

PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:30 ON PRELIMINARY 2024 BUDGET

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

OCTOBER 23, 2023

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Moment of Silence for Reverend Joseph Loux, Former Member of the Planning Board

Expression of Interest on Complete Streets Study on State Route 144

Reports

Supervisor

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- Resolution Authorizing the Town Clerk to Seek Quotes for Inclusion in New York State Archives 2024 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grant Application
- October 16, 2022 Town Board Special Meeting Minutes

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)

- Resolution Authorizing the Town Supervisor to Execute an Agreement with Greene County Emergency Medical Systems, Inc.
- Resolution Authorizing the Town Supervisor to Execute An Agreement with Ravena Rescue Squad for Ambulance Services Provided to New Baltimore District No. 1
- Motion to Allow Cornell Hook and Ladder Fire Company to Drill Behind the Highway Garage

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

- Greene County Economic Development, Tourism & Planning Notice of 30-Day Period for Public Request for Inclusion in Agricultural District no. 124

Greene County Planning Board (Boehlke)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Approve Medicare Advantage Plan, Dental and Vision Insurance Plans for 2024

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

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

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Accept Proposal for Senior Luncheon

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

- November 1, 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM if Needed
- November 7, 2023 Town Offices Closed for Election Day
- November 9, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7PM
- November 10, 2023 Town Offices Closed for Veterans Day
- November 13, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- November 23-24, 2023 Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving
- November 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.

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

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Supervisor Ruso opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 PM. Also attending Councilmembers Boehlke and Irving; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; County Legislator Linger; Town Clerk Finke; Highway Superintendent VanWormer. Absent: Councilmembers Downes and VanEtten; and 15 members of the public who signed the attendance book

Supervisor Ruso: ‘Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore will hold a Public Hearing on October 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087 to hear those members of the public who wish to be heard regarding the 2024 Preliminary Budget. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s Office at the Town of New Baltimore, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087. Proposed Salary Figures of Elected Officials are as Follows: Town Council (4) \$5,253.25, Town Justices (2) \$12,608.00, Town Supervisor \$12,608.00, Town Clerk \$42,025.00, Superintendent of Highways \$59,886.00. By Order of the Town Board, Barbara M. Finke, Town Clerk ‘

Harold Vadney: This evening the Town Council pursuant to Town Law §108 is receiving public comment on the 2024 budget. Before doing so I’d like to address a preliminary question regarding a so-called budget officer. The Town Supervisor is the chief budget officer and according to Town Law §103 and I quote ‘the Supervisor may appoint to serve at his pleasure any person including a town officer or employee other than a member of the Town Board to be budget officer.’ A similar statement is included in manual information for Town officials published by the Office of New York State Comptroller which reads in Chapter 3 budgets and finance definitions and paraphrases Town Law 103 and reads in pertinent part ‘budget officer means the Supervisor or the person appointed to that office by the Supervisor an appointee serves at the pleasure of the Supervisor no Town Board member may be appointed to be budget officer.’ You will recall that in the open public meeting of October 16, 2023 you explicitly stated that budget officer Kelly Downes was absent from the meeting. The Chair ignored my question when I asked where is the budget officer, but that question is in fact moot because the burning question now was that the public can be heard is if stated by Supervisor Ruso at the public meeting of October 16, 2024, Kelly Downes is the budget officer. When did Ms. Downes resign from her position as member of the Town Board and if Ms. Downes has not resigned from her position as member of the Town Board can Mr. Ruso explain on what authority he as Town Supervisor violated the black letter law when he appointed Ms. Downes to be budget officer given that the law and the Office of the State Comptroller explicitly states that no Town Board member may be appointed as budget officer. I’ll rest until the Chair or the common Board member responds to that question and then I’ll proceed to my second topic.

Supervisor Ruso: I’m the budget officer, the other budget officer is Kelly Downes, she helps me do it. That’s all there is to it.

George McHugh, Esq.: She’s never been officially appointed though?

Supervisor Ruso: No, no, heavens no.

George McHugh, Esq.: So there is no other appointed budget officer.

Harold Vadney: Are you answering for the Chair or...?

George McHugh, Esq.: No, I just asked him and he said it.

Supervisor Ruso: I just answered it too. She’s never been appointed. She’s assistive to me.

Harold Vadney: Why did you refer to her as the budget officer?

Supervisor Ruso: Because the two of us have been doing it together. I mean that’s really it.

Harold Vadney: Okay, fine.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright so you have another one, **formulas** and considerations. Okay.

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Harold Vadney: Yes, I do. Section 108 of Town Law sets forth that any person may be heard in favor or against the Preliminary budget as compiled or for or against any line items therein contained. As I've already questioned the legality of the appointed budget officer and by extension of the legality of the budget itself I would never less like to take this opportunity to comment on the budget. In so doing I would specifically cite line item DA5110.4 Road Maintenance Contractual Expenditures which since 2019 has been subject to an average of 20% reduction each budget year and in the current budget shows a 30% reduction. Imagine if the Board's compensation or Mr. McHugh's \$18,000 in Town Attorney fees were cut 30 percent we can well image. Let me help you with this little problem. The 2019 budget the same line then was \$150,000. Today it's \$70,000. Since 2019 inflation has gone rampant jumping from 2.3 percent in 2019 to 7.0 percent in 2021 and down to 6 percent in 2022. The cumulative inflation rate for the same period is 20.1 percent and for the year 2022-2023, the cumulative rate was 4.9 percent. The price of diesel and motor oil has fluctuated between 2019 and 2023 on average from \$3.26 to \$5.36, a \$2.10 increase per gallon. If we take the cumulative inflation rate for 2019-2023 period of 20.1 percent, the budget allocation for this line item alone would be \$120,000. At the current year's inflation rate of 3.7 percent, the line item using \$100,000 as the base would be \$103,000. Even applying the current cumulative inflation rate of 4.9% 2022-2023, we'd have \$105,000. So the burning question is how did you come up with \$70,000? Moreover the counsel on September 25, 2023 Resolution 115-2023 put out Request for Proposals for snowplowing and snow removal. Snow removal for the past 25 years has not been done in the Town of New Baltimore so I'm wondering why all of the sudden it has to be done now? Nonetheless, given those inflation figures and the amounts allocated in the budget in the Highway line items just as examples any costs of contractors would be paid out of the Highway line item 5142.1, but there's no increase there. As a matter of fact that's another decrease. So basically I'll just cut it short at this point because I know I'm over my time. Given the arbitrary reductions I've asked the Board to respond to the public with an explanation of the formula used to determine the amount of reductions or increases in Highway Department allocations or any other items and if any formula the historical current and cumulative inflation rates play in the reduction as well as in the overall composition of the Town budget.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright, thank you. I think at the end of our conversation on the budget (unable to understand), I can get into a broadbase commentary that may be of assistance. So I have one more and I think it's budget. Is it seniors?

Ellie Alfeld: Yeah. My main thing here, there are a number of things I'm not gonna bore you, but I'm gonna poll the Board members, I see Shelly's not here and it would have been nice if she were. Do you know how many vets we have in this Town, a number, anybody? Military service there. If you have a question I'll ask if you have a DD214 how's that. Alright in any way understand or know how many seniors there are in this Town?

Supervisor Ruso: Not specifically.

