

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2021 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AT 6:30 PM

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

OCTOBER 26, 2020

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation by Rick Chase from the Champlain Hudson Power Express

Reports

Supervisor

- Town of Coeymans Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law Entitled “Amendments to Chapter 80 of the Coeymans Town Code” on November 12, 2020 at 6PM at the Coeymans Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, NY

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- Approval of October 14, 2020 Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Tax Collector

Historian

Agriculture/AgFest (Chair Boehlke/Member Irving)

Animal Control (Chair Irving, Member Ruso)

Assessment (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Audit and Budget (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Buildings & Grounds/Recycling (Chair Irving/Member Boehlke)

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer (Chair Downes/Member Ruso)

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement (Chair Dellisanti/Member Downes)

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

Greene County Planning Board (Boehlke)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Boehlke/Member Irving)

- Resolution to Allow Supervisor to Sign Agreement with Crawford & Associates Engineering, PC for Solar Project

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Downes)

Technology/Website (Chair Downes/Member Boehlke)

Town Courts (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Veterans and Memorials (Chair VanEtten/Member Irving)

Wastewater Treatment (Chair Irving/Member Boehlke)

Youth, Parks and Recreation (Chair VanEtten/Member Boehlke)

Public Comment Period/Community Events

- November 4, 2020 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- November 9, 2020 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- November 12, 2020 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- November 23, 2020 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Audit of Claims

Adjournment

****** Agenda Subject to Change******

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC CONDUCT DURING TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

1. The Supervisor shall preside at the meetings of the Town Board. In the absence of the Supervisor, the Deputy Supervisor shall be the acting Supervisor. In the event both the Supervisor and the Deputy Supervisor are absent, the other members shall designate one of their members to act as temporary chairman. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn.
2. Town residents who wish to speak shall fill out a card at the entrances of the meeting room listing their name, contact information, and the subject matter in which they would like to speak. These cards will be collected prior to the beginning of the Town Board meeting and given to the Town Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor in the absence of the Supervisor.
3. Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer and then proceed to the lectern and state their name and address. They must limit their remarks on official town business to up to three minutes on a given topic and may not yield any remaining time to another speaker. They must address their remarks to the Board as a body and not to any member thereof and not to other members of the audience in the form of a debate.
4. Speakers should present their remarks in a courteous manner and may not make disparaging remarks or personal comments about public officials, town residents, or others. All speakers will observe the commonly accepted rules of courtesy, decorum, dignity, and good taste with no cursing, swearing, clapping, booing, finger pointing, bullying, whispering, or talking that disrupts the proceedings of the business of the Town Board.
5. Any speaker who disregards the directives of the presiding officer in enforcing the rules, disturbs the peace at a meeting, makes impertinent or slanderous remarks, or generally conducts themselves in an inappropriate manner shall be barred from further participation and will forfeit any balance of time remaining for their comments.
6. After a final warning, if a speaker willfully refuses to step down, the Town Supervisor shall contact the appropriate authorities to remove the speaker from the meeting room and to restore order.
7. The Town Supervisor, or in their absence the Deputy Supervisor, shall ensure compliance with these rules.

This policy will be amended by Majority vote of the Town Board.

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OPENING OF WORK MEETING

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Downes, Irving, and VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; County Legislator Linger; Town Clerk Finke; and 3 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Highway Superintendent VanWormer and Tax Collector Jordan

Supervisor Ruso: I had meetings back in March. I believe the last meeting I had was the day before the shutdown with Jennifer White of the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project and so it all went off the radar screen in subsequent months, but Mr. Chase is here to tell us what's going on. We have a resolution to consider and this is for the public to have some input into as well as certainly our Town Board members to ask question.

