

DRAFT

COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
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OPENING OF MEETING

Supervisor O'Rorke moved to open the Work Meeting at 7:33 pm, and was seconded by Councilman Norris. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote, and the vote was as follows:

BENWAY-AYE FINKE-AYE MEREDITH-Absent
NORRIS-AYE O'RORKE-AYE

Motion Carried

Attending: Councilwomen Benway and Finke, Councilman Norris, Highway Superintendent Jordan, Town Clerk Brooks, Deputy Town Clerks Loux and Jordan, and 19 members of the public who signed the attendance sheet. Absent: Councilman Meredith.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Historian Hilscher reports for September: responded to steady request by folks looking for ancestry, referred by town clerk and done by previous historian, who wish to have copies of photographs, Purchased locking display case from Lincoln Auction Center for \$75, having received a highway grant of \$22, and reminded that the painting of the interior was done by a lawyer; it will display small items (bell used in hamlet school, wooden model of a snow scraper invented and patented by a local man, Martinus Mulder, a flail on loan from Ted) that may be viewed and enjoyed; Spoke with Mrs. M. Goettsche of Windham whose mother Anita West Thompson taught school at Sylvandale winter of 1913 for one year; Spent three Saturday mornings at Vedder Library transcribing the Sylvandale columns in the Catskill Recorder 1913-1914; Wrote article for Town newsletter on Sylvandale and Miss West; Fielded an inquiry from an ancestor looking for genealogical information on the Losee and Bedell families in New Baltimore; Copied photos from Town historic photo collection for landowner of historic property. He welcomes photos originating in the Town, buildings and people, to borrow and make slide for Town collection. He is hoping people will come in, look and enjoy; NOTE: February 24- new slide show outside of the hamlet.

Supervisor reports receipt of resignation from Code Enforcement Officer Ray Blaisdell upon offer of position, effective December 30, 2013.

MOTION OCTOBER 28, 2013

Supervisor moved to accept Code Enforcement Officer Blaisdell's letter of resignation, seconded by Councilman Norris. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote, and the vote was as follows:

BENWAY-AYE FINKE-AYE MEREDITH-Absent
NORRIS-AYE O'RORKE-AYE

Motion Carried

Supervisor is sorry to see Ray leave, understands it is a good opportunity for him, and knows we will miss him.

County Legislator – no report

Town Clerk Brooks reports for September: building permits 7 \$479.50; decks/porches 1 \$75.00; conservation fees 12 \$61.48; dogs 21 \$162.00; replacement dog license tags 1 \$2.00; demolition permit 1 \$75.00; minor subdivision 1 \$60.00; certified copies 1 \$10.00; photocopies 40 \$29.50; recycle fees 2 \$36.50; total local fees to Supervisor \$990.48; to NYS Ag and Markets for spay neuter \$33.00; to NYSDEC for sporting licenses \$1,054.52; total local, county and state for month \$2,078.00. FOILS: received 2; completed 3; picked-up 2. Records Management: retirement buyback in search process; research for Department of Environmental Conservation Automated Licensing System (DECALS) enabling resolution, toward working with a new

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contractor in 2014, revealed that the Town had no previous resolution, now written and on November agenda; read 2013 10 28 correspondence regarding DEER MANAGEMENT PERMITS AVAILABLE NOV 1 (see website under News Releases); there are no leftover dmps in 4S, there are leftovers in 4B, Clerk's office will open at 7:30am on Nov 1; considering two upcoming Archives classes; reminder that vital records held in Town of New Baltimore begin with 1882; offered thanks to Ted Hilscher for responding so enthusiastically to inquiries; inquiries are also referred to Vedder Library, Greene County Clerk, Greene County Historian, and NYSDOH.

Supervisor asked how long DECALS has used current vendor; Clerk Brooks answered Verizon, about 5 years; adding with new vendor all sporting license fees are anticipated to be a little less.

Tax Collector Jordan reports for Oct 28: Sewer District No. 1 payments are accepted with 6% penalty through close of business October 31 or postmarked that day. Property taxes have been turned over to Greene County Treasurer's office. Anyone wanting to pay their Land/County tax must call or go to the Greene County Treasurer's office, 411 Main Street, Catskill. Water District No. 2 payments are accepted with 6% penalty through close of business October 31 or postmarked that day. Payments for Sewer District No. 1, Water District No. 2 and No. 3 must be made before October 31, 2013 close of business. The re-levy will be prepared on November 1 and then will go to Greene County. I will not receive payment after October 31, 2013.

