.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, I know. We gotta look at some of these things. So like truck #10 gets 10. What is truck #10? I don't know what these are.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** F350.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh, this is diesel it says.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah.

**Supervisor Ruso:** The F350 takes diesel? I thought it was gas.

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**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** The 2006 takes diesel, the other two takes gas.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay, it gets 10.1 miles a gallon here, but later in the month it gets 4.5. You know that's a big difference. I mean I don't know if you're pushing snow with it.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah, that's the truck that works every time it snows it works.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Looking at the variable... Well, anyway, I'd love to go over this with you because there are some things that we need to discuss and I think it'd be better we did them before this is submitted because it doesn't make sense for me, but we'll do that again... Yeah, send these to everybody that way I don't need to forget to do it.

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

**RESOLUTION 64-2024**  
**MARCH 25, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RENTAL OF SWEEPER  
BY THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS** the Highway Department wishes to rent a sweeper to be used on Town roads and procured three quotes.

**RESOLVED** the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore approves a two-week rental from Finke Equipment, the lowest responsible bidder, for \$900 per week for a total cost of **up to** \$1,800.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I think that should say 'for a total cost of up to \$1800.' Is that right?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We'll try our best to get it done in a week, but...

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

**Motion Carried**

**Town Clerk Finke:** I'd just want to make sure everyone knows that is not my business. I have no knowledge of this business, I do not even know John Finke. I do this every year, but I just want to make sure everyone knows I have no association with it.

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

**RESOLUTION 65-2024**  
**MARCH 25, 2024**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING 284 AGREEMENT FOR  
EXPENDITURE OF HIGHWAY MONEYS**

**RESOLVED** that the Agreement for Expenditure of Highway Monies submitted by Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer (Highway 284 Agreement) is hereby approved.

**AGREEMENT FOR THE EXPENDITURE  
OF HIGHWAY MONEYS**

**AGREEMENT** between the Town Superintendent of Highways of the Town of **New Baltimore, Greene** County, New York, and the undersigned members of the Town Board. Pursuant to the provisions

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of Section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that moneys levied and collected in the Town for the repair and improvement of highways, and received from the State for State Aid for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows:

1. **GENERAL REPAIRS.** The sum of **\$70,000** shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon **63** miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof.
2. **PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.** The following sums shall be set aside to be expended for the permanent improvement of Town highways:

a. On the road commencing at **Staco Road** and leading to **Greenville Town line**, a distance of **0.6 miles**, there shall be expended not over the sum of **\$108,527.20**.

Type: **Cold Mix Pave**Width of traveled surface: **20 feet**  
Thickness: **3 inches**Subbase: **N/A**  
Cold mix pave Featherbed Lane from Staco Road to Greenville Town line and single course chip seal.

b. On the road commencing at **West Deans Mill Road** and leading to **Coeyman Town line**, a distance of **1.3 miles**, there shall be expended not over the sum of **\$194,880.00**.

Type: **Hot mix pave**Width of traveled surface: **20 feet**  
Thickness: **1.5 inches**Subbase: **N/A**  
Hot mix pave Saw Mill Road from West Deans Mill Road to Coeymans Town line. True and level as needed and pave with 1.5 inches of 12.5 mm top.
- Executed in duplicate this 25th day of March, 2024.
- \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Superintendent of Highways

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Superintendent of Highways
- Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano
- Councilmember Downes:** Alan, didn’t we do a lot of work out on Staco last year?
- Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Staco, yeah, not Featherbed.
- Councilmember Downes:** But they’re all around the same area right?
- Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah, we’re paving from Staco to the Town line on Featherbed.
- Councilmember Downes:** So then they should be pretty much settled for next year so we should start moving this way.
- Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah, we do the roads that are worse, it doesn’t matter where they are. We’re doing Sawmill Road down here.

