

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

JANUARY 23, 2023

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Reports

Supervisor

- Resolution to Authorize the Supervisor to Sign an Agreement for Water District #2 Water Main Replacement

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- January 9, 2023 Public Hearing on Local Law 1 of 2023
- January 9, 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)

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

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

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

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

Greene County Planning Board (Boehlke)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

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

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)

Upcoming Meetings

- February 1, 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting is Cancelled
- February 9, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- February 13, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- February 20, 2023 Town Offices Closed for Presidents' Day
- February 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.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 1/23/2023**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 2//2023**
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
JANUARY 23, 2023 – Page 1

OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING

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

Supervisor Jeff Ruso

The December financials have been sent around and has everyone had a chance to review them? I would like to make a Motion to accept the December financials.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: We're going off the Agenda a little bit, but I just want to make mention of two things, passing of a couple people. We did have since our last meeting an unfortunate passing of a resident of the Town, extremely musically talented, she's run for a couple positions in the Town, Thomasina Winslow. She will be missed, a very pleasant person and very talented musician, and a pleasure to interact with. The second person who recently died is a person I came to know rather well and it would be Howard Kusisto who ran Dr. How's for years. Extremely gifted mechanic. The number of people he helped off the highway was remarkable and the most honest I've ever encountered. Two good people, it's a shame, and they will be missed by plenty. So I just want to get that out of the way and at least recognize their benefit to the rest of us.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 37-2023
JANUARY 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT
FOR WATER DISTRICT #2 WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT**

WHEREAS the Town of New Baltimore Town Board has authorized Delaware Engineering as a qualified Engineering Firm to provide services to the Town, and

WHEREAS the Delaware Engineering has been extensively involved in the Town's District 2 water district and is well aware of all issues with that water district,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of New Baltimore will contract with Delaware Engineering to design and plan for additional water main replacement for Water District # 2.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

Supervisor Ruso: This is for additional replacement. there's not been a break. We've had all that happen before and I think as I've described to all of you the only part that was replaced back in 2020 was the section under the Thruway, 100 year-old pipe on both the east side and west side of the Thruway still exists and again the clock is ticking. So with significant monies from ARPA we're going to replace as much of that line as is possible. Delaware Engineering is going to do the design for the entirety, both sides of the Thruway, and we're going to bid it out and we're going to spend the money and get every foot of it we can with the money we have available. So they're going to be in doing that and that's what you're authorizing for me to sign. We're going to be bidding that out rather soon and I'd like to get this thing, what we can get repaired done, this summer. Any thoughts or questions or comments otherwise?

Councilmember Boehlke: No, we've discussed this before.

Supervisor Ruso: Been through this how many times. So I can't tell you now at this moment how far they will get with the repair, it depends on how far the money will take us.

Ellie Alfeld: How much money do we have coming?

Supervisor Ruso: A total of \$332,000 so again what we get, I don't know how far we get, but every foot we get, less at risk we are in the future and those people don't need to have another break and another bond so what we can do to reduce that is altogether better.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: And by the way you all have the information with the resolution attached.

County Legislator Linger: I believe we also had Jeff Flack who passed away recently, former Executive Director for Greene County Soil and Water.

