

6:30 PM Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 2 of 2023, A Local Law Providing Real Property Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Pursuant to Section 466-A of the Real Property Tax Law

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

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Reports

Supervisor

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- Resolution to Authorize the Town Clerk to Attend the New York State Town Clerks Association Annual Conference in Syracuse, New York from April 23-26, 2023
- February 13, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting

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)

- Resolution to Approve Annual Review of Accounts for Tax Collector, Town Court, Town Clerk, Supervisor, and Petty Cash Audits of the Building/Planning/Zoning, Tax Collector, and Town Clerk

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

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

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

- Resolution to Adopt Local Law #2 of 2023, A Local Law Providing Real Property Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Pursuant to Section 466-A of the Real Property Tax Law

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

Greene County Planning Board (Boehlke)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Approve Rental of Sweeper by the Highway Department
- Discussion of 2023 Highway 284 Agreement

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Authorize Purchase of Property and Casualty Insurance

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

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

- Resolution to Appoint Member to the Planning Board

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Downes)

Technology/Website (Chair Downes/Member Boehlke)

Town Courts (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

- Resolution to Approve Return of JCAP

Veterans and Memorials (Chair VanEtten/Member Irving)

Wastewater Treatment (Chair Irving/Member Boehlke)

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

Upcoming Meetings

- March 1, 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- March 9, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- March 13, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- March 27, 2023 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Public Comment Period/Community Events

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.

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COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 3/13/2023**
PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2023
A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO
SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW
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OPENING OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Supervisor Ruso: Well, Good Evening everybody. We have before us consideration of Local Law #2. We usually do the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the Regular Town Board Meeting which will follow this meeting. So we don't dispense with that, we just have a different timing for it. So tonight we are going to hear is a couple meetings to hear from the public any issues regarding Local Law #2. It has been published and it is available and has been available for reading and I believe Barb has a few on the table behind us and I do so far have one person who has raised their hand so to say in the form of a yellow card and would like to be heard. Would you please, Mr. Eckl, step up please.

James Eckl: Thank you Mr. Supervisor, Ladies and Gentlemen. I take no position on whether the adoption of the Local Law is a good idea or a bad idea; I am neutral on that. My reason for wanting to address it this evening is that if you mean to adopt it, there's some things that I would like to call to your attention which seems to be overlooked everywhere by the County as well. Mr. Linger has heard this presentation before. But the Notice of Hearing and the proposed text of the Local Law both refer to Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law. And I submit to you you should realize there are two sections on the books right now and in effect both of which are numbered 466-a. One of which would be sufficient authority for this law. Let me back up a little bit. I've written all the legalese down rather than burdening the record with it, very briefly there was a Section 466-a which was enacted in 1999, been amended a couple times, that only applies in Counties which are much, much larger than Greene County as Greene County has a population as of the last census of approximately 48,000 persons. The other Section 466-a was adopted just a couple months ago, the very end of 2022, and the legislative acts which added that Section 466-a also repealed the 1999 version of the section with the same number, but the repeal isn't effective until December of 2025. So there are two sections on the books now, one of which would authorize this law, one of which doesn't because Greene County has too small a population and I submit to you it would be well for the Local Law to reflect the proper identification of the version of 466-a that you mean to act under. I presume what's contemplated is action under 466-a that was added just this past year, but the law doesn't say that.

Supervisor Ruso: 2022, yeah. So how to you recognize we resolve that?

James Eckl: It would be an easy enough thing to refer to Section 466-a as 'added by laws of 2022.'

Supervisor Ruso: Such as you put in bold letters.

James Eckl: Yes, sir.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, I guess I can clear up any potential conflicts.

James Eckl: If it's a good idea you don't want it to fail because it was invalid because it didn't refer to the correct section and I know this sounds awfully academic, but stranger things have happened than that small omission has invalidated the act of the legislative body. So I respectfully commend that to your attention, do what you will, I take no position on the merits of the law itself. Thank you.

Supervisor Ruso: That can be easily added to the end of our resolution that we will be addressing at our Regular Town Board Meeting. For those that aren't familiar with this, we're just here to discuss the merits and hear from the public as it relates to the law and we can't enact upon it until we've had the Public Hearing which we're doing this evening, right now, and then

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when we go into regular session then we actually will have a vote on that and things that you or others may have to say can be added or adjusted once we actually do the resolution so I thank you for that. Is there anything else?

James Eckl: Quite so. It's not done until it's done and it's not done until you adopt it so it can be fine-tuned now.

Supervisor Ruso: Right. The only reason for a Public Hearing is to hear from the public. Nothing more?

James Eckl: No, sir, thank you.

Supervisor Ruso: That's unlike you. Anyone else would like to come on up and speak in favor, opposed, or as Mr. Eckl has pointed out maybe subtle adjustments. Is there anyone else who'd like to hear things. We're ready.

Eilleen Vosburgh: I just wanted to know what was that \$200 exemption? Didn't you say, Pat...

County Legislator Linger: That exists already?

Eilleen Vosburgh: Yes.

County Legislator Linger: That's a tax credit, State tax credit.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Oh, it's a State.

County Legislator Linger: Income tax credit.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Income tax credit, okay, okay, alright.

Supervisor Ruso: Off your income tax correct.

County Legislator Linger: Income tax credit as opposed to a property levy exemption.

Eilleen Vosburgh: And you had said that the State income tax is a better deal. Your property.

County Legislator Linger: It depends on where you live, it depends mostly on what school district you live in and whether the school district passes the same law.

Supervisor Ruso: It also varies if you are a property owner certainly because if you're not a property owner, you don't get an exemption off the property.

Eilleen Vosburgh: I just want to know was it state or federal?