Presentation by Rick Chase from the Champlain Hudson Power Express

Rick Chase: Thank you, Supervisor; thank you, Board Members for giving me a few minutes on your agenda this evening. I'm here representing Transmission Developers Inc. and we are the organization proposing to construct the Champlain Hudson Power Express Transmission Line Project. As the Supervisor noted I'm here to give you an update on the project status and also to talk to you about what we call a Municipal Consent Resolution. The Municipal Consent Resolution does really two things: 1) because the route of the transmission line will cross New Baltimore Road, the Public Service Commission which is the New York State Agency that gave the overarching construction permit in New York State to build the project, asks that we obtain a consent from the local communities where they own roads under which we will install the cable. So the resolution, and I'll ask you to consider it at an upcoming Board meeting, does that as well as authorizes the Town Supervisor to enter into what we call a Road Use and Crossing Agreement and that's an agreement that will be discussed and executed sometime in the future once our detailed engineering plans get more developed. It will contain schedules, traffic control plans, the means and methods and how we'll install the cables. It will outline requirements to post bond, to indemnify the Town, to provide insurance, and it also will provide a fund with an initial value of \$10,000 which will cover the costs of any incremental costs that the Town might incur associated with the project. For example, in the future we'll talk to you about those detailed engineering plans and if you wanted to hire an engineer to review those plans on behalf of the Town, you can use those monies to pay for the engineer. And as you use the fund, once it reaches a certain level, we'll replenish it and you can continue to draw upon it to pay any incremental expenses as I said that the Town might incur associated with the project. So that's what the Road Use and Crossing Agreement will do and again that will be discussed again at a future date. The project itself is a 333 mile underground and underwater high voltage direct current electric transmission line that will import renewable electricity from Canada and deliver it to New York City. There's approximately six miles of the project located within the Town of New Baltimore and it will be constructed primarily within the CSX railroad right-of-way through the Town. The project is fully permitted at the State and Federal level. It's a \$3 billion investment in New York State of which about \$43 million will be invested here in the Town of New Baltimore. It's the largest single renewable energy project opportunity in New York. As you may know, probably know, that the State as well as New York City have passed laws that require a certain amount of the electricity used in New York State to be generated by renewable energy by certain dates in the future. In 2030 the State requires that 70 percent of the electricity used in New York State be produced by renewable power and by 2040 100 percent will be produced by renewable energy assuming that the targets are met. Very aggressive targets and we believe that a project like the Champlain Hudson Power Express which is 1000 megawatts is really needed to meet those goals. Construction will take place between 2021 and 2025. It will not be four years here in the Town of New Baltimore. It's likely to be one maybe two construction seasons at the most. Statewide the benefits are lower electric costs, cleaner air in terms of lower greenhouse gasses, and it will make for more resilient electric grid because the cables will be buried underground. During construction we anticipate about 1,000 direct construction jobs will be created and we intend to use as much local labor and local construction companies as possible. It's not really any magic to the project, there is some specialty work particularly you know where you splice the cables together; otherwise it's digging a trench, laying cable, and covering it back up. A little more involved than that, but essentially it's not much different than installing a water line or a sewer line. In terms of direct benefits to the Town of New Baltimore, it's taxes. We will pay property and school taxes to Greene County, Town of New Baltimore, Coxsackie-Athens and RCS School Districts. As I mentioned the line will be buried, it will be buried in a trench about 5 feet deep about 2½ feet wide. The cable looks like this. It's all solid state. There's no

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cooling fluids or oils associated with it. The electricity is carried from the copper core and the rest of it is insulation and armoring to protect the cable. In the trench these cables, there will be two cables about 18 inches apart, above the cables will be concrete slabs over the top to protect the cables from any inadvertent intrusion into the trench. Then there is a second layer of a material that's much like concrete and then warning tape and backfill and we'll restore the surface or in this case the road to the condition we found it if not better by the time we're done. I don't want this to be a monologue so I'll open it up to questions, but I do ask that you consider copies of what you have in front of you adopting a resolution at an upcoming Board meeting if you would.

Councilmember VanEtten: I'm curious. How does the value of something like this as far as taxes go, how is that assessed? How is the value of something like this assessed as far as taxes are concerned?

Rick Chase: It's based on the installed cost of the cable so it's the cost of materials as well as the construction cost and as I said it's about \$43 million here in the Town.

Councilmember VanEtten: So that would be the assessed value of that project, that would be significant tax.

Ellie Alfeld: \$43 million you said. Is not a part of that \$43 million the actual labor costs that are not taxable?

Rick Chase: As we understand it, it's the entire installed cost of the cable.

Ellie Alfeld: Just the cable.

Rick Chase: Cable and the cost to install it.

Ellie Alfeld: The labor is going to be in that figure and that's not a taxable amount as far as the Town is concerned. Just to clarify.

Rick Chase: I will say that we will be working with the Greene County IDA on a PILOT primarily to provide cost certainty not only for us, but for the Town. We're what is known as a merchant transmission developer inasmuch as we don't have any embedded customers like National Grid or Central Hudson so every dollar is very important to us and we'll be entering into fixed price contracts with the supplier of the energy as well as the end user of the energy and so cost certainty is very important to us and that's why we'll seek a PILOT payment through the IDA.

Supervisor Ruso: So it's not taxes it a PILOT in essence.

Rick Chase: Yes.

Supervisor Ruso: Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

Rick Chase: Yes.

Ellie Alfeld: Over ten years right?

Rick Chase: We'll be seeking a thirty-year PILOT.

Ellie Alfeld: Okay, there's a thirty-year PILOT.

Councilmember Downes: What's the life expectancy of this cable?

Rick Chase: We expect the cable to be in operation for about sixty years or more and that's a very good question about the length of the PILOT. The intent is to pay a PILOT for the first thirty years and then the year thirty-one and beyond we anticipate that it will be fully assessed.