County Legislator Pat Linger

This month I led our Organizational Meeting and the regular legislative meeting, attended one special committee meeting, eight regular committee meetings, and two Public Hearings. I would like to congratulate Congressman Marc Molinaro, Senator Michelle Hinchey, and Assemblyman Chris Tague on being sworn into their respective offices. I have the distinct pleasure of working with all of them on a regular basis and appreciate their support. The Sheriff's Department received a Homeland Security Grant to fund the purchase of a new license plate reader. We approved the purchase of a \$190k 2023 wheel loader for Solid Waste. We will receive a trade value of \$35k and use fund balance for the remainder. Laura Churchill was appointed Public Health Director as of February 12, 2023. This appointment will follow the retirement of Kim Kaplan. We continue to move forward on the building design for the new Criminal Justice Center. The natural gas line for the Exit 21 West parcel is being discussed now. At the State level, the future viability of natural gas in NYS is in question. A \$2 million investment to install new natural gas lines may be a waste at this point. In March, we will make schools, villages, and state land taxes whole for \$10.5 million, without bonding that amount. We have \$441k attributed to delinquent NB taxpayers. The 2022 Sales Tax receipts were up 6.5 percent over 2021 to \$45.8 million. The budget was \$37 million. Given our conservative budgeting and spending habits, we've been able to keep property taxes low and continue to put money away for future expenditures. We amended the fund balance policy to increase the acceptable range up to 15 percent from 12.5 percent. This month, we defined several reserve accounts by resolution. We established the following reserve accounts: Emergency Services Equipment Fund, Departmental Vehicle Fund, Highway Equipment and Facilities Reserve, Real Property Tax Stabilization Fund, and the Solid Waste Equipment and Facilities Reserve. Fund balances will be announced following the closing of the 2022 financials. We set a Public Hearing for February 6 at 6:00pm to discuss a Local Law for a new Volunteer Firefighter Tax Exemption, as signed into law by the Governor in December. This exemption will allow for a 10 percent reduction in assessed value for those eligible. As I mentioned last month, the highest savings is at the school tax level if they enact the law as well. We have a draft of the law on our website under the January 2023 Regular Meeting #1 agenda packet.

County Legislator Linger: So that's what we had discussed last month was a new law that was signed in. We are going to discuss it at our first meeting in February. What we will probably do is pass that. We may play with the wording a little bit on the resolution, but that will probably pass and would be effective in '24. I have not heard what any local school districts are doing. Shawn did sent out a question to see if they were looking at it or what they were doing with it. Realistically if the school districts don't buy in, there's absolutely no point in anyone claiming that exemption.

Supervisor Ruso: They'll lose money.

County Legislator Linger: They'll lose money, but for what it winds up costing towns and the County in general, it's fairly miniscule when you put the whole thing into perspective. It's really the school districts that have the big end of that.

Supervisor Ruso: Still want to wait and see.

County Legislator Linger: The only one that I've heard anything about and I don't know what they're doing with it, they haven't had their meeting yet, but it's the Town of Bethlehem Central Schools. They actually are having a meeting on it.

Supervisor Ruso: The plate reader, what's the purpose of that?

County Legislator Linger: We've got one, it's about nine years old, but what they'll do, they not only pick up unregistered vehicles, they'll pick up vehicles are unlicensed drivers, things like that so it comes out of Homeland Security. The money comes from Homeland Security.

Councilmember Boehlke: Just want to say that, Pat, a lot of people appreciate what you guys are doing as far as keeping taxes down and keeping spending down. A lot of us understand what's coming economically.

County Legislator Linger: We have a significant amount of money that's been put away. Most of it is earmarked and we kind of got looking at the amount of money that we had squirreled away in different cookie jars and just went 'we really should have a better policy in place that says this is what this money's for' and when somebody hears your County has \$80,000,000 in the bank, they kind of go 'how come my taxes aren't lower?' But, we're not bonding everything as we go.

Supervisor Ruso: What are you getting for interest on your accounts?

County Legislator Linger: Four percent.

Supervisor Ruso: Good, what bank?

County Legislator Linger: Bank of Greene County. National Bank of Coxsackie is also giving it, but when National Bank did it, we called Bank of Greene County and they said 'yep, we're giving that.'

Ellie Alfeld: Patrick, you said that New Baltimore has a deficit of \$400,000+.

County Legislator Linger: That's delinquent taxes.

Ellie Alfeld: It was my understanding that the County covers the Town if they haven't. Is that still with this project? It's still okay.

County Legislator Linger: We still cover the back taxes and then after three years if somebody hasn't paid their property taxes, their property goes up for auction.

Eileen Vosburgh: Is that extra money you have, did that come from the federal government?

County Legislator Linger: Which extra money?