County Legislator Linger: This is 10% property tax exemption. So whatever you're assessed value is, you would be reduced by 10 percent for anyone who's eligible.

Supervisor Ruso: We're in open session for hearing of the public so we're still looking. I see some folks from our fire companies here, looks like everyone's New Baltimore here.

Kelly Downes: (To TJ Davis) Now, you had some questions last time for me that I was unable to answer, our Legislator Pat Linger's here if you wanted to reiterate those questions or any other concerns you had.

TJ Davis: He explained it at our Public Hearing at our firehouse. Thank you.

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Supervisor Ruso: Well, our Public Hearings usually go longer than this. We can leave it open in case someone else arrives. I mean everyone can relax and if someone else shows up in the next few minutes we'll give them an opportunity to say what they may wish and we'll proceed accordingly.

Sam Anderson: We just left Coxsackie-Athens School District, a couple of us went down and they did vote to adopt it. They went into Executive Session to do a final vote tonight.

Councilmember VanEtten: Unfortunately, I don't think Ravena did yet.

Sam Anderson: Ravena is not going to.

Supervisor Ruso: They're not going to.

Sam Anderson: They've already said they're not doing it until 2025.

Councilmember Downes: And have we heard anything from Greenville?

Sam Anderson: Greenville did not do it for this year.

Councilmember Downes: Until 2025 or not?

Sam Anderson: I did not hear a time, they did not do it for this year.

Supervisor Ruso: Entirely consistent. I heard Greenville hasn't scheduled anything whereas Ravena is looking to do it for '25.

Sam Anderson: And I think that they have a lot of, they're multiple counties, R-C-S is multiple counties, Greenville is multiple counties, kind of where they have a lot bigger hurdle to overcome, but Catskill adopted it, Windham adopted it, Hunter adopted it, and Coxsackie now.

Supervisor Ruso: So that would hamper the use of it. The Town and County taxes would have to exceed \$2,000 on your property just to make it equal to the \$200 you would get off 10 percent, whereas the School District as we all know takes the lion's share of our tax dollars. I know that as it relates to the Greene County Real Property Tax as it relates to the percentage of taxes that we pay here in New Baltimore if you're in Coxsackie-Athens, the Town of New Baltimore is 12.5 percent of your total tax bill. The County is 18% in that range and the Coxsackie-Athens is 69 percent and I know there's a point somewhere missing so it's in that range and it does fluctuate from year to year. So if you don't get at least 69 percent of your property tax deductions without the school districts, but fortunately Coxsackie-Athens is. And again the percentages are slightly different with the other schools, Greenville versus R-C-S. Just thinking offhand that the Town I know is 12.5 percent because that's what we get off of a PILOT. So in many cases people will still continue to have the \$200 tax credit. It will be what it is, there's nothing we can do about that. I don't know if you have, I've had some contacts with the school districts and pretty much they have another agenda so to say that they have a lot of things that they have to do and plus their timeframes are not good. Each of the school districts have to have a 30-day notice for a Public Hearing which puts them past the March 1 deadline, at least that's what R-C-S...

County Legislator Linger: Some school districts made it didn't they?

Supervisor Ruso: That's what they told me. They needed 30 days, actually Coxsackie-Athens told me that.

Councilmember Downes: And they made it.

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Supervisor Ruso: Maybe the person I spoke to didn't really know. Anyone else have any questions? Board? Anybody up here have any questions?

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC
Town Clerk

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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 Boehlke, 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

Supervisor Jeff Ruso

The monthly financial reports for January have been forwarded to all the Board members. Have you all had a chance to review them? I'm gonna make a Motion to accept them.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Boehlke, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: A couple things that have gone on in the past couple weeks, the Town of New Baltimore received a one-time Community Host Agreement payment with Solar Generation, Inc. on Wednesday, February 15th. Paul McMenemy of Solar Generation Inc. presented the town with a \$20,000 check which was very nice and we'll put to good use. Secondly, the Town has been in discussion with New York State DOT -- I think you've all seen the sign already, that's just the start of things happening -- regarding the replacement bridge over the Hannacrois Creek. Construction on this bridge will begin in mid-April -- they didn't give me an exact date yet -- and last until November 2023. One lane for traffic will be maintained at all times with Traffic lights set up to control the flow of traffic. Traffic lights have already been placed that limit traffic over the bridge to 25 tons. I have also been in conversation with the owners of a local business about the possible effect of this project on their business. One thing that's not here is that, I think for the most of us it doesn't affect us, there will be a limit of 11 feet wide load. All vehicles are 5 feet if that so it's only for the extra wide loads that will be restricted from that bridge and the signs as they inform me when that construction begins will reflect it, the one's out on 9W and in Coeymans, to restrict the wide body loads, no modular buildings rolling through Town at least during this process. Also coming up, we're going to prepare for Local Law #3 of 2023 at our next Town Board meeting. I just got the go-ahead with our rewritten Solar Law just this afternoon about 4:00 so it didn't make it in time for this Agenda so on the next meeting we're going to set a Public Hearing for the following meeting. So on the 13th of March we'll set a Public Hearing for Local Law #3 on the revised Solar Law. So just to let you know, Bill, thank God you've been helping us with that; I appreciate it. And last but not least which is good news last Wednesday we reached what's called a Memorandum of Agreement...

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: Monday.

Supervisor Ruso: Monday, a week ago today, Memorandum of Agreement with the Teamsters and the employees. I can't get into the details of it because I don't want to jinx anything and 2) I don't want to get in the middle of it, but a Memorandum of Understanding is one thing, this is a Memorandum of Agreement signed by all parties at the meeting and so it's now before the employees and they get to choose what they're going to do and we'll respond accordingly. So everything's on the table, offer's made, offer's accepted, but it's not finalized. So that's coming up and perhaps by the next meeting we will have a final report on that.

