

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 4/29/2021**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 5/10/2021**
PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW 1 OF 2021
CHANGING THE DATE ESTABLISHED FOR GRIEVANCE DAY
FOR REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT REVIEW
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
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OPENING OF PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Ruso Opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also Attending: Councilmembers Boehlke, Downes, Irving, and VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; County Legislator Linger; Town Clerk Finke; Highway Superintendent Jordan; Town Assessor Maxwell, and 8 members who signed the Attendance Book

Supervisor Ruso: ‘The Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:45 PM at the Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, New York to hear those members of the public who wish to be heard regarding proposed Local Law 1 of 2021, a Local Law changing the Date Established for Grievance Day for Real Property Assessment Review. **PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2021 A LOCAL LAW CHANGING THE DATE ESTABLISHED FOR GRIEVANCE DAY FOR REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT REVIEW *BE IT ENACTED*** by the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore, as follows: SECTION 1. Title This chapter shall be known as “A Local Law Changing the Date Established for Grievance Day for Real Property Assessment Review.” SECTION 2. Authority This chapter is enacted pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §512, which established grievance day as the fourth Tuesday of May, but enables a Town to change such grievance day by local law. SECTION 3. Statement of Purpose The Town of New Baltimore employs a sole Assessor who also serves as the Assessor for other assessing units. Pursuant to the authority granted in Real Property Tax Law § 512 the Town of New Baltimore wishes to establish a date for the meeting of the Board of Assessment Review to hear grievances other than that established in Real Property Tax Law §512(1). SECTION 4. Grievance Day The Town of New Baltimore hereby adopts as its grievance day the first Thursday following the fourth Tuesday in May and so many days thereafter as the Board of Assessment Review deems necessary for the purpose of the Board of Assessment Review hearing complaints in relation to assessments. SECTION 5. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State. By Order of the Town Board Barbara M. Finke, Town Clerk’

Supervisor Ruso: For those that would like to speak about Local Law 1, we can hear your perspective. This is a good time. We have our Town Assessor here in case there’s any specific questions that would go to him.

Ellie Alfeld: Only question I have is at the last Town Board meeting I asked if you were going to notify the residents of this Town, especially the seniors who might be impacted by the change and not know about it. Was that done?

Assessor Maxwell: By law I have to notify the Town in multiple ways. I have to put it in the Town paper. I send out change of assessment notices to anybody who’s had a change in their taxes and they’re notified of the new dates. It goes on our website. It goes on our Town Clerk board. Those are the ways that by law I have to notify the public. I don’t think we have the resources to send out a letter to everybody in Town, but those are the ways that I have to do it anyway. I’m open and willing to do more than that if asked. I know this is an inconvenience to do this for me and I appreciate that you guys are open to moving the date a couple days later.

Councilmember VanEtten: When a person grieves how far in advance would they put in their application? So when they put in their application, there’s an application process to grieve I’m assuming so at that point, too, you would be telling people what date it is.

Assessor Maxwell: So on March 1 is when everything is as of that date. So somebody changed something on March 2, I wouldn’t change the taxes on it. So it’s as of March 1. So from March 1 to Grievance Day, they’re allowed to file a grievance up until that very last day. So technically we’re giving them two extra days at best, something that interests people. But, that’s the timeframe when they’re allowed to file a grievance. If they file it early enough, I’m allowed

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to review it which kind of gives them multiple chances. So if they want me to review it let's say in April and maybe they do or don't like what my answer is, if they don't, then they're allowed to go to the Grievance Board in May. So they are allowed to file it early which would be encouraged.

Ellie Alfeld: Justin, the reason why I question this Notice is because New Baltimore has very little coverage in the papers as to what happens in our Town. I know some of the seniors a lot of the seniors don't even get the local newspaper. I appreciate and I understand what you have just said, however, some people when a barn burns down or a house has a fire and has a lot of damage, if they don't notify you, you don't know that now they've had a property damage that would impact their assessment. I'm just looking to make sure with everything that I've said more than once that the people in this Town get notified of changes. That's it. Not you I'm particularly picking on, I'm picking on the system.

Assessor Maxwell: Anything like that if something burns down or if there's a drastic change, usually Code Enforcement finds out and they get it right to me. I get building permits and things like that, demolitions. I get those all month long. Really the only reason why I asked to move it two days later is you know I do this in multiple Towns...

Ellie Alfeld: Conflict.

Assessor Maxwell: I do this for a living in multiple Towns and last year I spent two hours here and two hours in another Town where I'd rather spend the full amount of time in each Town. If would be helpful for the Board. So that's why I asked to move the date and the State gives you a two to three week window, it doesn't have to be that week. They give you a timeframe where you can use any one of those dates.

Ellie Alfeld: And the previous Assessor did the same thing you do, multiple Towns.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, common.

Councilmember Downes: So basically if someone had a change in their assessment, my assessment went up \$1,000 whatever it is, you would have notified me of the Grievance.

Assessor Maxwell: Any changes in assessment, they get notified.

Councilmember Downes: They get notified that the change of date of the grievance.

Assessor Maxwell: Yes, in the letter it will say what the Grievance Day is, there's also specific times in the month of May where I have to be available if they want to call and talk to me, and it will say in the letter you can call during these hours, I'm available if you have any questions and the Grievance Day. So anybody who saw their taxes go up because they built a garage, there's an incredible sale, they get notified if I change something and those are the most important people...

Councilmember Downes: But that would be with the new dates?

Assessor Maxwell: With the new dates.

Councilmember Downes: With the new dates right? So if for some reason like I said it went up, you would send it with that Thursday date?

Assessor Maxwell: Yeah. If this is approved, they're gonna get it this week or next week. That's when the letters are gonna go out.

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Councilmember Downes: So nothing's gone out to them and said to them it's Tuesday.

Assessor Maxwell: And I haven't put a notice in the paper yet because I'm just waiting for it to potentially be official.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Can notices be put in the post office also just...

Assessor Maxwell: Sure. Yeah, I can put a notice there.

Supervisor Ruso: On the bulletin boards, yeah.

Assessor Maxwell: On the bulletin boards, that's fine.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten to close the Public Hearing at 7PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC
Town Clerk