

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

**APRIL 22, 2024**

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

**Reports**

Supervisor

- Resolution to Authorize Town Supervisor to Sign Engineering Consultant Agreement With MJ Engineering

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- Resolution to Authorize the Deputy Town Clerk to Attend the New York State Town Clerks Association Annual Conference in Colonie, New York from April 29-30
- Resolution to Authorize the Town Clerk to Attend the New York State Association of Tax Receivers and Collectors Annual Conference in Lake George, New York from June 9-12, 2024
- April 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting

Historian

Agriculture/Agfest (Member VanEtten)

- Resolution Authorizing Supervisor to Execute Memorandum of Understanding with AgFest Committee
- Resolution Authorizing Supervisor To Execute Lease Agreement with the VanEtten Family for AgFest

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)

- Resolution to Purchase Automatic External Defibrillator for Town Hall

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

Greene County Planning Board (Sottolano)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Authorize the Highway Superintendent and Foreman to Attend the 2024 Highway School in Ithaca, New York from June 3-5, 2024

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

Planning Board (Chair Downes/Member Kash)

Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Sottolano/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)

**Upcoming Meetings**

- May 1, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- May 9, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- May 13, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- May 30, 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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**COUNTY OF GREENE**                              **Adopted 5/13/2024**  
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**TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087**  
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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 Superintendent VanWormer; and 11 members of the public who signed the attendance book.

***Supervisor Jeff Ruso***

**Supervisor Ruso:** I did get an answer, dated April 10, and I forget the date that I received it but it was subsequent to the last meeting and it's from the Greene County Board of Elections and this is in response to my letter to them and the Board resolution that we did...

**Harold Vadney:** January 22.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you, sir. Nevertheless 'We are writing in response to your letter of February 12, 2024, received at the Greene County Board of Elections on February 15<sup>th</sup>. We apologize for the delay in our response, but we have been in the process of addressing the issues raise in your correspondence with the stakeholders involved in New Baltimore, and the NY Citizens Audit claims at the county level, all while running village elections and a presidential primary at the same time. At this time, we would like to provide you with a response that you can share with your Board and meeting attendees that have raised concerns with you. Let us begin with the most recent election from November 2023 and the unfortunate situation that occurred in districts two/four. Some confusion resulted in the manner in which the election machines accepted ballots. As required by the NYS Board of Elections for machines to be certified for use in New York State, several options exist the way machines accepted ballots from voters. In this case, an inadvertent selection was made, and the machines took in ballots in a slightly different fashion than our voters are accustomed to. While this resulted in some confusion, it in no way affected the vote totals tabulated. The most likely cause of this was in the opening of the machines on election morning, the selection of "Ballot Review" was inadvertently enabled. It is important to note here that these machines, or similar ones, have been in use in Greene County since 2011. Over the fourteen years they have been in use in our 52 election districts, this is the only time this has occurred anywhere. Obviously, this was an extremely rare situation that so far is specific only to this election site in this one election. Recognizing this as a rare exception, the Greene County Board nonetheless took steps to assure all involved that the election results were in no way impacted. Post-election, the Board held a number of meetings with all parties involved to ensure that results were accurate. This included: \*Post election the BOE invited all candidates and representatives from the political parties to join us in reviewing election results. Some candidates and representatives from both parties joined us at that review. The issue with the voting machines was discussed and addressed in detail. Election results were reviewed, and machine results were verified. The large number of write-in ballots were also reviewed, and the explanation of that process detailed. At the conclusion of that meeting, all attendees departed with the full understanding and agreement that the results were indeed spot-on-accurate. \*Following that review, the Board offered to meet with the Election Inspectors from the districts that experienced the anomaly. Several chose to attend, and a detailed discussion took place. We believe this provided a greater understanding of the process and what occurred. \*Subsequent to that, the Board offered a meeting to all Election Inspectors in New Baltimore to discuss this matter so everyone involved understood what had happened and to make sure it will not be repeated in the future. Again, a detailed discussion took place with those that choose to attend leading to a better understanding of what happened and how to avoid it in the future. As for your reference to an "election audit" group, we have extensively addressed the issues they have raised at the county level. Enclosed for your edification you will find materials from the NYS Board of Elections responding to the claims made by this group. Please review it as you wish. We have met with the County Legislature at two public meetings to address this issue. Let us be extremely clear here, we share the State Board's assessment that, "The claims being made by the organization are false. They represent, at best, an ignorance of the voter registration process in New York State, and, at worst, a willful disregard of basic fact." With that said, please understand that while we appreciate the concerns of our local residents, we have grave reservation that the statewide group involved has convinced them that their claims are accurate. They are not and we have provided evidence to support that. If individuals choose not to accept these facts, we will respect their right to do so even as we vehemently disagree with such an assessment. Hopefully, this information satisfies your residents' questions on these

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matters and, at this time, there really is nothing else we can add. Respectfully submitted, Brent Bogardus Republican Commissioner Marie Metzler Democratic Commissioner'

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I kind of pressed them a little bit, you know 'please give me a response.' The only thing I'll add is that the letter from February 12 was my second prompting, wasn't the original, but the outcome is the outcome, that's what they sent us. So they did respond, I'm not gonna ask your opinion on what you think of their response, everybody's will differ and so but they did respond.

**Harold Vadney:** With all due respect, it's nonresponsive to your Resolution 40-2024. That is basically an ad hominem argument attacking an external entity and first of all...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, I'm with you, I understand, but it is...

**Harold Vadney:** It's totally unacceptable.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's something, I had heard nothing previously. Second one I have is something that came forward from well a member of our audience last meeting and it had to do with the discharge of whatever it was from the Truck Stop into the Cocksackie Creek. I subsequently contacted the Department of Environmental Conservation and that basically is their septic system and I do have some correspondence that I shared with the rest of the Board here that has to do with 7,080 gallons of treated wastewater into the..., treated, excuse me, sanitary wastewater to a tributary and they have issued a permit for that. It is not a permit issued by the Town, it is a permit issued by the State and the new system that they put in meets their satisfaction. So I just wanted to point that out to all those who had questions about that.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Are any of the people that own property or have homes along the discharge area been told about this, and not have had to find it like I did in the back pages of the Public Notices.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Not to my knowledge. You know I didn't call people that lived nearby, no.

