

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AT 6:30 PM**

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

**OCTOBER 25, 2021**

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

**Reports**

Supervisor

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- September 27, 2021 Town Board Work Meeting
- October 13, 2021 Town Board Regular Meeting

Tax Collector

Historian

Agriculture/AgFest (Chair Boehlke/Member Irving)

Animal Control (Chair Irving, Member Ruso)

Assessment (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

- Resolution to Appoint Board of Assessment Review Member

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)

- Resolution to Seek Posted Speed Limit Signs for Old Kings Road and North Ridge Road

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

- Resolution Appointing Part-Time Clerk

Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution

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

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)

- Resolution to Approve Use of Bank of Greene County Youth Program Grant for the Cornell Hook & Ladder Auxiliary Children's Holiday Party

**Upcoming Meetings**

- November 2, 2021 Town Offices Closed for Election Day
- November 3, 2021 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- November 4, 2021 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- November 8, 2021 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- November 11, 2021 Town Offices Closed for Veterans Day
- November 22, 2021 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- November 25-26, 2021 Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Audit of Claims**

**\*\*\*\* 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.

### **Public Comment Period/Community Events**

#### **Adjournment**

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Supervisor Ruso opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 PM. Also attending Councilmembers Boehlke, Downes, Irving, and VanEtten; Deputy Town Supervisor Dellisanti; County Legislator Linger; Town Clerk Finke; Highway Superintendent VanWormer; and 12 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Tax Collector Jordan

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you for joining us each and all. This is our Preliminary Budget Hearing and I gonna read the following so we get off to the right start: **‘TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** Notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 6:30 M at Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, New York to hear those members of the public who wish to be heard regarding the 2022 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 at the Town of New Baltimore, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087. Proposed Salary Figures of Elected Officials are as follows: Town Council (4) \$5,000 Town Justice (2) 12,000 Town Supervisor 12,000 Town Clerk 40,000 Superintendent of Highways 57,000 By Order of the Town Board Barbara M. Finke Town Clerk’

**Supervisor Ruso:** So having started that, I’ll just make mention of the process. We always start with by code the Tentative Budget which was discussed at length last couple of meetings and we’re moving into the Preliminary Budget. The Final Budget, Barb, what’s the night of our Final Budget?

**Town Clerk:** 8<sup>th</sup>?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, 8th of November. So, you’ve all had an opportunity to review this and give us an opportunity -- I’m talking about the Town Board here -- to make changes. Some of you have asked me questions here and there along the way and I hope you’ve all been satisfied, but if you have any others please ask me. Anything from the Town Board? I satisfied everybody? Doesn’t always happen. Thank you anyway. Alright so now we can hear from the members of the public who wish to speak regarding your perspective on the budget so we open that up to the public. Please step up, we like to get your comments in the Minutes.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** And the first item I just want to make sure I have the correct numbers. I think I do. On page 2 of 5 the Supervisor salary went from \$7,925 to \$12,000.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Correct.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** And the Deputy went from \$1,000 to \$2,800.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Correct.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Then on that same page we have the Town Clerk went from \$31,416 to \$40,000 and the Deputy Town Clerk went from \$16,380 to \$32,000 and there is no longer a Tax Collector. So I see that for the Supervisor, that was a little over than \$4,000; the Deputy Supervisor is \$1,800, Town Clerk approximately \$8,584 and the Deputy Town Clerk is a difference of \$15,600. So I’d like to go to it is Page 1 of 2 New Baltimore Highway Fund. So I’m sure Alan knows, I don’t know if the rest of the Board is aware, that we are the lowest paid Highway employees in the area compared to other towns and I see Road Maintenance Personal Service on that page it went from \$230,700 to \$232,000. Is that correct?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yes.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** So my calculator says that’s like \$1,300 increase for the Town Highway Department. I believe there’s six employees is that correct?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Six right now.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Six so that comes to like \$232 a guy or woman for the whole year. I think that’s really raw to give those hardworking rank and file men and women such a low pay when

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the other salary increases were you know over \$1,000 and more. I do understand that the Highway employees recently unionized or are in the process of being unionized. Is that true?

**Supervisor Ruso:** They have signed a union card and we are just about to begin negotiations. Until the negotiations are final, all benefits and wages by law are frozen. We know that in the State, we know that with the County, they had a four-year freezing so there are contingencies in the event that the negotiations are finalized during 2022. They're not going to be done by '21 obviously. We cannot indicate, let's just say we're in negotiations so we're not gonna preempt the negotiations. They have a union, they have to negotiate on behalf of the employees so that's where you're going to. I just wanted to make sure you...

**Eileen Vosburgh:** So where is that money that possibly would be for an increase for these men and women now? Where is that located?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I have some money in the transfer that would be considered toward that. You might see it there, it's on DA5031.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** On that same page?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** DA5031.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Bottom of the income column.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So we've built a contingency, can't say what it will be. I actually don't know if it's gonna be done in '22 or not. I don't want to predict the future; I find that difficult.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** I know Ellie can attest to this, but we've seen repeatedly they've lost people over and over and it's mostly from what I understand for a better job for...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Mixed bag; it's a mixed bag.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** It seems to be that some people can make better or the same money like in a fast food and I think that, I hope that that the Board will treat them right and get them a decent wage so we stop losing the skillset that we have especially since there has been large increases and I don't begrudge anybody those salaries, but they are large increases.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I don't want to predict again the outcome of the negotiations. I don't have any reason to believe they won't be satisfied at the end. I would hope so.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** I think roads are the most important part of what the Town does for our residents in order to get to work and whatever. Did the Town Board have any expenses for an attorney for these union negotiations?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Can you tell me how much they...?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, as of this moment it's \$2,501.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** And how much is that an hour do you know?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I really don't know, I don't recall.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** \$2,501 so far.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's right on the sheet.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Where is it? I'm sorry.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Top line on the Expense section of the Highway Garage.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Legal Fees, okay thank you. So that is two of my things. Where's the federal money in the budget here. The federal monies. I think you said like \$360,000 we were supposed to get.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** But part of it we don't get until next year; half this year, half next year.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We got some of it. That's already been received this year.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** But this is '22 budget right?