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SUPERVISOR RUSO:	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER DOWNES	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER KASH	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER SOTTOLANO	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER VANETTEN	ABSENT

Motion Carried

**Supervisor Ruso:** And if you would wait until we’re done, we will do the signatures.

***Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten***

The Planning Board met on March 14, 2024, with the following business conducted: Public Hearing was held at 7 p.m. on the Mark James Minor Subdivision Application followed by the Public Hearing on the LSE Monoceros, LLC Site Plan Application (New Baltimore Solar Project) for a 4.8 MW-ac utility-scale solar collector system. In the Regular Monthly Meeting that followed: ...The James Minor Subdivision was approved. ...Discussion continued on the New Baltimore Solar Project. Parts 2 and 3 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form were gone through. It was determined that the project will not result in any significant adverse impacts on the environment, an environmental impact statement need not be prepared; and as a result, a negative declaration was issued. To allow for amendment and additional conditions to be added to the draft resolution, Board action on the resolution was postponed until the April Board Meeting. ...Daniel Hershberg from Hershberg & Hershberg was present to give a brief update on the warehouse/light industrial buildings project proposed by US Route 9W, LLC for the property located on Route 9W just south of Kreitmeier Road and to request that the Board move forward with the appointment of a Town designated engineer to review the plans. The Planning Board will be sending out the required RFP’s to begin this process. ...Jason Singer from Nolan Engineering was present on behalf of Cheema Petro, LLC to give a brief update on the gas station/convenient store proposed for property located just north of New Baltimore Family Dentistry on Route 9W and to request that the Board move forward with the appointment of a Town designated engineer to review the plans. The Planning Board will send out the required RFP’s as soon as updated application material is submitted reflecting that this project will be located on four acres rather than the two initially proposed.

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

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on March 6, 2024, with the following business transacted: ...Continued discussion on the Bernesser Area Variance application with Mr. Bernesser and his Attorney. Survey has been completed and Lot #1 is proposed at 2.087 +/- acres and Lot #2 at 1.769+/. Lot #2 being of less than two acres will require the Variance consideration. Short Environmental Assessment Form was gone through and negative declaration issued. Public Hearing on application scheduled for 7 p.m., April 3. ...Continued discussion with Brad Jourdin and Michael Carroll on their proposed mulch and compost site.

***Town Court***

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

- Total February monies received was \$11,259.00
  - Judge Huff \$ 4,480.00
  - Judge Konsul \$ 6,779.00
  - State/County Share\*
  - Town Share\*
- Total 2024 monies received (January-February) \$27,237.50
- Total new cases received 88

\*State Report not available

\*\*January State/County/Town Share attached

For your information, shown below is the “Distribution Summary” of all reports received by us from the Town Court for the month

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	State	County	Town	Other	Amount
TOTALS	\$7,718.00	\$270.00	\$7,990.50	\$0.00	\$15,978.50

*Youth, Parks and Recreation*

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 66-2024  
MARCH 25, 2024

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE  
AGREEMENT FOR PORTABLE STANDARD TOILETS

**WHEREAS** three bids were secured for portable standard toilets including one unit at Cornell Park, one unit at Wyche Park, two units at Cecil C. Hallock Park, and one unit at Silver Lake Park.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute an agreement with Greene County Septic Cleaners, Inc. for \$121.50 per month per unit for a total monthly cost of \$607.50 and a one-time \$25 per unit delivery charge per unit.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

**Motion Carried**

Upcoming Meetings

- April 3, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- April 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- April 11, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- April 22, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

**Supervisor Ruso:** So we have a good number of them here so please remember the three minute rule. I don’t want to be rude.