County Legislator Pat Linger

Recent developments in the past month have given us reason to pause on the plans for the 21 West healthcare campus project. CMH has allowed their option to purchase the IDA property expire. They are now looking at property in the Kalkberg Park in New Baltimore for a similar project, with a cheaper purchase price and infrastructure already in place. Last week we learned that Governor Hocu announced \$5 mil in grant funds were awarded from the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program for this project. We're now meeting with Senator Hinchey's office and CMH to determine what this all means for Greene. Stewarts is ready to go on the 21 East campus, the hotel developer is finishing their due-diligence, and the third parcel is

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being marketed to restaurants. Greene County Tourism will move to the old Stewarts building following renovation. Funds are already reserved for that. We passed a resolution to strongly disagree with the Governor's proposal to cut nearly \$1 million in enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage pass-through funding. If enacted, this will allow NYS to steal Federal funds and force Counties to raise property taxes 3-7%. We passed a second resolution against Governor Hocu's misguided proposal to prohibit the sale of new fossil fuel powered heating systems. Following our Public Hearing, we passed LL#1 allowing a 10 percent assessment reduction for volunteer firefighters. We also passed a resolution to fund training for 10 EMT students again this year. We heard from President Drummer at CGCC regarding increased student enrollment from Greene. We have budgeted funds to maintain the Greene Light for Education grant again this year. After only 3 meetings, we approved a new contract with the Sheriff Deputies union. We established capital project #123 and filed notice to declare Lead Agency status for the new Greene County Justice Center. We established capital project #129 for the Extension of Broadband. Greene County will invest over \$2 million in ARPA funds for this project. Design work and engineering is already under way. We set a Public Hearing for LL#2 to adjust the weighted vote of individual members of the GC Legislature for Wed, March 15 at 6:15 pm. This adjustment follows the completion of the 2020 census. The New Baltimore weighted vote will be reduced by 23 points on a 10,000-point scale due to our drop in County population percentage. We authorized the PILOT agreement with Oriole Solar in New Baltimore. I worked with Legislators from Coxsackie and Athens to award a Speenburgh Grant to the Coxsackie Sportsman Club. Anybody have any questions?

Ellie Alfeld: You mentioned a PILOT for that solar. What's New Baltimore getting?

Supervisor Ruso: 12.5 percent.

County Legislator Linger: Right, 12.5 percent.

Ellie Alfeld: Same as the last time right?

Supervisor Ruso: This is the same one.

County Legislator Linger: It's \$8,500 per kwh.

Supervisor Ruso: Per kilowatt times five comes to about \$42,500.

Ellie Alfeld: Total income.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, and we get 12 percent which will be about \$5,000.

Ellie Alfeld: And what is everybody else get out of that, more than 12 that we're getting?

County Legislator Linger: I think the County gets about 15 and schools get 60-ish.

Supervisor Ruso: I read 68 and the County gets 18.

Ellie Alfeld: Well what aggravates me is I'm in the Town of New Baltimore's R-C-S District. R-C-S gives New Baltimore just a slight of hand and not much other than a higher tax, really impacts a lot of us. It just doesn't like they even try to work with New Baltimore and them getting that large amount of money when it was never mentioned when we went to the polls to vote on the recent update of need for the school, that PILOT money was never ever put into the Minutes as being available to the school district.

County Legislator Linger: I don't know how they negotiate either, they're Albany County, so they have a little bit different... Like we just passed a local law setting that amount that's gonna be given for a PILOT. It's in Local Law now for the County.

Ellie Alfeld: For all PILOT programs that come?

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County Legislator Linger: Everybody's at the same level. That's Local Law. Because the State pulled their recommendations from NYSERDA, which they used to give you recommendations and say 'hey, this is how much your PILOT should be worth.' The State stopped doing that and what they were doing is they were undervaluing the projects in promotion of them so it was all the towns and school districts were actually...

Ellie Alfeld: Shortchanged.

County Legislator Linger: Getting the short end of the stick and that's why we went to the local law that said 'here's a fixed dollar amount that everybody's going to be charged regardless.'

Ellie Alfeld: As was and has been stated by this Board, the Town does a lot of work in order to go ahead with the solar things and it just seems like we're getting the real short end of the stick and we all know what that holds.

Supervisor Ruso: It is absolutely true that the overwhelming bulk of the work is the Code Enforcement, from the Planning Board, from the Zoning Board, myself, site visits. We've done all those things and certainly I know of absolutely none performed by the school districts. They don't do any work.

Ellie Alfeld: That's my problem with this.

Supervisor Ruso: And I can't say the County has done much, I just don't know what they've done. But we do the work and we get 12 percent and the others get 68 percent and so forth.

Ellie Alfeld: And get nothing for it.

County Legislator Linger: And that's Real Property Tax Law. It's all negotiated.

Ellie Alfeld: But everything is subject to change and I think that should be looked into, sorry.

Supervisor Ruso: I agree.

County Legislator Linger: Well, ours is not now subject to change. It is a per kilowatt fee that they're going to pay and to be honest with you the alternative if you don't allow the PILOT is \$0 because in Greene County we do take part in the State's program to provide a reduced assessment for real property taxes for solar.

Supervisor Ruso: We do have a project, I mean I know it sounds interesting to you and others, but we have two other projects that are in the works. One is called Hannacroix Solar which is on the property along the railroad tracks off of 9W. The second one is called LoadStar, That is by the Hannacroix Creek on the west side of 9W and I believe every ounce of that property is in R-C-S. The Hannacroix Solar is in Cocksackie-Athens as is this one is in Cocksackie-Athens even though it's right behind your house. But the other one's on the west side of 9W not far off of the creek, Burns' property, and then across the creek from there.