Ellie Alfeld: Even close because you're representing us at the County level so you of all people should have some idea.

Supervisor Ruso: They don't give us that kind of data.

Ellie Alfeld: Did you ever ask?

Supervisor Ruso: Sure we have.

Ellie Alfeld: Oh, well then they should have given you...

Supervisor Ruso: Not specifically, but Countywide.

Ellie Alfeld: Okay, I'm not looking at the County, I'm looking at this Town because if you want to take numbers and I did we have approximately 160 vets in this Town. Of that we had 249

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Enhanced seniors filing for the Enhanced tax. At the rate we're going these seniors are losing ground more and more. Now I understand social security is going up 3.2 percent as of the first of the year. Oh, no, now wait a minute we gotta raise medicare on that money okay so we're gonna be behind the eight ball no matter what. I know you had the picnic, we appreciate what was done for us, however, when we have 249 seniors we didn't even come close and, Jeff, I had discussed this with you before because I had people coming up to me in Coxsackie at the Seniors saying they had no news that the picnic was happening, they didn't have any idea of it, and then they asked me and you'll recognize this question, Bill, they wanted to know when was the Christmas Party gonna be scheduled and I said as you said 'have no idea.' Are we gonna have one for seniors?

Supervisor Ruso: The answer is yes.

Ellie Alfeld: We are and we have sufficient funds in order to do that correct?

Supervisor Ruso: Based upon past usage, yes.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, last time I looked every time I questioned the senior line we took or got the same raise that you gave to almost everybody else so I'm hoping that that's indicative of this year's budget as well. Okay, so please remember our Town doesn't give the seniors and I don't even know how many of you are seniors, but our Town doesn't have a Senior Center. Our Town doesn't have..., we have to go to Ravena or Coxsackie. They support those towns are the ones that support something for seniors. I'd like to see something done in this town for the people that have lived here some of them 60 and 80 years. Thank you.

Town Clerk Finke: Jeff, just so you know the Seniors and Veterans was in the last newsletter. That went to every home.

Supervisor Ruso: I know. I know they did.

Eileen Vosburgh: On the Highway fund I see that thankfully there is no line item DA14204 Legal Fees. It appears to me in '21, '22, and '23 the Town spent \$42,395 and I'm assuming that was for the union contract. Is that true?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes.

Eileen Vosburgh: The Road Maintenance Personal Service is that for the Highway crew? Is that their salaries?

Supervisor Ruso: Of course.

Eileen Vosburgh: And how many people are you...?

Supervisor Ruso: We're looking forward to having six full-time people.

Eileen Vosburgh: Six, okay. Also on Social Security, line item DA90308 is that also, you have a guesstimate for six full-time people also?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, that's an automatic formula.

Eileen Vosburgh: But you used six full-time people right?

Supervisor Ruso: Well, there's seven. One of the employees, Mr. VanWormer, his salary is in the General Fund.

Eileen Vosburgh: Right, his salary, okay. And I also would like to know the reason why there's a reduced amount in the Road Maintenance Contractual Expense that Mr. Vadney discussed earlier from \$100,000 to \$70,000, line item...

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, I got it. Thank you.

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Eilleen Vosburgh: So I have several questions here. I notice on line item A7020 there's \$0 amount there for the Recreation Administration \$0 Actual, but you're going to do a Tentative Budget for \$1,500 when what have they done in the past? What is that \$1,500 for?

Supervisor Ruso: Are you advocating we do more than this? I'm not sure what your comments are.

Eilleen Vosburgh: No, I'm just wondering since it wasn't a program last year correct?

Supervisor Ruso: We're not giving up on having a potential program next year.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Okay. Then there was...

Supervisor Ruso: I'm not sure, do you want us to put more in? I'm looking forward to your comment here.

Eilleen Vosburgh: I'm just.. I'm wondering why you're doing that this year when you weren't able to do it last year.

Supervisor Ruso: I already told you that we're looking forward to having it next year and this is a comment period, it's not a question and answer period so please proceed. I mean I'd really like to hear what you want, if you want us to add, you want us to delete. That's what I'm looking forward to hearing.

Eilleen Vosburgh: It just seems like it's out in the air there.

Supervisor Ruso: No, that's in anticipation that we could still have a program.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Okay so what happened with that money that was budgeted in '23 that wasn't used, the \$2,500? Did it go back to the..,

Supervisor Ruso: It stays in the General Fund.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Goes back to the General Fund. Okay.

Supervisor Ruso: Like every line item when we have an over... The whole budget, I think some of your points -- not just yours but others -- are going to this. Every line item here is an estimate based upon a number of things such as inflation, such as past usage, okay we take into consideration those things, expected increases or changes that may occur with changes in regulations, or what have you. Now and again you can call them estimates but also you can say their guesses, I don't know what the cost of electricity is gonna be this year, I don't know how bad the snowstorms are gonna be and how much salt we're gonna use. I simply don't know those answers nor would I. Some items we're going to be over on and some items we're gonna be under on. At the end of the year we make adjustments to fill in so we're over in the cost of whichever line item you mentioned, it could be Court Contractual Expense, it could be anything we could go over on, but we also know that many times we're gonna be under as well and each of them offset each other hopefully so that we don't have a deficit. They're never gonna hit the line. Never in any of the line items do they ever actually hit, well, very seldom by the way. There are a couple of them that we know ahead of time when we put the budget together, but very seldom do they hit the mark exactly.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Line item A1410.4 Town Clerk Contractual. Can you tell me what that is? There was an actual expense year-to-date of \$4,385 and it's budgeted for \$12,000.

Town Clerk Finke: Want me to answer that?

Supervisor Ruso: Go ahead.

Town Clerk Finke: It's also postage, it's any expenses that we need, it is updates to our software programs,

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Supervisor Ruso: There's a lot of that, a lot of software issues.

Town Clerk Finke: And our software issues.

Eilleen Vosburgh: And can you tell me Personnel, who is in that?

Town Clerk Finke: For what line?

Eilleen Vosburgh: The next line 14...

Town Clerk Finke: The Deputy Town Clerk.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Deputy Town Clerk and how many do you have?

Town Clerk Finke: I'm only funded one full-time.

Eilleen Vosburgh: And where does the money come from the other people?

Town Clerk Finke: Right from that line.

Eilleen Vosburgh: But you have more than one full-time.

Town Clerk Finke: I do and they're funded from that line.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Oh, they're all from that line. The Engineer Actual 1440.4, 2 of 5, Page 2 of 5 of the General Fund, you have an Actual of \$7,822 and nothing budgeted for this year. Can you tell me what that is?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, that relates to Planning Board, Solar escrow accounts. There's funds different for that. The Solar escrow accounts are funded by the project. They put money into the accounts, we draw it from there, and originally it's paid for out of a Town check and then it's replenished by the escrow account. We don't know what the next year's Engineering is, but we don't plan on that and that is funded by an outside outfit so the moneys come in and then...

Eilleen Vosburgh: The money comes in and then okay... Line item A2700 Employee Health, Dental and Reimbursement, so is that the HRA?

Supervisor Ruso: Which line item are you talking about?

Eilleen Vosburgh: It's Page 1 of 5, A2700.

Supervisor Ruso: That's on the Income side, that's Revenue.

