

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE**                      **Draft 11/15/17**  
**COUNTY OF GREENE**                      **Adopted 12/27/17**  
**PUBLIC HEARING ON 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**  
**TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087**  
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Supervisor Dellisanti opened the Public Hearing on a Motion, seconded by Councilmember VanEtten at 6:32 PM. Also attending Deputy Supervisor Ruso, Councilmembers Briody, Irving and VanEtten, Tal Rappleyea, Esq., Town Clerk Finke, and 4 members of the public who signed the attendance book.

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Briody, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** *Notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM at Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, New York to hear those members of the public who wish to be heard regarding the 2018 Preliminary Budget. The Work Meeting will be held at 7 PM. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office of the Town of New Baltimore, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087 Proposed salary figures of elected officials are as follows: Town Council (4) \$4,100 Town Justices (2) 10,610 Town Supervisor 7,925 Tax Collector 6,500 Town Clerk 30,165 Superintendent of Highways 53,530 By Order of the Town Board Barbara M. Finke Town Clerk'*

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Okay, this public hearing is open; would anyone like to speak on it? Okay, Ellie, you're up first.

**Ellie Alfeld:** The main concern of mine I mentioned to you last time in this budget is I believe I didn't get a chance just now to look, but I believe we cut the funding for snow removal compared to last year. Is that correct, Jeff? Don't shake your head; look at it and tell me.

**Deputy Supervisor Ruso:** I'll double-check, but...

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** I don't think we did, I don't think we cut it. We kept it exactly the same as last year.

**Ellie Alfeld:** As I said I was comparing it to the first edition of this.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Let me double check. What else do you have, Ellie?

**Ellie Alfeld:** The other thing I want to impress upon the Town Board is somewhere in this budget, even if it means that we're going to have a slight increase, you have to come back with some kind of a newsletter. The people in this Town are not getting the information they need and you can put it on that camera from now until hell freezes over, but a lot of these people do not have the cable system, they do not have computers, the newspapers are not covering anything. I mean the people that are here are people that have been interested in everything. We have other people in this Town that want to know what's going on. We don't have any idea what's happening and I really impress upon you half the idea of having a good running Town is to have the citizens informed. We're not getting that right now and that's what we need more than anything going as far as I'm concerned. Okay, the last thing, I don't even know how to direct this, we have some nonprofits in this Town that are advertised on the calendar as doing business under the auspices of the New Baltimore Town and yet as a 501 there is no reconciling of your books or your business and how it impacts on our Town. If you're making money, we should know it. If it's costing us money, we should know it. I think we need an open door policy when it comes to whatever goes on in this Town where it impacts our budget.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** What's the nonprofit you're taking about?

**Ellie Alfeld:** I believe Friends of New Baltimore. Is that not a nonprofit?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** It's a 501(c)3.

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**Ellie Alfeld:** 501 call it what you will and the AgFest are the two that are in this Town right now. We get no reconciling of your books nor any monies that you earned or it costs these taxpayers. So I'd like to see some more open government in that aspect.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** To answer your first question, the Snow Removal budget went up from 2017, it did not go down.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Okay, thank you.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** You're welcome.

**Ellie Alfeld:** I stand corrected.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Okay. Eilleen Vosburgh.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Can I just point out something, would you like me to go over something?

**Supervisor Dellisanti and Councilmember VanEtten:** Sure.

**Town Clerk Finke:** I just felt compelled to respond to that. When I was on the Board, I was on the Board for four years and I did the newsletter and it was a lot of work, but it was really work that I loved to do. Unfortunately, it was two members of the Town Board and the Town Supervisor that said no one wanted it and they threw it out and that's why it was not completed into the following year. I did sit on that Board; I did hear that multiple times, it was not just once. So, I enjoyed the newsletter, however, I was overruled.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Thank you. Eilleen Vosburgh.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** First of all I'd like to make a comment about the newsletter also. I also had heard from so many people that they wanted the newsletter to come back and from what I understand about the newsletter that they started to use inhouse services and they decreased the budget lines because they were printing out-of-house. So then they were doing all the printing and mailing, sometimes on their own time after work, and that's how they were able to get the newsletter to continue. Yes, the budget item was lowered and other people besides the Supervisor on the board had voted on that so...