Ellie Alfeld: I sat in on the meeting.

Supervisor Ruso: So that one would be in R-C-S. No New Baltimore project with a solar also includes Ravena-Coeymans to date. That one may, I don't know what kind of benefit it will provide us as taxpayers, I have no idea. But that's down the road. They're still just starting.

Ellie Alfeld: Oh, I know.

Eilleen Vosburgh: What's that third one, the one you were talking about?

County Legislator Linger: Oriole.

Eilleen Vosburgh: How do you spell it?

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Town Clerk Finke: Just like the bird.

Supervisor Ruso: Just like the Baltimore Oriole. They named it that because we're New Baltimore, but that is also the parent company is called Solar Generation. They're the one's that gave us the \$20,000 check last week.

County Legislator Linger: That's the Host Agreement.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, CHA, Community Host Agreement.

County Legislator Linger: And that was separately negotiated by the Town.

Supervisor Ruso: Absolutely. Now, Pat, I just think that it's important for everyone to know I have read the Minutes to the IDA and they have talked about the Kalkberg Park and I am fairly confident but I'm not 100 percent, I know is it that parcel just in front of SERTA or is it across Kalkberg Park Road on that same stretch of road? Do you know what side it is?

County Legislator Linger: From what I understand it's in front of SERTA.

Supervisor Ruso: Okay, that's what I wanted to know. For the Board's knowledge that's why we established last year Water District #3, firmed up those lines of definition, and this will be included in that as well as Sewer District #2 infrastructure at our end has been fixed and amended to include those parcels.

County Legislator Linger: The difference from our side, on the County side, is we've committed ARPA funding to putting in a natural gas line for their facility down in Catskill in Leeds. That was part of the agreement because they needed natural gas for whatever reason so we were gonna run the gas to the property and in exchange for that we would get a piece of property there to put one of our buildings on. I have no idea where that's gonna wind up now. We have been told it's gonna be a couple weeks before their Board decides and the problem is we have to have ARPA funds dedicated by next year so the longer they drag their feet, the quicker we're just gonna say 'look we're gonna spend this money somewhere else.' We're not gonna give back \$2 million because CMH couldn't decide what they wanted to do. We will make a decision and go.

Supervisor Ruso: On that note about expending ARPA funds, do you have anything else to tell me?

County Legislator Linger: That's my last thing here actually, last year the Legislature voted to offer \$100,000 grants from our ARPA funds to all the towns and villages in the County. New Baltimore did apply for that. I think it was for a plow truck.

Supervisor Ruso: Haul truck.

County Legislator Linger: A haul truck which I believe you guys are going to get shortly. To make sure that you were able to pay for that truck, I do have your \$100,000 check.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you, sir.

Ellie Alfeld: That's good news.

County Legislator Linger: You're welcome.

Supervisor Ruso: The truth of the matter is the truck is going to cost us about \$210,000 and delivery of this truck is mid-March so the timing is very fortuitous. The remaining balance will be paid out of our Highway Reserve fund.

County Legislator Linger: We're glad to help. I think all of our towns and villages took us up on that \$100,000.

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Supervisor Ruso: Ironically the first truck we ordered is nowhere near being fabricated yet. The second truck we ordered is getting prepared for delivery which is odd. So we actually had originally planned that this would go towards the plow truck which was the first one ordered, but we switched it from the plow truck to the haul truck because your restrictions in terms of expenditures, we didn't want to disrupt anything.

County Legislator Linger: We'd much rather have the money spent and done long before it's required to be spent.

Supervisor Ruso: Is there any reports that we need to have as a result of that? Will you be on hand when the truck comes, we'll take your picture?

County Legislator Linger: I will be on hand when the truck comes.

Supervisor Ruso: Would that be sufficient proof for the County Treasurer?

County Legislator Linger: That's probably not sufficient proof for the County Treasurer or our Congress, but it's okay, we will figure that out.

Supervisor Ruso: There are some paperwork actions that have to happen.

Councilmember Boehlke: Pat, it's a great thing to take note of that there was no increase to taxpayers or the Town of New Baltimore for this.

County Legislator Linger: This was ARPA funds, I mean we're paying for it in our federal taxes.

Councilmember Downes: Now we lost population, how do we look against the rest of the towns in Greene County?

County Legislator Linger: There was very little adjustment, like I said ours went down 30 votes. There was a little bit here and there, but there was nothing major.

Councilmember Downes: Across the County.

County Legislator Linger: We went from 727 to 709 or something like that.

Supervisor Ruso: Did our population go down or did our percentage of the population go down?

County Legislator Linger: Our percentage of the population went down. So like Hunter went up, Windham went up, there's a little more construction going on up there, but at the same time, I really don't think there's an accurate count for Greene County because when this was done remember it's 2020 right after the coronavirus hit, we actually estimated about 7,000-7,500 more people in the County than what the census actually showed and I think since then we've actually shown that that's true just based off of sales tax and other economic indicators, I think 7,000-8,000 extra people in the County is more likely, but when they did their census they put in their address wherever rather than Greene County. So we'll see if there's an adjustment next time.

Town Clerk Finke

4 Building Permits \$531, 1 Chimney & Woodstove \$50, 3 CO Searches \$150, 1 EZ Pass Tag \$25, 26 Dog Licenses \$174, 5 Late Licenses \$25, 1 Marriage License \$17.50, 1 Beer Permit \$20, 1 Park Rental \$25, 31 Certified Copies \$310, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$1,382, \$32 to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program, \$22.50 to the New York State Department of Health for Marriages, Total to Supervisor \$1,327.50 I attended the New Baltimore Fire District Commissioner's meeting on January 12 at the Cornell Hook and Ladder Fire Company. As the collecting officer for all Fire Districts, I updated the Commissioners and officers on the collections to-date. My office has collected 69% of tax payments through January 31. Of these, 899 were collected by mail, 690 at the counter, and \$7,919.67 through on-line payments. The Town was live for on-line collection on January 15.