**Town Clerk Finke:** And they've had this SPDES permit for awhile.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** And it's very common for wastewater treatment plants to be discharged.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, they had..., actually to back up a minute. They had a septic system that failed 15 years ago and the old owners let it go. The new owner came in and replaced it, he's showing some level of diligence that I find somewhat, actually it's a world of difference between him and the previous owners. We'll leave it at that. The next one I have is I have something from the New York National Guard. They're coming to New Baltimore. Anyway, this is from the office called DHSES which is Department of Homeland Security Emergency Services.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** They're coming to our Town.

**Supervisor Ruso:** They are coming to our Town. They are going to have an event here at Town Hall on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 1PM. This is supposed to be a bagged event. What do they mean by that? They're going to give out a grab bag, what's the right word for this?

**Councilmember Kash:** Go-bag.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Get out of your house and grab the bag bag typically and they're going to have an educational program in Town for people in our community not exclusive to New Baltimore and it's limited to roughly the first 100 people. The room does not fit any more than that as you can see by that sign over there underneath that picture okay. And by the way that 103 I think it says also will include in that 103 would be the presenters.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Would you again mention the date and time please.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** 22nd of June and it's New York State Citizens Preparedness Core, What To Do In An Emergency In Your Town, okay and its says 'Hello, I am the Hudson Valley Instructor, for the CPC, Citizens Preparedness Corps program, and was wondering if you would like to possibly host an event in your community. Below is a summary of the New York State Citizen Preparedness Corps program; The Citizen Preparedness Corps is an Emergency Preparedness program initiated back in 2014 to provide residents the knowledge and tools to prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible. The New York State National Guard Service Members, working with experts from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and local Emergency Management personnel, are holding classes across the state. The program was designed by DHSES and covers a broad range of emergency preparedness topics like developing a family emergency plan, what to do in the case of an Active Shooter situation, stocking up on emergency supplies, and registering for NY-Alert, the free statewide emergency alert system. We offer trainings with or without free go-bags. There are zero requirements when it comes to non-bagged events. For bagged events, the location must be able to accommodate 50+ people, attendees must register online, and it must be open to the general public.' So we cannot restrict it to New Baltimore residents, fine. We need to restrict it to the first 100 roughly people that sign up and they are going to take care of the sign-up is what they suggested, not that we can't inform them along the way. 'If you let me know if you are interested, let's talk soon.' That was sent to me on the 13th of March and I responded, the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, he was actually surprised I called him so quick.' So, anyway, that's my things, now there was a conversation that we thought we should have here amongst the Board members, coming in May, the fourth Monday of the month is Town Board meeting and it's also Memorial Day.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso to approve the DSHES, New York National Guard, to use the Town Hall on the 22nd of June, seconded by Downes, VanEtten, and Sottolano

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** I have sat through this, it's a very good program. Anybody can take advantage of it and what they give you is a backpack and it's got a flashlight, first aid supplies, emergency blankets in case you get in an emergency of some kind. It is a very good program.

**Ellie Alfeld:** And, Jeff, many years ago, Alan can tell you that at one time the Town had an emergency coordinator for how to help the people in New Baltimore in case of any kind of situation like that. There was a committee right, Alan?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah, we still have it.

**Town Clerk Finke:** We've never met but we have it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Not since I've been here, but that's okay. Nevertheless, that's what we have and so...

**Harold Vadney:** My question would be first of all how are you going to get this word out and second of all how are people supposed to register for this program. The information has to go out to the locals somehow effectively.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Newsletter.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, there's a number of things, but they told me to wait and they they'll carry the ball at the front end. Once they make their announcement, then we can piggyback on that and I don't want to put out things that aren't consistent with what they have to say. So they haven't yet done that. So we'll find out along the way.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Now the last one is a discussion on the May meeting. Does anyone have a perspective, I worry that everyone is going to be here.

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**Councilmember Downes:** We already have it to Wednesday?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** It's already moved to Wednesday.

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, it's gotta be approved by the Town Board.

**Town Clerk Finke:** No, it was moved to Wednesday, but that's also the Grievance Day for the Board of Assessment Review.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That's right. We've got too many things that week.

**Town Clerk Finke:** The choices are either Thursday of that week or Monday of the following week.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, the Monday of the following week, wouldn't that put us in June?

**Councilmember Downes:** Yup.

**Town Clerk Finke:** But that's your two choices.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, does anyone have a perspective?

**Councilmember Downes:** I mean if we don't sign things for that month on that, we'll be like three weeks from signing.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Thursday would be great.

**Councilmember Downes:** So we should probably do Thursday.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, don't forget we can always have... The paperwork being signed, the folders, is not something that's a public event. We can sign the vouchers regardless of a meeting.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Thursday would be great. You've got to have a resolution to pay the bills.

**County Legislator Linger:** Right.

**Town Clerk Finke:** You can't just sign the vouchers, you've got to have the resolution.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmembers Downes and Sottolano to move the May Work Meeting to Thursday, May 30

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 72-2024**

**APRIL 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN  
ENGINEERING CONSULTANT AGREEMENT WITH MJ ENGINEERING**

**WHEREAS** the Town of New Baltimore has previously selected M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. of 1533 Crescent Rd., Clifton Park, NY as the consulting engineering firm for the "Complete Streets Study for Route 144", and

**WHEREAS** MJ Engineering has submitted the required Architectural/ Engineering Consultant Agreement to the Town Board for approval at the price of \$95,000, and.

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*WHEREAS* MJ Engineering has submitted the required Architectural/ Engineering Consultant Agreement to the Town Board for approval at the price of \$95,000,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the supervisor to sign said agreement.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano

**Councilmember Downes:** And this \$95,000 is coming from?

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's going to be a grant, 100 percent grant.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Covered 100 percent.