**Supervisor Ruso:** There's some issues with putting it in here and I'll tell you what it is. We need to present a budget that has a \$0 bottom line, \$0 balanced and we didn't include that ARPA money for 2022 because we don't have an exact amount where we will be spending it. I tend to believe most of it is going to be spent on the Water District in Scheller Park, but we don't have an expense in the Water District as you can see because we don't have the final dollar figures. In fact, we're not even close to the final dollar figures. So that money is not in the budget as it wasn't in 2021. It's not easy to put anticipated grant receipts in any budget because it doesn't always turn out to be the way you had hoped.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Have you received any monies yet?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, we received half of that \$332,000. It was \$166,000.

**Town Clerk Finke:** That was mentioned at a Board Meeting.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** \$332,000?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** \$166,000 has been received.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Half of the \$332,000 was received.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Half of the \$332,000, but that \$116,000 isn't in here?

**Supervisor Ruso:** \$166,000 that we anticipate in 2022 is not in the budget.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Okay, even though you received it.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Because you don't know where it's gonna go.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, we don't know where it's gonna be spent is part of it and we have people that guarantee we're going to get them, but we don't have anything in hand. I don't actually like to even put it in until I really receive it because we've received promises that sometimes are two to three years out and we budget the expense without the income then we have to balance the budget and it will come out of the taxpayers, we have to raise their tax rates in anticipation of a grant that probably will come, but what if it doesn't come next year. And the same thing has happened with grants we've had for parks and other things in times gone by.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** That happened with the Highway money on the state level correct?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, we spent some of that money and you've got to submit, actually you can go further on that because the anticipated CHIPS money toward the tail end of last year when we prepared our budget, didn't consider all the changes for those PAVE-NY and CHIPS and what was the other one, Alan?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Extreme Winter Weather.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Winter Weather, thank you. So we were going to have a significant amount higher in 2021 than we had budgeted and we're also gonna spend that same amount of money which we are required to do.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Can you tell me Page 1 of 5...

**Supervisor Ruso:** This is on the General Fund?

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** I believe so. It's Page 1 of 5 and it is under Revenue, Unclassified Revenue. Can you tell me what that is?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Sometimes there's sale of items that could go in there. Occasionally there's other fines or fees. It's kind of like the miscellaneous account line item and they're very...

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** And on that same page a little bit up Building Permits, it says the Final Budget for 2021 was \$13,000, but the Actual as of 10/6 was \$131,592. What's the difference there? Where'd that money come from?

**Supervisor Ruso:** That was a surprise wasn't it?

**Councilmember Downes:** Yes, it was.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We received a building permit of \$123,000 from one of the solar projects. So that's why it's such a high difference, but we're not gonna budget for that happening every year.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Right. So this is not something that we would have to return if that solar project...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh, heavens no. This is in the bank and available. We did increase that line item by \$7,000 because based upon the money that has come in, the timing of the money that's come in, it looks like our regular building permits are going to be about \$7,000 more than they are this year. Who's gonna put a deck on and who's not next year, is not perfectly well known, but it looks like that revenue is trending upward, normal revenue is trending upward.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** So I want to go back to my first question about the salary increases, specifically the increase to the Town Clerk, and it was and also that the Tax Collector was abolished and at that time it was stated it was for energy and efficiency reasons, but it seems like that didn't happen.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That's a question or a comment?

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** I'd like you to comment on that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh, sure. Well, there's a number of other factors beside that. Yes, that department has been combined so that goes toward some of it. Some of the other things are because of 2020, all the wages were suppressed. We didn't give any raises last year until we found out what was going to happen. So the only people who got a raise last year, and it didn't happen until February, were the clerical people in this building. The Highway didn't get it because they signed a card asking for representation in negotiations and that had happened prior to that event. So you have the combination of increasing salary and combination of at least two different positions, one also is the Assessor's Clerk which is going to be paid for out of the Town Clerk's line item, so there's additional people in there as well.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** I thought there was a personal... Okay, so you're saying the Assessor's Clerk is part of the Town Clerk Personnel and has that person been hired?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Part of that increase for the Deputy. Not quite yet, no; we've interviewed.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** What is the salary for that person?

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Probably gonna be about \$17 an hour.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** \$17,000?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** An hour.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Oh, an hour and how many hours?

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's gonna have some variability, but I'm gonna suggest it's gonna be about 12 hours a week. It's gonna be up at the assessment time and down at other times.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** So I don't know if the townspeople are going to understand that \$17,574 increase for the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk eliminating the \$6,630 for the...

**Supervisor Ruso:** We found that we had to increase a lot of our clerical people for a couple reasons. One is the continued increase in the minimum wage. We have some of these people who have been here for moderate times making \$12.50 an hour. They can't stay there. Two, there are people who have here lengthier years who aren't making a lot more so we have, and this is accounted for in the budget, we have increased the lowest paid people in Town Hall to about \$17 an hour. That's pretty much most of them. Some are a little bit higher because they already have been a little higher. Some got a 2% raise because of where they were, but that significant dollar figures that are attributable to some of these line items that you speak of.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Well, the Town Clerk specifically was \$8,584.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, and if we kept her there she would be paid less than the Deputy Town Clerk.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Actually, isn't the Deputy full-time Town Clerk going to make, oh yes, is going to make \$32,000.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, a combination and that position's only 32.5 hours a week.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** That answers my questions, thank you.

**Judy Felsten:** And I have two brief questions. The first is the newsletter came out, but I did not see any notice of the budget hearing in it and I wondered if it had been publicly noticed?

**Town Clerk Finke:** It's in the newspaper. He (Supervisor Ruso) just read it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, it was in the newspaper.

