

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

**FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

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

**Reports**

**Supervisor**

- Resolution to Request New York State Board of Elections to Take the Following Actions to Assure Domestic Tranquility through provisions of Fair and Honest Elections

**County Legislator**

**Town Clerk**

- January 22, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting
- February 12, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting

**Historian**

Agriculture/AgFest (Member VanEtten)

Animal Control (Chair Kash, Member Sottolano)

Assessment (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Audit and Budget (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Buildings & Grounds/Recycling (Chair Downes/Member VanEtten)

Code Enforcement Officer (Chair Downes/Member Ruso)

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement (Member Dellisanti)

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

Greene County Planning Board (Sottolano)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

- Resolution to Define Town Records to be Included in Official Personnel Files

Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Downes/Member Kash)

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Technology/Website (Chair Downes/Member VanEtten)

Town Courts (Chair Kash/Member Sottolano)

Veterans and Memorials (Chair VanEtten/Member Downes)

Wastewater Treatment (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

Water Districts (Chair Kash/Member Sottolano)

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

Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Sottolano/Member Kash)

**Upcoming Meetings**

- March 6, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- March 11, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- March 14, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- March 25, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Audit of Claims**

**Adjournment**

**\*\*\*\* Agenda Subject to Change\*\*\*\***

## **GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC CONDUCT DURING TOWN BOARD MEETINGS**

1. The Supervisor shall preside at the meetings of the Town Board. In the absence of the Supervisor, the Deputy Supervisor shall be the acting Supervisor. In the event both the Supervisor and the Deputy Supervisor are absent, the other members shall designate one of their members to act as temporary chairman. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn.
2. Town residents who wish to speak shall fill out a card at the entrances of the meeting room listing their name, contact information, and the subject matter in which they would like to speak. These cards will be collected prior to the beginning of the Town Board meeting and given to the Town Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor in the absence of the Supervisor.
3. Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer and then proceed to the lectern and state their name and address. They must limit their remarks on official town business to up to three minutes on a given topic and may not yield any remaining time to another speaker. They must address their remarks to the Board as a body and not to any member thereof and not to other members of the audience in the form of a debate.
4. Speakers should present their remarks in a courteous manner and may not make disparaging remarks or personal comments about public officials, town residents, or others. All speakers will observe the commonly accepted rules of courtesy, decorum, dignity, and good taste with no cursing, swearing, clapping, booing, finger pointing, bullying, whispering, or talking that disrupts the proceedings of the business of the Town Board.
5. Any speaker who disregards the directives of the presiding officer in enforcing the rules, disturbs the peace at a meeting, makes impertinent or slanderous remarks, or generally conducts themselves in an inappropriate manner shall be barred from further participation and will forfeit any balance of time remaining for their comments.
6. After a final warning, if a speaker willfully refuses to step down, the Town Supervisor shall contact the appropriate authorities to remove the speaker from the meeting room and to restore order.
7. The Town Supervisor, or in their absence the Deputy Supervisor, shall ensure compliance with these rules.

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**OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING**

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Downes, Kash, Sottolano, and VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; Town Clerk Finke; Highway and 20 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Highway Superintendent VanWormer

***Supervisor Jeff Ruso***

The monthly financials for January have been forwarded to all Board members. Has everyone had a chance to review them?

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Second thing is, this just happened Thursday of last week, Congressman Molinaro's office is coming to Town Hall on Thursday. We've already posted it and of the like. Coming this Thursday 12-2 to meet with any members who so wish to meet with his staff about topics or projects, wish lists, or whatever you might have. So they're here to meet with the public and community members noon time, Thursday. That's the 29<sup>th</sup>, sir.

**Public Comment Period**

**Ellie Alfeld:** My reason for addressing the Board tonight, yesterday we had the Veterans luncheon. I was very pleased and I thank all of you who participated in providing the food and stuff. I was a little disappointed because I don't know the exact headcount there, but I think Barbara or Shelly might have an idea.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Well, there was about I would say ten less people, but I know a couple people called and were in the hospital and the like. They are an aging group.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Well, that's understandable but my problem is is I reported to you before. We have over 150 veterans in this Town. The reason I know this is because I get the veterans exemption. My feeling is I don't know whether, and I understand you've sent out postcards -- I got mine and I shared it I told you with others that didn't get it because they're new to the Town -- but I don't know how it's the same as I said before about the Seniors. We seem to have a hard time reaching out and getting them. Now, Jeff, you're with the Senior responsibilities as far as I'm concerned with the County. Hey, you stepped into those shoes for the Seniors, am I not correct?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I go to the Senior Advisory Committee.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Hey, that means to me that you finding out stuff.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** And if I can address something that you've said, every Veteran who has an exemption in New Baltimore does get a postcard. That's the only list that we have is from the tax exemptions. We cannot get a list from the County.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Okay, but you do know that there are like 150 Vets?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** We sent out a lot of invitations trust me, I did them all myself this year.

**Ellie Alfeld:** I'm not doubting you, Shel, it's just that...

**Councilmember VanEtten:** But you can't make everyone come and a lot of people have said they really don't want...

**Ellie Alfeld:** I was at a Veteran's house this afternoon because he's new to the Town. He didn't get a postcard because he didn't file for an exemption so I steered him out here and told him how

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close he is to the deadline which is the March 1<sup>st</sup>. I just don't want these people who are entitled to stuff to get lost in the shuffle and that's it. But the luncheon went off great. It was good to see a lot of the guys that are as I am reaching that golden age of not being able to see some of their friends. So I thank you for that, but I would like to see more people yet.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I just want to touch base before you voted on a resolution and ask the Board member if they had an opportunity to review and look at the video from the February 12th presentation to the Greene County Legislature. If not, I think that will have a real negative impact on tonight because the focus of that presentation. Did anyone look at it?

**Councilmember Kash:** I didn't see that, Ann Marie.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I sent you an email and I had it included in the email and I also attached to that email the response from the New York Citizens Audit group.