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Last year Town offices were closed to the public due to COVID. This year I received many, many compliments from residents thankful that we were open to collect at least five days each week during office hours. I also held collection hours on Saturday, January 21 from 9AM-Noon. The Water 2 and 3 quarterly October-December 2022 bills were mailed before January 15 with collection penalty-free until February 15. Sewer District 1 and 2 bills were mailed on the same timeline and a letter to all users explaining the reduced 2023 charges was enclosed. In light of inflation we are all experiencing, many residents were very thankful and appreciated the half rates. Spring is around the corner and Amanda, my Deputy, and I would like to remind everyone that all Park Rentals are reserved only through the Town Clerk's office. The rental fee is \$25 for residents and \$50 for non-residents along with a refundable \$25 deposit following inspection. There is a \$20 beer permit if serving alcohol. We have reserved dates already so please call our office (518)756-6671, Ext. 5 to save your date.

Supervisor Ruso: I did get a phone call on a day I think it was Saturday, someone had called and thought that their sewer bill was wrong. 'What happened to my sewer bill, you guys made a big mistake.'

Town Clerk Finke: I got a lot of that and when I explained it to them, they were very happy.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 42-2023
FEBRUARY 27, 2023

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN CLERK TO ATTEND THE
NEW YORK STATE TOWN CLERKS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE
IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK FROM APRIL 23-26, 2023**

WHEREAS the New York State Town Clerks Association has scheduled their Annual Conference from April 23-26, 2023 at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown.

RESOLVED that Town Clerk Barbara Finke is authorized to attend said training at a cost of \$125 Registration and \$543 for the hotel and meals.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

Town Clerk Finke: Can I just explain that a little bit. It's Sunday through Wednesday. If I go on Sunday it's \$809. If I leave at 5:30 on Monday morning, it's \$543, but the check has to come from the Town to be tax-exempt. So typically I will refund the \$543 to the Town, the only thing that the Town pays for is my registration of \$125.

Supervisor Ruso: Only if it's a check from the Town is it tax-exempt so we write you a check.

Town Clerk Finke: Absolutely, they will not take personal checks so this is what I have to do.

Supervisor Ruso: So we have to get it done beforehand.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Town Clerk Finke: Thank you.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The February 13, 2023 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:

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AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Audit and Budget

Supervisor Ruso: I need to thank Councilwoman Downes for this.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 43-2023

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ANNUAL REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS FOR TAX COLLECTOR, TOWN COURT, TOWN CLERK, SUPERVISOR AND PETTY CASH AUDITS OF THE BUILDING/PLANNING/ZONING, TAX COLLECTOR, AND TOWN CLERK

WHEREAS Town Law Section 123 requires each town officer or employee who has received or disbursed any monies to produce all supporting books, records, receipts, warrants, vouchers and cancelled checks as authorized by Section 29 of the General Municipal Law.

WHEREAS Councilmember Kelly Downes, Member of the Audit and Budget Committee, completed the Annual Review and Petty Cash Audits of the financial records the Tax Collector and Town Clerk on February 13, Town Court on February 2 and Petty Cash Audit of Building/Planning/Zoning Department on February 1.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the audits as completed.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

Supervisor Ruso: I think particularly from yourselves, is there anything you wanted to point out to us, any specific observations?

Councilmember Downes: Everybody was right where they needed to be. We were able to find all records on a timely manner. The Court was very forthcoming. Sometimes when you get into the middle of an audit people aren't happy, but they had all their documentation. We also started a new electronic check register for the Court. I built that for them so that they could use that going forward. It gives them a little bit more control of what they're looking at, easier to look things up. Petty cash everybody was fine with that. We're looking good.

Councilmember Boehlke: What a novel approach to government.

Councilmember Downes: See that's what happens when an Auditor from the State retires and can put more time into the Town Board. People aren't happy, but...

Councilmember Boehlke: All I'm saying the cooperation you got, Kelly.

Supervisor Ruso: I think for everybody's sake I will point out, and I do review them with frequency, the Office of the State Comptroller puts out audits of various town and municipalities. They do it with occasion. I don't know if it's randomly, but a common error in towns is that they are not auditing their accounts on an annual basis so I do thank you for that.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley

January 25,2023-February 27, 2023 9 Tires up to and Including 16” Without Rim \$36, 9 Tires up to and Including 16” With Rim \$45, 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastic) 11, 11 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 47 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 71 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, Total Received \$81

Supervisor Ruso: I think we’ll need to revise this form because we did receive a pickup from Baroni Recycling of metals. I’m trying to recall the figure, I think it was like \$335.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: It was over \$300.

Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for January, 2023, is as follows: Building Inspections: 21 Building Permits Issued: 3 Building Permits Renewed: 1 Building Permit Renewal Letters Sent: 2 First Notice; 1 Second Notice Certificates of Compliance Issued: 8 Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 1 Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 3 Demolition Permits Issued: 1 New Building Permit Applications Received: 5 New Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 16 Open Building Permits: 181 Pellet Stove Permits: 1 New Septic System Permit: 1 Application Fees for January, 2023: \$256.00 Total Fees for Year to Date: \$256.00

Greene County EMS Representative Nick Dellisanti

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. There were 18 EMS calls in January for a total of 18 for this year 2023. We had 180 calls for all of 2022.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: And there were 10 overdoses in Greene County, none in New Baltimore.