Highway Superintendent Jordan reports Sept 19 to Oct 28: Mowed and weedeat all parks: Mowed and weedeat town hall; Hand patched with blacktop; Regraded dirt roads; Mowed and weed eat cemeteries; Installed NO SMOKING signs in parks; Mowed along roads; Cut brush and grass around street signs; Cut and chip brush along roads; Installed 35MPH signs on High Rock Road (*after nearly a year and a half, Town received response from NYSDOT following petition submitted by residents of High Rock Road and supported by Town Board resolution*); Patched washout on West Hawley Lane; Patched holes with winter mix; Patched holes with crusher run; Vacuumed leaves in hamlet; Cleaned ditch at sewer plant; Cleaned beaver dam from creek on West Deans Mill Road; Picked up bagged leaves in hamlet; Replaced some hydraulic lines on excavator; Put sander on 2012 International; Started to mix sand/salt and put in shed; Picked up garbage on Roberts Hill Road; Started to grader patch on Staco Road. Superintendent Jordan reports the *fast food* waste on Roberts Hill has slowed.

Buildings & Grounds/Recycling Operator Sebert reports: appliances 0; tires 0. Also, *free to residents*: 60 gallon bags of plastics 20; 55gal drums of cans 7; bundles of magazines 37; bags of newspaper 55; bags of shredded paper 10; boxes of cardboard 20; metal none. Also, 3 tires came from Highway crew. No applications for snow removing/maintenance laborer opening; Superintendent Jordan has spoken to two individuals.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Blaisdell reports for September: Building Inspections 27; Building Permits Issued 5; Building Permits Renewed 2; Building Permits Closed With Violation 3; Certificates of Compliance Issued 3; Certificates of Occupancy Issued 2; Commercial Site Fire Inspections 2; Court Appearances 1; Demolition Permit Applications Received 1; Demolition Permits Issued 1; General Complaints 1; Junk Vehicle Complaints 1; New Building Permit Applications Received 5; Code Violation Investigations 2; Zoning Violation Investigations 1; Application Fees for Sept \$629.50; Total fees to date \$9,532.86. Councilman Norris is sorry to see him go, has done a good job; Councilman Norris met with folks regarding unsafe building. Code Enforcement Officer Blaisdell reports contact has been made, somewhat resolved, 'game plan' in place, and with junk vehicles as well; Supervisor reminded that the Town Board wanted contact with the CEO and a plan.

Insurance Chair O'Rorke and Member Benway met with broker regarding health insurance; open enrollment for those in CDPHP (everyone other than those with BlueShield) begins Friday, Nov 1 and is notifying all employees; Held very informative meeting with broker and employees two weeks ago. In last couple years, Town has changed to a high deductible plan, working our way up, added HRA; always questions of what is covered under copay, employees are happy with CDPHP program, and asked Erin Nevins to check around for any plan that was lower; CDPHP

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continues to be the lowest, most economical plan that employees like and can use. Town Board has the proposal, Supervisor asks for decision at Nov 11, 2013 Regular Meeting, can stay at same deductible (\$2,500/\$5,000) or take up a notch (\$5,000/\$10,000). The premium for the (\$2,500/\$5,000) is \$86,628; the total possibility out of pocket, with the HRA, would be \$134,127. The higher plan (\$5,000/\$10,000) premium is \$50,673, with maximum out of pocket of \$95,000 for a total of \$145,673 or \$11,500 difference that the Town could be out. Supervisor said we are not maxed out on current HRA; we still have about \$18,000 yet. Supervisor believes it is worthwhile considering depending on the direction of the Board; no decision for tonight. Supervisor and Councilwoman Benway invite questions from the Board. Councilwoman Benway added it could save money, and could potentially cost \$11,000 more with worst case scenario. Supervisor added that Town is still saving over being in a traditional plan; coverage is same in both. Councilwoman Benway said one thing better; perhaps one extra visit. Supervisor summarized about 5% increase in premium over last year. Clerk Brooks reminded regarding the HRA that the reporting and posting with the bookkeeper is very good and daily; Supervisor reminded that original wasn't integrated with health insurance, depositing money and bills; now HRA is integrated with CDPHP. With the removal of 1989 backhoe, a premium reduction refund (\$183 net) was received from Marshall and Sterling Insurance.