**Supervisor Ruso:** The issue is we have to pay it up front and then it gets reimbursed.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** That's with all grants.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That true with all the grants. They're not gonna just give us money and we spend it on something else. So the bills have to be submitted.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***County Legislator Pat Linger***

In April, I attended 8 regular committee meetings, 1 special committee meeting, one workshop, one public hearing, and the regular Legislative Meeting #4 for 2024. At the regular meeting, we issued a Proclamation to GC Human Services recognizing May as Greene County Older Americans Month. This proclamation honors our senior citizens and explains how we all benefit when older adults remain engaged, independent, and included in their communities. This month, we approved entering into a contract with Oxford House to establish, expand and oversee the effective organization and operation of the network of Oxford Houses in Greene County. Oxford House will own, maintain, and operate facilities with the intent of providing safe, affordable housing to persons who are in recovery from alcohol and drug misuse. Columbia County will take up a similar resolution in the near future to share the cost of this management position. Funds for this project will come from Capital Project #127 attributed to our Opioid Settlement funds. DSS Commissioner Prospesal reported 2023 cost avoidance of \$1.7 million in our temporary assistance program. This comes from the program integrity initiatives which are designed to control fraud, waste, and abuse. These are funds that were prevented from being handed over to ineligible individuals. At the request of individuals around Greene County, I moved a resolution to support an effort to audit the State Board of Elections. The resolution failed to pass through the County Services Committee. I'm sure anyone who drives County Route 61 has noticed the two road slides took a severe turn for the worse over the last week. Greene County Highway was there on Friday and again today to mill and fill these areas until permanent repairs are made. As you will recall from my previous reports, the bridge over Cocksackie Creek is scheduled for replacement next spring that will include the repair of the slide as well. Our local cost share for this project is just under \$48k. The slide near the Kreil/Zacek farm is currently being evaluated by CDM Smith for repair design. We have a similar slide in Jefferson Heights on 23B that is being evaluated as well. Funds for both projects are being reserved this year as we close out the books for 2023. Route 54 is scheduled for paving this year between Highmount Rd and Jennings Rd. I don't have a date for paving yet, but culvert replacements will begin shortly. Please use caution in that area as there are several to be replaced. We also purchased a vehicle for Buildings & Grounds. We passed LL#1 of 2024 to allow assistant public defenders to live in contiguous counties. On March 31, we paid out \$10,852,806 in delinquent school, village, and state land taxes. Next, I'd like to update a few projects we currently have under way. The \$1.2 million shoreline stabilization project at the Catskill point is moving quickly and is scheduled to finish at the end of May. The new Justice Center project began last month and is progressing on schedule. Dirt that is being removed from

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that project site to accommodate the lower-level parking is being transported to the Catskill Transfer Station site on Rt. 385. Once there, it will be used as fill for the 3<sup>rd</sup> project getting underway, a re-design and construction of a new residential drop off area. Increased services for composting and the sheer volume of traffic at that site have created significant issues for ingress and egress. That project is scheduled to be completed this year. We are still waiting for Stewarts to complete their new building on 23B in Catskill. Once finished, they will remove underground tanks, remediate the site, and we will begin construction on the new Greene County Tourism Center. Greene County and Sheriff Kusminsky were recognized by the NYS Sheriff's Association this month for the successful completion of the first ever Accreditation of the Greene County Jail. Greene is now one of just 32 jails statewide who have earned this award. I also partnered with Legislators from Coxsackie and Athens to approve a Speenburgh Grant for the Coxsackie Sportsmen's Club Youth Trap Team.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I haven't been to that site on 61 since they did this what last Friday is what you suggested?

**County Legislator Linger:** Friday they were there, yup.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Have you seen it?

**County Legislator Linger:** Yeah.

**Supervisor Ruso:** How is it?

**County Legislator Linger:** Pretty good actually. I took a picture and I can show you when we're done.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you. I'll drive there tomorrow.

**County Legislator Linger:** A smoother dip at this point. I didn't go back today, they were supposed to be back up there today to see if there was anything.

**Supervisor Ruso:** The gap was such it would remind you of after pictures of an earthquake in Alaska or something like that.

**County Legislator Linger:** Probably an eight inch drop-off and then up on the other side. So it was significant, we had a milling head on our skid steer and they were able to mill it down, kind of slope it and then put blacktop down which I believe a similar repair.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That's a temporary fix. Do you think it will last until next year?

**County Legislator Linger:** I guess it depends on how wet it is cause that's where the issues come with all these slides. It's all clay underneath and once they start sliding, it just gets heavier, heavier, and heavier and more weight means more of a slide. So if you can get it to dry up, we'll be okay until next year.

***Town Clerk Barb Finke***

1 CO Search Compliance Residential \$125, 3 Building Permits \$184.70, 5 CO Searches \$250, 1 EZPass Tag \$25, 6 Fishing Licenses \$9.26, 26 Dog Licenses \$180, 1 Replacement Tag \$2, 5 Late License \$25, 1 Marriage \$17.50, 1 Excavation Fees Culvert Under Driveway \$35, 2 Minor Subdivisions \$150, 1 Special Use Permit/Variance Commercial \$200, Solar Residential \$512.19, 16 Certified Copies \$160, 1 Genealogical Copy \$22, 29 Photo Copies \$7.25, Recycle Fees \$4, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$2,071.14, \$34 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, \$105.74 to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Fishing Licenses, Total to Supervisor \$1,908.90. To date, we have collected \$2,803,475.22 in Property Taxes, Penalty \$2,722.95, representing 77% collected. Uncollected amount is \$854,649.48. First quarter water 2 & 3 billing were sent out along with delinquent Sewer 1 and Water 2 & 3 notices. I would like to thank the resident who came to Town Hall with questions and direction for a building permit. He graciously asked if he



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could shovel our walks as they were not when he arrived. He shoveled from 9:30 to 9:50 while he was waiting for the Building/Planning/Zoning Office to open.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you, Barb. Do you know who that fellow was?

**Town Clerk Finke:** Yes, I do.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I guess you'll tell me tomorrow.

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

**RESOLUTION 73-2024**  
**APRIL 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPUTY TOWN CLERK TO ATTEND  
THE NEW YORK STATE TOWN CLERKS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE IN COLONIE, NEW YORK FROM APRIL 22-24, 2024**

*WHEREAS* the New York State Town Clerks Association has scheduled their Annual Conference from April 22-April 24 at the Desmond Hotel in Colonie, New York.