**Councilmember Kash:** That I read.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** That they prepared in response to the negative information that has been passed around the State. So I was hoping that you guys and gals would have an opportunity to look at the presentation because the facts presented leave little to..., I mean it's all there. The misinformation in the New York State Board of Election's data. I know one of the Commissioners actually had the nerve to say to us that we don't understand the data because we don't have their jobs. Now that's total stupidity because it's up there on the screen and has the date of birth of the person, the name, when they registered, and when they voted. Now when you have people over 100-something year's-old and you have more than one of them that voted in 2023 and 2022, there's something wrong. There's also many people there, everyone has a state ID that the New York State Board of Election has. I don't think our County Board of Election people have these numbers and they had four to five people with the same ID number. So that means if you have an id number 1112, there's four maybe more in some cases, other people that have that same ID and the bad part of that is that they all voted. So there is something really wrong with that and those are just a few of the discrepancies. There's many more, there's no time to talk about them. So, like I said it's unfortunate if you didn't take a look at that video. They gave Marley, who is the head of this organization, 15 minutes and then they let her speak I think at least 35 minutes because our legislators were very interested in what she had to say and all she did was address the inaccuracies in the Greene County New York State Board of Elections data. Also last time, Kelly, you said something about OSC doing an audit. What I did do is we checked. They did not request OSC to do an audit. What we are going to do now that they're aware is to request an audit of some type, but this does not mean that the audit that is in this resolution should be abandoned. We think it's very important because as we all know, many people when they look at OSC which is a State organization that's like the fox in the henhouse.

**Councilmember Downes:** Well, they're really not.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, I understand what you're saying, but...

**Councilmember Downes:** I mean I worked for them so they are a separate branch.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** And I dealt with them, too. Mr. DiNapoli has an excellent reputation from not going along with the bureaucrats, but nevertheless the resolution what we're asking for the audit in this resolution is very different so I think that we're still supporting that and I thank you.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** I noticed in the *Times Union* on Sunday they had an article about eminent domain. This was for Albany County -- two places, one in Bethlehem and one in Coeymans -- but I was wondering do we have that situation in the Town of New Baltimore?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** We have. Central Hudson took a bunch of property through eminent domain years ago.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** But I mean for this one?

**Supervisor Ruso:** For this one, not to my knowledge.

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**Eilleen Vosburgh:** And what paper would they use if they were to put an article in the paper?

**Supervisor Ruso:** *Times Union* I guess

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** It wouldn't be the *Daily Mail*?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Perhaps, I can't say.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** I also want to discuss the new resolution that you're about to talk about. I understand that the BoE sent all the legislators info refuting all the claims by the New York Citizens Audit after the meeting on February 12. Patrick, did you get that info?

**County Legislator Linger:** I did.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Also on February 8 there was a meeting with BoE and the County Legislature and from the Minutes of the meeting it seemed to me that only two Legislators were in favor of supporting New York. It was you, Pat, and Mr. Bloomer, and all the other ones were not interested in supporting them. Is that true?

**Audience Member:** It was January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** January 8<sup>th</sup>, sorry.

**County Legislator Linger:** No.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Did many of them say they didn't want to support the group?

**County Legislator Linger:** I don't have a final number yet, but right now I'm at about eight out of fourteen that are in support of the audit.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Okay. I was concerned because in your notes, the County Legislature notes, that you had hoped that the resolution would pass in the County.

**County Legislator Linger:** I don't remember doing notes on a resolution. Our resolution is not put up until after the (spoken over).

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** No, your notes to the Board today talked about you had hoped that it would come.

**County Legislator Linger:** In March.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Yeah. And did you discuss those...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Eilleen, you should be going to the County meeting for this. We're not here to address the County stuff.

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** No, but I just want you to know that the Board of Elections did refute all the claims that New York Citizens Audit presented to the Legislature.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I know. I think I might have received similar items if not the same. I didn't compare what Pat received but I received something.

**Barbara Caruse:** I'm here because I have such an affinity for this Town. My grandmother's grandfather fought in the American Civil War from Greene County from this region right here in New Baltimore and he died. He died in a concentration camp down in Virginia and so I think the patriotism just runs in my vein and this place is very special to me. I've done a lot of research down in Greene County. I live in Albany County. I am not speaking for New York Citizens Audit, I'm speaking for me and what is on my heart and what is important to me as a citizen, as someone who has a great love for this County, and so what I'd like to share with you is some little quips written by his name, he's the researcher who found the disparities and inconsistencies in the New York State Board of Election rolls, the New York rolls, and he's been peer-reviewed but he goes by Art Sark. And so he puts out these papers, Art Sark, and so this what he says.

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‘This does not mean it doesn’t contain some accurate records. It doesn’t even mean a majority of the records are inaccurate. It means that there are so many errors and so many types of errors that there’s no sure method to avoid encountering them. The Sark Fires is a reader-supported publication,’ he goes on about that. “Errors in the voter rolls are identified as errors. Finding then is up to a data base users in the normal course of business there’s no reason to suspect that any given record contains false information but millions of records can be described as illegal because it was illegal to make them clones, in other words there’s nobody behind it, they’re just fictitious people who do not exist or erroneous because one of them, one or more of the fields in the database in the record is false. New York State voter derives their information from the County Boards of Election. They take the County data and combine it in one database. By law the New York State database is the only official record of voter registrations in the state. The county rolls are not official despite the fact that the county rolls appear to be substantially more accurate than the New York State voter database. This does not mean that the county files are error-free. Just the majority of the problems I found in my research’ this is Art’s research, ‘appear to have been introduced at the state level. One of those problems are records that do not have an address. This type of record does not have a street name, street number, or other address fields filled in. They do have county and town names, but that’s all. By law an address is required in order to vote and even homeless people have addresses. You know like they have the shelter where they’re staying, some other places where they have found places to stay warm. However in the 2020 election there were 27,496 such records voted in the 2020 election. Now I don’t advocate overturning elections, I just think that’s a waste of time. My heart is we need to concentrate on what coming up. We have elections coming up this year and we the people choose who governs us. And so if there’s this kind of irregularity in the rolls, then we’re not gonna get the people that we really want in there. So that’s just not American. That’s not patriotic and the second thing is the counting of records, it might seem like a trivial task in the computer age, but it’s very difficult to count because of three things -- duplicate records, cloned records, and inconsistent voter histories. So I kind of leave that for you folks to consider and to think about and I can leave this. I’m sorry I only had a couple copies, but this is our database expert’s article.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** I’m here as a volunteer not an official spokesperson for NYCA. I’m a citizen and a resident of New Baltimore. What was just being addressed here tonight was that the New York State Board of Elections sent a letter. We are very much aware of that letter. That letter received a 17-page response to every point that they made from the Board of Elections. Since you haven’t watched the video, the County meeting that we had, I’m pretty sure you haven’t read this.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I saw the video, but I have not seen that.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I saw the video, but I have not seen that either.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** Okay, I don’t have enough copies of it here tonight or I’d give you one.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** That was sent to everyone on the email I sent already.