Wastewater Treatment Operator Jim Polverelli had nothing really to report. Supervisor said contractor is well underway to get surety bond and insurances in place under contract, should have by next meeting. Then he is ordering pumps. There are items in builders' risk policy.

Planning Board Chair Rundberg reports for Oct 28: Due to lack of a quorum for the Oct 10 meeting, the Planning Board met on Oct 24, with the following business transacted: Completed the CSX Public Hearing for a minor subdivision. In the Regular Monthly Meeting: Approved, with conditions, CSX two-lot minor subdivision of property located on SR144 at Albright Road. Having received necessary Variance from ZBA, discussion was continued with Alcove Road resident regarding subdivision of a one-third acre from his property to complete a lot line adjustment with a neighbor; public hearing on the subdivision will be held at 7:15pm on Nov 14.

County Planning Board Report John Cashin reports two business site plans in Town of Hunter; reviewed an application for rezoning of IDA parcel in Cossackie for a possible distribution center; reviewed request to extend moratorium in Town of Cairo for resort expansions.

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Tooher reports for October: The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet on October 2 since there were no applications to come before the Board.

Comprehensive Plan Review Committee Chair O'Rourke reported in the Newsletter and asked for spot on website; Councilwoman Benway asked her to pick a spot [laughter]. Desiring public awareness and transparency, Supervisor said first report was published in newsletter and a couple projects are being looked at. There is inconsistency in Town zoning versus Comp Plan regarding the wording *mandatory conservation subdivision* which does not exist in the zoning. Group wanted to find better words in the Comp Plan for the actual zoning as it works, and there are Smart Growth requirements of all state agencies and the climate requirements. She anticipates the Town will seek grant funding for WWTP for things such as proposed project at Shiloh property on Madison West and, for that, the Town would have to prove Smart Growth, and would removing 'mandatory' lose us points in that grant process? All agencies are required to look at that; don't want to hurt the Town with word choices or inconsistencies; look at Smart Growth and Smart Climate, stay in compliance, natural resource inventory, good water inventory showing abundance or lack, and an historic preservation plan was also suggested in the Comprehensive Plan. Next meeting is Nov 21 at 7pm town hall. Councilman Norris added that most members believe original Comprehensive Plan was done very well and not much more needed to be done.

Assessor Bennett had no report at this time. Supervisor said 3 applications were received for the Board of Assessment Review opening.

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Economic Development Committee no report

Grants no report

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement Chair Norris reports discussion of an in-depth, conceptual plan of consolidated county-wide ambulance at the last meeting of Greene County EMS, including how to do it and costs. For September: ALS 9; total year to date (end of September): 52.

Technology/Website no report

Newsletter Supervisor stated the newsletter with budget information was out to everyone before tonight, with thanks to all the volunteers as it was done a little differently. In past, printed outside and mailed out by a mailing service, took quite a bit of time as Councilwoman Finke has reported. This was printed in-house with many volunteers on Monday and Tuesday nights to fold/label/sort. In the past, a bulk rate of \$249 was charged with each printing. This time, a bulk permit no.11 was purchased for \$200 in Coxsackie, and \$200 registration fee; Town now has its own bulk rate permit valid for one year and, by doing the sorting, will save about \$1,500. By dropping at Coxsackie post office on Wednesday, folks were receiving newsletter on Thursday. In 2014 we hope more will use online newsletter but, with good 3-4 volunteers to sort, this is valid for any mailing for which the Town may wish to use the bulk rate. Interestingly, the bulk permit process was hard to find; we found Coxsackie's experienced postmaster. Councilman Norris had a call today about the veterans' memorial that the Board had discussed and asked whether the Board had passed a resolution to form that committee; no, Supervisor said the Board discussed needing additional volunteers' names and then a resolution will be needed to form the committee. Councilman Norris clarified that, with no formal resolution, it was not announced yet in newsletter.