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Councilmember VanEtten: And if there is a problem with it, then who's responsible to fix it like in the year 2025? If there's something that happens underground and there's some kind of a problem, who is responsible then to repair that?

Rick Chase: We would be, the owner of the transmission line. That's one of the beauty of this type of cable is that there's virtually no maintenance associated with it. There will be some minor inconveniences obviously during construction while we're installing the line, but once the lines are installed, you'll probably never think of it again because there won't be any requirements for municipal services, there's no impact on the school districts, there's virtually no maintenance to it. The way it works is that the electricity will be generated in Canada and it will be converted from AC power to DC electricity and then carried on the cable to New York City where it will be converted back to AC power and it's all electronics. There's no moving parts, there's not much to deal with in terms of maintenance.

Councilmember Downes: And is there like an ongoing testing of the wire all the time?

Rick Chase: There will be fiber optic cable installed with these power cables that will monitor the operation of the cable 24/7.

Councilmember Downes: So if a fluke happened...

Rick Chase: It would turn off quicker than the blink of an eye.

Councilmember Irving: Where is the power line terminated? Is it terminated at the ConEdison Plant?

Rick Chase: ConEdison owns a lot of the land right around where this will be located in Astoria, Queens.

Councilmember Irving: And they are doing the conversion from DC to AC?

Rick Chase: No, we'll be building the converter station and we'll be hooking into an existing substation known by the New York Power Authority and then from there there'll be AC transmission lines under some streets in New York City to a ConEdison substation where it will ultimately be put on the grid and that will be in Queens as well so it's a pretty short distance away.

Supervisor Ruso: I see the lines and the route that you have planned for a healthy section of this. You're gonna be on the east side of the line coming in from Ravena. You hop over to the west side of the line right near the Creek just beyond the Creek and then you're on the west side for a length of time and you hop back over at 144 back to the east side. So you start in the east, go to the west, and then go back down to the east. I know we had a conversation about that. Is that gonna stay that way or is it set in stone?

Rick Chase: It's not necessarily set in stone. The way it worked is that the Public Service Commission approved say a corridor, it's called a deviation zone, but essentially a corridor which for the most part matches the railroad right-of-way and we can install the cables anywhere within that corridor without having to go back to change the certificate. So there are opportunities to move the cable a bit, it switched sides probably because of there might have been some impediments. There might have been environmental concerns. I know one of the times, I think the first time near the Creek, we switched because there are some poles there and other things that we want to avoid. So there's generally reasons why they go back and switch sides from east to west.

Supervisor Ruso: So someone has actually maybe even walked this route?

Rick Chase: Yes, in fact our engineers with the contractors just walked it within the last week or two from the Albany area all the way down along the railroad.

Supervisor Ruso: I'm concerned about some of the homes right there at 144 and the railroad crossing. There's some homes that are rather close to the railroad tracks and I see that it looks like you're going to avoid them a little based upon where you cross.

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Ellie Alfeld: That's a tight spot.

Supervisor Ruso: That'll be tight.

Rick Chase: Well, I'll make a note of it, Supervisor, and pass that along to...

Supervisor Ruso: On the one side you have a house that's rather close, the other side from there you have a greenhouse business, and then where you change over to the other side basically where the old railroad station was. That should be fine, there's no homes there, but that will be probably your biggest challenge.

Rick Chase: Okay, well I'll make note of that and pass it along.

Supervisor Ruso: I will say that knowing some of the topography back there, I'm thinking about the west side of the railroad tracks, that's rather heavy rocky. I don't know how they're gonna get that out of there, but they'll have to bring a lot of equipment in for that. But that's my knowledge of it.

Rick Chase: That's helpful. Again during the detailed engineering phase of the project, when we're developing the plans, this isn't the last you'll hear from us as we develop the plans, we'll be consulting with the Town, your Highway Department, and whatever officials need to develop those plans and do it in a collaborative way because before we can begin construction, we have to submit those plans to the Public Service Commission and they go through a public process where they get comments on the plans and so forth so before we submit those to the PSC, we'd like to be on the same page with the host communities so that we're in sync before we apply for those final construction (unable to understand).

Supervisor Ruso: That gives me a couple questions. Number one, yes, it was back in March I met with Jennifer.

Rick Chase: Yeah, probably.

Supervisor Ruso: And I want to give good recollection of the dollar figures that she had expressed would be an estimate of what would be coming to the Town of New Baltimore and I'm afraid I cannot. Do you have that figure?

Rick Chase: I do. These are pretty high-level estimates. Once the project is ready to go into service, the value of the project will be recalibrated because of changes in the cost of materials and so forth and its unlikely things go down, they probably go up. But rough, very rough and this reflects the PILOT, the numbers that I'll give you, for the Town it's in the range of \$100,000-\$125,000 a year; the County's about \$150,000 a year, and the School Districts in the range of \$600,000 a year. Pretty significant.