*RESOLVED* that Deputy Town Clerk Amanda Eldred is authorized to attend training on April 22-24 at no cost to the Town of New Baltimore.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 74-2024**  
**APRIL 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN CLERK TO ATTEND THE  
NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF TAX RECEIVERS AND  
COLLECTORS ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK  
FROM JUNE 9-12, 2024**

*WHEREAS* the New York State Association of Tax Receivers has scheduled their Annual Conference from June 9-12 at the Fort William Henry Hotel & Conference Center in Lake George, New York from June 9-12, 2024.

*RESOLVED* that Town Clerk Barbara Finke is authorized to attend training as a commuter at a cost of \$100 for Registration.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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*AgFest Committee*

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

**RESOLUTION 75-2024**  
**APRIL 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AGFEST COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the Supervisor to sign the attached Memorandum of Agreement with the AgFest Committee for 2024.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

This Memorandum of Agreement entered into this 22nd day of April, 2024 by and between the Town of New Baltimore, a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, and New Baltimore Antique Machinery and Agricultural Festival Association, aka AgFest Committee, a New York not-for-profit corporation ("AgFest Committee").

**WHEREAS**, the New Baltimore Antique Machinery and Agricultural Festival, aka AgFest, is an event sponsored by the Town of New Baltimore, and the Town wishes to contract with the AgFest Committee, to plan, stage and run the event commonly known as AgFest.

**FOR GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION**, the receipt of which is acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. There shall be an AgFest in the Town to be held on June 1-June 2, 2024 at the VanEtten farm, New Baltimore, New York.
2. The Town shall be responsible for providing at its expense the following: a) general liability insurance in favor of the Town and AgFest, their officers, elected officials, etc.; b) tents for entertainment and dinner; c) picnic tables; d) electricity; e) trash collection; and f) porta-sans.
3. The AgFest Committee will be solely responsible for organizing and running the festival and for any necessary clean-up after the festival ends.
4. The AgFest Committee will coordinate the provision of electric service, trash pick-up, and arrange for porta-sans with vendors.
5. The AgFest Committee will pay all expenses associated with AgFest not otherwise paid by the Town as set forth above.

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**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE**

**NEW BALTIMORE ANTIQUE  
MACHINERY AND AGRICULTURAL  
FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**

**DATED: April 22, 2024**

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: VanEtten

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 76-2024**

**APRIL 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE  
LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE VAN ETTEN FAMILY FOR AGFEST**

*RESOLVED*, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the Supervisor to sign attached lease agreement with Robert and Shelly VanEtten for 2024 AgFest.

**LEASE AGREEMENT**

THIS LEASE AGREEMENT (the "Lease") is made as of the Memorandum of Agreement entered into this 22nd day of April, 2024, by and between the Town of New Baltimore, a New York municipality, with an address of 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, New York 12087 (hereinafter called the "Tenant"), and Robert and Shelly VanEtten, with an address of 1314 Saw Mill Road, Ravena, New York 12143 (hereinafter called the "Landlord").

**WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, Landlord is the owner of the real property, and improvements thereon, located at 1314 Saw Mill Road, Ravena, New York 12143 (the "Property");

WHEREAS, Tenant desires to lease a portion of the Property from Landlord for the annual Antique Machinery and Agricultural Festival ("AgFest"), and

WHEREAS, Landlord is willing to lease a portion of the Property to Tenant on the terms and conditions set forth herein,

NOT, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing mutual covenants herein contained, and for One Dollar and 00/100 (\$1.00), and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto mutually covenant and agree as follows:

1. Description of the Leased Premises. The property to be leased to Tenant is real property located at 1314 Saw Mill Road (the "Leased Premises").

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2. Term. The term of the Lease shall commence on May 30, 2024 and end on June 3, 2024 at midnight.
3. Lawful Possession. The Landlord covenants that it is lawfully seized and in possession of the Leased Premises above described, and that it will put and keep Tenant in the peaceable possession thereof during the term of this Lease.
4. Business Use Termination. The Leased Premises shall be used and occupied by the Tenant and Tenant's invitees solely for the AgFest, and such use is in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances and governmental regulations. Landlord and Tenant hereby expressly acknowledge and agree that the Lease shall be immediately terminated, and the parties shall be released from any and all obligations hereunder, in the event that Tenant ceases to use the property for the aforesaid purpose.
5. Tenant's Return of the Leased Premises. Tenant shall, at Tenant's expense, return the Leased Premises in a clean and sanitary condition, and in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and code.
6. Indemnification. Tenant shall protect, indemnify and save harmless the Landlord and its successors and assigns, and Landlord's agents from and against all claims, damages and suits arising directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from any activity, work or thing done, permitted, suffered or omitted to be done by Tenant, or by any of Tenant's agents, employees, or invitees in or about the Leased Premises.
7. Insurance. Tenant agrees to maintain appropriate liability insurance for the AgFest to name Landlord as an Additional Insured.
8. Assignment and Subletting. Tenant may not sublet or assign this Lease to any person or any corporation, partnership, or other entity, without obtaining the prior written consent of Landlord, which consent may be unreasonably withheld.
9. Waiver. No mention in this Lease of any specific right or remedy shall preclude Landlord from exercising any other right or from having any other remedy or from maintaining any action to which it may be otherwise entitled either at law or in equity. The waiver of any breach, covenant, condition or agreement herein contained must be in

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writing. The failure of Landlord to insist in any one or more instances upon a strict performance of any covenant of this Lease or to exercise any option or right therein contained shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment for the future of such covenant, right or option, but the same remain in full force and effect unless the contrary is expressed in writing by Landlord.

10. Termination. This Lease may be terminated by written agreement of the parties.

11. Complete Agreement. This Lease contains the entire understanding among the parties with respect to the transactions contemplated hereby and supersedes all other agreements and understandings among the parties. Except as expressly set forth in this Lease, none of the parties has relied upon any oral representation or oral information given to it by any representative of either party. This Lease can only be modified pursuant to a written agreement signed by both parties.

12. Governing Law. This Lease shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Landlord and Tenant have executed and delivered this Lease, intending to be bound hereby, as of the date and year first above written.