Public Comment Period/Community Events

**Bonnie Mion:** I wanted to talk about an impending crisis for many individuals in this Town and for our community and even New Baltimore fiscally as well and that is that I found out a couple weeks ago that my health center, the Community Care of Ravena, is going to be closing on April 17. My mother and I both are patients there. This is a problem for the physical health of many individuals in our community as well as the financial and the logistical health of New Baltimore. I will explain. First of all a great many of the 4,000 patients that attend at the Community Care center, great many of them are on Medicaid and Medicare. The reason that they are being shut down is because CDPHP finds that they’re not profitable enough and this is because reimbursements for Medicaid and Medicare are very low and Community Care is one of the very few places around that accepts these patients which is why there is this problem. Many, many patients whether for whatever reason whether they are elderly like my mother or whether you have hip operation or you have some serious issue or disability. These are friends, they’re neighbors, these are people that you go to school and work with, don’t have access for one reason or another to reliable transportation. Now if these people eventually need to find doctors, but where are 4,000 people going to find a doctor? Has anybody looked at lately at how long it takes to get a doctor? It could be an 8 month, 9 month, 1 year waiting time. Some people can’t wait that long. And also their transportation, they’d either have to go to Albany perhaps of Catskill. The Greene County services to help with transportation for Greene County people, there are guess how many volunteers” Twenty-two for five counties. They are not paid. There is already a shortage of them. Governor Hochul as you all know has the budget has been passed by the Assembly so far of a major cut in the Office for the Aging so they will be even less transportation money available to Albany and Greene County. The Ravena Senior Center, they

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currently are able to transport three or four people a day. This is a crisis waiting to occur. There are going to be people that let's face it they're not going to go to the doctor or they're not gonna go on time, or they're not gonna get their medicine, and there's gonna be seizures, overdoses, strokes. There's going to be a whole series of catastrophies. This is a crisis waiting to happen like next month.

**Supervisor Ruso:** As a member of the Greene County Advisory Committee on the Aging, we did not focus on what's in Albany County such as this clinic, but the same story can be told throughout Greene County – access, staff.

**Patty Hildebrandt:** It's closing May 19.

May 17.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I heard it was May 17. You've got 30 days of execution.

**Bonnie Mion:** I've got a couple more weeks.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Nevertheless, it's a serious problem.

**Bonnie Mion:** It's serious and the problem is it's gonna put stresses on the EMT because there's gonna be crisis. 911 is going to be called a whole lot more often and this is going to mean that the ambulances and the volunteer fire department and the EMTs are gonna be running like crazy and you know some of these people work.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I know that Councilmember Sottolano and myself from different perspectives have both worked a career in health care and the inspectors don't do their jobs because there aren't enough of them and the providers can't do their jobs because there's not enough people to work the bedsides. They're just not there. Of course neither of us were in a clinic-base program, but it's a serious issue and it's not even solvable on a County-by-County basis. There are incentives that one could make, but some of the incentives I've seen are robbing another County. We're not making the pie bigger, we're just shuffling who gets the piece. So it's a big problem. I wish there was help we would provide here at the Town of New Baltimore.

**Bonnie Mion:** I guess I'm hoping that maybe there's some community action in Michelle Hinchey and other Supervisors in the Towns and can contact the Governor. I don't know what can happen. This is not my bailiwick.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** I think that in Coeymans there's also some interest in getting involved and perhaps working together with the other Towns that would be impacted.

**Audience Member:** Well, you do know why they're leaving? A new company bought them.

**Bonnie Mion and Councilmember Sottolano:** CDPHP.

**Supervisor Ruso:** They're consolidating clinics, yeah.

**Audience Member:** Not enough money and they're building a new building in Clifton Park.

**Bonnie Mion:** And they wrote to the employees and they said they're just not profitable. I mean it's not about serving the people. I'm sorry, I took my three minutes. Okay, thank you very much for listening.

(Audience conversations unable to understand)

**Harold Vadney:** At the June 12, 2023 Town Board Meeting I stood before this Board and made public comment on the unsatisfactory response of Sherry Vieta, the then appointed New Baltimore Animal Control Officer. In fact, I presented information to show that Vieta was employed by at least four other communities in Greene County in the same capacity while holding another job allegedly as a home health aide. In a published report I noted that each of the communities in which Vieta was Animal Control Officer there were no records or reports