I read it.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Oh, is that what was sent.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay, then I do have it.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Oh, is that what was sent. I wasn’t sure it was the same thing.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** So when we were at that meeting down at the County, Marley Hornick who is the Executive Director of the organization, she did a power point. She used the State’s own data on that board. She highlighted a lot of the things that were referenced here tonight. I don’t know how you can turn a blind’s eye to this and I know you want to believe that the State Board of Elections is giving you the proper information. Unfortunately, I don’t think so. I’m very saddened that you as my representatives haven’t watched that video. That video’s had over 300 views on YouTube. Three hundred views. Pat, how many views does a video usually get?

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**County Legislator Linger:** Thirty to fifty.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** Thirty to fifty, three hundred this time so. Okay so I don't understand how you could be informed to vote on even a resolution if you haven't watched any of the information. I think it's good to have both sides of the argument. I really feel you don't have our side of the argument. This is not a partisan issue. This organization is nonpartisan. We have Democrats in this organization, we have Republicans in this organization. We want a true vote. We know for year that our voter registration rolls have not been cleaned up. I know that there's dead people on there. I know there's people that are over 100 years old. Doesn't that frighten you to know that...?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yes, and I think that we did watch the video.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I watched it.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** Did you watch the videos? Okay, then I take that back.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** We do have a resolution tonight.

**Sherrie Salisbury:** Okay, I take that back then. I'm sorry that I misunderstood. But anyways I'm here tonight and I'm hoping and praying that you will all take into consideration this 17-page document because I know those document from the State Board have been sent out to the County, Town Boards, to the County Legislators, and probably a lot of other officials. I don't know if it went to the law enforcement agencies or not, but I know Marley has spoken to our Town Sheriff, she had spoken to the County DA, and she addressed the Legislature back on the 12<sup>th</sup> and you should have been there and thank you for hearing me. I'm sorry if I'm too passionate about this, but this is close to my heart and I hope it's close to yours. Thank you.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Didn't we have a meeting that night?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yeah, we did. We had a Board meeting the same night, yeah. We can't miss Town Board meetings.

**Harold Vadney:** I'd rather keep it in line with the last two speakers if I may and get back to that one. There's one there that is New York Citizen Audit resolutions. I think continuity in the comment is probably advisable here. I would agree with Ms. Salisbury before I start my remarks that it's uncanny how people can expect to make informed decisions in administration of public responsibilities such as those on an elected body like the Town Council without adequate information whether it be good information or bad information and I am appalled at the fact that this Town Board, at least four members of this Town Board, have not shown due diligence in attending available information. Yeah, I think you were the only one that attended the I think it was the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting here, the first presentation of the Citizens Audit. The recently-elected Democrats, Ms. Sottolano and Ms. Kash, were conspicuously absent as were Ms. VanEtten and Ms. Downes. The was publicized very well and you should have been there and the same applies to the February 12 legislative meeting when the presentation was given.

**Councilmembers VanEtten and Downes:** We had a Town Board meeting.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We were here.

**Harold Vadney:** Regardless.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Same time.

**Harold Vadney:** Look, you postponed and rescheduled a Town Board meetings for less important issues. Secondly, I'd like to comment Mr. Pat Linger who've I had very many opportunities to lambast. When I read the Minutes of that, I think it was February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting?

**County Legislator Linger:** January 8<sup>th</sup>.

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**Harold Vadney:** Or the January meeting? Excuse me, yes, you're right. I was appalled at some of the fascist remarks made by your colleagues there. I was very, very, very impressed by you're holding your ground and standing up to these people. For example, one comment there and here we're putting the foxes to check the chickens. We have Bogardus and Metzler and another one sitting there telling everybody what they're going right and we have Mr. Legg and Mr. Lennon sitting there and say 'well, I don't need to know anything more because our people are telling us what's going on.' Well, I'll be damned if I'm gonna take that as gospel truth. Okay. Mr. Legg stated 'I know but they are not looking at Greene County so why are we gonna listen to them?' Legislator Lennon said, 'Yeah.' Chairman Linger said, 'Because they are looking.' Legislator Legg said, 'We ought not even to entertain them.' This is the concern of our elected officials at County level.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Is it January or February?

**Many Responded:** January.

**Harold Vadney:** This is in January. Metzler states, 'They've gone to other Counties and tried to pitch their spiel, but they were shut down.' That is an absolute lie. That is an absolute lie. I don't give a darn about the New York's audit people. I'm not attached to them, I don't support them. I don't know them, but that's an idiotic statement. Legislator Legg says, 'I mean we have a lot of things to do and we don't have to listen to something that doesn't pertain to our particular county.' Chairman Linger says, 'So you don't, you don't, but don't you think that a Presidential election is worth making sure that voter rolls are correct?' Ms. Metzler stated, 'Nope.' Nope? Legislator Bullock said, 'Well.' So then we go on a little further in this dialogue here. Chairman Linger states, 'Well I don't think it's a waste of time. I think it's the right thing to do. It's also to show people that we are doing the right thing and that our rolls are accurate.' Mr. Linger further states, 'I think that's important' and I join you, Mr. Linger, I join you wholeheartedly. That's our County Legislature.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Ture or Legislator or both?

**Harold Vadney:** Our Legislature are the one's up against the wall. Mr. Linger is the one that is sticking up for our rights.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I was just making sure I heard you right.

**Harold Vadney:** Well, after four months of debate and compromise recorded in great detail in James Madison, you're getting a history lesson now, notes of debates of the Federal Convention of 1787, the United States Constitution was written, debated, revised, finalized, and on May 25<sup>th</sup>, that was between May 25<sup>th</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup> of 1787, it was ratified and signed. From drafting and signing, it took four months. On November 7, 2023 at least two polling places in the Town of New Baltimore experienced what could be fairly described as catastrophic failures in the process of receiving, tallying, recording citizens' votes in important midterm elections. The Greene County Board of Elections was promptly informed and defensively replied. Subsequently without substantive or constructive response by Town, County, or State authorities, one of the tainted Commissioners, and he is tainted, Mr. Bogardus, was reappointed by the Greene County, did I hear a moan over here, County Legislature.