**Councilmember VanEtten:** But I believe that the money left in the budget was paid because it blew up trying to do the newsletter, the old printer so we had to replace the printer and that was the only money that was left in their budget.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** A new printer cost \$12,000 and we couldn't afford even the \$12,000 in 2014.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** There was \$500.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** So are you saying that the reason for the newsletter not being printed anymore...

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** In house

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Is it because the Town Supervisor at that time decided not to do it along with the Town Board, but you're saying that the printer blew up and you had to replace the printer.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** No, don't put words in my mouth. What happened was that the former administration took it out of the budget.

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**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Right.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** And when we moved in here in January of 2014, this printer was absolutely burned out. It had to be replaced at a cost of \$12,000 which the Town did not have to buy a printer. That's why we're renting a monthly fee for this particular printer and there is no way that this printer or printer inhouse can do a newsletter of that quantity, that many pages. You will burn it out every time.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Well, maybe there are other options of how to pay for that newsletter because the people do want that.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Okay, thank you very much.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** So I did just get the new budget from the tentative budget. I mean there's a couple things I'd like to say. The actual amount on this, I'm talking about the CEO, which is it's called Safety Inspection Personal Services and in the actual on there is \$13,162 for which since in June of this year Steve Mantor had left and then from June to September 19 it was only Albert Gasbary. So what I'm trying to say is that that amount of \$13,162 really isn't an amount that would normally be the actual amount for a CEO and then compared to the previous year the actual amount was \$18,182. So now I see that it is now budgeted down to \$15,000 for the CEO where the year before I believe it was \$16,000. So that's a \$1,320 decrease and what I'd like to mention to you is just some of the information that I have about the work that the CEO had done since August of 2017 and I got this information from some of the work meeting Minutes. So as of August 2017, two part time inspectors up til June, of course completed 64 building inspections, issued 49 building permits, there are 98 open building permits, investigated 24 Code violations, completed 10 solar inspections, issued 7 Certificates of Occupancy, and 29 Certificates of Compliance. Can you tell me how many CEOs you intend to hire for the 2018?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** As of right now one.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** So from what I understand, Mr. Mantor when he, part of his time here, he spent a lot of his time working on the assisted living project that's going to be coming soon on 9W and from what I understand, they are starting to talk to contractors which would mean that a CEO would have to appear there two or three times a week. We also have a new subdivision and I'm wondering why would you under the circumstances where you lost two CEOs last year and paying under \$14 an hour consider only having one CEO for 2018?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Well, I don't think we've ever before; this year we've been catching up, ever had more than one CEO at a time ever.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Yes, yes, you have.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** When was that?

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** You've had two CEOs for a very long time.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Well, we've always had a backup.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Pardon me?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** We've always had a general CEO and a backup.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Right we've had Shared Services with other towns and things like that, but I don't think... When did we have two employed?