Supervisor Ruso: As a last point in terms of the final determination is this in negotiation or is this a set figure?

Rick Chase: The PILOT?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes.

Rick Chase: I suspect it will be in negotiation if you know Rene VanSchaack.

Supervisor Ruso: And is the Town going to have any input into the negotiations or are we held at the bay to the whims of the IDA?

Rick Chase: Well, I've met with Mr. VanSchaack who is the head of the IDA and part of what he told me about the process is that he would like to get concurrence from all of the host communities during the approval process.

Supervisor Ruso: All that would take is Mr. VanSchaack could probably get concurrence if he only reached out to the towns with occasion.

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Rick Chase: Okay, well I'm just repeating what he told me.

Supervisor Ruso: So when you brought up them, I can see there's not going to be much negotiation on the part of New Baltimore so are we totally subordinate to the IDA or we will be in the room?

Rick Chase: Well, I can only tell you what he told me. It's probably a question better asked of him, but he said that he will be reaching out to all the host communities and school districts to try to get concurrence. However, he made clear that the final decision is the IDA's.

Supervisor Ruso: So if this is a done deal then why are we here?

Rick Chase: Well, it's not a done deal. We haven't applied.

Supervisor Ruso: Mr. VanSchaack has decided that the Town of New Baltimore will not have input into this. That's what I'm hearing. Am I right? Did I hear that wrong?

Rick Chase: I'm not gonna speak for Mr. VanSchaack.

Supervisor Ruso: Okay, thank you.

Rick Chase: He did say he would be reaching out, that's all I can tell you.

Supervisor Ruso: But at the end of the day it's his decision. That's what he also said.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, I think I probably want to work backwards. You said you had engineers walking the line. At that rate it means you crossed my property. I've not been contacted by anybody stepping on my property. I had that same complaint with Central Hudson and they know better now.

Rick Chase: They walked down the railroad right-of-way.

Ellie Alfeld: My property is the railroad right-of-way and the end of their property.

Rick Chase: But the railroad owns the property.

Ellie Alfeld: I had Central Hudson as my back line and right next to it is the railroad okay. They had to come by my property somehow or other getting in there or getting out of there in order to walk the line. Barbara's property is just over the Creek from me. One way or another she or I by east or west will be impacted by this project. Second of all and I take exception, you showed us this piece of equipment that's gonna hold all these power cables and am I correct you said it would be five feet down. Well, we have now a lawsuit going for a piece of property on the Thruway that only went down a certain distance. If something happens to that line and it has to be redug is there any way New Baltimore can be held responsible for the cost of repairs to that thing?

Rick Chase: No. Absolutely not.

Ellie Alfeld: That will be in the contract correct? I want the Town to be...

Rick Chase: Can be.

Ellie Alfeld: It should be.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, the indemnification clause that we spoke of, I did ask a question in the event of various things and the indemnification of the Town of New Baltimore was identified.

Ellie Alfeld: Five feet is nothing, we all know that. Is there any welding included in the joining of those cables?

Rick Chase: Welds?

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Ellie Alfeld: Weld.

Rick Chase: I don't know the answer to that. I can get the answer.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, I know when we put the pipeline in Alaska they had to weld...

Rick Chase: This isn't a pipeline.

Ellie Alfeld: I grant you, but it's gonna be something that's put in the ground that's gonna be connected and you want to make darn sure it works.

Rick Chase: Absolutely, absolutely. I don't know it's a welding process though.

Ellie Alfeld: This project is gonna be on the right-of-way of Central Hudson?

Rick Chase: CSX Railroad.

Ellie Alfeld: As CSX, same idea. When it comes to that we've had a second line of railroad put in in what is it the last two years?

Supervisor Ruso: Oh, heavens it's been longer than that. It's been about 2009, ten years.

Ellie Alfeld: The thing is we had no real input in that and now we're gonna have a third thing in that same area where we've got electric lines, we've got double trains and now we're gonna have you. Our Town's getting cut in half by all of these entities and we as a community are not benefitting a bit. You tell me 'oh, well, electric's gonna get cheaper.' I've listened to that from every solar agency that came in here and it's not the electric. It's the damn taxes that are on it that keep our bills up. It's not the product itself. So you're clean energy, that's fine and dandy, but it doesn't help me a bit.

Rick Chase: Well, the Town will benefit because we'll be paying taxes or Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

Ellie Alfeld: Your PILOT.

Rick Chase: Yes.

Ellie Alfeld: But we don't know how much.

Rick Chase: I gave you ballpark figures.

Ellie Alfeld: The schools are gonna get \$600,000 according to your figures and what are we gonna get?

Supervisor Ruso: A buck and a quarter.

Ellie Alfeld: There we go.

Rick Chase: I'm sorry I don't make the tax laws.