**Harold Vadney:** To his enormous credit, Mr. William Boehlke... On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 a meeting, a presentation by New York Citizens Audit was presented here in this very Town Hall, but the two newly-elected Democratic Councilpersons, Judith Kash and Debra Sottolano, were conspicuously absent despite having been notified. Supervisor Jeff Ruso appeared late halfway through the presentation, but to his credit he at least appeared, made comment, and answered questions. Sitting Councilpersons Downes and VanEtten likewise were timely notified, but chose to be absent. On that night by the way there was no town meeting. To his enormous credit Mr. Boehlke who yielded one of the seats to the Democratic competition did appear and he shared very, very valuable insights and information. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 New York Citizens Audit presented their findings at full public session, I believe it was full public session of the County Legislators, I believe it was a full County Legislator session wasn't it Mr. Ruso?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'm not here to answers questions on the County.



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**Harold Vadney:** No, you're not here to answer questions. I have experience with that, yes, I do.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Mr. Vadney, I'm not keeping track of the County Legislators.

**Harold Vadney:** Then I have to address a County elected official who is also...

**Supervisor Ruso:** At their meeting, sir. At their meeting, not at ours.

**Harold Vadney:** Okay, at any rate. On February 12, 2024 New York Citizens Audit presented their findings at full public session of the Greene County Legislature. The response of the Legislators was less than impressive and even dismissing. Now if you watch that as some of you say you did and watch that and read it together with the remarks made by our County Legislators on the 6th of January you'll know why many of us are really pissed. There is a serious problem here with our elected officials indifference and disconcerted and nonparticipation and failure to inform themselves on grievous, very serious issues pertaining to our very basic and fundamental rights as in a participative democracy.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you, sir.

**Harold Vadney:** You're welcome.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I don't know if you've addressed the other parts here, I know you've addressed a lot of things. Nevertheless, thank you.

**Harold Vadney:** If you recognize me I'll address the other subjects.

**Supervisor Ruso:** If they're prompt I don't have an objection. Something about designation of Town documents and Magistrates serving on the Town Court.

**Harold Vadney:** I note on page 17 of the Agenda published for today's Town Council meeting on page 17 the Town Court of New Baltimore that the report prepared by Town Justices Huff and Konsul referred to themselves as Judges. I'll make this very, very short. They are not Judges. Throughout the Unified Court System documents Town and Court Magistrates are referred to and have the title of Justice. It's inappropriate that they should refer to themselves as Judges. I'll post the rest of that elsewhere. It's page 17, it's Town Court of New Baltimore's report.

**Supervisor Ruso:** The last one has to do with Town Council members' performances in 2024.

**Harold Vadney:** Now today I was doing research for tonight's meeting and I shot off an email because I got to the Town website and I saw there were no Town Council Minutes, the entire start of 2024. So I said to myself 'how am I going to do this research in preparation tonight?' So I shot off an email. So I questioned the Clerk's office is there a reasonable explanation why the Town of New Baltimore website does not show any published Minutes for 2024 to date. New York State Open Meetings Law requires that Minutes be published within two weeks of a public meeting. The Clerk's office responded 'Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The tax season has been taking up the majority of our attention. The posting of Minutes on the website has been delayed. They are completed, printed, and accessible if anybody wishes to see them by visiting our offices. Our goal is to post the Minutes today.' I responded 'Well, I appreciate that the staff of the Clerk's office may be busy, we do have an office of the Town Tax Collector.' I think we still do don't we?

**Town Clerk Finke:** We don't.

**Harold Vadney:** We don't, okay, that's my assumption. I believe who should have primary responsibility for preparing tax documents and related services. I'm also aware that there's several staff members with interdisciplinary responsibilities in the Town Hall. Basically I really couldn't understand as I said I'll make this shorter, I've got more to say about that. These documents are important for people to have. They're information for people who do not have the opportunity to come here and spend a couple hours at a meeting. They should be published as required by law. A lot of people don't have the time to make a trip up here to Town Hall to

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consult with the documents even if they are available and if they are available there's no excuse why they're not on the internet site.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you, sir.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Could I respond to that?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Of course you may.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Thank you. We try to get the Minutes out there as soon as possible. We try to post them. Right now we have people coming in daily for their exemptions so they're closed on Mondays and Fridays. So we're jumping in and helping where we can. We do the best we can do. We work together all the time, Amanda and I. Sandy is busy doing her thing, Marjorie is busy doing her thing. We try to do the best we can. We were in the paper I believe last year saying that we were one of the only Towns that had Minutes up to date and posted properly. There are times when I cannot make that two-week deadline. I did have an issue with January 27, whatever the date that was. I did have that issue with that. I finished the Minutes, I did not have time to go back and read them over. They were sent out last Friday I believe. I apologize for that, I did the best I could. I think most people in this room know that I work very hard for people in the Town and we're gonna keep doing it day in and day out and probably with the length of this meeting, I'm not gonna make the two-week deadline either, but I'll do the best I can. That's all I can do, I can't do more than that. So, thank you for your patience, I'm doing the best that I can do. If you have a problem, call me. I'd be happy to talk to you. I love my job, I hope it shows. I live it, sleep it, eat it, drink it and it's my baby.

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**  
**RESOLUTION 53-2024**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO  
TAKE ACTIONS TO ASSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY THROUGH PROVISIONS  
OF FAIR AND HONEST ELECTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, there have been State and County wide concerns regarding fair and honest elections; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore joins in those concerns, and wishes to ensure fair and honest elections; and

**WHEREAS** the election process is overseen by the New York State Board of Elections; and

**WHEREAS** the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore believes the following actions would help ensure domestic tranquility through provisions of fair and honest elections;

1. A complete end-to-end audit, from registration through certification, of the New York State 2022 General Election, for both paper and electronic records, including ballots, by mutually agreed upon external, third party bonded auditing firm, possessed of adequate insurance and indemnification for the handling and protection of the personal identifying information of millions of New York citizens in order to determine the true error rate. This audit will provide a comprehensive report and analysis of all lapses and errors with explanation of cause where it can be determined.
2. The enactment of legislation
  - a. Defining a mutually agreed upon process by which an end-to-end audit would be triggered in any future elections.
  - b. Defining a mutually agreed upon accuracy rate for the voter roll database.
  - c. Allowing for anonymous vote verification and tracking by the voter (open-source, royalty-free patent pending) including

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automatic mechanisms to report and remedy errors during the canvass period following an election, regardless of ballot entry source.