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**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Yes, you have. Multiple CEOs at the same time and you know what concerns me is that how Mr. Mantor left because there was micromanaging of the CEO office where complaints have to go through the Board first and then down to him. Then when Mr. Gasbary realized that you weren't going to replace Mr. Mantor and all that work was being held on his head, of course, when another job was offered for more money he took it. So what here for what a \$1,000 more would you think would keep a CEO here?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Explain your question.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** The question is double the work of what was done before micromanaging of the CEO office.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** That's your opinion.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I think it's your opinion and the fact that you didn't check.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Yes, it is. It is my opinion and it has been told to me by multiple people and, yes, in my own opinion and the fact that word around the other CEOs is why would you come here?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Well, that's your opinion. Again, it's hearsay. No one's said that to me other than you.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Why would you, okay, another question is this assisted living project is going to maybe start soon. Why, why and you have 98 open building permits. You have a new subdivision here. Why would you make this a lower amount of time for our Town?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** You make a very good point. There's 98 open permits. We had two CEOs and they did one inspection in one month.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** What do you mean one inspection one month?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** We had plenty of times that we had reports where they did one maybe two inspections in a month over the time they were here.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Doing 30 hours a week between the two of them, 120 hours in a month.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Are you saying that they did a bad job?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** I didn't say that. I'm just saying the number of inspections that were completed were extremely low.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** So maybe that tells you that maybe you need more help.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Oh, so two isn't enough, we should have four.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** I'm saying you need to have whatever we need to keep our community safe.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Well, we haven't had any complaints from any contractors or anybody else that's doing the jobs, any property owners or anybody like that and I think that if we did start to get them in, we would consider this, but so far nothing. But, thanks for your comments.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** I don't think I'm finished. So, if a CEO could get more money driving a school bus or working at McDonald's why would they come here?

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**Supervisor Dellisanti:** We're not the only Town that's having trouble getting CEOs just so you know that. It's not just our Town that's having problems getting CEOs.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** I wonder if they are all expecting for the bid to go out for the CEO part-time position to be \$100 an hour.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Thank you. Rob VanEtten.

**Rob VanEtten:** I would like to really thank the Town Board and our Supervisor for turning around the irresponsible spending of previous administrations who couldn't produce a balanced budget. Year after year they would produce a budget that was taking away from the Town Reserves, or I should say the Rainy Day Fund because when I asked about it when they were sitting up here, I couldn't get an answer until I labeled it the Rainy Day Fund and I believe you inherited a deficit budget when you came into this administration and you turned that around and so far you've had balanced budgets correct?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Yes.

**Rob VanEtten:** At the same time kept the taxes pretty flat; spent a lot on health insurance costs. I give you guys a lot of credit, I don't know how you do it and I hope it continues. I think our previous, most recent election showed that a lot of people appreciate that and understand that you can't keep spending more money than you take in. So, again, thanks. And lastly I'd like to say the AgFest is mostly funded by private donations from people that work hard to go out and get it and keep that going. There is a few small items that I'm sure well shown in your budget that they pay for.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** They are.

**Rob VanEtten:** But the rest of the private donations, is that really a concern? I mean that's people that are giving us money.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** The meetings are open to the public by the way and you're welcome to come anytime.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Last time I went, Shelly, it was not a good appearance at the AgFest itself okay and I think I remember telling you about it.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I don't remember, but whatever.

**Rob VanEtten:** You came to an AgFest meeting?

**Ellie Alfeld:** No, I said to the AgFest itself.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I don't remember; I don't have a clue what she's talking about.

**Rob VanEtten:** You had a problem at the AgFest?

**Ellie Alfeld:** I don't think now is the time and you're working on a budget and as far as my questioning the AgFest it's because we do spend money on insurance and port-a-pots.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** No, we reimburse.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Let's not go back and forth. Let's stick with the budget.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Well, that's all I want to know about.

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**Rob VanEtten:** At any rate, the AgFest is mostly from private donations and again thank you for what you've done on the budget like I say it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the way the previous administration was going with its budgets, this Town was going to be in a real financial bad times. Thanks for keeping the taxes low too.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Thank you, Rob. Anne Mitchell.

**Anne Mitchell:** I'm just here; I don't have anything particular to say.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Oh, okay. Thank you. Anyone else like to speak on the budget?

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Can you tell me where in the budget you are paying for the current CEO? Where is that money being paid for and how many hours has he worked so far?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** I don't know how many hours he's worked so far because all of his bills are not in. It would be the same line as the Safety Inspection.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** So you're saying that, no (pounding the podium) I'm talking about right now, how are you paying for the guy right now?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Out of that particular budget line.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** So if you never get anybody, what's gonna happen or what happens if you don't get anybody til April and he's working what 48 hours a month, \$4,800. You know 'gee is it April, is it already gone \$15-\$16,000.'