Supervisor Ruso: It's okay.

Rick Chase: There is a direct benefit.

Ellie Alfeld: All I want is fairness.

Rick Chase: No, I understand.

Supervisor Ruso: That's what I think we're all talking about here and I think that, yes, this has all been permitted. I mean the Town of New Baltimore can't stop this from happening, however, we can have what we can get out of it. We can't stop it. However, I think the devils are in the detail to some extent as Ellie brought forth, the indemnification clauses. The

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concerns I have about getting a fair treatment in terms of what's the true assessment; I am concerned about that. So I don't think any of them are show-stoppers, I think they're just crossing t's and dotting i's I think is all we need to do here.

Rick Chase: I did provide you via email, Supervisor, and I gave you a hard copy of the template for the Road Use and Crossing Agreement.

Supervisor Ruso: I have it right here.

Rick Chase: So that will give you a sense of the types of things we'd be looking to talk...

Councilmember Downes: How far off of the railroad tracks is this going?

Supervisor Ruso: Once I heard they were talking to him and we don't have a role, that's a problem.

Rick Chase: It's hard to give kind of a general answer because the railroad right-of-way changes, but it will be more towards the edge of the right-of-way as opposed to the tracks themselves.

Councilmember Downes: I was just wondering how far off the tracks it was gonna be.

Councilmember Irving: How is the line transmitted across the railroad bridges and the second question is it marked pretty much like an underground buried natural gas line every so many...?

Rick Chase: Yes, there will be some manholes where the splices are particularly.

Ellie Alfeld: Like the gas lines.

Councilmember Irving: Like the gas line. I don't know how far apart, are they about every mile?

Rick Chase: And we'll provide you with as-built drawings once the construction is over.

Councilmember Irving: How does it go across the railroad bridges?

Rick Chase: It will go underneath, it won't be attached to the bridge.

Councilmember Irving: Under the Creek or body of water or whatever's under there.

Rick Chase: And if it is a body water or wetland typically, and I'm not an engineer nor an attorney so I apologize, but essentially what they do is horizontal directional bore which is a tunnel underneath so they won't be cutting across it.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you for that. I really appreciate you coming by. There are so many people who had no idea and I was the only one that had a conversation with Jennifer.

Ellie Alfeld: This is the first we've heard of anything.

Supervisor Ruso: It was going to be probably in April, but forget those days.

Rick Chase: And just to reiterate that as we develop the plans, there will be a public process, that Notice will be given to adjoining landowners, they'll be signs in local stores or whatever public places, post offices with details of the schedule, etc. You don't need to wait for me to come back to a Town Board meeting.

Ellie Alfeld: I had to actually laugh because of the fact that when these public hearing are held by the Public Service Commission, they're in the *Times Union*. Big articles, but they're being held in Guilderland, they're being held in Rensselaer, they're being held in Cementon, but you don't see 'em being held...

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Supervisor Ruso: You don't see them being held in the central part of New Baltimore do you?

Ellie Alfeld: You don't see them anywhere, you don't see them in Ravena and Ravena's got a High School you can use for Public Hearings.

Councilmember Downes: The tentative start date would be what?

Rick Chase: 2021.

Councilmember Downes: Fall or construction period.

Rick Chase: I might say construction season, late spring.

Councilmember Downes: April, May something like that when we don't think there's going to be any more snow.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you very much, Mr. Chase. I appreciate you coming.

Rick Chase: Thank you for your time again.

Supervisor Jeff Ruso

The monthly financial reports for September have been forwarded to all Board members. Has everyone had a chance to review them? I would like to make a Motion to accept those reports, seconded by Councilmembers Downes and VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Boehlke

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Furthermore, I've received a notice from the Town of Coeymans that they will hold a Public Hearing on a Proposed Local Law entitled 'Amendments to Chapter 80 of the Coeymans Town Code' on November 12, 2020 at 6PM at the Coeymans Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, NY. And they need to announce to local nearby towns that they have this public hearing.