Eilleen Vosburgh: That's Revenue.

Supervisor Ruso: Correct.

Eilleen Vosburgh: That the employees pay into?

Supervisor Ruso: I beg your pardon. Yes, that's revenue mostly from employees or former employees.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Okay and I was also gonna ask about the Program for the Aging, the Actual \$195.74 this year and budgeted \$1,800 for next year doesn't seem like Ellie said that nobody's really doing much for them. Thank you.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright, thank you. Okay, as I said earlier the budgets are put together with estimates largely based upon anticipated expenses, also with a look-back, what did we spend in the previous years. If we spent \$20,000 we jump off of that figure. If we spend \$30,000 we use that as a figure. If we spend \$10,000 we use that as a figure moving forward. That's the basis of it. Some things change in a general direction and they stay down, sometimes they go up. Now

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there's a lot of estimates here. A lot of estimates. In fact every line item is an estimate, every single one. So I could pick on any given one, when you see the Actual is terribly different from the.. These figures are through September 30, the Actual for 2023, but if you look at the Actual for 2022 you can pick any given line item and we see that we have to go up on some. So for instance on line item A190.4 Unallocated Insurance, Actual last year was \$37,000. We budgeted \$38,500, that was for '23. However, it actually turned out to be \$43,331 because it went up a great deal. So I'm using that \$43,000 as a basis to what – and I'm just using this line item as I just put my pen down on it —where we're budgeting \$45,000. So there in of itself is a \$7,000 increase, but that's based upon history and expenses that we've incurred. And again, you can go into all the other line items and gauge it accordingly. You know Streetlighting, I just picked on that one, and actuality in 2022 we have budgeted \$2,500 but we spent \$3,500. Oh we weren't certain where it was going to go because the rates have gone down a little bit towards the end of the year so we budgeted \$3,000. Through nine months of the year it's come in at \$2,100. Is our guess gonna be right? Well, we've got two months left, actually three, this is through September 30. So we estimated \$3,000. I actually believe it's gonna go higher, certainly come up a great deal from the \$2,130 because the lighting season is now greater than it was during the summer, but don't forget we had the early part of the year as well. And that's a process we use line item by line item. Every single line item is largely based upon that process. And we've heard from Mr. VanWormer in the past for instance if we have any expected changes in fuel costs or salt costs or those kind of things. We've heard from the Courts whether they have had educational requirements and we try to fund it accordingly okay. So that's my generalized statement about how the budget is put together so it's not a hands up thing, it's not a classroom. Mr. VanWormer, you're on the Highway if you would step up if you have something you want to, a comment to make.

Ellie Alfeld: Is inflation ever included in this?

Supervisor Ruso: Of course, course, course.

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: I was just wondering if you could enlighten us on the \$30,000 reduction in the Road Maintenance line.

Supervisor Ruso: Actually I think you should enlighten us. You were in the room when we come up with that number.

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: No, I was not.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, you were.

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: When I met with you two we were leaving the budget as is.

Supervisor Ruso: No, sir.

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: When I left that meeting you made a few adjustments, raised things a little bit.

Supervisor Ruso: We discussed every line item. Alan, we discussed every line item.

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: No, Jeff, we didn't.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, we did.

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: I would have never walked out of that meeting and agreed to a \$30,000 reduction.

Supervisor Ruso: The only line item that was not certain was the one for the salaries. That's how we ended that and I said if there's anything that you need let me know.

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Highway Superintendent VanWormer: No, I never left that meeting, we never discussed a \$30,000 reduction, never.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, you did.

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: No, I did not. When I left that meeting we were in agreement that the budget was pretty much gonna stay the same.

Harold Vadney: There are two state sections in the State Town Law. One is 104 which is submission of estimates. The other is Town Law §106 and that is again refers to the budget officer and I'd really like to know who the budget, I know you're a chief budget officer.

Supervisor Ruso: I am. Kelly and I work it together. We sit together and do most of this.

Harold Vadney: Okay, so basically I'm not really interested any further in the point of the budget officer. You mentioned that specific terminology and that sent up red flags logically, but these two Town Law sections, particularly §104, the head of each administrative unit presumably any of the, the Clerk's office, the Highway Department, any of the administrative units or departments except as otherwise provided in section blah, blah, blah 200 'shall submit on or before the 20th day of September to the budget officer' meaning to you okay 'an estimate of revenues and expenditures of such administrative unit for the ensuing year.' It goes on to say 'estimates shall be submitted in such form and shall contain such information as the budget officer shall prescribe.' So the ball lands in your court. You receive the estimates of revenues and expected expenditures, you apparently are also tasked with analyzing them, and if you have any questions it's up to you to respond to those submissions made by the administrative unit chiefs to clarify any questions. Now §106 says 'upon receipt of the estimate the various administrative units, the budget officer' you, 'shall review the estimates and may confer with the head of any such unit in regard to such estimates. He may require the head of any such unit to furnish information and to answer inquiries pertinent to such review.' All again in your court.

Supervisor Ruso: Mr. Vadney, please finalize where you're going.

Harold Vadney: Okay, wait, I'm not done, please don't interrupt me. When you sit there and challenge Mr. VanWormer as to what was said and what was not said at these meetings which is one reason why Councilpeople not to accept your invitations to meetings are there any minutes or recordings made of the proceedings of these minutes that can document what you said or what you did not say and what Mr. VanWormer asserts or affirms you said or did not say. Is there any record of that?

Supervisor Ruso: I have notes. Thank you.

Harold Vadney: The answer is no?

Supervisor Ruso: I have notes, n-o-t-e-s. Thank you.

Harold Vadney: Made by you? Yes?

Supervisor Ruso: Of course. I have notes. I don't understand what you don't understand. I have notes.

Harold Vadney: You don't understand, but I do.

Supervisor Ruso: Okay, thank you everybody.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Line 3820.1 Safety Insurance Inspection Personnel. Who is that?

Supervisor Ruso: That would be our Code Enforcement Officer, I haven't turned to the page. I believe that's our Code Enforcement Officer, \$21,000, \$22,000 I can't remember what it was.

Eilleen Vosburgh: And then he has a \$3,000 contractual. What is that like gas or something?

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Supervisor Ruso: Yeah.

Eilleen Vosburgh: No, the other question is there's a \$0 amount for, on 6989.4 Economic Development budgeted, \$0 amount, why? Why aren't we...?

Supervisor Ruso: Which one is this?

Eilleen Vosburgh: 6898.4 Economic Development.

Supervisor Ruso: We don't have any.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Well, why are you not budgeting to get some economic development?

Supervisor Ruso: Because most of that economic development is through conversations with ourselves, Board Members, and individuals who are pursuing economic development in the Town. We don't spend money on it. They come in, they meet with me. That doesn't cost the Town anything. Now I've had conversations about economic development, simply where someone wants to put a Pilot truck stop in the Town and it was a lengthy meeting including people who were engineers. It didn't cost us anything to meet. It came in here, this very room, we've had other such meetings with other potential contractors or developers and we don't take 'em out to lunch. We don't spend money on them and that's pretty much it.

Eilleen Vosburgh: I know in the past I asked about a grant writer and Mr. McHugh was here. I asked could we possibly get some kind of relationship with his grant writer. Wouldn't that be a good investment of town for taxpayers, a grant writer?