TENANT, TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE

LANDLORD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Jeffry R. Ruso  
Title: Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert VanEtten

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelly VanEtten

**DATED: April 22, 2024**

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: VanEtten

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The April 8, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmembers Downes and 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:

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ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:  
**Motion Carried**

***Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley***

3/27/24-4/22/24 5 Tires up to and Including 16” With Rims \$25, 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastics), 6 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 34 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 98 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, 1 Microwave Oven on 4/6, Total Income \$25

***Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin***

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for March, 2024, is as follows: Building Inspections: 23; Total Permits Issued: 2; Building Permit Renewal Letters Sent: 4 First Notice; 1 Second Notice; Building Permits Renewed: 1; Certificates of Compliance Issued: 1; Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 1; Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 5; Residential Solar Permit Applications Received: 1; Residential Solar Permits Issued: 1; Total New Applications Received: 7; New Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 19; Open Building Permits: 225 Application Fees for March, 2024: \$696.89 Total Fees for Year to Date: \$5,194.15

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

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. There were 20 EMS calls in March for a total of 66 for this year 2024. We had 171 calls for all of 2023. In Greene County there were two strokes, 14 overdoses, and five of them used Narcan. So these numbers are not going down, they continue to go up.

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

**RESOLUTION 77-2024**  
**APRIL 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL  
DEFIBRILLATOR FOR TOWN HALL**

**WHEREAS** the Town of New Baltimore received a Wayne C. Speenburgh grant for \$1,500 through County Legislator Pat Linger.

**WHEREAS** three quotes were requested and two were received for said purchase.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the purchase of a HeartSine Samaritan 360P PAD AED, Automatic Unit with HeartSine Samaritan PAD Data Cable, a Red Rescue Ready Kit, and AED Cabinet at a total cost of \$1,327.95.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you, Legislator Linger.

**County Legislator Linger:** You're welcome. Thank you, sir. I think that's the fourth AED I put in Town with that grant program. The Outlaws have one, Cornell Hook & Ladder, Medway, and Town Hall now.

***Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer***

Highway Report March 25 to April 22, 2024 Cut two hanging trees on Dug Way Lane with Town of Athens Buckett truck; Continued cutting and trimming trees on Saw Mill Road; Finished removing shoulders on Saw Mill Road; Picked up sweeper at Finke Equipment for Town of Cossackie; Picked up new boards for lawn mower trailer from GNH lumber and replaced deck;

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Emptied magic minus tanks on all trucks and rinsed out for summer; Hauled 1 and 2 stone mixture from Callanan for paving on Featherbed Lane; Patched holes with winter mix; Washed all trucks and loader; Removed fallen tree from Old State Road; Took down donated backstop at Gray Willow and brought back to highway Garage. Thank You to the Village of Coxsackie DPW for their help; Picked up sweeper for ourselves from Finke Equipment swept all roads; Took measurements on School Hill Road for possible abandonment process; 4/4/24 Called all in at 5am for snow, sanded all roads; Repaired broken sander chain on 2013 International Truck #7; Took our roller to District 2 park and rolled the infield; Removed plows and sanders from winter trucks and put away; Put fuel tank and tool box back in 2011 F350; 4/12/24 Called in two employees to remove large rock on Honey Hollow Rd, and two fallen trees on School Hill Road; Replaced bristles on rental sweeper and returned to Finke Equipment; Cleaned up lawns where plows dug up; Replaced speed limit signs on Saw Mill Road; Hauled in washed 1B stone from Callanan for Featherbed Lane paving; Cleaned up lawn at Town Hall; Serviced all lawn mowers for season; Worked on 1997 International plow truck, got ready to be painted; Took 2013 International to Albrights for NYS Inspection; Cut very large dead pine tree at Highway Garage and two on Saw Mill Road. Trees were cut by Asplundh tree service at no charge to the Town, saving Town about \$4000.00. We are so far scheduled to pave Saw Mill Road on Monday April 29<sup>th</sup> and Possibly finish up on Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup> as of right now. Depends on weather we may get pushed back. We will be paving on side of the road at a time, so people who live on the road will be able to get in and out, however there will be Road Closed signs at both ends with traffic control to keep unnecessary traffic out, for the safety of our employees and those operating around the paver. There will also be heavy truck traffic hauling in the material. Another thing I had was our CHIPS funding, the \$100 million that was proposed to be cut from the budget has not been cut, that was reinstated. Our CHIPS funds, the amount for CHIPS, will be exactly the same as last year, but they did not reinstate any extra.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I had heard from somebody in the State that it was probably going to be exactly the same.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yes, they didn't add any, but they didn't take any away.

**Councilmember Downes:** So the sweeper, did we use it for one or two weeks?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We used it for a week and four days. I'm waiting to see what the bill says when it comes.

**Councilmember Downes:** The other thing is last year we had the senior citizens up to the park and I know we were gonna discuss to see if we could do something about the entrance actually into the park.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Where you walk in?

**Councilmember Downes:** Where you walk in. Is there anything you can do, would you guys be able to get in there and like level that out because we have a lot of walkers?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** You should see me going in there with the roller the other day. You want to talk about fun. Over those rocks.

**Councilmember Downes:** So I know that we had talked about that year to see if we could do something so that the seniors can get in and out with the wheelchairs and walkers and stuff. Yeah, so do you think you can get something...

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We actually have one pipe to patch in on Saw Mill before we pave it with blacktop. If we get some extra we'll go over there and dig the rocks.

**Supervisor Ruso:** You're talking about putting asphalt down?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah, something smooth for wheelchairs.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I didn't know if you were gonna pour cement or something.

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**Councilmember Downes:** And the other thing is last March, Jeff, you and I spoke about the Emergency Committee. Medway had asked me again if you were gonna reach out to them so they can get a better understanding of what's expected of them as an emergency.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yes, I will. I completely forgot. I will reach out to them.

**Councilmember Downes:** So that's the Church up there. I don't know what the Church down on the corner on 144, I don't know if they even have an idea. I don't think Grapeville does anything, but I do know that the Minister has asked me a couple times, he wants to make sure he has the readiness if something does happen.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Medway Church correct?

**Councilmember Downes:** The Medway, yes, Medway Grapeville.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Tell them I'll reach out and see if we can get a meeting together with them all.

**Councilmember Downes:** Yeah because they just want to make sure if they're supposed to have ten beds, they have some kind of cot or something like that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I probably know where to get it from if they need it.

**Councilmember Downes:** Right, right. They just want to be ready because they do have something that says they are an emergency site, so they just want to be ready.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Okay.