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kept on her activities and that deficiency included the Town of New Baltimore. I further note that neither the Town Board nor the Town Animal Control Officer Committee, despite my expressed to answer inquiry and investigation on how Vieta was performing and what actually she was doing, never reported on the Animal Control activities nor on Vieta in subsequent meetings in 2023. At the January 1, 2024 Town of New Baltimore Organizational Meeting Vieta was again appointed to be New Baltimore Animal Control Officer with a pay rise up to \$3,415 a year payable in biweekly installments. On the January 22, 2022 Work Meeting this Town Board, Supervisor Ruso notes that he sent Kash and Sottolano email regarding our Dog Control Officer and wanted to make sure that they had all of the contact points. Asking Sottolano and Kash ‘did you receive it?’ neither received that information. Is this community to understand while Kash and Sottolano were appointed to the Town Animal Control Officers, it took almost a month to inform them of the most immediate person with whom they have to work. By January 22 they still had not received that information and they were already almost a month on the job. My question would be to Kash and Sottolano know how to contact the properly called Dog Control Officer? And what was really jaw dropping is that we read in a February 27, 2024 Facebook Post by Board Member Kash who is also the Chair of the Animal Control Committee and she ‘stands ready. I’ll be out in the dark tomorrow, tomorrow night helping frogs, toads and salamanders safely cross the road to their breeding pools’ and Board Member Sottolano, a member of the Town Animal Control Committee responds ‘maybe tomorrow night, going to be a warm day tomorrow.’ Since these members of the Town Animal Control Committee have time to spend their evenings assisting frogs, toads, and salamanders to cross our roads, I’d like to know if Kash and Sottolano once having received Mr. Ruso’s communications met personally with Ms. Vieta to discuss how Vieta does her job, what standards apply to Vieta’s performance, and what activity reports are expected from Vieta. In all fairness I suppose that serving as a crossing guard for frogs, toads, and salamanders make possibly qualify as an activity of the Town Animal Control Committee members. I’d like to also remark that I have never seen Ms. Vieta at a single meeting of this Town Board whether a Work or Regular meeting nor has Vieta ever shown up to render us a report on her activities despite my having actually made extensive requests on this subject and even having published an extensive report on Vieta’s activities or nonactivities. Now apart from your appointed committee members activities with Town frogs, toads, and salamanders may we have a regular report on animal control issues in this Town and your engagement with Ms. Vieta to insure taxpayers’ may actually get the services they are paying for.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you. I think it is due time to have conversations with her and, yes, everybody’s aware of who’s who and it’s even posted on the front door of the building for those that don’t know.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** This is February 23, we got your email.

**Harold Vadney:** You particularly are familiar with the history of Vieta here in New Baltimore . Ms. VanEtten isn’t here tonight, but there have been considerable problems with Vieta communication with Vieta and Vieta showing up to respond apart from doing loops in the hamlet.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you, sir, and we can chat later about how we’re gonna proceed or maybe you guys can chat, let me know.

**Councilmember Kash:** We’re actually, Deb and I, have been trying to find a convenient day for all of us to meet with Ms. Vieta and we’re still working on that.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** We have reached out to her and introduced ourselves and just a comment about the frogs and salamanders, that was a New Baltimore Conservancy activity.

**Harold Vadney:** I’m not interested in that, that’s just an aside.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** No, I’m just explaining it was not in place of our responsibility.

**Harold Vadney:** My interest is in the Dog Control issues and whether you met with her personally yet you’ve been on the job for over three months now and I believe you have not met with her.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Let's proceed.