Eileen Vosburgh: That you're putting into reserve funds.

County Legislator Linger: No, this is like '22 that I just mentioned. We had a budget of \$37,000,000 in sales tax. It came in at \$45,800,000. So that's \$7,500,000-\$8,500,000 was over and above what we budgeted for so we'll find a spot to put that.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: Chargebacks.

County Legislator Linger: Trust me, I have one other Legislator who goes with me now on Chargebacks for Real Property Services and Elections.

Supervisor Ruso: I just signed the invoice for \$11,000 we had to pay the County for the Elections. They charge us to have and Real Property.

County Legislator Linger: I have been the only that votes no on that until this year. One more.

Supervisor Ruso: I know that. We have to talk to the other County Legislators.

Town Clerk Barb Finke

1 Special Use Commercial \$100, 3 Building Permits \$2,108.88, 1 Chimney & Woodstove, 2 CO Searches \$100, 3 EZ Pass Tags \$75, 2 Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$5.60, 14 Dog Licenses \$120, 4 Late Licenses \$20, 1 Marriage License \$17.50, 1 Demolition Permit \$75, 2 Solar Residential \$220.10, 19 Certified Copies \$190, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$3,175.98, \$20 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, \$69.40 to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing License, Total to Supervisor \$3,064.08

Annual Report January 1-December 31, 2022

1 CO Search Compliance Residential \$125, 1 Special Use Commercial \$100, 2 Special Use Non Commercial \$200, 1 Site Plan Review 10 Acres and Less Than 25 \$1,000, 93 Building Permits \$29,378.35, 1 Chimney & Woodstove \$50, 1 Garage \$179.20, 4 Septic Systems – New \$200, 52 CO Searches \$2,600, 28 EZ Pass Tags \$700, 69 Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$271.38, 1 Exempt Dog, 286 Dog Licenses \$2,016, 3 Replacement Tags \$6, 50 Late Tees \$250, 1 Junk Yard \$100, 11 Marriage Licenses \$192.50, 5 Beer Permits \$100, 3 Park NonResident Rentals \$150, 12 Park Rentals \$300, 3 Excavation Fees Culvert Under Driveway \$105, 17 Minor Subdivisions \$1,275, 1 Above Ground Swimming Pool \$60, 1 In-Ground Swimming Pool \$100, 1 Mobile Home – Double \$225, 9 Demolition Permits \$675, 1 Solar Commercial \$61,513.20, 4 Solar Residential \$446.10, 152 Certified Copies \$1,520, 3 Genealogical Certified Copies \$66, 1 Genealogical Copy \$22, 164 Photo Copies \$41, Recycle Fees \$120, 3 Sign \$225, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$109,276.85, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for Spay/Neuter Program \$386, to New York State Department of Health for Marriages \$247.50, New York State Environmental Conservation \$4,331.62, Total to Supervisor \$104,311.73.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The January 9, 2023 Public Hearing on Local Law 1 of 2023 submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Boehlke. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The January 9, 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:

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

Audit and Budget

Councilmember Downes: I just want to let everybody know we've started the Audits for the annual audits this year. They are in the process. We have to do those annually and we are also reviewing all documentation to see if there's anything that we need to look at closer at this point. So we don't just do the audit for the State, we mix in other things as we go.

Ellie Alfeld: Two people on the committee or one?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, Kelly is a former professional auditor.

Ellie Alfeld: I realize that. You are the lead.

Supervisor Ruso: Certainly I'm involved with it to a large extent except when it comes to auditing my own bank accounts and the like. I don't audit myself, they don't let me do that.

Recycling

Councilmember Downes: On the recycling, does everybody know that Coxsackie's back open so that if you leave tv's or electronics, it's back open

Ellie Alfeld: It's very nice.

Supervisor Ruso: It's a beautiful recycling center.

Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for December, 2022, is as follows: Building Inspections:19; Building Permits (Miscellaneous) Issued: 3; Building Permits Renewed: 2; Building Permit Renewal Letters Sent: 2 First Notice: 2 Second Notice; Certificates of Compliance Issued: 1; Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 1; Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 2; Complaint Forms Received: 1; New Building Permit Applications Received: 3; Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 12; Open Building Permits: 185; Outside Boiler/Woodstoves, etc. Permits Issued: 1; Application Fees for December, 2022: \$2,453.98; Total Fees for Year: \$92,715.65

Greene County EMS Representative Nick Dellisanti

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. There were 26 EMS calls in December for a total of 180 for the year 2022. We had 110 calls for all of 2021.

Nick Dellisanti: That's quite a bit difference 90 extra calls it seems like.

Councilmember Boehlke: Did they have a breakdown at all on what?

Nick Dellisanti: I do have 14 overdoses for the month of December, not in New Baltimore, in Greene County and 112 overdoses for the entire year in Greene County so the numbers are astronomical for a small County of 40,000 people with this much overdoses going on.

Councilmember Boehlke: It's an epidemic.

Nick Dellisanti: And it's not just one type of drug, it's the whole gamut that they talk about.

Supervisor Ruso: Now 26 calls or 180 for just the Town of New Baltimore, are the other towns experiencing anything that resembles that? Is it us or the outlyers.

Nick Dellisanti: Greene County EMS had approximately I'm gonna say about 980 more calls in 2022 than we had in 2021. Just on one day just on Hunter Mountain they had 26 calls in one day on Hunter Mountain.

Ellie Alfeld: Cairo is having a problem too.

Nick Dellisanti: Which is very, very high even for the ski resort.

Supervisor Ruso: I don't quite know if I've explained much about my early career, but I was a statistician with the VA system and, of course, we examined utilization, queuing theory, all those things that I don't want to get in the deep weeds of. This is an anomaly and I was just looking at the numbers. There's something different and I don't know if even the drugs makes a difference. I'm sure it has a role. This would cause me in my former job to say 'we need to do a deep dive in the stats.'

Nick Dellisanti: Based on the 70 extra calls for 2022, that means when you and I do the budget, Cocksackie's ambulance program is going to be up based on that.

Supervisor Ruso: And Ravena's.

Nick Dellisanti: The Greene County EMS bill is going to be up just based on...

Supervisor Ruso: We're paying just to Greene County EMS...

Nick Dellisanti: About \$20,000 for the year.

Supervisor Ruso: But how much per call?

Nick Dellisanti: \$250.

Supervisor Ruso: It was about \$250 per call so we just had 70 additional calls.

Nick Dellisanti: The good news with Pat's help that the Legislature we had an increase in our budget from the County so that may offset some of the increases once they do the formula for the towns. They're trying to keep the payment from the towns down as much as possible and the County has picked up an additional sum of money so that helps us out.

Supervisor Ruso: But at the end of the day you take it out of one pocket or you take it out of the other. The taxpayers are affected.

Councilmember Boehlke: There's one other thing too, Nick, is going on and I don't know if you've ever discussed it with Pat or something, but we know a lot of people that are using ambulance service when they're told that there's no clinic available to go to the hospital to bypass waiting in the Emergency Room.

Nick Dellisanti: That's not helping though. The waiting in the Emergency is over two hours.

Councilmember Downes: We were told when Jeff came out in September that if we had to go to the hospital, I was not to bring him because they didn't know if they would see him that I had to call the ambulance.

Councilmember Boehlke: We've been hearing a lot of that going on.

Councilmember Downes: It is what it is, but do you know there's a person in Coxsackie sat 18 hours and he had a stroke and they let him sit there for 18 hours.

County Legislator Linger: (Unable to understand) Has something to do with it as well the way they're changing protocols because our call volumes on the BLS side, Fire Company side, really haven't moved far from one year to the next. At least down here we still sit between 180 and 200 EMS calls a year, but the ALS portion...

Nick Dellisanti: These are the ALS calls.

County Legislator Linger: Is what changes and that's your medics.