3. Criminalize election misconduct explicitly with regard to State election law and increase penalties to reflect the societal and generational harm inflicted by these crimes.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore NY stands in support with the concerns and supports the remedies presented herein above. The Town Board, as representatives of the residents of the Town of New Baltimore, hereby implores cooperation of the New York State Board of Elections to fulfill these requests.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I planned on voting for this because I did read all the information that's come to me on both sides of the fence and I do agree that it is a problem.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** First off I'd like to say that I really honor and respect the people who care deeply about that issue. I also feel that way. I want to say that I struggled very much on this vote and this situation. I want to say I've read everything on the Citizens Audit website. I've searched tried to read the journal article. I wasn't permitted to read it, but I searched for Mr. Picette and I found similar articles to give me an idea of what the algorithms were in what he was saying were in there. I read everything written by BoE. I've gone over and over and over this and I read the notes from the January 8th meeting as well. Everything, everything. I have concerns with some of the wording in this resolution. I want to say that this audit has to be a neutral audit. It cannot be based on disproving or proving anything that Citizens Audit found or that BoE found. This has to be start fresh from scratch neutral looking at every process, looking at systematic errors that may or may not exist and so there should not be any bias if this audit is going to occur. Okay and so my problem with some of this language is that it introduces some bias that I would like to have cleared up.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Our Attorney did look it over.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** I know and our Attorney did look it over. One thing I did ask for is a list of the Counties and Towns that had already submitted a resolution. We did not get that. That would have been very helpful, very, very helpful to see those other resolutions that were written, but we didn't have that. So I'd like to just go through the language if I may, Jeff.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** It is 76 that have responded since we are not...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Before we get into any amendments let me just hear if there's others that want to you know just speak a few words and then we can talk if you want to make an amendment to the resolution.

**Councilmember Kash:** I might be jumping the gun here a little because I have to wait for the vote, but I'm going to have to Abstain from this. I'm an active New York State Senate employee as you know. I am prohibited from the New York State Legislative Law from taking any public position in favor of or in opposition to any State actions. It falls on the State Board of Elections to do something; also calls for legislation. I am prohibited from voting on it. It's a misdemeanor for me to do so.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That's unfortunate because...

**Councilmember Kash:** But what I will say is that I don't think I've done as extensive research as Deb has. I did not watch the video. I did read the information from the New York Citizens Audit and from the New York State Board of Elections and I will be perfectly honest I am not an Election lawyer. I'm not somebody that understands the inner workings of the way that the New York State Board of Elections voter registration rolls are maintained. So it sort of came to what he said what she said to me so I really can't make a judgement whether on whether the New York State Board of Elections is right, the New York Citizens Audit is right. If this goes forward and an audit happens, you know maybe we'll learn more about that in the future, but for now you know it's above my pay grade kids. What can I say I don't understand. But I would like to say

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also that I appreciate all of the New York Citizens Audit volunteers here. I appreciate how much you care about fair and free and legitimate elections and I think that you should go forward and continue your efforts to make sure that we all benefit from what we all want which are fair, free, and legitimate elections and I guess that's about all I say. But I would like to respond just to you a little bit, Harold. On December 6th Deb and I saw Ann Marie at the Senior Citizen luncheon. She was the first person we saw when we came through the door and we told Ann Marie that we both had longstanding personal commitments that prevented us from coming that night. I don't feel that I need to tell you what our personal commitments were. So that's just a point that I wanted to make, Harold, and also to Ann Marie because I'm sure that she remembers us talking at the beginning at the meeting and Deb and I had things we could not get out of to come to that meeting that night and I'm sure that most people in this room sometimes have emergencies happen and you can't make it at times. So that's what happened.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I think I kind of heard that you wanted to amend some of the language here.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** I do.

**Supervisor Ruso:** If you want to propose that.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** I have a number of them if that's alright, Jeff, to read.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, let's start at the beginning.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Okay. The very first statement, I think the word 'wide' needs to be removed. I don't think there is any compilation of how many or how widely these concerns exist in the County and State. I would remove the word 'wide.' I think that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore wishes to insure fair and honest elections' joining in the concerns means that we are joining in or believing that what has been said about the status of the election, the rolls, so I think it stands that we do want fair and honest elections, but I want to keep this as neutral as it's supposed to be in a fair audit that's going to come forward. So that's one of my comments. I have others, but I do some need some information from the group because I have some clarity on letter c. of item 2. 'Allowing for anonymous vote verification and tracking by the voter and including automatic mechanisms to report and remedy errors during the canvas period following and election regardless of ballot entry source' and could you explain to me what functionality you're talking about. What is that you know supposed to accomplish and how would that work? I'm just not following what this statement means.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I took it to mean that one can check the status of their own vote.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yeah, that's what I took it to mean.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Very basic check.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** You can check that you voted, but you can't check your own vote. It doesn't show you know Deb Sottolano voted x, y, z.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That you did vote yes and how you voted, not who you voted for.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Exactly, well, our machine told you that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That you voted early or you voted by absentee or that you voted on day of or what have you.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** And then so I get the first part, you know allowing you to check that you voted and it was recorded that you voted, but the second part 'automatic mechanisms to report and remedy errors during the canvass period,' is that just errors that you did or did not vote and how is this going to be reported?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I can't answer that. What I think would have to be done, what we think it is, we're just volunteers so we are not the people that actually wrote...

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**Audience Member:** we didn't even write this. NCYA didn't vote

**Ann Marie Vadney:** But what that means is right now there is no mechanism within our County or State level where changes are made. Now we've heard a lot of different answers and responses like when someone dies the Department of Health sends it within so many days and we all know that's not valid for a variety of different reasons. So there has to be a mechanism, automatic mechanism to report whatever errors during the canvas period as well as following an election.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, what else have you?

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Well, since this is unclear I would suggest it has to be stricken until it can be clearly understood.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, we have a motion and a second so what we can do here or you can or any of us can is to propose an amendment to what's already been moved and seconded. So I'm going to suggest a motion right now to amend the original motion to remove the word 'wide' on line 1. So I'll make that Motion.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** So, Jeff, I have a number of others that I wanted to bring up, I wasn't done so.

**Harold Vadney:** This is a resolution not a protocol okay. This is a request by this body by this Town...

**Councilmember Sottolano:** I understand.

**Harold Vadney:** For an audit. It is not setting the parameters for the audit with protocol for the audit so there is too much nitpicking here. The Constitution was written in 120 day. This is going on and on and on for more than that.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** I'm honestly not trying to nitpick, but I've picked out areas that I felt introduced bias and that's what I'm trying to avoid. And honestly this impacts my vote, Mr. Vadney, so I want to bring this up so that I can.

**Harold Vadney:** This is the job of the auditors and the Board of Elections.

**Supervisor Ruso:** She's on the Board, she can bring it up.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** So that I can feel confident about what I'm voting for.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'm trying to find a way through some of these concerns and some of them I'm hearing from you and so I'm going to start with the first point and that is as I've heard. We can get to more as we go along, but we want to make an amendment to the resolution. Let me think about, can we make a number of amendments in one resolution? I supposed we can.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Table it.