**Councilmember Downes:** Okay.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Rough idea, when do you want to meet with them. I wouldn't mind being there.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Let me get my paving done first, that's kind of the first thing on my mind. Right after that I'll reach out and get a meeting.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Sometime in May maybe?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay, beautiful.

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

**RESOLUTION 78-2024**  
**APRIL 22, 2024**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT AND FOREMAN TO ATTEND THE 2024 HIGHWAY SCHOOL IN ITHACA, NEW YORK FROM JUNE 3-5, 2024**

**WHEREAS** the Association of Towns has scheduled the 2024 Highway School from June 3-5, 2024 at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York.

**RESOLVED** that Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer and Foreman Scott VanWormer are authorized to attend said training at a cost of \$125 each for registration.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Sottolano



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**Councilmember VanEtten:** I'm curious why both the Supervisor and Foreman are going to the same training. Who is watching the shop while you're both gone?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** I can leave them a list a things to do while we're gone. I have no doubt in my mind they will get that done while we're gone.

**Town Supervisor Ruso:** That's a good question. Actually I have only have one thought on this and that is aside from the \$125 for registration, what's the additional cost? I'm just asking.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** It will be my hotel which I'll put on my credit card to be paid later on.

**Supervisor Ruso:** And same for Scott?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We're sharing a room. Just getting one room.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten***

The Planning Board met on April 8 with the following business transacted: Old Business as follows: ...With the ZBA having issued the required Area Variance, for Daniel and Barbara Bernesser, Mr. Bernesser and their authorized representative were back before the Planning Board for subdivision approval. The Board approved the subdivision with only condition that final maps be presented for approval, which has taken place. ...Following a lengthy discussion with LSE Monoceros LLC, (New Baltimore Solar Project) authorized representatives, Site Plan Application approval resolution listing a number of conditions was presented and approved with the conditions as cited in resolution. New Business included: ...Minor Subdivision application was presented by Donald and Sally Russo for two-lot subdivision of property owned on High Mount Road. Required Public Hearing on application is schedule for 7 p.m., June 13. ...Minor Subdivision Application was presented by Marie Cross Ostoyich for two-lot subdivision of property owned on Hillcrest Road. Required Public Hearing scheduled for 7 p.m., May 9. ...Discussed with Town residents a possible commercial project and required permitting involved for a five-acre parcel of land on Route 9W they are considering purchasing. Board has since been advised that plans for the project and purchase of land will not be moving forward. ...Discussed with the authorized representatives from New Baltimore Sunny Farms, Inc., the three minor subdivision applications submitted. Subdivision of the 2+ acre parcels from each lot are as a result of CHPE's plans to run their permanent project easement across these parcels. Discussion will continue at the May 9 meeting.

***ZBA Chair Bill Boehlke***

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on April 3, 2024, with the following business transacted: Public Hearing was held on the Daniel and Barbara Bernesser Area Variance Application. In the Regular Monthly Meeting that followed: ...The Bernesser Area Variance was approved. ...Discussion continued on the Use Variance Application for Brad Jourdin & Michael Carroll, Mulch and Compost Site to be known as AJC Green Solutions. Discussion on this project will be continued at the May 1, 2024, meeting.

**Town Clerk Finke:** I think, Ellie, you raised a question before about an easel. I happened to walk downstairs in the Code Enforcement Office and found an easel and it is my understanding they used it at the last Planning Board meeting and it is in the closet in the back.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Terrific, thank you, Barb.

**Town Clerk Finke:** So, we've had it.

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**Ellie Alfeld:** It makes it so much easier for the general public without having to get up one at a time to come forward. This is very much appreciated.

***Town Court***

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

- Total March monies received was \$13,860.00
  - Hon. Huff                      \$ 7,070.00
  - Hon. Konsul                      \$6,790.00
  - February and March State/County/Town Share attached.
- Total 2024 monies received (January-March) \$41,097.50
- Total new cases received 154

	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Amount</u>
February 2024	\$4,855.00	\$ 24.00	\$6,380.00	\$11,259.00
March 2024	\$ 7,287.00	\$325.00	\$6,248.00	\$13,860.00

***Wastewater Treatment Plant***

Several meetings have occurred with WWTP lead operator, Town board staff and representative of Delaware engineering since January 2024 to plan and initiate work tasks to meet DEC inspection goals and requirements.

As a result of these meeting discussions, current cost estimates for the projects to be completed are approximately \$600,000 less than the originally proposed, cost estimates.

Projects completed/in progress/in queue for 2024

1.	Calibrate the flow meter used to provide data for submitting discharge monitoring report electronically to the SPDES, as is required annually for the SPDES permit.	<i>Completed</i>
2.	Digitizing sewer maps.	<i>Completed</i>
3.	Replace older headworks grinding equipment with a new mechanical screen.	<i>In progress, selecting mechanical screen</i>
4.	Install a shed structure over the headworks grinding equipment to protect it from environmental impacts.	<i>To be purchased upon completion of task #3</i>
5.	Continue announcements to the public regarding the damages to WWTP equipment caused by the flushing of wet wipes that are actually not disposable.	<i>Initial announcements completed; additional to be distributed with sewer bills.</i>
6.	Expand alarm systems and alerting capacity.	<i>Initial discussions with vendor (Time Warmer)</i>
7.	Investigate the sanitary sewer collection system - Coordinate manhole inspections required for SPDES permit and flushing of any sewer lines identified with potential blockage after inspection.	<i>Planned to begin in June</i>
8.	Update the WWTP Process Control Plan.	<i>In progress</i>
9.	Replace the concrete panels that serve as walkways/access to the Rotors with a non-rusting, fiberglass grating system.	<i>Currently identifying contractor.</i>
10.	Post, interview, hire new part-time, WWTP operator due to resignation of current part-time operator.	<i>In progress</i>
11.	Replace the roof of WWTP due to failing tiles and roofing materials.	<i>Currently identifying contractor</i>

**Supervisor Ruso:** I think we need to get going on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. The last day is the 15<sup>th</sup>?

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Yeah, the 17<sup>th</sup>. I sent the position description to Michelle Storm.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, I know you did, but we'll have to light a fire.