**Judy Felsten:** I didn't know you were reading that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That was the public notice that was in the newspaper. Truthfully the internal newsletter it could be added to it, there's no question about it.

**Town Clerk Finke:** We weren't even sure when it was going to get out.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We weren't sure when people were gonna get the mail. I got mine today.

**Judy Felsten:** Oh, okay, I got mine last week.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I didn't get it today.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So we had to have it published and we weren't sure if people were gonna receive it.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I didn't get it yet.

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**Judy Felsten:** I mentioned it because I figured that more of us read the newsletter than read the legal notice.

**Supervisor Ruso:** The legal process for noticing is also the newspaper and posting other places.

**Judy Felsten:** I know it is, but it doesn't reach a wide audience.

**Town Clerk Finke:** That's State law.

**Judy Felsten:** I know.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I agree by the way because I don't think the *Daily Mail* is reaching many people and I think that maybe the *News Herald* to some extent in one corner of the Town, but not much further then there if you go to Greenville area. We have to follow the process.

**Judy Felsten:** I'm not saying you shouldn't, I'm just saying I would appreciate it being in the newsletter. Okay, the other thing I wanted to ask about and this may relate more to general business than to the budget is what the components of the fiscal stress score are because it seemed like they're kind of a gift in having this huge surplus that would make a lot of problems.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Gift of having a surplus? I'm not sure how to respond to that.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I'm confused.

**Judy Felsten:** Well, that's why I'm asking what the actual components of the score are not just having a lot of money.

**Supervisor Ruso:** There are other components to the score and there are some that have to do with community stress factors such as the age of population, the number of people on public benefits, and it speaks to the wellbeing of the community. Some of those things we have very little control over. The most variable section has to do with deficits, the most variable section as it relates to the Town Board. The Town Board, it's really a three-year running average -- what has been your Fiscal Stress from when this particular case would be '18, '19, and 2020 -- and as you get more surpluses in a row, you come down in scores. If you have a deficit, you'll go up in scores. So that really is the most variable component to it and the ones that we have the greatest discretion over and that is not spending over what we budgeted. Sometimes that's a risky endeavor if you cut it too close, you don't know. Like, for instance, I'm also worried about the cost of things going up. We've all heard about inflation hitting people and so forth. How's that gonna affect us? Do I look at historical data or do I have a crystal ball and say 'oh, that's gonna go up?' So those are the things that we worked on, Kelly and I particularly, on terms of our budget going forward every year trying to get a good guess because a lot of these line items are guesses based upon some information, but do I know what the cost of electricity is gonna be next year at the Highway Garage? Okay, not perfectly sure, but we have a good idea. Okay, I hope that answers your questions.

**Judy Felsten:** Yeah, it's also why I mentioned how nice it was to have all this building permit funds.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It would be nice to get another big one like that.

**Judy Felsten:** Just one last, the ARPA funds as I understand it are supposed to address the effects of the pandemic.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, but there's a lot of strings, a lot of strings.

**Judy Felsten:** But I wondered what you considered particularly the fiscal impact of this pandemic on this community and Town?

**Supervisor Ruso:** On the Town? We weathered it fairly well really not knowing how it was gonna work out. The ARPA funds have a restriction. They can only be used for largely two

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items. One, it is the infrastructure improvements; Two, there is a level of that that is also to refund the Town for lost revenues and that's on a line item basis not overall. Now our revenues were down in 2020.

**Judy Felsten:** In what area?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Overall, however, some categories were – not in 2021 by the way. but in 2020 -- some categories were more affected than others such as fines from the Courts because the Thruway was shut down pretty much for weeks on end and so was the Courts. Building Permits for 2020, some of the figures I worry about are the increase in building permits is based upon a suppressed level of action. I mean contractors were't allowed to work. So we're allowed to use revenue declines as well as infrastructure. Well, infrastructure, we have \$332,000. What infrastructure project do we possibly have that would cost up to \$332,000? We would talk about water, we would talk about sewer, we would talk about lots of things, but everything was millions of dollars. Millions. We don't have millions coming to us, we have \$332,000. Well, the significant loss that we had during the pandemic was the Water District. The repair of the pipe, if anyone knows who was at those meetings, the pipe is 100-something years-old and it went from the Cossackie line right up into Scheller Park and the only part of that 100-year-old pipe that was replaced was the part under the Thruway. The distance beyond that point is still 100-year-old pipe which who knows when that will go. So our goal is to try to replace much of if not all of that 100-year-old pipe and those other ancillary places so that they don't have the same problem whenever in the future. I think that the pipe being 100-year-old, I think that we probably should have looked forward I mean in times gone by certainly. So that's where we're going to be able to use that money. It's the only thing that we have out there that can even come close to that \$300,000-some-odd.

**Judy Felsten:** The impact of the pandemic might be that you had to delay replacing that section during the pandemic or do you have to go that far?

**Councilmember Downes:** It burst.

**Judy Felsten:** I know, the part that your replaced it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It was given because of the pandemic, but it's...

**Judy Felsten:** I just wondered if it had to relate in some way.

**Supervisor Ruso:** What was our cost for the pandemic? A lot of masks, there were people that were home, but we paid their salaries, the clerks for instance who didn't come to work for weeks. We managed that well.

**Councilmember Downes:** Nobody lost their job, nobody went on unemployment.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We didn't fire anybody or lay off anyone.

**Judy Felsten:** We got through.

**Councilmember Downes:** We can't say the same surrounding towns.

**Councilmember Downes:** And that grant sounded very general when it read, but when you actually read it all the way through, it was very specific.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I put in for lots of things. I put in for a new handicapped ramp out here and they said 'no.' I said 'that's infrastructure' because this handicapped ramp is not good and that would improve access. It's falling apart.