George McHugh, Esq.: I don't have a grant writer. Coeymans uses their engineer. We don't have a grant writer.

Eilleen Vosburgh: I understood you had a grant writer.

George McHugh, Esq.: Two years ago. We haven't had one in two years.

Eilleen Vosburgh: So wouldn't that be kind of a good investment for the Town?

George McHugh, Esq.: We got rid of our grant writer because it wasn't a good investment.

Eilleen Vosburgh: You got a lot of grants.

George McHugh, Esq.: And they were all from our engineers. That's why we stuck with the engineer.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Or were they also from penalties.

George McHugh, Esq.: No, they were for engineers. The engineers did our grant writing so we didn't see the need to have a grant writer.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Coxsackie seems to have a lot of grants going their way. Thank you.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright, thank you everybody.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke to close the Public Hearing at 7:05 PM.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

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OPENING OF WORK MEETING

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:08 PM. Also attending Councilmembers Boehlke and Irving; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; County Legislator Linger; Town Clerk Finke; Highway Superintendent VanWormer. Absent: Councilmembers Downes and Irving; and 11 members of the public who signed the attendance book

Supervisor Ruso: Recently one of our staff has endured a loss and that would be Marjorie Loux, our long-time clerk here at Town for various things – Building, Planning Board, Zoning Board. Joseph, himself was a Planning Board member for 17 years here for the Town. So I think what I would like to do is if we could all stand before we do the Pledge of Allegiance and have a Moment of Silence on behalf of Mr. Loux, Joseph Loux. Thank you everybody. Please join me if you would in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Ruso: We have, as many of you know or will recall, recently we sent out for Expression of Interest to various engineering groups that was supplied to us by the New York State DOT on behalf of the Complete Streets Study Program. We've received a number of submissions. There are three that are particularly interesting and I've asked them, this is not a formal presentation, this is mostly introduction so that we least get to see who's who and a brief description of yourselves, just a couple minutes so there will be time for interview in the next couple weeks. I'm looking upon our engineers, I see three of them here or is it four? So if I may I'll go by alphabetical order and that would be Mr. Collingwood and Ms. Mikler. If you could please step up and just describe your organization and how many towns you've been doing this for, how many roads you've done this for. We're not gonna have the full spiel.

Christina Minkler: I'm Christina Minkler with JMT. I am the Principle in charge for the upstate New York offices of Albany and in Syracuse. I am born and raised in this area from Troy, live in East Greenbush now and I'm a highway engineer and designer. I have been a highway engineer since I graduated from school about 18 years ago so understand some of the challenges, safety, and concerns that are raised by a project such as this and we in upstate New York are an employee-owned firm so we feel responsible and carry with great pride the value that we create for projects. We're currently working with the City of Saratoga on Union Avenue Complete Streets Project and in the City of Cohoes along Saratoga Street. Those are both active current projects where we are addressing the Complete Streets principles of a roadway. I'll let Mat go ahead.

Matt Collingwood: My name's Matt Collingwood. I'm a Project Manager with JMT. I also lead our highway design efforts for upstate New York. I've got a little over 15 years of experience with highway design roadway projects, most recently Complete Streets. I've done a lot of work with local federal aid projects through DOT, a lot of local experience in the region and been here since I graduated from college in Troy so I've stayed in the area and working in and around the area since.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you by the way. On behalf of each of you I'm going to be calling each of you in the next number of days and we'll set up a time in the next couple weeks that's good for both of you. One of the things I will ask for is some names and phone numbers of town officials or municipal officials that would speak well on your behalf I would hope. That would be nice. Thank you. So the next in alphabetical order is Mr. Cornwell, Christopher, he was GPI.

Christopher Cornwell: Thank you, Supervisor, and the Board for the opportunity. My name is Chris Cornwell, I'm an engineer with GPI. I graduated Union College in 2003, went to Hudson Valley before that. I live in a rural community, I'm from Schoharie County, still live in Schoharie County so very similar to a small town area. We do a lot of work on projects such as this and Complete Streets in Region 1 which is what we're in also Region 2 and 8. Particularly we have a Kingston office, done a lot of work on the Complete Streets. If you're familiar with Kingston under Boardway corridor and a lot of other initiatives down there and locally we're working with the Town of East Greenbush and also the Town of Lake George. We were just designated with their Route 9N project which is basically north going along the lake, very similar to the 144 corridor with some of the challenges that we have out there with the right-of-way restrictions and how we discuss all those opportunities of how we can incorporate Complete Streets into the project. So we look forward to having the opportunity to discuss our qualifications with the Town.

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Supervisor Ruso: That you very much, Mr. Cornwell. Thank you and Mr. Schneider.

Chad Schneider: Good evening, thanks for having us. My name is Chad Schneider, I work for MJ Engineering. MJ Engineering started out as a two-person firm in Clifton Park, New York and over the last 44 years we've grown to about 160 employees. We've been working on any number of different projects. We are now a multidiscipline firm that has also highway, bridge structural, building structural, site civil, sanitary, and water as well. I went to Union College, graduated in 1999. I've been with MJ Engineering since I graduated, so I've been there for 24 years. My immediate supervisor's been there longer than me so we've worked together the last 24 years as well and we've worked on Complete Streets projects for probably about the last 30 years give or take. We try to incorporate that into any job we do that has to do with a roadway because it just leads to safety and everybody being able to use it. Most recently we've been working on some projects in Hyde Park. We had a Complete Streets study that we performed there on Route 9. We also performed some in Malta and also in Arlington as well just east of Poughkeepsie on their Main Street there as well, and we also helped the City of Albany develop their Complete Streets manual that I was personally involved in. And we're looking very forward to working on this project with you guys.

Supervisor Ruso: And as I said, the Complete Streets project for Route 144. We've talked about that a number of times and this is a study to help address the safety concerns we have down there for those that don't know. Alright, thank you, Mr. Schneider, I appreciate it and as I said each of you will be getting a call from me and we'll set up a time and date okay? Thank you very much.

Supervisor Jeff Ruso

Monthly financial reports for the month of September have been forwarded to each of us. Has everyone had a chance to review them? Okay, I would like to make a Motion to accept the September financial report.

Councilmember Irving: I'll second that Motion.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

County Legislator Pat Linger

I have returned to full unrestricted duty following my recent surgical procedure. This month, I was able to attend 8 committee meetings, one workshop, one public hearing, and the regular Legislative Meeting. In regular business for the month of October, we approved \$136k in Homeland security grant funding for the Sheriff, Stop DWI, and Emergency Management departments. We approved \$1 million in critical repairs for CGCC. Up to \$250k will be contributed by Greene County, \$250k by Columbia County, and \$500k from NYS. We awarded bids and contracts for the Cohotate Preserve improvements. The County and Soil & Water have already put the over \$1.2 million aside for this project. e heard a presentation from the Real Property Services Director regarding the senior citizens tax exemptions. He will bring forward a resolution in November to increase the income levels. We are currently working on plans to re-design the Catskill Transfer Station residential drop-off area. The current traffic flow is causing considerable safety concerns. Collection bins have been set up in Cocksackie and Catskill transfer stations for heavy glass bottles to benefit Ella's Project. Proceeds will help feed the homeless in Greene and surrounding communities. We held a Public Hearing and subsequently approved an extension to the County mortgage recording tax. The CR61 bridge over the Cocksackie Creek is in the right-of-way and design phase right now. The CR61 slide near the Kreil Farm has gotten more active this year. We are currently developing requests for design proposals to rebuild this section of road. We approved an increase of \$3.8 million to the Criminal Justice Center estimated cost. The \$28.8 million building will not increase property taxes. This building and the planned Community Services building will be paid for with cash and funds from existing bond agreements which are about to be retired. We have begun the process of establishing a task force to investigate our current EMS system in the County. We were asked to do this by the