Animal Control Councilwoman Finke spoke with Officer Tanner regarding problem with voicemail backing up, as last year. Sometimes folks relate their life story; please keep messages short and sweet; he was working all weekend. Supervisor asked if voicemail duration may be limited on cell phone. Councilman Norris previously used texts; Councilwoman Finke texts him now. Councilwoman Benway asked if there was a way to increase mailbox space; Supervisor said call could be placed to vendor to inquire; Councilman Norris suggests changing his message to 'please keep it short'. Councilwoman Finke will look into it. Councilman Norris asked about the licensing fee; when we took it over from the state (2010) it became \$7 and \$10; many towns are charging twice that. Councilwoman Finke reports Town of Catskill charges \$5 and provides a senior discount. Councilman Norris believes Town of Greenville charges \$20, reflecting all the work needed. Supervisor asked Councilwoman Finke to check around for neighboring rates; Councilwoman Finke said no, she is opposed to raising the rate; Councilman Norris is the one who wants to raise it.

Parks Unfortunately Councilman Meredith is not present. Supervisor and Councilwoman Benway reached out to NYS Assemblyman Lopez regarding how the Town would go about selling a portion of town park acreage; after several inquiries, no response. However, Senator Tkaczyk's office has responded and is willing to work with Town of New Baltimore regarding possible legislation. It will require time but, unsure of Board's thoughts, do we want to have public information meeting or public comment period? It is not required to have a buyer in line; it can be addressed in the legislation, although a neighbor may be interested. Town had spoken to realtor who thought it would be desirable property, envisioning town homes, keeping easement with owner on the property, to hook up Open Space Institute/Town property, trails, and the marina riverfront to create a wonderful loop. Councilwoman Finke said informational meeting was first step, Councilman Norris agreed. November 11 Regular Meeting is scheduled for Veterans' Day and the newsletter has been mailed out. Supervisor said the website can be used as this is an informational meeting. Clerk Brooks suggested press release to newspaper for November 11 at 6:30pm meeting. Regarding Coxsackie OWLZ completed game schedule, will elect/portajohn/water be paid by club? Highway Superintendent Jordan has shut off the water at

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Joseph A. Wyche/District 1; all the rest are drained, Cecil C. Hallock/District 2 park was the only one in use.

Personnel no report

Agriculture Committee no report.

Seniors Ellie Alfeld hopes everyone knows that, other than seniors which the media failed to mention, you must re-file for STAR exemption. For the rest of the public, make certain you file; it is to your benefit. Clerk Fisk got a lot of response from seniors who were upset they may lose the exemption. Food and Fun luncheon, held October 9, 2013, served 67 meals with roast pork entrée and all had a good time. Their next luncheon, a turkey dinner, is November 12 and is open to anyone, no age or residence limit. Seniors core meeting will be held November 20 at 1:30pm; all are welcome for brainstorming. The just-mailed newsletter mentioned the Christmas party for seniors on December 4, by reservation call to Conrad Jurgens only, limited by Town budget. Clerk Brooks added that the STAR article in the Greene County senior newsletter is extremely good; copies are available in the back of the room.

Memorial Committee no report

Ag Fest Committee Kathy Rundberg reports having met at Rob and Shelly VanEtten's house on September 24. It was discovered that town clerk's office had emailed bills to Kingsley Greene for which he had reimbursed the Town. The AgFest is provided with and doesn't pay for certain services; the Town owes the AgFest \$732. Bills paid were portajohns, electricity, and garbage removal. Discussed were: new activities, soliciting new vendors with agriculture theme, better delegation of volunteer time, and areas needing improvement. Next meeting is November 12, 7pm, at Rob and Shelly's home. Supervisor asked for a voucher to be completed. Rob VanEtten understood that the insurance rider, \$915, was responsibility of the AgFest, but he also paid the portajohns and more.

Town Court no report

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no more from the Board or the public, **Supervisor moved and was seconded by Councilwoman Benway.** The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote, and the vote was as follows:

BENWAY-AYE FINKE-AYE MEREDITH-Absent
NORRIS-AYE O'RORKE-AYE
Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Janet A. Brooks
Town Clerk