**Judy Felsten:** I think she's agreeing with you.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I put in for that and it wasn't allowed. I said 'that's infrastructure.' No. So we gave it a good faith effort in other areas because truthfully this money is given to the Town of

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New Baltimore. I didn't want to have the people in the Water District affected, but on the other hand this money should perhaps go to everybody townwide, but nothing else was acceptable under the strings as I said earlier.

**Judy Felsten:** So you already put in proposals and got them okayed?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I've already indicated what we want it for.

**Town Clerk Finke:** We had a Special Meeting.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, we had a Special Meeting. That is not submitted, but I had the engineers and the attorneys involved does this fit? No. So I had legal and the people from Delaware Engineering also their legal team said 'no, sorry.'

**Councilmember VanEtten:** They're gonna kick it out.

**Supervisor Ruso:** If we do that and we spend the money on the ramp if you want to go there and when it gets audited, it's gonna kick it out and we're gonna have to pay the federal government back. We don't want to do that. That's the ARPA money and there's no real free money I guess, but it's better than nothing. At least the people in the Water District can be benefitted.

**Bonne Torcia:** And I just want to clarify your statement that you made to this woman earlier about the state law as far as the men that are unionized, the highway men. So while your statement is true to some degree, there is nothing that prevents the town from giving them an increase. Things are frozen, you cannot take things away from them, but there's nothing that says that you cannot give them more money.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I think you're technically right.

**Bonnie Torcia:** With that being said, they signed union cards almost two years ago and the Town's lawyer has dragged this out so they've been without raises for two years almost and I would hope that this Town does right by them and I just wanted to make sure the townspeople understand what's been going on.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, let's just back up a minute. The cards were signed November 15<sup>th</sup>. That's not a year yet, but closing in on it. It wasn't two years.

**Bonnie Torcia:** It's been almost two years.

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, it was November 15, 2020.

**Bonnie Torcia:** I don't think so.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, that's when I was served. If they signed them but never sent presented them.

**Bonnie Torcia:** With that being said, I just hope that you do right by them.

**Supervisor Ruso:** If they signed them before that date but never presented them to me in official capacity until November 15<sup>th</sup>, there is no action to be made. To say when employee x or y signed them, I really don't know, but when they were presented it was November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Bonnie Torcia:** Okay, fair enough. I'm just saying that I just want to clarify your statement that you're telling people that you can't give them a raise. That's not true, you can without negotiating, you can.

**Supervisor Ruso:** What's the purpose of having someone negotiate?

**Bonnie Torcia:** Well, I'm just saying that you can give them money. That's my point.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** And the process of negotiation., one doesn't do that. However, yes...

**Bonnie Torcia:** Granted. I just want to make sure clarifying the statement and that the townspeople understand.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Do you live in New Baltimore?

**Bonnie Torcia:** I do not. I represent the Teamsters.

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

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Did you tell me how many hours that was for the lawyer for the union?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I don't recall?

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Under 10? 200?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh, it wasn't that many, but it was more than 10. I just don't know. If I threw a number out I could be mistaken.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** The other question is who's the Attorney, the change in the Attorney line, let me find it, Page 2 of 5 and Attorney Personal Services this year is, it's under General Fund almost toward the bottom, so...

**Supervisor Ruso:** I see what you mean. It was \$18,000, it still is \$18,000, but it's broken out. Some of it is under Personnel and some is under Contractual, but it's a \$0 sum gain.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Right, but what's that about?

**Supervisor Ruso:** The Attorney's gonna be a salaried employee for much of his stuff, for routine Town-type stuff.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Oh, he wasn't before?

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, he wasn't. There will be add-ons as lawsuits may arise that are not part of the contract. That's what's the other \$6,000 is.

**Eileen Vosburgh:** Does that benefit the Town by putting him as a salaried employee or like two-thirds?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Gives me a little more discretion that's all, not that he hasn't been responsive, but just really minor things.

**Ellie Alfeld:** I only have one question. According to everything I know, we are appointing or have just appointed a new Assessor.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Correct.

**Ellie Alfeld:** I believe you said eight hours per week.

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, she's a salaried person, the Assessor. The Assessor's Clerk is the one we were interviewing.

**Ellie Alfeld:** How many hours a week are we requesting from the new Assessor in a week?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, she's planning on putting in two days a week, but she's gonna chop it up in two different ways. Shelly, you dealt with this more than I did.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** She is gonna work two four-hour days.

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**Ellie Alfeld:** I don't really believe that we can do justice to the taxpayers on such a short workday. Is this what she's also giving to the Town of Athens?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I don't know, but we do have the Clerks now and all the Clerks will be trained in all the positions

**Ellie Alfeld:** But the Clerk is gonna work under Barbara?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** All the Clerks will be under Barbara and they'll all learn all the other jobs.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Cross-training.

**Ellie Alfeld:** So sometimes that Clerk will be delegated by Barbara certain things to do. I'm saying that in prior years we have had a Clerk a lot more available to the citizens of this Town and I think we need a little more hours than this.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, our prior Assessor, actually our two prior Assessors, did -- this last one said he did one day a week, of course, and he did not need an Assessor's Clerk. The one before that would put in four to five hours a day one day a week.

**Ellie Alfeld:** And he worked for four or five other towns.

**Supervisor Ruso:** About four hours a day once a week. This one is going to do four hours a day twice a week. The Assessor is probably more that what you've seen in the past. Furthermore, we also don't think that his plan without a Clerk was really working so we're adding clerical hours and as I said I'm going to suggest based upon workload, that it's gonna be about 12 hours a week. Now I know that the Assessor has a lot of workload come March so to say that week you're not gonna do 20, I'm not, but in the middle of summer when there is not that workload, maybe it's gonna be eight. I can't say, but that's the rough estimate of what we need as a yearlong budget, not specific to the time and date, but a yearlong budget. That's what we have in mind.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Jeff, the only problem I have is I don't want hear that I have an Assessor who sits in that desk, has drones or whatever doing the surveying of maybe building permits, changes in property so that our tax roll is accurate by visual not by what somebody said to the Assessor or what a drone can give your for information.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Who's doing drones?