**County Legislator Linger:** You can. You'll approve it as amended.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, exactly.

**County Legislator Linger:** The amendments and you approve the resolution as amended.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay.

**Councilmember Downes:** Okay, but before we go that far, I don't want to make any amendments to this.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I don't want to make any amendments either.

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**Councilmember Downes:** Because it's gonna have to go back in front of the lawyer, the Attorney.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** It's already been checked by the Attorney.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I've already sent to the Attorney and got it back.

**Councilmember Downes:** Right, I don't want to turn around and changes made to this resolution

**Ann Marie Vadney:** You're deleting stuff.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** And clarifying, I'm clarifying.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Then it would have to be tabled and sent again to the Attorney. I'm for voting for it as it is. We've already got a first and a second.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Don't have any authority

**Councilmember Downes:** But you understand, Ann Marie, my point. We went to the Attorney, she gave us back this.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** (spoken over by other audience members)

**Councilmember Downes:** Wait a second, I didn't delete anything. So I think that if we are going to make major changes that it needs to go back in front of the Attorney to make sure what is in there is correct. I don't think that's a lot to ask.

**County Legislator Linger:** Change only gets made with a resolution from the Board.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Correct. We've had a resolution already so now we have to have a resolution to amend. That's all there is to it.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Lets make the resolution.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Nevertheless, we have to have a motion to amend so I don't know if you want to start at the beginning with the amendments or we want to grab them all and amend it at once. That is the only question I have here.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** As Kelly said then it needs to go back to the Attorney.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** What if we don't want it amended, what if we want it all in?

**County Legislator Linger:** You can vote on it as is.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** That's what I think.

**County Legislator Linger:** You can vote on any changes and vote against it and then if you don't have a majority of the Board it doesn't pass.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, we can do that.

**Audience Member:** This is just sent to the County to say we want to do an audit.

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, it goes to the State and County and others.

**Marie Ann Vadney:** The external audit

**Supervisor Ruso:** How about if I ask Councilwoman Sottolano do you wish to propose an amendment, make a motion to amend the original resolution?

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**Councilmember Sottolano:** Yes, I do make a Motion.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So why don't you continue to identify...

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Second on what?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Second the request to amend.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Why not table it? Why not table it?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** He's already tabled it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** How about we hear, I would like to hear a Motion to table the resolution as written.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** I make such a Motion.

Supervisor Ruso: Let's vote on it, I'll second it. All those in favor say Aye.

**Councilmember Kash:** I think I'll have to abstain. I'm not sure

AYES: Sottolano

NAY: Ruso, Downes, VanEtten

ABSTAIN: Kash

ABSENT:

**Supervisor Ruso:** The motion to table does not pass. Now we still have this in front of us so now we need a resolution to amend, but I think we need to hear all the amendments before...

**Councilmember VanEtten:** But that wasn't seconded either.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That's true, it wasn't seconded, thank you. So then I suppose we have our resolution still in front of us. So I am gonna call for a vote. All those in favor say aye.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS: Sottolano

ABSTAIN: Kash

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***County Legislator Pat Linger***

I am attending the 2024 NYSAC Conference this week in Albany. If I'm finished in time to make the meeting tonight, I will try to be here. If I can't make it, here is my monthly report. In February, I attended 8 regular committee meetings, 3 special committee meetings, 1 special Legislature meeting, and 1 regular Legislature meeting. This month, the legislature listened to a presentation by the NY Citizens Audit group and received a request from them for a resolution supporting a statewide audit of the voter rolls. That request is currently being considered with the hopes of having support to pass a resolution during the March cycle. We also had a presentation from our Mental Health Director on the Oxford House Program. We authorized ratification of both CSEA contracts. All contracts recently approved have combined budget implications of roughly \$1.3 million added to our budget in salary increases. Employee contributions to health care expenditures is now 12.5 percent across the board. We authorized the purchase of 6 new vehicles for the Sheriff Department for a total of \$240,904. We authorized purchase of 5 new backhoes, loaders, and excavators for Solid Waste and Highway for a total of \$596,319 after \$180,000 trade value of two 2017 loaders. Our policy change to trade vehicles before they die has again proven valuable as these are items that would have previously been sold at auction for under \$5,000. Also once again, the \$837,223 in funds are in reserves, requiring no bonding. We authorized hiring CDM Smith as consultants for engineering services for the investigation and repair of two slope failures along CR 61. The boring technique we used in Prattsville will not work for this application. There is not a timeline yet for this reconstruction, but it will be a locally funded project. We've begun to set these funds aside for this. The replacement of the Rt

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61 bridge over the Cossackie Creek is scheduled for the spring of 2025 and will include repairing the slide in that area. We authorized hiring CD Perry & Sons of Troy for the Catskill Point shoreline stabilization project. Much of this work will be performed from a barge in the river and is restricted by the time spent in the water. The Speenburgh grant application for an AED for town hall has been received and will run through the March cycle. This month we held a ceremony for Employee of the Year, Team of the Year, and the Chairmans Award. The Team of the Year is a new award to recognize work that is done across departmental boundaries to benefit the County. This award went to the Real Property Services and County Records departments for their efforts to design a new electronic reporting system used by all Assessors in the County. The Chairman's Award went to Gayle Shermerer, the Paralegal for the County Attorney. The Employee of the Year award went to Jill Sirago at Mental Health. The extraordinary efforts from all of these employees are greatly appreciated.

***Town Clerk Barb Finke***

4 Building Permits \$809.96, 4 CO Searches \$200, 2 Fishing Licenses \$2.76, 14 Dog Licenses \$90, 1 Replacement Tag \$2, 4 Late License \$20, 1 Fire Inspection \$100, 1 One-Day Officiant License \$25, 2 Demolition Permits \$150, 16 Certified Copies \$160, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$1,622.96, \$16 to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program, \$47.24 to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses, Total to Supervisor \$1,559.72.