Highway

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

**RESOLUTION 44-2023
FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RENTAL OF SWEEPER
BY THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS the Highway Superintendent wishes to rent a sweeper to be used on Town roads in late April and has procured three quotes.

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore approves a two-week rental from Finke Equipment, the lowest responsible bidder, for \$900 per week for a total cost of \$1,800.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Town Clerk Finke: I’d just like to make a point that this is not my family, this is not my business, I have nothing to do with it, I don’t know John.

Grants/Promotions/Economic Development

Councilmember VanEtten: If we can just go back to grants I just want to mention that we did do three grants from The Bank of Greene County and they have all been handed in.

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Supervisor Ruso: Mr. VanWormer was going to be here for today to discuss the 284 Agreement. We can discuss it except he's not here for questions. Is there any thoughts, has anyone had a chance to review it?

Councilmember Downes: I think we should just Table it until Alan's here to answer the questions.

Councilmember VanEtten: I think we should Table it, too.

Supervisor Ruso: Okay, so the issue of the 284 Agreement has been Tabled.

Insurance

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 45-2023
FEBRUARY 27, 2023

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY
AND CASUALTY INSURANCE**

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby authorizes the Supervisor to purchase coverage with Trident Insurance Co. through Marshall & Sterling effective March 5, 2023 for one year at a cost of \$41,130.04.

Supervisor Ruso: For those that don't know, we have had Trident for a good number of years.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: That policy went up 14 percent from last year.

Supervisor Ruso: In terms of conversations with them I asked why and 1) repair and replacement costs of buildings, the cost of materials has gone sky high and apparently in terms of liability what injuries could happen instead of costing \$500 will cost \$1,000 so everything's gone up. And when their costs go up, that's what it is.

Supervisor Ruso: This is the local law that we spoke about, we had the public present for, so we've read all this before.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 46-2023
FEBRUARY 27, 2023

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2023,
A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO
SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW**

LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2023

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore, as follows:

SECTION I. Legislative intent and purpose.

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- a. The Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore finds and determines that attracting and retaining quality volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel is one of the most critical problems facing our community and that maintaining effective emergency protection depends on the ability to train and retain volunteers.
- b. The Town Board finds and determines that it is essential for the Town to provide real property tax exemptions as an incentive to attract new volunteers and help combat a persistent and alarming decline in the number of volunteers serving as active responders to fire and medical emergencies and unless recruits are found to replace retiring volunteers and seasoned members are encouraged to continue their volunteer service, the health and safety of citizens served by the volunteer firefighter and emergency medical personnel corps may be jeopardized.
- c. The Town Board further finds and determines that real property tax exemptions are an appropriate way to recognize the personal sacrifices and dedication of these community-spirited men and women who unselfishly give their time and risk their safety to protect their neighbors without compensation.
- d. The purpose of this Local Law is to adopt the real property tax exemptions provided for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in accordance with Section 466-a, as added by Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022, of the Real Property Tax Law to read as follows.

Section 1. Real Property Tax Exemption. Real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in the Town of New Baltimore shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of 10 percent of the assessed value of such property for Town purposes, exclusive of special assessments.

Section 2. Qualifications. Such exemption shall only be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance services if:

- (a) the applicant resides in the Town of New Baltimore and is a member of an incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service which provides service within the town.
- (b) the real property which is the subject of such exemption is the primary residence of the applicant.
- © the real property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Local Law.
- (d) the applicant has obtained and displayed a certificate issued by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department indicating that the applicant has been an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department for at least two years or the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member of such incorporated voluntary ambulance service for at least two years.

Section 3. Continuation of eligibility requirements. The applicant shall maintain continual eligibility for the exemption by being a continuously active member of the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, fire district, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service. An active member shall meet the requirements for active service as defined by each company, department or corporation. Annual attestation by such company, district or corporation is required to maintain this exemption.

Section 4. Twenty-year active members. Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service, as defined in Section 3 hereof, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated

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voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent exemption as authorized by this section for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Town of New Baltimore.

Section 5. Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers killed in the line of duty. An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers killed in the line of duty may receive the real property tax exemption if:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty; and.
2. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years; and.
3. Such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

Section 6. Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers with at least Twenty Years of Service. An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers with twenty years of service may receive the real property tax exemption if:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service.
2. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least twenty years.
3. Such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption of such property prior to the death of such volunteer.

Section 7. Application process.

1. Applications for such exemption shall be filed with the assessor of the town on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner for the Office of Real Property Tax Services.
2. The assessor of the town shall have the duty and responsibility of procuring and filing a copy of such certification prior to granting the exemption provided for by this Local Law.

Section 8. No diminution of current benefits. No applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of law on the effective date of this Local Law shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Local Law.

SECTION II. Effective Date. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you everybody; thank you, Mr. Eckl.

Highway

Councilmember Downes: I wanted to let you know, I wasn't sure if you were aware, but this last storm Barb had called the Highway Department when Alan was out and nobody came out. She ended up having to do the shoveling here herself to shovel everything.

Supervisor Ruso: Tomorrow might be worse.

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Councilmember Downes: Right, tomorrow might be worse. Is Alan back in Town or...?

Councilmember VanEtten: I don't know.

Ellie Alfeld: Well if he's not, doesn't he have a Deputy? So let's use what we got.

Councilmember Downes: I mean I think that needs to be brought to Alan's attention that we have the public that comes here and these guys are supposed to be keeping Town Hall open so I think that needs to be addressed with them.

Town Clerk Finke: Amanda and I have shoveled many times.

Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten

The Planning Board met on February 9 with the following business transacted: ...Received Major Subdivision Application for the Misty Pines Major Subdivision of the Robert Taranto Trust Property located on the North/West side of County Route 51. The 114-acre parcel will be divided into 11 lots with each having road access directly onto Route 51. Required Public Hearing on the application will be held at 7 p.m. on March 9. Authorized representative appearing before the Board for the handling of this subdivision is Allan Lord from New York Land and Lakes Development, LLC. ...Heard initial Site Plan Application presentation by representatives from LSE Monoceros, LLC and LodeStar Energy for the proposed 4.8 MW-AC utility scale solar collection system to be located on a 124.41 acre parcel on west side of Route 9W. The project will be sited in three different areas within a 30 acre section of the parcel set aside for the project to be known as the New Baltimore Solar Project, The Board will not give further consideration to the project or move forward in the sending out of the required Lead Agency Letters or Requests for Proposal (RFP) to Engineering firms seeking an Engineer to assist the Board in this project review until such time as the Board has received letter from Central Hudson advising the Town that they will have capacity in the grid and will accept the electricity generated by this Solar Farm. Portion of a Central Hudson document submitted as part of application packet stated "the interconnection was found to be feasible with modifications" but did not definitively state they would accept the energy generated into the grid on project completion.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 48-2023
FEBRUARY 27, 2023

RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD

RESOLVED that Michelle Stefanik is reappointed to the Planning Board for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2025.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: That makes you whole again, Mr. VanEtten.

Town Clerk Finke: It wasn't the Town's fault.

Ellie Alfeld: I know.

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Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Pat Linger

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet on February 1, 2023, since there were no applications to come before the Board.

Town Court

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

**RESOLUTION 47-2023
FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

RESOLUTION FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION FOR UNAPPROVED EXPENDITURES

WHEREAS the New Baltimore Town Court received a 2021-22 JCAP grant of \$5,256.90 for office furniture upgrades.

WHEREAS the Town Court of the Town of New Baltimore spent grant funds on unapproved purchases.

RESOVLED that the Town of New Baltimore will reimburse the New York State Office of Court Administration \$1,136.84, Voucher 2023.02.21, Purchase Order C-2023-9 from A.1110.4.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

Councilmember Downes: My understanding was that it was all with the pandemic, they weren't able to get, they put in for a chair and they were not able to get a chair anyone so they had to go with b chair and that's what...

Supervisor Ruso: And the Office of Court Administration won't accept those changes.

Councilmember Downes: So that's where the problem was.

Supervisor Ruso: The good thing is they have it in their account, but I hate to give back grant money. At least the net difference is at least we still got \$4,100 that they were okay with, but still I hate to give any grant money back.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

The following is the Town of New Baltimore Court monthly report for December 2022.

- Total November monies received was \$12,239.00
 - Judge Huff \$7,466
 - Judge Konsul \$4,773
 - State/County Share* Town Share*
- Total 2023 (January) monies received \$12,239.00
 - State/County Share * Town Share *
- Total New Cases Received 88
- New Baltimore town court audit is complete and will be sent to the comptroller's office.

Town Clerk Finke: Annual Report for the Court 2022

| Judge Huff | Judge Konsul | Total | State Share | Town Share |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| \$233,535 | \$28,178 | \$261,713 | \$170,646 | \$91,067 |

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 49-2023
FEBRUARY 27, 2023

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 2023b-02-01 to 2023b-02-18, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2023b-02-01 to 2023b-02-18.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until March 31, 2023.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmembers Downes and VanEtten

General \$16,208.60, Highway \$7,685.21, Sewer 2 \$293.83, Ambulance 1 \$4,248.72, Ambulance 2 \$2,495.28, Total \$30,931.64

Councilmember VanEtten: I just want to let everybody know that in March the Park equipment in District 1 they promised me would be installed.

Ellie Alfeld: You had mentioned grants, were they for the Park?

Councilmember VanEtten: From The Bank of Greene County for the Children's Program, the Veterans, and the Seniors.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 1, 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- March 9, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- March 13, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- March 27, 2023 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Supervisor Ruso: But I am going to add that my meeting for tomorrow morning at Catskill Town Hall on the Landfill, the New Baltimore Landfill, has been cancelled and will now happen on the 14th of March. The Landfill was the Landfill that the Towns of New Baltimore, Catskill, Cairo, Athens, as well as the Village of Catskill and Village of Athens agreed to, I don't even know how long ago, and the Landfill was closed and the EPA has been monitoring it since 1992. It's been closed; the Town has presented a decommissioning bond at that time, and we're going to have a discussion about whatever remnants of the decommissioning bond there still is, and any ongoing treatments. But this landfill was closed in 1992, I don't have the exact date, but it was in the Town of Catskill.

Ellie Alfeld: Have you made conditional if this storm hits as to how viable this meeting will be?

Supervisor Ruso: That's why tomorrow's meeting is cancelled. It's funny 'cause I had to call these other Towns, none of these other Town Supervisors had any idea of what I was talking about because no one was around in '92. Nobody. In fact there's not many people in New Baltimore even knew that we had a landfill. It's not in Town, though. Anyway that's been changed.

Councilmember Downes: The American Red Cross is doing a Blood Drive on the 18th at Medway Congregational. It's from 8AM-1 and there is a new Home School Coop meetings going on, they're starting up, and that's also at the Medway Congregational Church. So if anybody wanted a flyer or information, just let me know.

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Ellie Alfeld: Do you need to schedule an appointment for the Blood Drive?

Councilmember Downes: You need to schedule your appointment at 1-800-RedCross. When I talked to Jennifer she had said that she thought it would be okay for walk-ins.