**Ellie Alfeld:** There are towns in this state that are doing drones.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I'm sure there are; we don't have one.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I wouldn't be surprised. I think what you'll see is more hours of service particularly at those peak times.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Well, I want an Assessor that's out and about checking out what he's responsible for. That's what I'm talking about.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Good idea. Well, alright the Public Hearing has been closed. I think we've heard pretty much from our public.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten to adjourn the Public Hearing at meeting at 7:08 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC  
Town Clerk

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Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:12 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Boehlke, Downes, Irving, and VanEtten; Deputy Town Supervisor Dellisanti; County Legislator Linger; Town Clerk Finke; Highway Superintendent VanWormer; and 12 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Tax Collector Jordan

***Supervisor Jeff Ruso***

**Supervisor Ruso:** I know that you folks have received the monthly financials for the month of September. They've been forwarded to all of you. Have you had a chance to review them? I note that I always looked at the September reports as a very good gauge to how we're gonna turn out at the end of the year. I will suggest based upon our three-fourths of the year, 75% of the year done, we're gonna have a pretty good surplus once again. The exact dollar figures are yet to be seen, but I think we're gonna be alright.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes to accept the September financials

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***County Legislator Pat Linger***

First, I'd like to update you on a few items I've previously reported on. Paving and striping on CR 51 and CR 61 has been completed for this year. GC Highway continues to monitor the two slides on CR 61 and we've approved the engineering and design costs for replacement of the Coxsackie Creek bridge to take place in 2023 and that project will likely include the stabilization of the slides that's in that area. The repairs to CR 17 in Jewett are ahead of schedule and that road will be open to traffic tomorrow with final pavement and final stream mitigation to be completed next spring. I met with officials from CGCC regarding their updated plans through 2026. I participated in a round table discussion on Saturday regarding rural broadband funding with the Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development. We were able to express the concerns we typically have with USDA funding, and offer suggestions for improvement to help small rural communities to apply. Following this discussion, Congressman Delgado and the Under Secretary held a press conference announcing \$1.15 Billion in funding being released for projects like ours. This press conference was held in Greene County because of the progress we've made in accurately mapping street level maps of the "final mile" of service required. Under Secretary Torres Small has offered to write a letter of support if we apply. The study we recently finished shows 96% broadband coverage, and 1,300 addresses on 186 miles of roads in Greene County that remain unserved. We released two major announcements on the economic development front this month. First, the approval to purchase 2.2 acres of land from the NYS Thruway surrounding the former Quality Inn site in Catskill, now known as the 21 East project. The Thruway Authority approved the sale to the County in late September. This acquisition will enable the most efficient re-development of this property. We will take possession shortly and turn the property over to the IDA, who has already reimbursed us the \$421,000 purchase price. The IDA will then merge all parcels into one, and subdivide into 3 or 4 individual parcels to be developed. The first parcel will be sold to Stewarts, who wishes to move across the street with a new building. As part of the development agreement with the IDA, the County will receive the first \$800,000 from the sale of these parcels to reimburse taxpayers for the taxes owed. The second announcement is a partnership with CMH to develop a medical campus on the 21 West Business Park property. Using ARPA funds, we will extend the natural gas line to that 61-acre parcel, a necessity for their project. It will also allow us to place a new community health building to replace Mental Health in Cairo, and build space for public health uses. We expect CMH will announce additional partners in this venture shortly. This will bring much needed health care services and good jobs to Greene County, with space and infrastructure to expand in the future. We approved a contract to move to a new single-stream recycling contractor. This will enable Greene County to recycle much more waste than our current system allows. We've also approved a negative declaration for our composting facility in Catskill, and expect to move ahead on this soon. Regarding composting, we're investigating equipment that will use

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compostable bags for homeowners to use and drop off at one of our transfer stations, and will convert 500 lbs of organic waste per day to a highly concentrated compost. We advanced scheduled paving at the fire training center from next year to this year. Given the fact that we're paving the shared parking lot with the soccer field, this move will result in a more efficient and cost-effective project, saving approximately \$18,000. You may have seen the NYS Attorney General announcement of settlements with opioid producers. GC has open cases against these producers as well. This month, we resolved to sign on to the larger settlements, avoiding costly and uncertain litigation. These settlements should net GC somewhere between \$600,000 and \$1.2 million, over a period of several years, to be used locally in fighting our own opioid epidemic. Next Saturday, November 6 at 10 am, we'll hold our Honor a Vet ceremony. This year, our honoree is Vietnam War Veteran Equipment Operator 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Tom Andreassen from Catskill. Please join us at the Point for the ceremony that returns this year after cancellation last year due to Covid. Majority Leader Lawrence and Minority Leader Lennon recently resurrected a former "Greene County Treasures" program. This year we honored Chris Allgozine, a GC Boy Scout troop leader who led over 180 scouts to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Bob Beyfuss, a 40+ year member of Cornell Cooperative Extension who has helped GC mitigate everything from Lyme disease and gypsy moths to invasive species, and Tom Plank, former GC Sheriff Deputy and one of the last DARE officers in NYS who will retire next spring. We hope to continue this program into the future.

**County Legislator Linger:** Just a reminder, I did mention last month our Tentative Budget Public Hearing is this Wednesday at Catskill High School at 6PM, zero levy increase.

**Rich Guthrie:** Just a quick clarification, the bridge replacement that you mentioned is where?

**County Legislator Linger:** Over Coxsackie Creek, the further south one as you're heading toward Coxsackie on River Road.

**Rich Guthrie: On 61.** That's Sickles Creek.

**County Legislator Linger:** No, that's the one that's just down the hill from the farm. It's the next one heading toward Coxsackie.

**Rich Guthrie:** Both of them are kind of not great shape.

**County Legislator Linger:** They are, that one we can use for Bridge New York program to fund that so that's the first one they're heading for. Sickles Creek is gonna be a larger repair there.

