

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

APRIL 8, 2024

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Pledge of Allegiance

Adoption of Minutes

- March 25, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting

Public Comment Period

New Business

- Resolution to Approve Proposal from Greene County Outlaws for Baseball Field Lighting Installation at Cecil C. Hallock Memorial Park
- Resolution to Approve Drug Testing Company
- Resolution to Accept Donation of Baseball Backstop for Silver Lake Baseball Field
- Audit of Claims

Upcoming Meetings

- April 11, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- April 22, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- May 1, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7 PM
- May 9, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- May 13, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- May 29, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Public Comment Period/Community Events

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 entrance 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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Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Downes, Kash, Sottolano, and VanEtten; Michelle Storm, Esq., Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; Town Clerk Finke; and 12 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Not in attendance is Highway Superintendent VanWormer.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The March 25, 2023 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

Public Comment Period

Ellie Alfeld: The reason why I'm speaking to the Board today is because of information I received over the weekend and I don't know if the Board is aware of what I'm gonna discuss with you, but I bring it to your attention that New York State Department of Conservation, it's about a permit located in New Baltimore. Greene County, and I don't know if you realize that when something is brought to the Planning Board they usually have to provide a lot of information. One of those things is concerning getting rid of water, wastewater, what have you and the layout of the land. I've heard it, Jeff's heard it, Rob's heard it, everybody has heard of this thing, but I'm gonna read you something that I thought was really pertinent and you should have some information about and it says 'The Department has prepared a draft permit and has made a tentative determination subject to public comment or other information to renew an expired SPDES.' They want to get approval to discharge of 7,080 gallons per day of treated sanitary wastewater to an unnamed tributary to the Cocksackie Creek. The people that are making this request of the Environmental Conservation or whatever you call it is the Truck Stop down by the New York State Thruway. Now, I will guarantee you maybe our Attorney has heard of this. This appeared in the Sunday paper in the Public Notices and according to this we only have until May 5 to put in our comments as to what we think this is a good idea or not and the reason why I'm really upset about it is I'm sure that half of you know maybe where the Cocksackie Creek is maybe okay. That's where they want to put all this 7,000 gallons per day discharge from the gas station, the motel and all those other incidences at the truck stop okay. Now I don't know about you guys but I've always been taught that there was a water what do you want to call it reservoir underground near the New York State Rest Area. If these people, I don't know how far the Cocksackie Creek goes, that's not up to me to find this stuff out, but I would think that this is going to be not a one-time thing and I've brought it to you because I think this needs investigating and...

Supervisor Ruso: Who's the body that the comments go to if I may ask?

Ellie Alfeld: Sure, you can have the whole thing. It's got the address and everything in there. I even made it easier for you to find it.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you. I'll copy this and give it to each of the Board Members but it's for Evan Hogan of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Ellie Alfeld: Yeah, and it says it's not just a one-time thing and whether you're aware of it at the Planning Board they now have another truck stop that's interested in developing in that area okay.

Supervisor Ruso: Yup, I know that.

Ellie Alfeld: Alright so you know if this is gonna be a way to get rid of their dischargeable water there could be a hell of a lot of problems for the people that live down the road from the Cocksackie Creek.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, I'm trying to think what Creek, where it is, it doesn't come to me.

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Ellie Alfeld: I know, mine either. The second thing I want to bring up before you is resolutions. Every meeting that I come to you are here for you have resolutions that you present to the public. I would suggest that it might be beneficial to both the Board and the public that any intended resolutions that are going to be coming up, the public gets a chance to look at what you're supp...

Supervisor Ruso: Of course, and we do that every... It's posted on our website every single meeting so they do have an opportunity.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, I've never seen it. I can't even find your agendas anymore.

Town Clerk Finke: It's on the home page, it's on the home page.

Councilmember VanEtten: Right there yeah.

Town Clerk Finke: It's right there.

Supervisor Ruso: Two weeks ago the website was down though. I will tell you that.

Ellie Alfeld: It's a nightmare. I've had it three times different ways of your laying it out and I lost it now.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright, thank you. Thank you very much.

Barbara Heinzen: At the last Board meeting there was someone who spoke rather disparagingly.