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** You're speculating. We don't know what's...

**Eileen Vosburgh:** No, I'm asking you what happens with the money you're spending on the current CEO?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** I am confident that we will have a new CEO before the first of the year.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** You don't have one now and you've been looking for one since when?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** That's your opinion.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** No, I'm asking a question. I want to know...

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** I answered your question.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Well, actually how are you paying for him right this minute?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Out of that particular code line, Safety Inspections.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** From last year?

**Supervisor Dellisanti and Councilmember VanEtten:** From this year.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Oh.

**Councilmember Briody:** You do want to see that things continue to move forward in the Town correct?

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Absolutely.

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**Councilmember Briody:** So sometimes you have to do things that are outside standard protocol, make sure to get it done.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** I want it to be done in the best interest of our Town, someone that is familiar with our Town, who is going to stay with our Town so that our community is protected all the way around through assurances, you know that CEO is very important and as Ellie has said many time he also collects data and that data is important to our Town.

**Councilmember Briody:** Well, it's an open position correct?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Yes.

**Councilmember Briody:** That anybody can apply for so if you have a candidate, they're more than welcome to take a look at him.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** At how much an hour?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** It depends on the experience.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Well what is it advertised for right now?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** It's not advertised for a salary, it's just advertised for position.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** I'm really interested how you are paying for a CEO at \$100 an hour in 2017 and in 2018 and you say it's out of that budget line.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Out of the Safety Inspection line and that's for 2017. I didn't say we were doing it for 2018.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** So are you saying that you have somebody already set up?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** No, I don't. I'm hoping that we get somebody before the end of the year.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Oh.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Any other comments on the budget? Judge Meacham.

**Judge Meacham:** Thank you for the opportunity Board members. I am Tom Meacham, one of the Justices in the Town and plan to discuss our court clerk. I have some information here. So again to repeat, my name is Tom Meacham, one of the Justices in the Town Court and I am here to discuss the provisions for our court clerk and I've given to our Superintendent information from the Justice Court manual that talks about the requirements and responsibilities of both the Justices, the Justice Court, and the Town Board as well. So, I'll read to you the information that I have here. On that first page, the first paragraph I'll read it to the audience; the title here is 'Non-Judicial Personnel: Supervision and Employment Policies Much of the Justice Court's constitutional duties require that a locality cannot hire or fire court clerks without consent of the justice(s), the locality's executive and legislative branches cannot exercise undue direct control over the court clerk's activities on behalf of the Justice Court. The supervision of Justice Court clerks is an administrative function of the Justice Court that is a responsibility of the justice(s). Under the separation of powers doctrine, the executive and legislative branches of local government can make general rules for local employees but cannot interfere with the Justice court's day-to-day supervision of its staff. Where questions arise on these matters, judicial officials should contact their local Supervising Judge and other municipal officials should contact their municipal attorney for guidance.' And it continues and I'll read a little bit more of the second paragraph "Justices are responsible for supervising their non-judicial staff,

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but must do so in accordance with the general employment policies established by the town or village to the extent that these policies do not conflict with any State statute, regulation or rule. For example, while the employment policy may establish standard workdays for all town or village employees, State court rules require that justices set the hours of the local Justice Court.” And it gives a header there for 80, you can see that Rule No. 22 NYCRR 214.2. So this is just basic information to let you know where I’m standing with this. As you know we’re trying to perform the duties of the court with our court clerk. We are now down to just one full-time court clerk and the responsibilities of that court clerk is also taken on the responsibilities that have been left behind from our part-time court clerk and so there are some duties that we need to insure that are always being performed in our court clerk is having to do all these on her own now without the other part-time court clerk. So, what I’m asking is that if we could increase the hours of our current full-time court clerk so that we can perform these duties that are required by the Court. Currently we are down as I mentioned one-half employee basically because we do not have the part-time court clerk.