**Amy Decker:** Yeah, I was concerned as soon as I saw it and I thought I have some questions. I asked some people who might know something about it and you know my first concerns I know friends who have an animal farm near some solar farm and the problem with radiation, birds falling out of the sky over those and animal mutations, just one of the things that came to mind. But I did a little light research here and so LCS 9W Holding, Chinese manufacturer in an American subsidiary of a Filipino holding company. So who's going to hold them accountable? Our government certainly won't and these people will be gone next time you know a hurricane rolls up the river. So I had a couple questions. What are the benefits to the Town? Who's getting payment in lieu of taxes, and according to the news article that I found from last year, March 2023, it says 17 percent to the Town, 17 to the County, remainder being to Cossackie-Athens School District so I don't know if that's 64 percent or how that works for the next 25 years, 8000 megawatt if that's still part of it. So I just have I don't know, so my question is is it worth it to the Townmembers? I know it's already been started maybe, but the clean up potentially costing the Town millions of dollars thinking about other concerns like moisture, snow, electrical circuits being eroded by fog, hail, heavy metals leaching into the wetlands, adverse weather conditions decreases the life expectancy of these panels compared to say studies may be done in Hawaii on their solar farms and I know that trees have been cleaned out which increases lightning strikes and tornadoes to add to a long list of potential weather damage to solar panels upstate New York and what a beautiful place they're wanting to do it by the Hannacroix Creek just breaks my heart. So and I'm thinking if you think it out it says so our taxes have already been used towards the grants, the government money that we basically paid into also being used basically to bribe us as a Town which means bribing us with our own money. The grants are just Townspeople first payment, the second payment is when local property is devalued because of those solar panel farms, and our third payment is potentially left to the Town to shoulder the burden of cleanup not to mention the tax increases to maintain at a further devalued property. So I have another question, I'm sorry I'm just going quickly, has there been a third party study or audit of the projected viability and cost of the solar farm, what is the history of the company, what have they done, where have they done it, and what was the result? Those are some questions I'd like to seek because you know to them it as a business it doesn't matter if their business goes belly up in a few years and if they close shop as long as they get the money to their shareholders, they've done their fiscal responsibility, they don't care about the Town. We all live here and we want to preserve what is beautiful about New Baltimore for ourselves and for our posterity. So as I was listening earlier I wrote down this question -- who did the assessment that came up with the negative impact? Was it the company themselves because a primary goal of a business and even in business ethics taught at school is to make a profit? So did the company itself?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Does anybody want to answer that?

**Councilmember Downes:** Isn't that why we did the moratorium last year and we changed a whole lot of rules there did we not?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh, yeah.

**Councilmember Downes:** And for cleanup and everything.

**Amy Decker:** Good.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, we're actually put between a rock and a hard place. The problem is, and everyone knows it, they had a demand to close Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant. Why? Why? It provides 25 percent of New York City's electrical power. How are they going to make up for it? The State gave grants to all these places. The Town of New Baltimore is subject to greater costs upon the Town if we refuse 'em -- lawsuits. We have to have a solid reason. Now to get to one particular point is we do have a Town Engineer paid for and hired by us. Now hopefully they are good engineers. I can't say, but all these people coming in, this doesn't benefit. We're not getting electricity, we're not getting anything out of it. I mean this stuff goes into the grid so to say and it's very esoteric, it's out there, but it really is something that was created by NYSEDA at the direction of, in this particular case, Governor Cuomo, the Assembly, and the Senate.

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**Amy Decker:** Of course. So what can the Town do right?

**Supervisor Ruso:** That's is.

**Amy Decker:** What can the Town do?

**Supervisor Ruso:** What can the Town do?

**Amy Decker:** They can disqualify them.

**Supervisor Ruso:** You can do a Moratorium for awhile.

**Councilmember Downes:** And we change the rules.

**Supervisor Ruso:** If you do one forever, you're in trouble.

**Amy Decker:** Thank you for the Moratoriums.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So what happens is we're gonna spend a lot of legal money and by the way it is private property.

**Amy Decker:** No, I understand.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I mean we don't have a say on what people do on private property, but it is not Town property. I've had people call me ask how I allowed this to happen on Town property. It's not on Town property. I'm not allowing it. I'm saying it to the general public who has called me.

**Amy Decker:** It just affects everybody in the Town's property.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay, so there's a lot of points to be made on this.

**Amy Decker:** I guess I don't know if we can zone them out or disqualify them or undermine their profitability somehow. Whatever we can do, just wanted to...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, well, sorry, you got me going a little bit. Thanks so much. Mr. Linger, go ahead.

**County Legislator Linger:** Jeff, can I just make a point on this solar because it's a little bit different in the law?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Actually let me just add a point so you reminded me of something. We do get that 12 1/2 percent. They pay PILOTS, but there was a law provided to us that's unique to Greene County where the Town gets 12 percent of that project PILOT money, 12 1/2.

**Amy Decker:** Payment In Lieu Of?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Correct. That is not uncommon, but there's plenty of Counties who do not so that. I believe Albany County gives 50 percent to the townships. Okay, Greene County gives New Baltimore 12 1/2 so I won't say no more about that.