**Councilmember Sottolano:** Yeah, I was going to send another note, I'll give her a call.

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

**Upcoming Meetings**

- May 1, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals at 7 PM
- May 9, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- May 13, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- May 30, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

**Public Comment**

**Harold Vadney:** The franchise is the citizens privilege of voting at public elections and the privilege of qualified voters to cast their ballots to the candidates they favor at public elections authorized by law. It's basic to American participative in representative democratic process in both New York State Constitution and United States Constitution. Neither of which put a price tag on the privilege of voting except maybe to imply that it was priceless. So why do taxpayers pay to vote in Greene County and maybe 11 other counties of the 62 counties in New York State. I find that to be a very good question and I hope you do too. The Town Board's Work Meeting of February 26, 2024, Mr. Ruso brought up the subject of a resolution of the Greene County Legislature that charges the Town of New Baltimore for Elections services. Mr. Ruso was unable to remember the resolution or the amount being demanded by the County so let me help out here. The Greene County resolution was item 10 of a Greene County Public Services resolution of December 11, 2023 and the amount charged back to the Town of New Baltimore by the Legislature on behalf of the Greene County Board of Elections for election services was \$7,384.87. This means that each of the 14 municipalities in Greene County is billed for election services provided by the Board of Elections which sounds pretty bizarre. This chargeback is optional, this is not a mandated law, it's not statutorily required am I correct?

**County Legislator Linger:** That's why I voted against it.

**Harold Vadney:** I know. You have the privilege to vote and elect your public officers. The taxpayers have to pay for that privilege and for services provided by the Board of Elections, an entity that is run by two political party Commissioners appointed by Greene County Legislators upon the recommendation of the County political party committee and by the way that same Board of Elections run by the appointees recommended by the County political party committees and appointed by the Greene County Legislature are the same characters who oversee and approve those so-called candidates voters get to elect. Sounds like a big scam. Well, it does get scarier if that's possible. So in 2023 New Baltimore was billed more than \$7,000 for election services payable in tax dollars paid by the New Baltimore voters and it sounds like a viable scam. Well, let's put this a little bit in context and not to be solely of New Baltimore. In 2020 there was a Presidential election in Greene County billed its towns \$80,596.50 for election services provided by the Board of Elections. The Town of Catskill with 14 electoral districts cast a total of 4,844 votes and was billed by the County \$19,438.80. That's \$4 per vote cast. The Town of Cossackie with six electoral districts cast a total of 2,844 votes and was billed by the County per resolution for \$8,959.80 or \$3.15 per vote. I'll just jump to 2023 because this is a pattern and we don't have to belabor the point.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We're at the four minute mark so proceed.

**Harold Vadney:** We're at the thousands of dollars we're paying for votes here.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I understand.

**Harold Vadney:** If we can't discuss this here, it's a very poor situation indeed.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I want to hear what you're saying so please sum up.

**Harold Vadney:** Well, it's going to get to the point here where the Town of New Baltimore to save time, in the 2023 elections New Baltimore cast 1,013 votes at a cost as I said of \$7,384.87,

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\$7.29 a vote. Immediately after passing that resolution billing the nine districts, Mr. Bogardus was reappointed as Commissioner. Mr. Ruso at a recent meeting you stated perhaps at the next meeting putting forth a resolution to express the feelings of the Board, that's you guys, about them charging, I don't know where you got this figure, \$12,000, but that's what you said in the Minutes, when they got \$11 million that they didn't expect. What relevance that has I don't know. Mr. Ruso, you do have some difficulty with numbers so I'll refer you to my figures I just enumerated. They're accurate and, Ms. Kash, they don't come from confidential disclosures by anybody so put your mind at rest. County Legislator Linger confirms that the majority of the 62 counties, only 11 counties if I'm not mistaken are actually charged back. You, Mr. Ruso, go on to say 'I may reach out to my fellow Town Supervisors to see if they want to sign on such a thing, I presume a resolution or some movement to urge the Legislators to stop charging back, but that was on January 22. I'm afraid that the Town Board is prone to making promises that they find difficult to keep.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, we're gonna have to sum up here if you will please.

**Harold Vadney:** Actually that was it and my final question would be when did you intend to approach your fellow Supervisors? You don't have to answer because I've already done it. I've written to every single Supervisor and Mayor in the County of Greene with this presentation asking them to please do something because obviously this Board is incapable of doing it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, thank you so let's move on to your second card.

**Harold Vadney:** Which is?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I believe this is Town Board and Supervisor follow up on Resolution 40.

**Harold Vadney:** And Resolution 40 was you contacting the...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay, so you've done that already, thank you.

**Harold Vadney:** No, Resolution 40 of 2024 was your resolution passed onto the Board of Elections to appear here to give a presentation at a Town Board meeting.

**Supervisor Ruso:** And you know that they sent me a letter.

**Harold Vadney:** I know that it was unresponsive. You're resolution clearly states not to send some idiotic letter which poses a volume of arguments against an outside agency nor does it ask them to send a letter in which it incriminates really the poll workers and find excuses. Your Resolution 40-2024 specifically and explicitly asks them to respond by appearing here. In other words that letter is useless, it's nonresponsive.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Merely a letter, it's not an answer to our question.

**Harold Vadney:** That is correct.

**Supervisor Ruso:** To our request rather.

**Harold Vadney:** The problem I have here is that this Board needs to go to the, and I suggest this before, the Board needs to go directly to the Legislature and get the other guys on board, your other Supervisors as you said you were gonna do and kick some butt in the Legislature. This is not working. These are appointees who are telling you, the elected people, what they're gonna do, when they're gonna do it, and even if they're going to do it. This is not how democracy works. We don't have administrators and appointees telling our elected officials what they're gonna do and how they're gonna do it. Okay, I'm gonna move onto the next thing.

**Supervisor Ruso:** The last card is for everyone else to know 'Greene County Board of Election.' I hope this is a 'accountability to citizens in the Greene municipalities.' Have we done this one already too?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I think so.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** I'm not sure, you had three cards. Okay, proceed. In total we're at nine minutes but go ahead.