Supervisor Ruso: The biggest concern I have is not the cost, I mean that's certainly an important factor, but there's only so many rigs, there's only so many staff members, and when we go that much what happens while they're up in Albany or down in Hudson, who's covering. I mean I know you have backup crews, but it comes to the utilization of scarce resources for sometimes not necessary reasons, so when the doctor's office says don't bother to bring someone in, use an ambulance, they are actually suggesting we use a resource that may not be, it might be but it might not be necessary, on those occasions.

Councilmember Downes: Well, like somebody having a heart attack.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, if someone's having a heart attack, take them. My leg is okay or my arm is okay, take the heart attack guy.'

Councilmember Downes: That's a perfect example because Greenville showed up at the house. I didn't get Ravena, I didn't get Coxsackie. Neither could get to my house which I'm on the Coxsackie border. Greenville ended up having to come out.

Nick Dellisanti: That happens all the time.

Councilmember Downes: I mean it's fine with me, I don't care. I'm just saying.

County Legislator Linger: We actually had all EMS agencies in Greene County this year do a mutual aid agreement for that purpose. When you have an agency or two agencies tied up, the dispatchers now can actually stage another unit. So let's say Greenville – Coxsackie's out and Ravena's out – they can take Greenville and bring them down into Earlton's fire district or something like that so they're more central and that's what they do around the County now to cut those response times back.

Highway Superintendent Alan Van Wormer

Supervisor Ruso: What he left out is we are expecting delivery of our first truck in March, brand new, replace some of the old things out there. Our plow truck which we ordered first is

the one who will be delivered last because it takes a lot more work and a lot more time. Hopefully we'll have that before next winter.

Ellie Alfeld: He approached some kind of materials outfit for road work?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, Gorman Roads.

Ellie Alfeld: I've never heard that name here.

Supervisor Ruso: I've not heard that mentioned either. So does anyone else know who that is?

Councilmember Downes: It might be another one, somebody other than Peckham.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, yeah, I would imagine that's what it's (unable to understand) to, but we've only used Callahan's and Peckham generally.

Supervisor Ruso: Those are the ones that responded to our bid request.

Ellie Alfeld: Right, but I've never heard of this guy.

Supervisor Ruso: Seems to me there was somebody else some time back, but generally it's Peckham and Callahan. We put out the request for bids and they're the ones that respond.

Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten

The Planning Board met on January 12 with the following business transacted: ...Presented and passed resolution granting Special Use Permit to John Fisher for installation of a 16.56 kW roof mount solar array on his residence at 991 Deans Mill Road. Verbal approval had been given at the December Planning Board Meeting. ...Alan Lord from New York Land and Lakes, Inc. presented Sketch Plan Application for a 11-lot major subdivision of a 114+/- acre parcel, to be known as Misty Pines Farm, located on Route 51. Major Subdivision Application will be presented on surveyor's completion of survey work. ...Appointed Ann Marie Vadney as Planning Board Vice Chair for the 2023 year. Position of Board Secretary will be filled at a later date.

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Pat Linger

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet on January 4, 2023, since there were no applications to come before the Board.

Town Court

Supervisor Ruso: I don't have the Town share, but we get approximately one-third of that \$246,000. The State takes the lion's share, the County gets a much smaller amount. The Town gets the rest.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 38-2023 JANUARY 23, 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-01-01 to 2023b-01-35, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2023b-01-01 to 2023b-01-35.

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

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

General \$46,874.58, Highway , Sewer 1 \$, Sewer 2 , Water 3

Upcoming Meetings

- February 1, 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting is Cancelled
- February 9, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- February 13, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- February 20, 2023 Town Offices Closed for Presidents' Day
- February 27, 2023 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Public Comment

Eileen Vosburgh: I'm here to ask once again if you would reconsider reinstating the retirees for the HRA. This has been an immense hardship for these families. One in particular has had to put \$457 out of pocket out of a \$600 couple visits she had to cancel one appointment and I do there's like a \$3,200 deductible and that's pretty hard to meet on a fixed income. I know that there's one retiree who has cancer. I know he is not affected by the HRA because he's on the medicare, but his wife is part of that HRA well she was anyhow. So I'm asking you to reconsider reinstating these retirees. I know at the last meeting you mentioned that it was part of the negotiations, but I know bring a union member from the State Health Department I remember that the negotiators were not allowed to negotiate for retirees so if it's any way the Board can reconsider this I really would appreciate you reconsidering it.