**County Legislator Linger:** There's a distinction between pilots. A solar PILOT is much different than a business PILOT. In Greene County, in every Town actually in Greene County, all municipalities have authorized 287 agreement which exempts solar for 15 years. The tax liability is \$0. So any tax liability that's on the value of that solar plant is \$0 by law. However...

**Unable to Understand.**

**Supervisor Ruso:** New York State law.

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**County Legislator Linger:** New York State law and Real Property Tax Law. So what they've done is on these types of commercial and industrial sized solar plants, they require the company to send out a letter of notice saying they want to install one of these in our municipality. The Town gets it, the school district gets it, the county gets it and then it's up to those three entities to determine whether they want to require a PILOT. So the option is \$0 or whatever you can negotiate in getting back. That's the options.

**Audience Member:** Get our own money back

**County Legislator Linger:** So that's what we do.

**Supervisor Ruso:** If we don't raise our hand, we get \$0 and the project comes in here.

**County Legislator Linger:** The option is \$0

**Amy Decker:** I figured that was the case no doubt.

**County Legislator Linger:** I wanted to make that distinction with solar versus a business.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Any news from our Board of Elections in their coming to answer questions to the people of our Town.

**Supervisor Ruso:** They have not responded to my correspondence whatsoever. In fact, I'll share it with you because the first one happened 22nd of January. I know, forgive me for this but I did go away for ten days but when I came back I confirmed that the material was sent to them. Here's what it says 'Dear Commissioners Bogardus and Metzler, The below resolution from January 22 -- this is my reminder, not the first one. This is a reminder that I sent on the 12th of March, 'the below resolution is from January 22 and in in discussion with the Town Clerk just this morning she confirmed that this was sent to the Greene County Board of Elections shortly afterwards. We have not heard from anyone associated with the Board of Elections regarding our request for someone from your office to attend an upcoming meeting. Please let me know if you are planning on attending and we can identify the date. If you are not planning on attending I need to know that as well.' Now, again, we sent them the original shortly after that meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January. I sent them this on the 12th of March and my answer is nothing.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Okay, now we know there's an election coming up April 2<sup>nd</sup> and I would like to request who is going to give the poll workers guidance when these machines malfunction. I would like to request the County Legislature Chairperson, who happens to be here, they approved Mr. Bogardus just recently and apparently he reports to the County and I would like to know why, no matter what the reasons, the people of the Town of New Baltimore cannot get answers as to why machines malfunctioned and please don't tell me it was the poll workers turning them on because that's unacceptable and if it was that reason when the staff of our Greene County Board of Elections came to take the ballots out of the machine in the middle of the afternoon why did they not fix the machine?

**Supervisor Ruso:** The Town Board, we all voted on it here, I think what we wanted, at least provide us at the very least, is to come in here and if there was error, show us where it is so we can prevent recurrence. I'd love to have that.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, I think it's a bigger issue, Mr. Ruso. I think we need to know who's programming the machines. There were all kinds of screens coming up that no one ever saw before. We had people tearing ballots up because they were so frustrated. This is not the way we should be treating our citizens when they come to vote. So all I hear is okay no one has any jurisdiction over these people. Well, I'm a voter. I vote for the County Legislature. I vote for you guys and there's many people I'm sure were not even gonna have people show up for these elections that were so upset and we're a small Town and we need everyone to vote.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I agree with you and I have to say that...

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I find all the answers unacceptable.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Ignoring the Town Board is clearly a bipartisan -- as I just read you -- event. Why don't they answer or respond...

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, so what else can we do?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Or at least call us or say that 'we're not coming.' That's all I really would have liked them to do.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** But what else can we do?

**Supervisor Ruso:** They've done nothing.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** This is about protecting the citizens of our community. What else can we do? Hello. So I'm at a loss.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Me too.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** So who do the poll workers call on Primary Day?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Ms. Metzler and Bogardus.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Please, you know we have so much success and support from them when we were having all the problems.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I can't usurp them. I don't have any authority over them and none of us here on this Board have.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** So who should I tell people to go to? Down to the Greene County Board of Elections?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Suite 408.