**Rich Guthrie:** Timetable for that?

**County Legislator Linger:** For Coxsackie Creek, it's on the schedule to build in 2023. So the design, all that will be done next year, construction in 2023.

**Rich Guthrie:** Thanks very much for looking at it.

***Town Clerk Barb Finke***

4 Building Permits \$910, 1 Deck & Porch \$75, 1 Septic System Replacement \$40, 5 CO Searches \$75, 4 EZ Pass Tag \$100, 19 Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$134.26, 18 Dog Licenses \$126, 1 Replacement Tag \$2, 1 Late Dog Licenses \$5, 1 Junkyard \$100, 1 Marriage License \$17.50, 1 Demolition Permit \$75, 1 Excavation Fees Culvert Under Driveway \$35, 1 Solar Residential \$50, 1 In-Ground Swimming Pool \$100, 8 Certified Copies \$80, 1 Commercial Zoning \$200, State, County & Local Revenues \$4,353, to New York State Agriculture and Markets for Spay/Neuter Program \$24, to New York State Department of Health for Marriages \$22.50, to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$2,181.74, Total to Supervisor \$2,124.76 The Townwide Yard Sale was held on September 18 and Lynn Taylor and I added 42 sales to the map. Ads were placed in the Times-Union and press releases were sent to the *Daily Mail*, *News Herald*, and *The Greenville Pioneer*. Announcements were also included in September State Telephone residential bills. Maps were available at Town Hall, District 2 Park, the Reformed Church, and Cornell Hook & Ladder.

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I would like to also thank the Highway Department for installing and removing the three signs around Town. I attended a New York State Town Clerks Association Regional Conference on Monday, September 20 at the Desmond Hotel with the New York State Retirement System. The subject was the Reporting of Time for Elected and Appointed Officials and there was no cost to the Town.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I think that I did want to point out something else that we had budgeted, another part of the budget that we didn't discuss, we budgeted for 2021 the Clerk Fees would be \$2,500 and through the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, Barb's Clerk Fees are actually \$3,800. That's already \$1,300 more than we budgeted and we still got a couple months left to go and because she was that much more improved, we thought we'd turn the screws up a little budget for her to receive \$4,000, but, nevertheless, thank you

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The September 27, 2021 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, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The October 13, 2021 Town Board Regular Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Downes. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Assessment***

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

**RESOLUTION 157-2021**

**OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEMBER**

**RESOLVED** that Lynn Taylor is reappointed to the Board of Assessment Review until September 30, 2026.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Lynn, as most of you know, was our former Tax Collector. I think she'd fit in perfect.

***Building and Grounds/Recycling Coordinator Kirk Trombley***

September 29-October 25 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastics) 8, 15 Bundles of Magazines & Phone Books, 35 Bags & Bundles of Newspaper, 55 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, September 29 and October 20 2 Microwave Ovens

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**Supervisor Ruso:** We did get a check during the month, I can't remember the dollar figure, but it was for metals that were donated, inclusion of such things such as microwave ovens.

**Janet Kash:** Chuck, we've been having trouble recycling our plastics out at Greene County, they're not taking a lot of them. Is the New Baltimore one still taking all of them regardless of what symbols they have on them? What is the difference there? Do you understand what it is?

**Councilmember Irving:** Actually I'm looking into that. I'm aware of what you are taking about because I take my recyclables here and there.

**Janet Kash:** We have like a ton of plastics in our house that we know we can't take to Greene County.

**Councilmember Irving:** Pat might be able to fill you in on that a little better than I.

**County Legislator Linger:** Yeah, that's actually part of our switch to a single stream contractor. You'll see an increase in the number of plastics that they'll take.

**Janet Kash:** At the Greene County facility?

**Councilmember Irving:** That was interesting. I'm glad you brought that up.

***Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Alan Jourdin***

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for September, 2021, is as follows:  
Building Inspections: 26, Total Number Building Permits Issued: 8, Building Permits Renewal Letters Sent: First Notice 3; 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice: 1, Certificates of Compliance Issued: 7, Certificates of Occupancy Search Requests: 6, Demolition Permit Applications Received: 1. Demolition Permits Issued: 1, Total New Building Permit Applications Received: 10, New Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 8, Open Building Permits: 173, Outside Boiler/Woodstoves, etc. Permits Issued: 1, Solar Roof-Top System Application: 1, Pool Permits Issued: 1, New Septic Systems: 3, Septic Field Replacement Permits Issued: 1, Application Fees for September, 2021: \$1,250.00, Total Fees for Year to Date: \$134,393.92

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

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. There were 7 EMS calls in September for a total of 76 for this year, 2021. We had 89 calls for all of 2020.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Which is leading me to believe we will be going over what we had last year.

***Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer***

Installed 60' of 15" culvert pipe on School Hill Road, Cleaned ditch on School Hill Road, Spread item 4 on School Hill Road and rolled, Mowed parks as needed, Bagged dead grass at Cornell Park, Mowed along roads, Blacktopped entrance to Lydon Lane, and in front of Town Hall where we plow, Picked up fresh oil signs from roads that we chip sealed, Picked up garbage from Town Hall, Got 1996 International inspected, Cut dead and hanging limbs at Cornell Park, Picked up garbage dumped on Scheler Park Road, Installed new fuel tank on 1985 International Truck number 9, Hauled in washed screenings for winter, Cleaned up fallen tree on Lime Kiln Road, Grader Patched Staco Road with Blacktop, Cleaned up fallen tree on Deans Mill Road, Serviced all plow trucks and checked over for winter, Patched intersection of Rt.26 and Honey Hollow Road with blacktop, Grader patched Lime Kiln Road, Mowed, weed wacked, and cleaned up Cornell Park for a wedding, Cleared beaver debris from culvert on West Deans Mill Road, Picked up steel from Albany Steel to rebuild grate system on 1993 International sander, Truck number 4 this was done inhouse, Cleaned up fallen tree on West Deans Mill Road, Serviced John Deere Loader and washed, Put new muffler and tail pipe on 1997 International Truck number 14, Adjusted clutch on 1985 Oshkosh Truck number 6, Winterized bomag roller and put away for winter, I attended the annual fall conference of the NYS association of Town Highway Superintendents in Saratoga from Tuesday September 28 to to Friday October 1<sup>st</sup>. There were a little over 400 highway superintendents from throughout the State in attendance.