Supervisor Ruso: With the signing of the union cards presentation of them back in December of 2020, we started negotiations. Got off to a slow start. I can't remember the date of our first sit-down, but it was a number of months after. The Handbook which I happen to have a copy here which was given to all employees every year typically unless there's no changes, has been presented to the negotiation table in lieu of sitting with the union about every item meaning unless there was an exception by the union or by the Town, for item x, y, or z throughout this document, the Handbook stands. This is the basis. I mean that's pretty much right of all benefits that will be in the contract. Again if there was an exception by the union on topic x, y, z or by us, it was allowed to be presented and has been. So at this moment until any of the negotiations are done there will not be any changes to the Handbook. The change that you're speaking of was actually from 2016 I believe it was or 2017 if I'm recalling correctly the HRA was changed back then before anybody who's currently on a retirement was retired. What had happened was MVP didn't know they were retired and I didn't know MVP had to be informed so they were carried on for five years and it got lost in the shuffle. So that was a benefit that came to them for five years that was not otherwise approved. It was caught on audit last year and we extended it for one year with notification. So until our negotiation at the very least, the handbook is not going to have any changes unless those required by law. We haven't really changed anything in a long time in any employee benefits except those required by law. There was a change recently on a waiting period for health insurance that was state law mandated a shorter window so we adjusted our Handbook for that.

Councilmember Boehlke: And we had another issue that surfaced right, Jeff, if I recall that it was kind of out of our hand is that the major carriers now do not want to...

Supervisor Ruso: Well, that was back in 2016. CDPHP was our carrier and they would not allow, they told us if you have an HRA, then we will not cover you for any employees. We had to change insurance companies and we changed it to MVP and I believe it was 2016 and so that was the last time that was changed our carrier. I think in the years I've been here, we've had Empire, and then we had CDPHP, and then we had...

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: Empire wouldn't cover the HRA either.

Supervisor Ruso: They wouldn't. No, MVP was the only one who would allow that. So in any event we're stuck with the Handbook we have until our negotiations are done at the very least and when the negotiations are done any changes in benefits... Again this whole document has been accepted with again some minor exceptions on topics. The HRA was at one point brought up the union, but they dropped that a couple meetings ago is that fair to say? Two-three meetings ago.

Deputy Superintendent Dellisanti: Two.

Eilleen Vosburgh: The union dropped the HRA.

Supervisor Ruso: I think part of it was that the mediator if I have this right, the mediator said 'sorry the retirees' as you said the retirees are not part of that. The retirees are not going to be part of the negotiations. They did say that, that resembles what you said.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Right.

Supervisor Ruso: But, nevertheless, it's in the Handbook.

Eilleen Vosburgh: That the retirees are part of it right now.

Supervisor Ruso: No, no that they do not receive HRA benefits.

Eilleen Vosburgh: That's what I says in the Handbook.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, and it's said that since 2016 at the least. I can only go back, I suppose I could go back further, but my new computer doesn't have the old Handbook from prior to '16 or '17. So that's where we are. So until the negotiations are done, I don't see an amendment to the Handbook coming. I don't see a change in the Handbook or any provisions, line items, benefits being extended.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Even though they retired thinking they would have that benefit.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, they should have known because this Handbook's been out since 2016 without that benefit in there. It was not in there. It might have been 2017, but in that range.

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember Boehlke to adjourn the Work Meeting at 7:46 PM.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: VanEtten

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke, RMC
Town Clerk