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mountaintop supervisors. Greene County will hire an outside agency to gather the data and compile a report for us to consider. Those of you who have been involved for any length of time will recall this was done in 2017 as well. At that time, the proposal fell apart as towns decided not to participate. I believe that given the difficulty every EMS agency is experiencing hiring and retaining employees, and the fact that we don't have a hospital, a decision may be made by the Legislature as opposed to individual towns. I'll keep the Town informed as best as possible. We set a Public Hearing for inclusion in Ag District #124 for January 17, 2024 at 6:25pm. Our Honor a Vet ceremony will be held Saturday, November 4 at 10am at the Catskill Point. WWII Sgt Enrico Formica will be honored as the 2023 Veteran of the Year. The Port of Call restaurant next door will offer a \$25 lunch buffet next door where veterans will eat free. The 2024 Tentative budget was presented and released to the public on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. The \$131 million proposal is an increase of \$8.8 million over the adopted 2023 budget. The tax levy, however, will remain unchanged at \$27.4 million for the 5th year in a row. A Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 will be held at 6:00 pm on Monday October 30, 2023 at the Catskill Middle School Auditorium. The Public Hearing will include a presentation and allow for community feedback. Greene County is in the best financial position ever and currently has the twelfth lowest property tax rate in New York State! As your Legislator and the Chairman of the Legislature for the last 5 years, that is an accomplishment I'm extremely happy to announce. Together, we're moving Greene County forward!

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you, sir. I'm not sure what a heavy bottle is.

County Legislator Linger: You ever see the big pickle jars?

Supervisor Ruso: Oh, sure.

County Legislator Linger: That's a heavy glass, that a type of heavy glass. Apparently there's a market for them at these rage rooms where they go and smash stuff with sledge hammers and things like that and they're getting 15 cents a bottle for these. Ella's Project is collecting them and getting the money for them and feeding the homeless.

Councilmember Boehlke: Pat, what's the status of the project out there by the Thruway exit?

County Legislator Linger: In Catskill?

Councilmember Boehlke: Yup.

County Legislator Linger: The Tourism Center has been torn down, taken away, it's flat ground right now. They're working on establishing a new roadway in. There will be one main road that goes into that property and then you'll have Stewart's on the right side as you go in the main road. The hotel will sit to the back of the property and then the front left parcel is still open, but they're marketing it to a restaurant.

Councilmember Boehlke: And that's all been approved, permits everything?

County Legislator Linger: Yes, they're all in the works. The third parcel hasn't been sold yet so we don't know who that is, but the Hampton Inn is the hotel that's gonna be going in there so kind of a mid-level, mid-scale hotel.

Councilmember Boehlke: Did you get any stats on the revenues on sales tax?

County Legislator Linger: Well, year's not over yet. Right now we're above budget with two months to go which is a very good sign for us. It's kind of why our budget is going the way it is. We're spending \$8 million more this year, but we're taking a lot of that sales tax excess and putting it back to the taxpayers rather than putting it aside for other projects.

Councilmember Irving: How far out are we on the contract for landfill space?

County Legislator Linger: Seneca Meadows I believe has just received their approval for I want to say it's seven more years. I'll have to check to make sure, but I think it's seven more years.

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Councilmember Irving: Would it be adequate space for the County?

County Legislator Linger: Well, I mean we're doing everything we can to reduce that. We started a new composting program.

Councilmember Irving: Yeah, that's a good program.

County Legislator Linger: And we've now gone to what do they call single stream recycling on the plastics, just kind of get some more of that captured. So we're trying to send less and less to landfills.

Councilmember Irving: I think the County's doing a good job. Thank you.

Town Clerk Barb Finke

7 Building Permits \$2,622.20, 1 Deck and Porch \$75.00, 1 New Septic System \$50, 7 CO Searches \$350, 12 Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$87.06, 13 Dog Licenses \$90, 2 Replacement Tags \$4, 1 Late License \$5, 1 Marriage License \$17.50, 1 Demolition \$250, 1 Non-Resident Park Rental \$50, 1 Solar Residential \$160.97, 5 Certified Copies \$50, Recycle Fees \$8, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$5,193.17, \$17 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, to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$1,333.94, Total to Supervisor \$1,373.44. The 19th Annual Townwide Yard Sale was held on Saturday, September 16, 2023 with 46 sales on the map. I would like to thank Amanda Eldred, Lynn Taylor and Donna Degnen for their assistance again this year as well as the Highway crew for changing the date on the Yard Sale signs, installing, and removing them after the sale. Maps were available on the steps of Town Hall, on the website, at District 2 Park, the New Baltimore Reformed Church, and Albright's Garage. The 20th Annual Townwide Yard Sale will be Saturday, September 21. I received my Certified Town Official designation from the Association of Towns on September 11, 2023. I began this program back in 2014 and have completed 30 classes in the areas of Assessor, Attorney, Code Enforcement, Highway, Justice, Planning and Zoning, Supervisor, Tax Collection, Town Board, and Town Clerk. This has been a long process, but personally satisfying for me. I would like to thank Supervisors Dellisanti and Ruso as well as Town Board Members over the last almost ten years who encouraged me to continue this long road. Of the 933 towns in New York State, I am the 29th recipient of this designation and the first for the Town of New Baltimore. I would like to thank everyone for their continued patience with our current staffing situation. One clerk has been out since July and one will be out until the end of November.

Supervisor Ruso: Barb, thank you and congratulations by the way.

Town Clerk Finke: Thank you.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 121-2023
OCTOBER 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN CLERK TO SEEK QUOTES FOR
INCLUSION IN NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT
RECORDS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT**

WHEREAS the Town Clerk would like to apply for a 2024 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grant from the New York State Archives.

WHEREAS proposals and quotes will need to be procured for document inventory, room renovation, electrical, temperature and humidity control, technology, shelving, step ladder, storage boxes, and other related supplies and improvements.

RESOLVED the Town Clerk is authorized to seek quotes for said New York State Archives grant procurement needed for inclusion in the 2024 grant application.

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Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmembers Irving and Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

Town Clerk Finke: Thank you.

Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley

September 27, 2023-October 210, 2023 4 Tires up to and including 16” with rim \$20, 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastics) 8, 3 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 29 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 62 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, 1 Refrigerator, Large September 27, 1 Microwave Oven October 4, 1 Washer and 1 Dryer October 11, and 1 Dishwasher October 18. Total Income \$20

Greene County EMS Representative Nick Dellisanti

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023. There were 12 EMS calls in September for a total of 121 for this year 2023. We had 180 calls for all of 2022.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: There were also unfortunately 12 overdoses in September in Greene County and our individual cost per call for 2024 will be \$279.30 for approximately 81 ALS calls. The remaining calls are for BLS not ALS.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 122-2023
OCTOBER 23, 2023

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH GREENE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute an agreement with Greene County Emergency Medical Systems, Inc. for the period January 1, 2024 to December, 31, 2024 for \$22,624.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: I heard a voice somewhere saying ‘what’s that for?’ Greene County EMS answers our calls or goes to a lot of our calls and those people need to be paid.