County Legislator Pat Linger

This month has been extremely busy with County business. In addition to our regular committee and Legislative meetings, the GC Police Reform and Reinvention Committee had their first meeting to garner public comment, the 2021 Tentative Budget was presented to the full Board, and I held a televised press conference to take NYS to task regarding a COVID-19 outbreak in the NYS run Greene Correctional Facility. I'll begin with the outbreak. Our PH department receives test results from COVID testing for any resident of the County, including inmates within our two State prisons, and regardless of where the sample was taken. PH made our Administration aware of a potential issue within Greene Correctional when 11 positive inmate cases showed up. Their concern was for staff testing, as those are the people who leave the facility and live in our communities. They raised the issue with DOCCS and we raised the issue through the 8-County Control Room. We learned that Corrections was only testing inmates, not staff. The facility refused an offer by PH to set up staff testing on-site. As case numbers rose, and staff were beginning to show positive results, we again offered testing. PH was allowed to test on site 6 days and many positive cases after the initial offer. In the meantime, contact tracing had shown positive cases related to the Correctional facility in both Greenville schools, a nursing home outbreak in Columbia County, and a parolee traveling to Syracuse testing positive the day after his release. At last count, over 130 inmates and 14 staff have tested positive. Information on staff movement within the facility was denied to PH for contact tracing, making it difficult to perform adequately. After nearly two weeks of failed communication through the proper channels, we decided a press conference was necessary. Following the press conference, DOCCS has realized some internal failures that have contributed to the spread outside their facility. We have been assured that visitation has been stopped, parolees will now be required to test negative prior to release, and PH has been granted direct lines of communication. At present time, these policies are only in effect for Greene and Elmira. We will continue to push for statewide changes. We have several active

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positive cases related to this outbreak, but now have access to internal information that will help us control the spread going forward. Initially, the inmate cases within the prison were counted against Greene County. We have been assured those numbers will be removed and not be held against our businesses and reopening plans going forward. The Police Reform and Reinvention Committee met on October 14 to hear concerns from the public. Unfortunately, many of those concerns dealt with the State Police. We have no control over their policies and they are exempt from the Executive Order. The next meeting will be October 28 at 6pm, and will be held to hear from the local police chiefs to learn about their policies. While this meeting will be open to the public, there will not be a public comment portion during this forum. The complete record of proceedings for this committee is posted to the County website, under the Sheriff tab, and is updated regularly. It includes all documentation, minutes, and a section for the public to submit comments and questions. The committee will need to submit a report with recommendations to be approved by the Legislature by April 1, 2021. The 2021 Tentative Budget was submitted to the full Board on October 21. Any changes to that submission will now need to be by resolution. The Public Hearing has been scheduled for November 2nd at the Catskill HS auditorium. This budget has been one of our most difficult, with a goal of no increase in the tax levy. It provides for all contractual raises and debt service payments, assumes a 20 percent reduction in State reimbursements, and uses \$2.5 million from the Sales Tax reserve fund to balance estimated expenses and revenue. Assuming only minor, or no changes, we will meet our goal. For taxpayers around the county, this means that 9 of our 14 towns will see a decrease in their levy. Property taxpayers in New Baltimore will see a reduction of 35 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, or a reduction of 5.4 percent from last year. In other cautiously optimistic good news, the latest sales tax reporting period was \$800k above last year and seems to be holding steady. The initial hope was to meet last year's receipts, but we may in fact exceed them. We finished 2019 with a little over \$3 million surplus. As I have mentioned previously, the CHIPS funding and State reimbursement reductions this year decreased the amount of road paving we were able to accomplish. Much of this work was done in the Town of Halcott after having been neglected for several years. Unfortunately, this emptied the personnel from the two mountaintop buildings to perform the job. Employees from the Freehold and Athens buildings were split up to cover the County while this work continued. Coupled with a department that was short by 6 employees, it left us shorthanded as well. There is still a small section of CR51 that needs to be finished and I have requested this section between School Hill Rd. and Shady Lane be finished during next year's season. They were only able to patch and trim trees this year. The engineers working on a solution to the CR61 slide believe they may have a plan that will save approximately \$500k. I have requested this work be put on the schedule for 2021 as well. There are several vacancies on various boards that we will be looking to fill over the next few months. The first is on the Advisory Council to GC Dept of Aging with vacancies in Catskill, Durham, and New Baltimore. Henry Boehm has retired from the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board and needs to be replaced for a 4-year term. We have one opening on the GC Fish and Wildlife Board, and a general public vacancy on the STOP DWI Board of Directors. Early voting is now open at the County Office building. Hours do include daytime, evening, and weekend times. The schedule is posted under the Board of Elections tab on our website. That may be enough information for most people to digest, but I'm happy to take questions.

County Legislator Linger: Ellie, I did get an answer on your question from last month regarding the Helping Hands Program. That is not a County program, that is through the Rotary Clubs in the various towns that were listed there. However, we do advertise for them because we have a bigger reach than any of those Rotaries and we also do some coordination for them. So if someone has, from the Town of New Baltimore which was not listed, some small project that might need to be done, they should call the Coordinator, who's Ken Brooks, and they'll go through it and see if it can be done.

Ellie Alfeld: If I hear anybody that needs it.

County Legislator Linger: And that's all run through their donations and their volunteers so it's not County money or County people doing the work, it's the Rotary clubs.

Ellie Alfeld: Did you report on the mortgage tax this past year, the collection of.

County Legislator Linger: I have not yet. We're not finished. I know we just received the last one was up significantly in the County.

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Ellie Alfeld: I've heard about a lot of real estate changing hand and mortgages and so I was questioning it might be available monies extra than over last year.