Public Comment Period/Community Events

Eilleen Vosburgh: I'm really encouraged by the news of progress on the contract. I want to make people aware of what the other Towns are paying the Heavy Equipment Operator and the Deputy Superintendent. In Coeymans, Heavy Equipment Operator's \$23.88 an hour and the Deputy is \$27.50. Ravena the Heavy Equipment Operator's \$25.36 and the Deputy is \$26.37 an hour. Coxsackie \$20.66 for Heavy Equipment Operator and \$28.75 an hour for Deputy. Athens is the low, one of the lowest in this group, \$18.42 an hour with step up increases and \$26.33 and more for the Deputy Superintendent. Greenville \$23.66 an hour for Heavy Equipment, the Foreman gets \$24.51 an hour and a new hire with 27 years' experience gets \$25-30 an hour. DOT was paying \$20 an hour with free CDL training and CSX also known as the Railroad, there was a recent offer to one employee for \$33 an hour. The lowest is New Baltimore. They start out on probation \$17.81, after probation \$18.31, and the Deputy at this point gets \$20.61 an hour approximately. Obviously they are the lowest paid around our communities and the pay is anywhere between \$5-8 under the other towns and I just hope that in these negotiations that we come out giving our Highway crew a decent wage.

Supervisor Ruso: I would say they are, I can't get into details, we pop above a good number of those nevertheless.

Councilmember Downes: Not just that, but you're comparing us to DOT and CSX which are very large, have huge budgets. We do not have the business here to carry this same thing as a DOT, as the County, as CSX. We don't have the wherewithal to pay the same wages that... It's like putting us up against the Thruway. We can't do that. You're giving out numbers and you're comparing apples to oranges. That's not fair. If you want to compare us to an Athens, okay I'll give you that. Coxsackie, Ravena, Athens all have large business districts. Even Athens has Regeneron. We do not have that in New Baltimore. We do not have that kind of income to just compare us to somebody once again like DOT or Thruway or CSX, that's not even a comparable.

Eilleen Vosburgh: It should be.

Councilmember Downes: But it shouldn't be. It can't be. We don't have the income for that. We just don't.

Supervisor Ruso: All of this is in the hands of the Highway.

Councilmember Downes: The negotiations.

Supervisor Ruso: Negotiations are seemingly over, just got to be ratified by the employees. Once that occurs, then we do a resolution here. So we'll see where that goes. You had something on Solar?

Eilleen Vosburgh: All along we should have been paying our people a decent wage. I understand you say DOT and CSX is a different story, but compared to Athens or Coxsackie...

Councilmember Downes: I don't think your beginning figure is correct for our people here.

Supervisor Ruso: \$18.31, first six months you have a 50 cent incentive once you surpass your probation. \$18.31 minus 50 cents so it's \$17.80 or whatever it was.

Eilleen Vosburgh: I just hope the negotiations worked well for both the Highway crew...

Supervisor Ruso: Everybody.

Eilleen Vosburgh: And the Town because we can't afford to lose any more people.

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Supervisor Ruso: We had a Motion of Agreement signed by all parties on Monday last week but, again, it's got to be ratified.

Councilmember VanEtten: And once they signed those union cards, we had to go to negotiations.

Supervisor Ruso: I don't want to jinx anything on the eve of signing signature so I don't want to get into the details. We can go into some of you points at another meeting perhaps, but again we're right on the edge. We're looking at it and we're ready for it so I don't want to say something that will disrupt that.

Eileen Vosburgh: The other thing is so the new Solar Law is coming next month?

Supervisor Ruso: I expect that we'll have it presented at our next meeting, yes.

Eileen Vosburgh: So did that include the recommendations from the Committee and the Planning Board?

Supervisor Ruso: It included recommendations from dozens of people. It doesn't include every recommendation, but it includes many. Unfortunately, there was a few from the Planning Board we added, a few from the Planning Board actually were not in their lane so to say. They were issues that need to be by law done by the Town Board and some that need to be done by law by the Code Enforcement Officer, but we've got just about everything in there.

Ellie Alfeld: The question we discussed a couple meetings, moratorium.

Supervisor Ruso: Moratorium expired in January.

Ellie Alfeld: But was it not renewable?

Supervisor Ruso: No, not after one year. That was the problem. That was why we tried to do it back in, for those that don't know, back in the Fall we had it prepared, had our public meeting, had it on the Agenda, and at the very last minute I had some issues with it. A certain persons raised different objections literally on the afternoon of the meeting, of the Board Meeting, so it got put aside. Unfortunately that the timing that it got put aside necessitated the outcome that the moratorium would be expiring and so we've had the old Local Law, Solar Law, in effect still. No moratorium since the 25th of January something like that. So it will have a lot of things and probably won't be everybody's perfect cut of tea, but the problem is that there's an old saying called 'don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.' We have a lousy law, the existing one has a lot of failures and the new one if it isn't perfect for every single person, therefore, we shall not have a new local law, we'll keep the old one. Well, we can't do that. Whenever, the local law will be an improvement from the previous one, at least I think so. What do you think?

Councilmember Boehlke: Well, we took a lot of recommendations.

Supervisor Ruso: He did a lot of work.

Councilmember Boehlke: We did every recommendation that came before us and not just from the Planning Board and others that were familiar with it, but also from two public meetings we had and I think we actually implemented two or three of yours, Mr. Eckl, and we looked into them and they were good recommendations and so I would say probably 85 percent of the recommendations that were made by the public and the Planning Board were put through intact.

Supervisor Ruso: Some were contradictory, we couldn't put them both in.

Councilmember Boehlke: A lot of it was us just editing and making changes that were...

Supervisor Ruso: Typos.

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Councilmember Boehlke: These type of things so it was very good really, it was really a community effort I could say that. There was a lot of people thanked the Board besides us.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you everybody.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC
Town Clerk