Supervisor Ruso: We had a frog comment.

Barbara Heinzen: We had a frog comment about frogs and salamanders.

Supervisor Ruso: I forgot all about it, please proceed.

Councilmember Kash: We did and salamanders.

Barbara Heinzen: Frogs and salamanders and I think I needed to correct the record an while I admired the speaker's tenacity an energy and use of language and attention to detail, he might need to redirect his talents to understanding a little bit more about frogs and salamanders. As we all know humans can couple at any time day or night anytime of the year and I assume many of us have done so, however, frogs and salamanders only have one chance in the year to create the next generation so every year they leave the woods and have to get to the wetlands and they move at night in the rain when it's warm enough so they don't get too cold to move. So that means it has to be more than 40 degrees. So it's dark, rainy, and warm when they're on the move and they're going from the woods down to the wetlands and sometimes I've even found the females carrying the males on their backs which should be appreciated by whoever prefers that kind of arrangement, but the problem is that where I live on 144 they have to run a gauntlet of speeding cars and in their evolutionary training frogs and salamanders were not trained to avoid cars on tarmacked roads. So the DEC through the estuary program has invited volunteers like myself and my neighbors to come along and be what the English would call the lollipop men and women who are the crossing guards helping children cross the road outside o schools and they're called lollipop men and women because they have little signs in the shape of a lollipop. So we as the lollipop men and women for the amphibian migration and we spend our time trying to reduce the murderous risk to our small neighbors because frankly the frogs and salamanders are amazing creatures. I went out three nights this year. I was alone, many of my neighbors weren't able to attend, some of them were busy on Board business that's why they couldn't come and I want to commend all Board members who have joined me and all my neighbors who have joined me in helping the frogs and salamanders cross the road and I invite anybody who takes an interest in this to join me next year, the next spring migration. In my view we all have a moral duty to protect all life, including the smallest creatures found in the woods to the wetlands. So that's all I have to say.

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Supervisor Ruso: Thank you very much, enlighting.

Councilmember Kash: May I respond briefly, Supervisor?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes ma'am.

Councilmember Kash: I would also like to mention that this amphibian migration rescue effort has been I believe a project that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for at least 12 years and it is not only just people going out in the dark picking up frogs and salamanders and toads. All of the creatures that are found, their species, their numbers, their circumstances, their health is also reported back to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation so I would like to say that in some ways these creatures who live in our land, in our water are canaries in the coal mines without feathers obviously to give us a snapshot of how our environment is doing. So that's very scientific data that helps us understand how humans and everything else affect our environment and our water and what we find out from all of that. It's not everybody's cup of tea. Not everybody's gonna go out in the middle of the night and like pick up toads and go 'ooh I found a peeper.' But it is I think a very important project of the New York State DEC to give a snapshot of our environment and it's not just frogs and salamanders and toads, people count bats, they count eels, they count fish, and it's all to give a snapshot of how our environment is affecting the species that live on our land and water before any problems exist in our land and water reach us as the two-legged people. So people might make fun of it, but it's very important.

Supervisor Ruso: Very good, thank you.

New Business

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 68-2024

APRIL 8, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PROPOSAL FROM GREENE COUNTY OUTLAWS
FOR BASEBALL FIELD LIGHTING INSTALLATION AT
CECIL C. HALLOCK MEMORIAL PARK**

WHEREAS the Greene County Outlaws have entered into an agreement with the Town of New Baltimore for use of Cecil C. Hallock Memorial Park since 2014 and have presented the Town Board with a proposal to install field lighting for dusk and evening games.

WHEREAS all contractors on this project will file certificates of insurance with the Town Clerk naming the Town of New Baltimore as additional insured.

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore approves said proposal at no cost to the Town.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 69-2024

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RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DRUG TESTING COMPANY

WHEREAS the Town of New Baltimore wishes to switch to a new drug testing company for Highway employees.

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RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes Energetix, Inc. as the drug testing company per New York State contract pricing currently \$55.08/drug test and \$39.78/BAT.