County Legislator Linger: It's very possible when we finish the end of the year it usually takes a month or month-and-a-half to go through and close out the previous year, but we'll see where it winds up. In the beginning of the year mortgage taxes were down.

Ellie Alfeld: I am really pleased about that sales tax. That surprised me and I think everybody else is really feeling a little bit lighter that we've reached that amount.

County Legislator Linger: Yeah, I was actually asked whether that would change the \$2.5 million that we had scheduled to use for next year out of that sales tax reserve fund. It won't change next year's budget because it will have already been approved by the time we find out if we had a surplus there or not. What it may do is rather than planning for a zero transfer into that fund, we may wind up having money that we can put in there so instead of starting at \$7.5 million maybe we can start at \$8.5 million.

Councilmember Irving: Contact tracing led to Greenville schools and the nursing home in Columbia County. Are you at liberty to say what nursing home it was?

Supervisor Ruso: I can tell you which one it was, it was in the newspaper. It's Ghent Assisted Living Facility on County Route 66 in Ghent.

County Legislator Linger: And that was spouse of a Corrections employee who was a custodian at that facility and didn't know it, but because our Public Health Department didn't have access to the contact information inside the facility, we had no idea.

Supervisor Ruso: I believe there was also an employee who worked at the prison who also works at The Pines. Did I hear that right or was it a family member?

County Legislator Linger: No, we had one who worked part-time at The Pines that worked for the County, but the one at the school also wound up out into a Boy Scout meeting because the procedures just weren't followed.

Councilmember Downes: So, Pat, during this pandemic were they allowed to have visitors?

County Legislator Linger: Up until last Wednesday, absolutely.

County Legislator Linger: So we told our elderly in nursing homes they couldn't have it, but we gave it to the prisoners.

Councilmember VanEtten: Absolutely.

County Legislator Linger: No tests were required to visit the prison.

Councilmember Downes: And the other thing is so today's my parole day, I just can walk out the door. I'm not held back or anything for testing or...

County Legislator Linger: No.

Councilmember Downes: So when I came back from South Carolina, I had to sit in my house for two weeks, but they don't quarantine them for two weeks before they let them out on the public.

County Legislator Linger: Correct. We also can't send an inmate to State prison who's been convicted and is state-ready and held in our jail. We can't send them to the same prison unless they test negative. So they have to test negative going in, but they weren't even testing them coming out until now.

Councilmember Downes: Or even if they had held them in solitary for fourteen days before they got out to make sure they were.

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County Legislator Linger: Our recommendation was to test them before they leave and then notify the Health Department in the County that they're going to so that they can quarantine them for fourteen days even after they test negative because they're coming from what's essentially a hot spot.

Councilmember VanEtten: Has the State picked up any of the funding for the testing at the prison?

County Legislator Linger: The State is testing all the inmates. The first round of employee testing we did. The remainder of employee testing, they're doing.

Ellie Alfeld: What's the time factor between the first testing and the second testing? Are we talking about weeks between this that you're testing the first lot and then a week or two later the others?

County Legislator Linger: Well we tested 97 employees last Monday and I believe it was Thursday or Friday that the State was going in to test the rest of the staff. It was the two weeks prior to that that led to everything getting spread out to the community.

Supervisor Ruso: These various Boards that you spoke of here are you looking for the Town or for us to present people in the Town to get you some names or is it...?

County Legislator Linger: These can come from anybody. There's just some openings that were there. Some of them have been open for a little while, some are relatively new.

Supervisor Ruso: I'll think about some people. Thank you.

Town Clerk Barb Finke

10 Building Permits \$2,933.55, 1 Building Permit Deck and Porch \$75, 1 Septic System Replacement \$40, 6 CO Searches \$90, 20 Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$122.64, 33 Dog Licenses \$246, 6 Late Dog License \$30, 1 Marriage License \$17.50, 1 Demolition Permit \$75, 9 Certified Copies \$90, 4 Photo Copies \$1, Recycle Fees \$55, State, County & Local Revenues \$5,857.80, to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for Spay/Neuter Program \$49, to New York State Department of Health for Marriages \$22.50, to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$1,953.36, Total to Supervisor \$3,832.94. I received 1 FOIL in September for a total of 14 for 2020. The annual Townwide Yard Sale map had 39 entries and was available at Town Hall, the New Baltimore Reformed Church, Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company, and the Medway-Grapeville Fire Department. It was advertised in the Times Union and the press release was sent to the Daily Mail, Ravena News-Herald, and the Greenville Pioneer. This was the first year we did not have any sales at District 2 Park. I would like to thank the Highway Department for putting up and taking down the signs again this year. I participated in the webinar on The Ups and Downs of Town Budgets by Katie Hodgdon and Sarah Brancatella from the Association of Towns.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The October 14, 2020 Town Board Regular Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember VanEtten. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Boehlke