**County Legislator Linger:** 411 Main Street.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** And they should go to their County Legislator's meetings to complain?

**County Legislator Linger:** Absolutely. I have done that and I got the same response that you did.

**Councilmember Downes:** And that's what we have been saying all along. We have no jurisdiction, that we need to take people to the County Legislature.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** It's very sad.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Actually don't get me going, I've already said too much tonight.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** It's very sad is all I can say. Solar, I'm getting many phone calls and I am on the Planning Board but I'm not speaking on behalf of the Planning Board. I'm speaking on behalf as many of the people that's been contacting me and I am advising them to contact other people on the Planning Board as well because we have a real serious issue in our Town with the solar projects. I have again renewed the research that was previously handed out to our Planning Board members and other individuals in political positions in our community and it is very clear the scientific data on the harmful impact on our ecosystems, our community, our water. I understand all of the legislation that has been passed but like I said I think in the email to the Board, you know this is another governmental operation that is filled with untruths and the people in this Town and all small towns are going to suffer the repercussions. So I would like to ask the Town Board if they could have an information night for people to come to and go over some of the information that is out there, the scientific information, no one's opinion or anything like that because it's out there and it's clear what they're saying. It damages the ecological system, there's toxic, the Chinese solar panels which are all that is being used in this Country based on recent research, I thought maybe someone else was doing it, they're filled with toxic

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chemicals. You know the Planning Board can do so much and we're asking for soil boring tests so that we have a baseline data, but you know six to ten years down the road might be too late to identify if there are toxins coming out of these panels. You don't get too much out of the companies that is other than their business and promoting they're making their money. Solar farms usually last around six years and that's it, six to ten the most. Residential, they used to say thirty years, but now with the new information that's out there, the lifespan, the truth's starting to come out. It's not that long. So that means these companies are coming in, gonna make the quick buck, sell it, and hit the road. Another thing, our decommissioning plans are not adequately addressing the cleanup. I mean right now they're taking about making it this hazardous waste. Even DEC which they don't do too much that I would support.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, you keep saying 'they.' I have no idea who 'they' is.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I have four pages of scientific studies.

**Supervisor Ruso:** In our case we need to look at regulators. You know, DEC you brought them up, I've not heard any guidance from DEC or EPA.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** And DEC is not going to promulgate these hazardous waste until the majority of the panels and solar farms are... This is a government scam you might say you know, not that government never does this with anything else you know. They're talking about it and they're not going to promulgate it until the majority of these solar farms are up because they want them up. It doesn't matter what any people, the citizens say. So when I initially started speaking I said is it possible for the Town to have an information session to review some of these issue so people are aware -- whether we like the truth or not -- they should be aware of what's going on and the repercussions of allowing them into our community.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, first step I would like to do is perhaps invite DEC to come down, have them speak about the toxicity, etc., etc., what's going on because again those are the regulators.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** They're the regulators, but I don't think that they're the approp...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I just can't just pick someone off the internet.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** No

**Supervisor Ruso:** Because I don't know who they are.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I think that DEC might be one of the speakers, but I also think that we have to reach out to scientific community who has no interest in the success or failure, no personal job interest.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, I'd like to find one of those people. I'd like to find one. I have no interest in working or I'm a pro or an anti-solar person and I'll do a study and see how it comes out. You know I don't want to quite get the differing sides of advocates. I'd rather not get into the middle of those type...

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, I don't either. I'm talking about sharing the factual information that's out there.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I can always call, I don't know who'd I call in DEC. Do you know anybody?

**Councilmember Sottolano:** I know a few people there.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, we can always see if they want to come, what the heck. Maybe they'll give us the same treatment as the Board of Elections.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Why don't some of the people in the community make some recommendations to you.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, thank you so much.

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

**RESOLUTION 67-2024**  
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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-03-01 to 2024b-03-36, it is

*RESOLVED* that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2024b-03-01 to

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until April 30, 2024.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

General \$72,265.57, Highway \$9,249.83, Sewer 1 \$1,928.42, Street Lighting 1 \$1,653.54, Street Lighting 2 \$281.61, Total \$85,378.97

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember Sottolano, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO  
Town Clerk