Ellie Alfeld: I understand. Is that what this is in particular, the EMS?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, ma’am.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: Can you sign that now? Thank you.

Supervisor Ruso: It’s an increase of \$2,300, almost \$2,400.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: 12.8 percent.

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 123-2023
OCTOBER 23, 2023

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH RAVENA RESCUE SQUAD FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES PROVIDED TO NEW BALTIMORE DISTRICT 1

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute an agreement with Ravene Rescue Squad for Ambulance for the period January 1, 2024 to December, 31, 2024 for basic ambulance services provided to New Baltimore Ambulance District No. 1 at a total cost of \$35,000.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

Supervisor Ruso: We discussed this briefly at our last meeting unless you have any thoughts. I will sign this one because it's a signable copy.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: I have an application for Facility Use for the New Baltimore Fire District. They've applied to use our area behind the Town Highway Garage to have a fire company drill the drill will be a live fire.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: The first one was on the 23rd and we have another application for the use of that same area behind the Highway Garage for drill on the 30th of October, 2023.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

Greene County Economic Development, Tourism & Planning 'NOTICE OF A 30-DAY PERIOD FOR PUBLIC REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NO. 124 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Agricultural District No. 124 encompassing 839 Parcel and 42,180.83 acres within the County of Greene, in the Towns of Ashland, Athens, Cairo, Catskill, Cossackie, Durham, Halcott, Hunter, Greenville, Jewett, New Baltimore, Prattsville, Lexington, Windham and the Villages of Athens, Catskill, Cossackie, Hunter, and Tannersville (entire County of Greene), was established pursuant to Article 25-AA of the Agriculture and Markets Law. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that under Section 303 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, the County is required to allow landowners an opportunity to submit a request for inclusion of land which is predominantly viable agricultural land within a certified agricultural district prior to the county established eight-year review period. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that this is an early notice of the change of the previously established 30-day period of October 1 to October 30. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the County will conduct a thirty-day request for inclusion period which will begin November 1, 2023 and end on November 30, 2023. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that during this 30-day period, any

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municipality whose territory encompassed the above Agricultural District, any State Agency or any landowner within or adjacent to the district may propose an addition to the district. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that any proposed addition must be filed with Greene County Economic Development, Tourism & Planning, 411 Main Street, Catskill, N.Y. 12414 within the thirty (30) days specified. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that a fillable PDF of the 'Request for Inclusion' form can be ta <https://www.greenegovernment.com> (new forms will be updated by 11/1/2023). PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a paper copy of the 'Request for Inclusion' form can be obtained from Greene County Economic Development, Tourism & Planning (518)719-3290 PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that at the termination of the thirty (30) day period, the proposed additions will be submitted to the Greene County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board and that thereafter a public hearing will be held on the District, proposed additions, and recommendations of said board. Dated: September 29, 2023.

Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer

Highway Report September 25 to October 23 2023 Cut several dead trees with Town of Athens Bucket truck, Repaired mower head on roadside mower, Mowed parks and Town Hall as needed, Unloaded boom mower recently purchased and installed on tractor, Had fire extinguishers inspected at highway Garage and all vehicles, Checked and cleaned drains in hamlet before heavy rain, Mixed more sand and salt and put in shed, Replaced broken throttle cable on Massey Furgisson Tractor, Moved grader and roller to Featherbed lane for patching, Washed trucks Washed John Deere Loader, Grader patched feathebed lane with blacktop with help from the Town of Coxsackie, Washed both zero turn mowers, Sent one truck for half day to help village of coxsackie with milling, Took 4 large tree stumps to Advantage tree service in Feura Bush for recycling, Grader patched Hillcrest Road, South Ridge Road, and Willowbrook Drive with blacktop with help from Town of Coxsackie, Grader patched Staco Road and East Honey Hollow Road with Blacktop, Changed bucket on excavator got ready for ditch work, Sunday October 15th met with Jeff Deso regarding draiage on New Street, Picked up garbage from Town Hall, Made blacktop repair on Carhart Road, Mowed along roads, Checked 2006 F350 for oil leak, need new oil pan, Hauled in 76.71 tons salt from port of Coeymans, Picked up hose extension from Mooradian Hydraulics for boom mower, Removed and replaced oil pan on 2006 F350 unit #10, I would like to Thank the Town of Coxsackie Highway Department for all of their help, they sent a truck and two employees to help us with our grader patching. We have a little bit more to do, and then we will start preparing trucks for winter. I currently have 3 applications for full time employment one with a CDL license, and two with permits waiting on civil service approval. The union is ready to take the two with permits and get them trained as soon as we receive word from civil service. Also have one application coming for a part time as needed HMEO for winter, he is retired from the Town of Coeymans and very experienced in plowing snow.

Supervisor Ruso: To follow up on the one point you made here, I had conversations with Greene County Civil Service. They have their meeting on Wednesday so we should hear very shortly thereafter. There was a question I did have. We have our next resolution is for purchase of plow for the new 350. Just off the top of my head I wanted to hear from you we don't have any plow equipment that would fit it that was on the other vehicles or is it all...?

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: No, it's too old.

Supervisor Ruso: Okay, that's what I wanted to know.

Councilmember Boehlke: So, Alan, are we keeping the older trucks for now?

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: Yes.

Councilmember Boehlke: And we're keeping them with the plows also?

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: Yup, yup. In fact I'm gonna keep the salter on the old white truck until it doesn't run anymore and then we'll worry about getting one for the new truck.

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Councilmember Boehlke: Excellent. What's our status with the winter mix, salt and...?

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: We're done, our shed's full, the shed's full, yup.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 124-2023
OCTOBER 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF NEW PLOW
EQUIPMENT FOR 2023 FORD F350**

WHEREAS the Town of New Baltimore has approved and received a new 2023 Ford F350 for the Highway Department, and

WHEREAS two quotes were sought and received for the purchase of new plow equipment to be installed on said new plow. The lowest quote was submitted was by Toad's LLC, 903 Main St, Cairo NY for a total of \$9,100 installed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the quote as submitted for Toad's LLC.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

Insurance

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 125-2023
OCTOBER 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN, DENTAL,
AND VISION INSURANCE PLANS FOR 2024**

WHEREAS the match-back option for the Medicare Advantage Plan for retirees age 65 and above will be CDPHP PPO at the rate of \$326.10 effective January 1, 2024 for a total estimated monthly cost of \$2,608.80 based on current usage; and,

WHEREAS the Met Life Dental plan is renewed as of January 1, 2024 for a total estimated monthly cost of \$461.39 based on current usage; and,

RESOLVED the Empire Vision plan is renewed as of December 1, 2023 for a total estimated monthly cost of \$114.58 based on current usage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the renewals of each of the above insurance plans.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Give me a moment here, I'll sign them.

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Town Court

The following is the Town of New Baltimore Court monthly report for September 2023.