**Deputy Supervisor Ruso:** Didn’t we advertise? I don’t know if anyone responded.

**Justice Meacham:** I think we have one, but that one individual we’re having some issues in trying to find out their consistency in hours that he’s worked or the applicant has worked. So we want to make sure that we have somebody who is going to 1. Be able to maintain the hours that we’re requiring them to maintain, be on time, be able to come in when they’re asked to come in. So we’re looking for someone who’s got a good history of being able to maintain those records. So that’s what we’re looking for in a court clerk. Yes, they have been advertised; it has been advertised for some time now, but we haven’t received very many applicants.

**Deputy Supervisor Ruso:** The Board’s role here is to set a budget.

**Judge Meacham:** Right.

**Deputy Supervisor Ruso:** Within those budgets as well as general policies, if you need to add to someone’s hours because the other position is vacant, still in the budget so that’s really the guiding principle.

**Judge Meacham:** So we can add some hours to the current full-time employee. Thank you, that’s one of the main things.

**Deputy Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, Tal, isn’t that.

**Tal Rappleyea, Esq.:** Oh, yes, especially with the additional duties.

**Deputy Supervisor Ruso:** Right, especially in the absence of the other person certainly.

**Judge Meacham:** As we have read here is that the Justices are able to provide the hours that were required. They come in late, that’s up to us to make sure that we reprimand them as needed and if they’re needing to do additional performance of work duties, that’s up to us to make sure they get done and so I just want to make sure that the Board is aware of the laws that we have to be under in order to perform the duties of the Court.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** One thing I wanted to add if you could let us know as soon as possible the part-timer, we’d like to get them on board as quickly as possible.

**Judge Meacham:** Yeah, we would too, believe me we would too because we’re anticipating a grant from the State that would require additional work. As you know we’ve applied for a grant for \$30,000 from the State and if we could secure those funds, there is a lot of work that needs to be done and so that extra part-time court clerk will come in handy. In the meantime, we need to maintain our current duties out of our court clerk so right now what we’re looking at is at least



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putting another probably five hours' worth of work, six hours' worth of work in the course of a week to our full-time court clerk to maintain our responsibilities at least until the end of this year and probably on into next year. I know if you've been able to realize the budget proposal that the Justices have put forward and enable to include that into your budget. Have you been able to review that and include that?

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** We did not include the number that you were looking for. A 22% raise is not reasonable.

**Judge Meacham:** The current wages that she's getting is not reasonable either.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** I can speak from experience, I don't disagree with all of us here on the Board.

**Judge Meacham:** Okay. As you know our full-time court clerk does not receive any health benefits from this Board or from this Town because she has it from her husband. So, that's a substantial savings to the Town if we were to replace her, there's an additional cost.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** We don't want to get into that.

**Judge Meacham:** Okay.

**Deputy Supervisor Ruso:** We can't talk about health insurance.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** But thank you for your comments.

**Judge Farrell:** I was listening to Tom as he was giving his presentation and the thing about the budget I don't think anybody doesn't want a budget that's fair especially the people in New Baltimore. I think we all agree to that. What we want is fair to the personnel that work for the people in New Baltimore, that's what we're looking for and it's not just Dawn. It's really the position that we're looking to get proper reimbursement for. Now back in 2012, usually in history, past history the full-time clerks, Town Clerk and court clerk were generally parallel to each other. As recently as 2012, there was about a \$1,000 discrepancy. Actually, the Town Clerk made less. In the proposed budget the Town Clerk is going to make about \$3,000 more. I don't think it would be unreasonable to have them parallel to each other considering that their duties are similar in nature even though that the function they serve is entirely different. So I think it's prudent to give the court clerk's position up to a reasonable living wage and not decrease it as it was substantially a couple years ago. That's about all I had. Thank you.

**Supervisor Dellisanti:** Thank you. Anyone else have a comment on the budget? Motion by Supervisor Dellisanti to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilwoman VanEtten at 7:04 PM.

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Briody, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke  
Town Clerk