RESOLVED that a copy of said results will be placed in the Official Personnel File in the Town Clerk’s Office as designated by Resolution 54-2024 adopted on February 26, 2024.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

Supervisor Ruso: Our former company, Kingston Worx, we could send the employees down to their office. They had one day a week down here in Coxsackie, they’ve closed that office and now our employees have to go to... No, they would have to stay with the old contractor to Kingston. Now, they don’t have to so.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 70-2024

APRIL 8, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT DONATION OF BASEBALL BACKSTOP
FOR SILVER LAKE BASEBALL FIELD**

WHEREAS the backstop at the former Brennan’s Restaurant ballfield was no longer needed at that location.

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby accepts the donation of the baseball backstop from Gray Willow for use at the Silver Lake Baseball Field and authorizes removal and transport by the Highway Department.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes and VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 71-2024

APRIL 8, 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 2024-04-01 to 2024-04-39, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2024-04-01 to 2024-04-39.

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

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AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

General \$13,728.56, Highway \$10,202.25, Sewer 1 \$64,621.83, Sewer 2 \$236.12, Water 2 \$4,960.00, Street Lighting 1 \$1,635.53, Street Lighting 2 \$271.58, Total \$95,655.87

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Public Comment Period/Community Events

Councilmember Sottolano: So we've talked, various of us have talked about postings and trying to get more communication out and better use of our Town Board Facebook to get out our information you know in a correct way and get it out quicker and have it be read by the public and maybe even have you know just a secondary site for people to have meeting agendas or announcements like we talk about what you know our announcements of the treatment plant and things like that and we haven't really had a chance to discuss it obviously because we have to be all together, but I would like to propose that we would all you know have like an idea of posting more on that Facebook site and do it responsibly.

Supervisor Ruso: To that point Barbara Finke and I discussed this this very afternoon.

Councilmember VanEtten: We've been talking about it for quite some times.

Supervisor Ruso: We have a Facebook page that was set up some time ago and I think we've pretty much agreed that her office would be the place that would be updating that Facebook page as opposed from five different places and so her and I are gonna go over that. Her Deputy wasn't in until later today so we haven't had a chance to go over that. So that's what we have in mind and I think that goes to where you're going.

Councilmember VanEtten: Yeah, I think so too.

Councilmember Sottolano: And the other thing I just also have mentioned to various people the idea of using the YouTube as a way of having like an archive of our meeting videos because I've tried to view our videos you know on the Central Hudson Channel 11 and it's really hard to find it.

Supervisor Ruso: It's only up for so long.

Councilmember Sottolano: I feel like it's only on for a short time and so the YouTube is free to us to use and Greene County does have that type of an archive and it's great because people can't make a meeting or you know catch it on Central...

Ellie Alfred: What about if you don't have YouTube or you don't have Facebook or you don't have a computer.

Councilmember Sottolano: Which is one other way, additional way, Ellie.

Supervisor Ruso: I understand what you're saying about... We're not gonna make copies, deliver them to your house.

Councilmember Sottolano: It's not the only way.

Ellie Alfred: I'm not suggesting that.

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Councilmember Sottolano: But a lot of people use YouTube, and it would be very convenient for folks who can't get to a meeting or can't view it on MidHudson and it's there all the time you know if they want to go back and look at it and I think it's a great site that Greene County has. I'd like to propose that we consider that too and it is free for us too.

Supervisor Ruso: We have to buy some equipment I'm sure, but that's not that much.

Councilmember Sottolano: The video that we do tape and have on the drives can be just uploaded to YouTube so you know I mean we could talk more about it, but I think that's pretty much it.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, why don't we talk about it.

Councilmember VanEtten: Give us a chance to look into it.

Councilmember Sottolano: The last thing I'll say is I talked to someone who does it for Ravena and also for the Church and so they know how to do it and it's pretty simple to get the info up.

Supervisor Ruso: So later this week we'll talk about it. I did want to say that I had a conversation today with Mary Beth Bianchini and we have a proposal for the replacement of the water lines to Scheller Park. The remaining lines that have not yet been replaced. It is now before the Department of Health for their approval and then it goes out to bid and we'll have rough idea of the cost and that's when we're gonna have a public meeting with the residents of Water District #2. So that's upcoming. We don't have a date, it's probably a couple months off.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Kash, Sottolano, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Have a good night.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO
Town Clerk