- Total September monies received was \$17,476.00
 - Judge Huff \$9,968.00
 - Judge Konsul \$7,508.00
 - State/County Share* Town Share*
- Total 2023 (January-September) monies received 137,163.00
 - State/County Share * Town Share *
- Total New Cases Received 85

*State report not available

Supervisor Ruso: The County and Town shares are not here. Barb, did you get an update on that?

Town Clerk Finke: I do have something if you want to finish it.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, I do. Go ahead. Why don't you tell me what they are.

Town Clerk Finke: Okay so I have all of August, I only have part of September. So for total right now Judge Huff is \$74,453, Judge Konsul is \$62,710, Total \$137,163, without September the State share is \$68,323, Town share \$51,374.

Supervisor Ruso: Anything for the County?

Town Clerk Finke: All I have is -\$10.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright, thank you. Alright, so that summarizes it all.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 126-2023
OCTOBER 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-10-01 to 2023b-10-23, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2023b-10-01 to 2023b-10-23.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until November 30, 2022.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

General \$10,915.16, Highway \$4,254.71, Sewer 1 \$258, Sewer 2 \$712.38, Water 2 \$3,734.20, Water 3 \$1,278.70, Total \$21,952.52

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Upcoming Meetings

- November 1, 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM if Needed
- November 7, 2023 Town Offices Closed for Election Day
- November 9, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7PM
- November 10, 2023 Town Offices Closed for Veterans Day
- November 13, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- November 23-24, 2023 Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving
- November 27, 2023 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Public Comment Period/Community Events

Supervisor Ruso: Debra Sottolano and your's on request for update on the Champlain Hudson Power Express. I can tell you that if you wish.

Debra Sottolano: Yeah, I did want an update. I have a few different topics in there.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, we had a site visit -- myself, Mr. Dellisanti, Mr. Scott VanWormer -- on that date and we went to New Baltimore Road and saw what they were going to do. It was going to be very little affect there. There might be more affect on Hawley and Kreitmeyer and they explained what they had in mind and they have submitted to us a Road Use Agreement which in essence commits them to repairing and restoring the roads. I submitted that Road Use Agreement to our Attorney as well as to our Highway Superintendent and I believe I got my last word from the two of you today that you're good with what it says. So they were gonna proceed with it and I'm gonna sign the Road Use Agreement and that's pretty much it.

Debra Sottolano: So I know we talked about it the last time if there would be a public meeting because the meeting you just described was not public, but I know when we spoke with Ellie at the September 25th we asked and you thought you might be asking them for a public meeting.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, that's easier said than done. I can request it again and see if there's specific from them. I'm uncertain of that. I can't say 'yes,' I can't say 'no,' we'll give it an additional shot. I'll bring it up again.

Debra Sottolano: Did they talk about any of the dates of the construction would begin at all? I know this is a long process, but it's already started.

Supervisor Ruso: We're probably not going to see any work until probably 2025. They did indicate that the program is actually going slower. It started way up north somewhere.

Debra Sottolano: It started in Whitehall I think also and down to Astoria, Queens.

Supervisor Ruso: And it's going slower than they anticipated. It's not going quickly. So we're further down the line. It might even be, you know how construction is, '25 could be very well be 2026.

Debra Sottolano: So did they give you any next steps for our area what's gonna happen because they really are supposed to be giving some contact to the property owners and I didn't know if they mentioned anything about that.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, indeed they have, in most cases have. I know they've been in contact with multiple people, some people have filed through the Town the easements that they agreed upon with the Champlain Hudson Power Project. I know of two that have been submitted and I know there are more than just the two. The only town-specific properties are the roads themselves. New Baltimore Road they're going to be drilling, lateral drilling, and putting that in and it's got to be 20 feet below the road surface. A long way down and impact on the road would be miniscule on the road surface itself. The parking of their vehicles nearby, I think most of them are gonna use, they said they're probably gonna use that transfer station that's nearby. Kreitmeyer and Hawley Lane, any damages we would be inspecting the roads when we're done and insuring we have everything good. The one part I'm uncertain about and I talked to them and they told me that there were regulations to the contrary was they're going to have to widen Kreitmeyer Road by 4 feet. I said 'fine' and then when they're done, they're going to bring it back down to the size it's at. I'm thinking if you widen it, why don't you keep it that way? They

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said ‘no, we’re not, we have to restore it back to the original condition and I’m thinking you made the road wider it might be better because it’s tight with two cars or especially two pickup trucks are passing. But that’s what the status of that is so nevertheless.

Ellie Alfeld: Did they make any attempt to tell you about drilling in the Hannacroix Creek?

Supervisor Ruso: No, there was no discussion of drilling in the Hannacroix Creek.

Ellie Alfeld: It’s my understanding they are going to drill quite a ways down in the Creek.

Supervisor Ruso: Under the Creek.

Ellie Alfeld: The Hannacroix Creek at the end of Independence Lane.

Supervisor Ruso: No, they talked about the deals that they’re having with private owners as well with the Town. I’m not even sure who the regulatory body, that would be not DEC, but...

Ellie Alfeld: I believe that DEC would have something to say about it, but one of the property owners that adjoins the Creek has made it known to me that they were informed they will be drilling and they’re going down quite a bit.

Supervisor Ruso: And they can’t even leave the gravel or the dirt because I had actually asked. I don’t know if we have any needs for dirt. I know you try to get rid of ditching fill, but I didn’t know if you had any needs. I was thinking about the Town and nope they can’t even leave that. They have to take the... because they’re gonna dig a trench basically along the tracks within the track right right-of-way. The railroad owns most of the property they will be on significantly and they’ve already got that deal and no, they can’t even leave us dirt or stone and it’s very different.

Debra Sottolano: Are there expected any road closures or other impacts (unable to understand).

Supervisor Ruso: It’ll get a little dicey with traffic, but they’re going to be considerate at least they said, they would be considerate of other traffic. Kreitmeyer Road is not very wide so two cars coming, but the construction is going to be at the end of the road, actually on private property at the end of where the Town road ends and where someone else’s property begins is where their construction will be. Similarly that’s the same on Hawley. The construction is going to be beyond Town property and they have been talking with the landowners. I know the one on Kreitmeyer has come to an agreement with them. I can’t say they have on Hawley.

Debra Sottolano: Okay, so any pressure you can do to get a public hearing we’d appreciate it. Thank you.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, I’ll give it a shot.