Annual Report January 1-December 31, 2023 1 CO Search Compliance Commercial \$98, 3 CO Search Compliance Residential \$325, 70 Building Permits \$24,197.04, 2 Chimney & Woodstoves \$100, 3 Decks and Porches \$282.25, 2 Septic Systems Replacements \$80, 8 Septic Systems New \$375, 38 CO Searches \$2,000, 14 EZ Pass Tags \$350, 74 Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$306.20, 1 Exempt Dog, 258 Dog Licenses \$1,812, 3 Replacement Tags \$6, 52 Late Fees \$260, 1 Fire Inspection \$100, 9 Marriage Licenses \$157.50, 7 Beer Permits \$140, 6 Demolition Permits \$625, 3 Excavation Fees Culvert Under Driveway \$105, 3 Park Non-Resident Rentals \$150, 10 Park Rentals \$250, 1 Lot Line Adjustment \$50, 2 Major Subdivisions \$1,085, 5 Minor Subdivisions \$375, 2 Above Ground Swimming Pools \$120, 3 Swimming Pools – In Ground \$300, 1 Mobile Home – Double \$225, 1 Mobile Home – Single \$150, Renovations \$250, 1 Solar Commercial \$2,000, 954 Solar Residential \$1,899.37, 1 Sewer Repair \$40, 113 Certified Copies \$1,130, 237 Photo Copies \$59.25, Recycle Fees \$637.20, 1 Sign \$75, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$45,420.11, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for Spay/Neuter Program \$346, to New York State Department of Health for Marriages \$202.50, New York State Environmental Conservation \$4,706.80, Total to Supervisor \$40,164.81.

**Town Clerk Finke:** I do have one addition. This is our tax collection survey to date. Taxes collected so far \$2,690,117.67, penalties \$768.58. We do have one returned check fee. The one thing about this that I'm very, very proud of is we did process over \$1,000,000 in taxes in less than 24 hours. I am so proud of my staff for that. Of course my husband will tell you I was here until 10-11:00 a few nights, but I'm thankful he's very understanding of what I love to do.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The January 22, 2024 Town Board Organizational Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember VanEtten. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

The February 12, 2024 Town Board Work 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, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**



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***Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley***

01/23/24-02/26/24 5 Tires Up to and Including 16” Without Rims \$20, 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastic) 11, 12 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 33 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 93 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, 1/27 1 Microwave Oven, Total Income \$20

***Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin***

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for January, 2024, is as follows: Building Permits Renewed: 1; Building Permit Renewal Letters Sent: 7 First Notice;; Certificates of Compliance Issued: 4; Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 1; Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 5; Code Violation Investigation: 1; Complaint Forms Received: 1; Do Not Occupy: 1; Total New Building Permit Applications Received: 3; Permit Issuance Denial: 1; Roof Top Solar Applications: 1; Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 11; Open Building Permits: 219; Application Fees for January, 2024: \$959.96 Total Fees for Year: \$959.96

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

The regular monthly meeting was held Tuesday, January 23, 2024. There were 17 EMS calls in December for a total of 171 for 2023. We had 180 calls for all of 2022.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** So we did very well, much better for 2023. The regular monthly meeting was held Tuesday, February 20, 2024. There were 29 calls in January for a total of 29 for this year 2024. We had 171 calls for all of 2023.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** This is the highest number of calls we’ve had in New Baltimore in my history for ten years doing this and I can’t tell you why, but this was the worst month we’ve ever had in ten years. There were eight strokes and nine overdoses in Greene County this month. So hopefully these numbers will go down for the next month.

***Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer***

January 29, all in at 4am for light snow, cleared all roads before school. Repaired back up alarms on 1993 and 1997 International plow trucks. Washed all trucks and loader. Patched large hole on Mirror Lake Road. Replaced wing blade on 1993 International plow truck. Patched holes with cold patch. Cut tree limbs along roads with pole saws. Went to Town of Hurley and picked up large storage tank and 7 truck mounted liquid deice spray systems that were declared surplus equipment by their town, given to us at no charge. Took 2006 and 2017 Ford F350 to Albrights for NYS Inspections. Cleaned out corner of back equipment shed and build platform for deicing storage tank and set tank in place. Removed unneeded items from Town Hall for Town Court. Checked over new spray systems and started to install on our trucks. Looked at sidewalk on Main Street and made temporary repair for safety until Spring. Removed two dead animals from roadway on West Deans Mill Road. February 12 checked all trucks over for the snow that didn’t come. Picked up 2002 International from Coffey Heavy Repair. Replaced some road name signs that were stolen, Gedney Hill Road and Mount Missery. Picked up two control units for spray systems at Reed Sales in Ellenville. Welded plow support rod on 1993 International plow truck. February 16 all in at 4am for light snow sanded all roads. Replaced passenger side mirror on 1993 International plow truck. Hauled in 40 tons salt and mixed with magic minus zero. Met with new sales person from Tifco Industries about supplying our nut and bolts at the highway garage their prices are far less than our current supplier.

Good evening everyone, I hope you all enjoyed the nice weather we have been having, because it looks like it is all coming to an end. We are expecting a moderate snowstorm to arrive Minday night or very early Tuesday morning with total snowfall expected as of right now, 5 to 8 inches. Your Highway crew will be ready, and all available trucks will be on the roads. I would like to let a little cat out of the bag from this past week. When I took over as Highway Superintendent 5 years ago, we started a new process of adding a liquid deicing agent to our road salt to make it more effective, and work at lower temperatures. We would go and get this solution each time we received a delivery of salt and sprayed it on the salt as it was put into the shed. This process worked and was used because we didn’t have any on site storage at our Highway garage. I have been liking recently for a large storage tank of at least 2000 to 2500 gallons which would allow us to store the deicing liquid on site rather than have to run and get it every time we needed it, but they were extremely expensive. One day I decided to put a post on Facebook that we were looking for one to see what might be out there. The next day I received a message from the

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Superintendent from the Town of Hurley in Ulster County saying that they had two 2500-gallon tanks that they no longer use and that we were welcome to one of them if we could come and get it. We took a ride down and looked at it and it was exactly what we needed. Their board declared it surplus equipment and we went and picked it up. It has been moved to our shop with the help from the Town of Windham, Town of Coxsackie, and the Green County Highway Department and has been set in place ready for use. That is not all, while we were there picking up the storage tank, they offered us 7 spray systems that could be mounted on our plow trucks which would allow us to spray liquid deicing solutions directly onto the sand and salt as it is being placed on the roadway. We also brought these back with us and two of the seven have been installed on our trucks and will be used during this next storm. Having the ability to use liquid deicing agents along with our sand and salt should result in more effective melting of snow and ice and clear roads much quicker. The remaining 5 units will be installed as time and weather permits. I should also mention that all of these items were brought to our Town at zero cost to the Town of New Baltimore including the installation on our trucks. If we had to pay for all of this we would have been looking at easily in the area of \$30,000.