Motion Carried

Tax Collector Diane Jordan

No Report

Historian Ted Hilscher

No Report

Agriculture/AgFest

No Report

Animal Control

No Report

Assessment

No Report

Audit and Budget

No Report

Building & Grounds/Recycling Coordinator Kirk Trombley

15 Tires Up To and Include 16” Without Rim \$30, 1 Tire Up To and Include 16” With Rim \$3, 1 Tire Larger than 16” Without Rim \$7,50, 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastic) 6, 18 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 31 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 40 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, October 24 1 Washer, Total Income \$40.50.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Alan Jourdin

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for September, 2020, is as follows:
Building Inspections: 27 Building Permits Issued: 12 Building Permits Renewed: 3
Building Permit Renewal First Notice Letters Sent: 4 Building Permit Renewal Second Notice Letters Sent: 5 Certificates of Compliance Issued: 1 Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 6 Temporary Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 1 Commercial Permits Issued: 1 Demolition Permit Applications Received: 2 Demolition Permits Issued: 1 Manufactured (Mobile) Home Permits Issued: 2 Total Number of New Building Permit Applications Received: 16 Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 10 Open Building Permits: 153 Septic Tank Replacement Applications: 1 Septic Tank Replacement Permits Issued: 1 Sign Permit Applications: 1 Sign Permits Issued: 1 Application Fees for September, 2020: \$3,133.55 Total Fees for Year to Date: \$10,813.40

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement

No Report

Grants/Promotions/Economic Development

No Report

Greene County EMS Representative Nick Dellisanti

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. There were 7 EMS calls in the month of September for a total of 60 for this year, 2020. We had a total 90 calls for all of 2019.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: I’m hoping that the next two months will keep us below that figure, but it looks like we’re increasing as the year goes on.

Supervisor Ruso: These 60 are valid through September 30 or October 20?

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: That was as of September, we haven’t gotten October’s figures yet.

Greene County Planning Board Representative Jean Horn

No Report

Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer

No Report

Insurance

No Report

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Personnel

No Report

Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten

The Planning Board met on October 8 with the following business transacted: ...Continued discussion with Attorney Jon Kosich on behalf of property owner regarding required information needed on maps for filing to bring a non-conforming parcel into compliance as well as to reflect an easement never documented for a landlocked parcel behind property owner's parcel. ...Continued discussion commenced at August meeting with representatives from Solar Generation. Solar Generation proposes to construct a 6.4MW Solar Farm on parcels owned adjacent to already approved and constructed solar project on e/s Route 9W north of Route 144. The Planning Board will at this point seek an Engineering Firm to assist in the review of this project. ...Received Minor Subdivision Application for a two-lot subdivision of the 86-acre parcel owned by the Estate of Armand Bozzetti on School Hill Road. A nine and a half acre parcel containing the residence will be sold and the balance of the acreage will also be sold to a neighboring property owner. Required Public Hearing on the application was scheduled for 7 p.m., November 12....Discussed with 9W property owner possible development plans for his property.Representatives from a Real Estate Management Firm proposing to purchase the Budget Motel were present to discuss with the Board their proposed plans for the site. This firm focuses on the purchase of distressed properties needing renovation and requiring new management. Before proceeding with further discussion and possible required applications, the Board recommended that they speak with CEO Jourdin and the New York State Health Department to see if proposed plan is possible.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 139-2020
OCTOBER 26, 2020

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW SUPERVISOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH CRAWFORD & ASSOCIATES ENGINEERING, PC FOR SOLAR PROJECT

WHEREAS an engineering evaluation for a solar project has been requested by the Planning Board.

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the Supervisor to sign an agreement with Crawford & Associates Engineering, PC for Solar Generation's Oriole project.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Boehlke

Motion Carried

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Pat Linger

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet on October 7, 2020, since there were no applications to come before the Board.

Town Courts

In September, Court fees were \$18,294 of which \$9,687 was sent to the State Comptroller and the Town retained \$8,607. Justice Huff \$6,281 Justice Melewski \$12,013

Wastewater Treatment

No Report

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Audit of Claims

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 140-2020
OCTOBER 26, 2020

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 2020b-10-01 to 2020b-10-20, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2020b-10-01 to 20120b-10-20,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will prepare and abstract and hold it for public review until December 31, 2020.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Boehlke

Motion Carried

General \$24,128.87, Highway \$1,173.31, Sewer 1 \$122.50, Sewer 2 \$157.09, Total \$25,581.77

Public Comment Period

None

Community Events

- November 4, 2020 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- November 9, 2020 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- November 12, 2020 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- November 23, 2020 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Ellie Alfeld: November 3rd Election Day

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Boehlke

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Good night.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC
Town Clerk