Joan VanWormer: Good Evening everyone. Those who don’t know me, my name is Joan VanWormer. I stand here tonight to discuss how disturbed I was with the September 25th Board Meeting and how it was run. First I should advise I, myself, was not present at the meeting, but I have listened to the tape. When you have a resident speaking with only a three-minute timeframe the Board should be respectful and just listen. The Board will always get their chance to speak. The actions of a member of the Board was very disturbing and what’s even more disturbing is that the Town Supervisor was not able to stop the Board member from speaking out of order. As I tell my husband actions speak louder than words. His actions of being a well-rounded citizen of the community speaks volumes. The actions of this Board member also speaks volumes, just not in the same way. Some people might say the actions of this Board member was rude, unprofessional, and very disrespectful. Why is it that a member of the Board doesn’t have to follow the same rules as we do? Yes, I’m aware the Board member was trying to make a point that my husband, the Highway Superintendent, supposedly falsified timesheets. This member of the Board at the September 25th Board Meeting was advising the resident that was speaking that she found the fraudulent act and she fixed it and with that no one was paid more than they should have been. She did her job. Question for that Board member. When she found this, did you reach out to the Highway Superintendent and ask for clarification? You are

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on the Committee for the Highway Department. Did you check to see if a mistake on his end was made? No, no, you did not. Instead, you would rather find fault in people and knock them down and try to destroy them. This world we live in is hard enough. Why is that we knock people down instead of build them up? I don't stand here tonight to argue with anyone. I stand here knowing if a timesheet was submitted wrong, it was probably a mistake and not a fraudulent act on his part. We aren't all perfect. But with that being said aren't timesheets also signed off by the Town Supervisor as well? The reason for that is to verify the timesheets are correct. Maybe two people made a mistake. I think we need to stop fingerpointing and start acting like grownups. An investigation has been done by the Sheriff's office and the DA and the accusations against the Highway Superintendent were unfounded. You can say whatever you want about my husband, but this man had done more for the people in this resident in this community than some of you will ever do in a lifetime. And with that being said, thank you for your time.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you. Alright, thank you everybody.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Parks, District 3 Park, what's the update on that?

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: We have one contractor apply for the construction of the project. We're hoping that it would start early spring.

Eilleen Vosburgh: In the spring and who was the contractor?

Town Clerk Finke: Bycomp.

Supervisor Ruso: LLC or something like that.

Eilleen Vosburgh: The other question I have is about the snowplowing season contractor's proposal and one of the questions of the actual form it says in #12 that the contractor vehicles 'should any contractor vehicles become involved in any type of mishap or accident they will immediately notify the Town Highway Superintendent and the Town of Coeymans Police Department if the accident involved personal injury or vehicle damage they will remain on the scene until further notice.' What's that about?

Supervisor Ruso: That was a typographical error that was submitted to us by the Attorney who prepared it.

Eilleen Vosburgh: You know this happened with the solar agreements too.

Supervisor Ruso: That's been fixed.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Yeah, I know, but this is the second time the Town of Coeymans zoning districts were in there.

Eilleen Vosburgh: The other question is on the very first page it talks about contractor may propose on a one year option or up to a three year option. Are we really thinking we're gonna need these contracts?

Supervisor Ruso: I would hope we don't need it for one year.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Well, I would hope so, too, and how is this going to work? Who's going to make the decision about calling them in? What is the process?

Supervisor Ruso: Well, the #1 point is if we cannot get staff to work here that was part of our conversation that we had back on the 29th of July. What will we do if we don't have a staff to plow? Tell the residents to forget about it. You have to have something for our back pocket. That's really what this is for in case of so we'd rather not have it, we'd rather have the employees. It looks like we might have three coming so that may be a moot point.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Alright, why when we were down to like three people last year why didn't we come up with this proposal then?

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Supervisor Ruso: We weren't down to three people last year. We lost I think three people in the spring.

Many speaking at once.

Supervisor Ruso: And when we talked we had two. Back when we talked in July we had two people.

Eilleen Vosburgh: But still who makes the decisions on whether to call somebody in? Is it Alan?

Supervisor Ruso: It will be all of us and it's based upon whether we have the staff, of course. If we don't have the staff, we have to call somebody.

Eilleen Vosburgh: I would think it would be up to Alan to decide since he would know the road conditions. Do you have any contractors who submitted a proposal yet?

Supervisor Ruso: I don't have any.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Pat asked 'did you have any questions' and he didn't see me raise my hand. So anyhow, Pat, the occupancy of the jail. Do you have an idea of that?

County Legislator Linger: Average high 30's to low 40's.

Eilleen Vosburgh: And what was it built for?

County Legislator Linger: It was built for 80. That's only men. We do not have any women in our jail right now. We don't have the staff to staff the women's pods.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Okay, alright, thank you.

Harold Vadney: First of all I'd like to extend a hardy congratulations to the Honorable Barbara Finke, our very hard-working Town Clerk. I work very, very frequently with Ms. Finke and I have never, ever had any problem with her performance. We're very lucky to have her and I hope she's around for us for a very, very long time. Very efficient, very qualified, and knows her crap. She's a class act. The Albany County area gets on average 60 inches of snow a year. This year we're looking at presumably by most authoritative sources more severe winter and possibly more snow than the average. The problem that we have here is that we're dealing with minimum staff, but Alan seems to make pretty good progress with relationships and whatever he has at hand, but the RFP as I mentioned before was a serious matter of concern because there was so many errors in it, it had to be revised and amended and was first issued on the 25th, was published in the *Albany Times Union* on the 3rd of October, and the mistakes that were in that document were only corrected on October 13th, approximately on or about October 13th which means that the incorrect RFP was out there for a goodly length of time and available on the Town website for that considerable length of time so it's no surprise that you don't have any responses to it because the documents are a sham. I mention that quite specifically because in Mr. McHugh's outline of his Town Attorney services at item B is legal advice and consultation with the Supervisor or to the Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor, Town Board, Highway Superintendent, Building Department, Code Enforcement, etc. etc. My question is this, I realize that we do an awful lot of cut and paste here and we're borrowing an awful lot of documents from Mr. McHugh's town where he is also Supervisor. How is it that these documents are not properly reviewed by Town Attorney before they go out and before they become an outrageous embarrassment to this Town. As Ms. Vosburgh noted it's an egregious oversight to have the Town of Coeymans Police Department in the Town of New Baltimore RFP whether it was corrected on or about the 13th is really still inexcusable. We have a Town Attorney and apparently these documents were not properly reviewed before they went out. There's also significant parts of the contract that are not included in that contract. There's a hold harmless clause that is one run-on sentence and I couldn't make any sense out of it. There's no salvatory or rescue clause in it, no severability clause. In general enormous inconsistencies and in several documents the principle service that you apparently are looking for is snow removal and as I mentioned before New Baltimore has not done snow removal in living memory at least 25 years

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no snow removal, we do snow plowing or snow clearing. So that's point #1. We are still in our budget and I brought this Animal Control issue up several times, it's been going on for years for dog control, first of all ladies and gentlemen of the Board or gentlemen of the Board tonight, we do not have an Animal Control Officer. That is an entirely different animal from a Dog Control Officer. We do have a Dog Control Officer, but she's an absentee employee. Since my first addressing this problem, I put out a number of FOIL demands and inquiries with the County Sheriff's Department on dog control. Sherri Vieta as I mention several, but we still have an absentee Dog Control Officer. Mr. Boehlke, you're on that Animal Control thing aren't you? What are we doing about that? I've received complaints from residents saying 'yeah, you're right, where is she?' Yes, where is she?

Supervisor Ruso: Mr. Vadney, you're well over three minutes.

Harold Vadney: That's right and she's well over the acceptable payment for nonservices. This is defrauding the Town. Next step is the District Attorney's office okay. Now can we please find out what this woman is doing, Mr. Boehlke, please.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you, have a good evening.

Lisa Benway: For this insurance you need to make sure that the Certificate of Insurance specifically says commercial and/or paved roadways or public roadways because a lot of insurance companies exclude other than residential and you won't know that if the certificate doesn't say it includes commercial or public roadways. Otherwise they may not have coverage for it.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you everybody.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO
Town Clerk