2011 International truck number 13 that is at HL Gage for rear brake and engine repairs is complete and we hope to pick up today and have it in service for tonight's storm. I received a call from Rob Coffey on Friday afternoon regarding the 2002 International that has the anti freeze in the oil, and he is no longer interested in doing the job, so we will be going to pick up and bring back to the highway garage today. My thought is at this point we are a good way through the winter and have been doing ok without it, that we take the sander off of it, and put the truck on the auction site, and get what we can get for it, and wait out the arrival of the new one. On the new truck that we are still waiting for, the build is June 20, 2024, however we will be receiving a \$15,668.40 price increase as of right now. I am arguing with them, and have attached a copy of the email that I sent to both Navistar and HL Gage, we will see where that goes, if anywhere. I would ask that the board be prepared to pass a resolution to pay the extra \$15,668.40 to keep the process moving if need be. If we were to cancel the contract right now, and start over, I'm sure it would end up costing us more for the truck, and would put us at the end of the production line again.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We've agreed to purchase the vehicle for \$208,000 last year and they're giving us indication that they want \$15,668 more on our agreed upon price. So I'll touch base with our attorney about that. They're not even gonna start building it until June anyway so we can get that accomplished.

***Personnel***

**Supervisor Ruso:** This was brought up in terms of our liability insurance and in fact we have a comprehensive location for all our Town employee files.

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

**RESOLUTION 54-2024**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO DEFINE TOWN RECORDS TO BE INCLUDED  
IN OFFICIAL PERSONNEL FILES**

**WHEREAS** the official personnel file for all employees for the Town of New Baltimore is located in the Town Clerk's office safe.

**RESOLVED** any and all personnel documents including payroll certification, disciplinary forms, employee applications, employee payroll forms, rates of pay, Teamsters Union correspondence, random drug and alcohol testing, and updated LENS reports from the Department of Motor Vehicles are required to be included in said official Town Clerk office personnel files.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

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ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:  
**Motion Carried**

***Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten***

The Planning Board met on February 8, 2024, with the following business transacted: Public Hearing was held on the Central Hudson Site Plan Application for addition to the substation located on New Baltimore Road. In the regular Monthly Meeting that followed: ...Central Hudson Site Plan application was approved. ...Discussion was continued with representatives from LSE Monoceros LLC on their New Baltimore Solar Project Site Plan Application, our Town Attorney's assistant and Town's engineer for project. The Site Plan Application was deemed complete and required Public Hearing scheduled for 7:15 p.m., March 14. ...Mark James submitted Minor Subdivision Application for a two-lot subdivision of his 70-acre parcel of land on High Rock Road. Required Public Hearing was scheduled for 7 p.m., March 14.

***Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Bill Boehlke***

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on January 3, 2024, with the following business transacted: ...Heard the application submitted by Attorney James Warren on behalf of Daniel and Barbara Bernesser to allow for the division of 3.6 acres of land owned at the corner of Route 9W and School House Lane into two parcels of less than two acres. The Board advised applicants that they will not move forward to Variance consideration based on two substandard parcels but rather wish to see the front parcel fronting on Route 9W a two-acre parcel and rear parcel containing residence 1.6 acres. Applicants to contact surveyor for redrawing of property lines in such a way that the residence, well and septic meet required setbacks. ...Heard the application presented by Kasselmann Solar on behalf of Ralph Rominger's authorized representative David Mancini for construction of a residential ground mount solar project in excess of 25kW on Rominger property owned at 426 Hillcrest Road. Proposed project is for a 29.625kW array. Applicant did not have from electric company, believed to be National Grid, letter stating that the project would be allowed if approved. Discussion will be continued at a later meeting when this is received. It was determined the next day following meeting that electric company servicing that area is Central Hudson and not National Grid. Applicant's representative was so informed

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on February 7, 2024, with the following business transacted: ...Continued discussion with the Kasselmann Solar representative on the Ralph Rominger Variance Application for a Ground Mount Solar in excess of 25kW to be placed on property owned at 426 Hillcrest Road, Hannacroix, NY. Public Hearing on the application was scheduled for 7 p.m., March 6, and then soon thereafter, postponed to a later date due to some contingent issues on the site needing to be addressed first. ...Having received Planning Board referral letter and Use Variance Application from applicant, the Board discussed with Brad Jourdin plans for the placing of a Mulch and Compost Site on property owned by Michael Carroll at 1881 River Road. The Board requested that additional information be provided before moving forward on the application

***Town Court***

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

- Total December monies received was \$12,378.00
  - Judge Huff                      \$ 5,609.00
  - Judge Konsul                    \$ 6,769.00
  
  - State/County Share\*
  - Town Share\*
  
- Total 2023 monies received (January-December 2023) \$170,933.00
  
- Total new cases received 81

\*State Report not available

**Supervisor Ruso:** They don't have our Town share. As a rule of thumb...

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**Town Clerk Finke:** I do have it, I'll do it after.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's roughly a third the Town get to keep just so you know.

The following is the Town of New Baltimore Court monthly report for January 2024.

- Total January monies received was \$15,978.00
  - Judge Huff                      \$ 7,378.00
  - Judge Konsul                      \$ 8,600.00
  
  - State/County Share\*
  - Town Share\*
  
- Total 2024 monies received (January) \$15,978.00
  
- Total new cases received 111

\*State Report not available

**Town Clerk Finke:** I can give you the year end, December of 2023. Judge Huff was \$91,543, Konsul was \$79,390. The total was \$170,933. State Share \$95,255, County \$800, Town Share \$74,873.

**Supervisor Ruso:** More than a third. As a last point I will point out to our Town Attorney the issue about Judge versus Justice. I'll find out what she has to say.

***Youth, Parks and Recreation***

**Councilmember VanEtten:** The zip line has been replaced and fixed.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- March 6, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- March 11, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- March 14, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- March 25, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

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

**RESOLUTION 55-2024**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

**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 2024b-02-01 to 2024b-02-35, it is

**RESOLVED** that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2024b-02-01 to 2024b-02-35.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until March 31, 2024.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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General \$676,855.73, Highway \$5,191.53, Sewer 2 \$215.31, Street Lighting 1 \$2,313.82, Street Lighting 2 \$336.25, Total \$684,912.64

**Upcoming Meetings**

**Supervisor Ruso:** For everyone to know, let's not forget about the meeting on Thursday noontime, Congressman Molinaro's office will be right here in this room.

- March 6, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- March 11, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- March 14, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- March 25, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO  
Town Clerk