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**Bonnie Torcia:** So in his report he spoke about that he had bought parts and that the men fixed the trucks so is anyone designated as like a Mechanic? Is there designation between, is there an actual?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Not specifically.

**Bonnie Torcia:** So if the Town outsources that work it would really cost a lot of money to outsource that to a mechanic correct?

**Supervisor Ruso:** It depends upon what it is, of course.

**Bonnie Torchia:** So the men that work for the Town Highway are doing work that if you outsourced it, it would cost a lot more money,

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah.

**Bonnie Torchia:** Just putting that out there.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alan, I had question for you. I had a request from a Town resident and I meant to call you and I know it's somewhat being addressed in the next resolution. It's somewhat being addressed, but a request for a speed limit sign on Deans Mill Road not far from your home. And when you come off of Route 51, there is no speed limit sign for quite a distance and the homeowner points out that the...

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Are there any on that road?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I think there's one close...

**Councilmember VanEtten:** It's West Deans Mill.

**Supervisor Ruso:** West Deans Mill, excuse me.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** If there's a sign already there, we can go ahead and put one up. But if there's not one there, the speed limit is 55 mph. So whoever this is, we can talk about it after, all they have to do is send me an email with a request.

**Supervisor Ruso:** He's about three doors from your house.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I don't know all the times I drive that if there is a sign there.

**Supervisor Ruso:** You and I will address it.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** That's our policy.

**Councilmember Downes:** So that's the process, we just need to email or they need to email.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** They need to send a request and fill out that form

**Supervisor Ruso:** Parts of that road should not be 55.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** It's not a quick process. I did one for Schoolhouse Lane two years ago and still haven't gotten anything back.

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

**RESOLUTION 158-2021**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**RESOLUTION TO SEEK POSTED SPEED LIMIT SIGNS**  
**FOR OLD KINGS ROAD AND NORTH RIDGE ROAD**

*WHEREAS* a number of families with young children live on Old Kings Road and North Ridge Road Highway Superintendent VanWormer has received numerous requests for posted 30 MPH speed limit signs.

*WHEREAS* without said signs, the speed limit will remain 55 MPH.

*RESOLVED* the Town of New Baltimore supports this safety concern for families on Old Kings Road and North Ridge Road, forwards support to the Greene County Highway Superintendent, and requests that said proposal be submitted to the New York State Department of Transportation for a lower maximum speed on said roads.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

*Personnel*

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

**RESOLUTION 159-2021**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING PART-TIME CLERK**

*WHEREAS* a vacant Clerk position exists and the Town has advertised said position in the *Daily Mail* for one week.

*RESOLVED* that Sandra Trombley is appointed at a salary of \$12.50 for a maximum of eight hours per week.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'll point out that in a previous conversation we've mentioned this position was going to assist the Assessor and as of January 1 that's when that raise goes up to \$17 for those that don't know

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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*Youth, Parks and Recreation*

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

**RESOLUTION 160-2021**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE USE OF BANK OF GREENE COUNTY YOUTH PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE CORNELL HOOK & LADDER AUXILIARY CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY**

*WHEREAS* the Grants Committee received a 2021 Youth Grant from The Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation with the expectation that a Summer Recreation Program would be held.

*WHEREAS* due to COVID precautions and the delay in guidance from the Governor's Office, the program was not held and the grant was not used.

*RESOLVED* following approval from The Bank of Greene County, \$500 of the 2021 Youth Grant will be transferred to the Cornell Hook & Ladder Auxiliary for the Children's Holiday Party.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

**Councilmember Downes:** Just so everybody's aware we did check with Medway-Grapeville and they are not doing a Christmas party this year. So that's why all the funds went to Cornell.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Correct, to add to that I had correspondence with the President of the bank. They're the ones who gave us the grant and he emailed me, I just wanted it in writing, he emailed me and said 'we think it's a great idea, please use the funds.'

**Town Clerk Finke:** It's attached, the correspondence is attached.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten***

The Planning Board met on October 14, 2021, with the following business transacted: ...Maps were presented and approved by Planning Board to correct the non-conforming status of two parcels owned by Daniel Aggers and Sandra A. Slater on Route 51. ...Special Use Permit application submitted by Erin Patrick and Erol Kekic several months ago and then revised from a ground mount solar system to a smaller ground mount/roof mount system was approved. ...Discussion was continued with Hannacroix Solar representatives on the solar project planned for property located just south of New Baltimore Thruway Service area. ...Maps were presented to correct the non-conforming status of parcels owned by New Baltimore Station and for Paul Schiller. The Board found them to be in order. Copy was referred to attorney for Town for his review prior to Planning Board Chair stamping and signing. ...Discussion was held with a Town resident regarding possible proposed plans for a parcel owned fronting on both 9W and School House Lane.

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***Town Court***

The following is the Town of New Baltimore Court monthly report for September 2021.