**Harold Vadney:** Okay, so I've got three topics three minutes each, been very generous, but these things don't get discussed here, it's about time they do. Okay, you know something this is something that I'm not going to actually pursue here, I'm going to go a different avenue so I think I'm finished here. I'll pursue these things in a different manner elsewhere, but thank you. I appreciate it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you, sir. Now the next card I have is from AM Vadney and it is in regard to School Hill, School House, it's something School, go ahead.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** One of the last meetings Alan was talking about School House Road. It's School House and that there issues with plowing etc. Several individuals have acknowledged that there is a plan and there has been discussions for the Wolfe family to take over the upper portion of School Hill Road. I am here representing myself and other members of this community who are completely against that happening. It is currently a public Town road is it not?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Okay so why would be turning it over half of the road to a private entity instead of doing whatever has to get done to use that road. I use that road all the time. Secondly, it appears that in other situations in the Town when people have wanted the Town to plow even if it was a private road, the individuals were told to bring the road up to DOT standards and then the Town would plow and I'm specifically talking about Lydon Lane right?

**Supervisor Ruso:** We do that.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We do that.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** But the people that lived on that road at the time that wanted that had to pay for the road installation I'm assuming that they brought it up to DOT standards before this Town would plow it and it is now a Town road is it not? Okay. So I've couple questions here is what's the status of this discussion and why would the people that are on School Hill Road be granted building permits when it's my understanding, and please correct me if I'm wrong, that when you build on any road and even your driveway has to be a certain width for emergency vehicles and if this road is not up to that standard then how'd this all evolve?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alan, you know history better than I do.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** If anybody doesn't know where School Hill Road is, it runs from County Route 51 up to High Mount Road, up over the big hill.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Then it goes out to 51.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** The upper portion of that hill for as long as I've been with the Town and before that has just been a total nuisance. Nobody lives up there. It would take an astronomical amount of money to bring it up to DOT specs. The first portion of it, we'd take pretty good care of it coming off 51 and go up the hill, the Wolfe boys built up there. That part we'd do the best we can to keep up with it, but it's a dirt road. Every time it rains hard it washes out, we patch it. And like I said the top portion of that hill really is of no significance to the Town. The Wolfes owns all the property. There's one piece that Lyle Tompkins owns which he would still have access to if we were to abandon the upper section, he would still have access to his property and then the people way on the top of the hill, I can't remember the name, last house, they are all in favor of Wolfes taking over that section of road. If they take it over, they maintain, they make it want they want. It's always been a seasonal use road before they built up there and that's another kind of issue and they built on a road knowing it was on a seasonal road. Either way, the new houses that were built there he'd have to make sure that emergency services can get in and out, but the top portion of the hill is useless land for the Town as far as the Town goes.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** What has to happen here first off the topic and the consideration of abandonment for a lack of a different term is being reviewed by our Town Attorney before any such thing is going to happen on this potential in which everybody should be present. We do not have a date yet. She has not completed her review. We are not gonna do this twice and not unannounced.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We are at a very preliminary portion of it right now.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We are nowhere near that point. It will be discussed at a meeting on a date to be determined. We don't want to do this tonight there by even eliminating the potential for other people to join in on this aside from yourself of course.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** That road is used by many people and that road even though the Wolfs have made their drive very nice going out to that road so I would think it wouldn't be too much of a problem to do some preliminary work so it is more useful. Even though it' beig used.

**Harold Vadney:** I understand that this will be subject to a public hearing.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Has to.

**Harold Vadney:** Quite a bit of official paperwork but I would urge Mr. VanWormer to consider not the immediate situation but to look forward and have some vision because at some point in time we are going to have more development here and we are going to need connectivity of these roads from one point from one main artery over to another artery. This is something I think we will have to really take into consideration and have some forward vision instead of just saying, okay abandonment. Which of course this just a pie in the sky right now but we really have to look forward and not restrict our vision.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I anticipate that perspective and others shall be ready and prepared for that public hearing on this road.

**Supervisor Ruso:** The last card I have is a letter. Which letter you want to talk about?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I hate to beat a dead horse to death, but it keeps rising up out of the depths of the earth. The letter from Mr. Bogardus and Ms. Metzler is an embarrassment to say the least. I just want to point out a couple of things. As usual they don't know what they are talking about and they should be disarmed from the positions that they hold. Number 1. I know that all of the poll workers are incompetent based on their perspective but in this Town Hall if the machines were not open properly, they would have worked for 3 ½ hours, number one. It did impact on the vote. We had people tearing their ballots up and walking out. So, I don't know how they can say it didn't impact on the vote. In this Town, one vote can win an election. They are also wrong that it only occurred in Greene County because the New York Citizen Audit Group which they are constantly bad mouthing, who I have a great deal of respect for their level of competency, they have calls from all areas of the State that had the same problem. So, something is dramatically wrong and no one wants to admit it. The other issue in the letter where he says, we don't know how to read the NYS Board Education data. For the record I want to say that how can you miss interpret,

**Harold Vadney:** Board of Education data?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Boar of Election data. Thank you. How can you mistake date of birth, name, date of death and last time voted. I would think you have to be very intelligent to understand that basic data and see that dead people are voting and see that people also having the same ID number which are supposed to be specifically for one person. There's 5, 10, who knows how many people are given that number and they all vote in the same elections. So I find their consistent ignorant comments being made are an embarrassment to say the least. They said they invited all of the poll workers. Well if you call getting invited and receiving a certified letter the Monday or Tuesday after they had the meeting. That's pretty sad, and that happened to me because I certainly would have attended the meeting. I also had Democrat poll workers come to me just recently saying to me why didn't I show up to the meeting because they felt like they were ignored, they were treated in a condescending manner and no mater what they said they

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were not listened to. So we are back at the same place we started because we have people, and I agree that, it can't just be us poll workers or even NYCA, which we should be saying thank you to them for bringing these issues to the attention of the public, that we have the lone wolf in Pat Linger who is fighting for our rights at the County Legislature but there are some demons that are also on the County Legislature that I don't know how they can be representative of the public that put them in the office at this time. I just want clarity when these kind of letters come out.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We may share that point.

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

**RESOLUTION 79-2024**  
**APRIL 22, 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-04-01 to 2024b-04-22, it is

*RESOLVED* that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2024b-04-01 to 2024b-04-22.

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

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes and VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

General \$7,885.78, Highway \$4,142.84, Sewer 2 \$723.01, Water 2 \$3,224.99, Water 3 \$1,297.16, Total \$17,273.78

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO  
Town Clerk