- Total September monies received was \$27,764.00
  - Judge Melewski            \$13815.00
  - Judge Huff                 \$13,949.00
  - State/County Share \$16,978.00    Town Share \$10,786.00
- Total 2021 (January-September) monies received \$267,098.00
  - State/County Share \$171,884.00    Town Share \$95,214.00

Total New Cases Received 164

***Audit of Claims***

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

**RESOLUTION 161-2021**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**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 2021b-10-01 to 2021b-10-24, it is

**RESOLVED** that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2021b-10-01 to 2021b-10-24.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until November 30, 2021.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

General \$33,566.54, Highway \$12,235.04, Sewer \$395.83, Total \$46,197.41

**Upcoming Meetings**

- November 2, 2021 Town Offices Closed for Election Day
- November 3, 2021 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- November 4, 2021 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- November 8, 2021 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- November 11, 2021 Town Offices Closed for Veterans Day
- November 22, 2021 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- November 25-26, 2021 Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

**Supervisor Ruso:** Now we're gonna talk a bit here if you don't mind, we do have an Executive Session that we'll go into in a few moments, but I wanted to bring forth some correspondence I received. I just got it today, I guess it was dated from a couple days, but I'm glad it came up. It's important and I'll read it. It says 'Dear Supervisor Ruso and Town Council Members, On Monday morning, September 20, Marjorie discovered that her two political signs in support of Thomasina Winslow had been uprooted from their places along the road in front of her home at 1106 Medway Earlton Rd. One sign was entirely gone. The placard of the other sign was laying in a puddle, its metal framework missing. On Saturday morning, September 25, Phil and Anne discovered that the political sign in support of Thomasina Winslow placed at the end of their driveway at 1250 Honey Hollow Road was missing. On Tuesday afternoon, October 5, Anne and Phil discovered that the political sign at the other end of their road frontage, which was intact at 9 in the morning, was gone at 4pm. We don't have to tell you that tampering with

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election signs is a crime. The unneighborly and undemocratic behavior cannot be tolerated, no matter one's political persuasion. Accordingly we ask that: oThe Town Supervisor and Town Council issue a press release decrying such tampering with election signs, and reminding Town Citizens that such actions constitute a crime under New York law. oThe Supervisor read such press release aloud, and into the minutes, at the next meeting of the Town Council. oIf necessary, the Town's ordinance be amended to prohibit tampering with another person's election signs. We are confident that each of you will join us in condemning such behavior. Sincerely, Marjorie S. McCoy Anne W. Mitchell Phillip H. Hershberger'

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I'm gonna go out front and say absolutely right and I'm really glad that someone sent this to me.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yeah, it's been a problem all the time.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Because I don't think it's a surprise that I think a lot of peoples' signs are being messed with and I could hardly write a letter to myself asking me to do some action so I'm glad you guys brought it up is my point. And I don't know if it's worse than normal. It's been going on for years. This is not my first election, but it seems to be kind of stupid and I don't know if it's one person who hates all politicians or it's people from different persuasions. I will say that I know the candidates, of the six candidates, there's not one of them who I would question their integrity. None. So it's somebody acting on their behalf. One person told me it was an older woman who came by her house and took the signs.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I would have thought it would be kids.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I gave her a new set of signs. I have signs with some of our names on them that someone took a black magic marker and wrote foul language. I mean not just taking sign so, I don't think it was said here, but defacing them is wrong too. Now a crime is a crime and I would really hope that people will call the Police. Of course, who did it? You wake up in the morning, your sign's done, whatever. I know that Mr. Dellisanti had someone drive across his lawn and damage to the signs are the minor part of it. I'm disappointed in what's going on so I'm glad that this was brought up. I'm glad to know it's not just one side because then it's more targeted, not that I want anybody to be targeted. It's really shameful.

**Councilmember Van Etten:** We've had a lot of problems in our neighborhood with people driving through lawns, through hayfields. Somebody ran down a deer in our hayfield the other night and not to say destroying tons of hay. So there's been a lot of things going on. What are they gonna do?

**Councilmember Boehlke:** It's definitely not restricted to political activity by any means.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Sometimes it seems it, though.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** It does, but it's happened every year every time anybody's campaigned.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Nevertheless, I will join whomever in condemning and a lot of regards I'm not necessarily for those that know what I try to do here, I try to keep the political side different from the operational side. I don't like to necessarily get in the middle of it. In a sense, I'm not in favor of doing a resolution, but I do think that everybody up here and I will say forthwith and strong words I, too, and I think that we do need to be condemned and I would like the Police to be called especially if you know who did it.

**Ellie Alfeld:** That's the problem.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** That's the problem, it's in the middle of the night which I'm surprised it's an older woman. Who can stay up that late.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's a crime. This one here gives an indication it happened in the daytime.

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**County Legislator Linger:** Just to reiterate your point, it is a crime just as the letter stated. Please call the Sheriff's Department. Stealing a sign is petit larceny, if you damage a sign it's criminal mischief, and if the sign was taken under the purviews so somebody can't express their First Amendment rights, then it's a violation of the First Amendment rights. So there's multiple ways that this can go, please call the Sheriff's Department.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I know that one person said that they didn't want to stir up any problems and they just asked for new signs.

**Councilmember Downes:** And like Shelly said, my neighbor they went right across their front lawn. I don't know if any of you know the old Deyo house right on 26, they went right across the lawns to grab it and ruin the front lawn.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, anyway, I'm glad they brought it up because as I said it's highly inappropriate for me to write a letter to myself, but thank you to Marjorie, Anne, and Phil. We do have to retire to the back room for an Executive Session and I'll read it as to what our reasons are: 'the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation' Basically what I'm saying is we're gonna sit and talk about personnel matters that should not to be made public. So we're gonna retire to Executive Session.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes for Executive Session at 7:49 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

On a Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the Town Board returned to the Regular Meeting at 8:15 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 162-2021**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT FULL-TIME HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE**

**WHEREAS** there exists a vacancy in the Town of New Baltimore Highway Department.

**WHEREAS** Tavis Stupplebeen has applied for this vacant position.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Tavis Stupplebeen is hereby approved for hire at a probationary rate of \$17.81 per hour for six months from start date.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

COUNCILMEMBER BOEHLKE: NAY

COUNCILMEMBER DOWNES: AYE

COUNCILMEMBER IRVING: NAY

COUNCILMEMBER VANETTEN: AYE

SUPERVISOR RUSO: AYE

**Motion Carried**

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Remember that proviso, Sir.

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC  
Town Clerk