

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

**JULY 24, 2023**

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

**Reports**

Supervisor

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- July 10, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting

Historian

Agriculture/AgFest (Chair Boehlke/Member Irving)

Animal Control (Chair Irving, Member Ruso)

Assessment (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Audit and Budget (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

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

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

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

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

Greene County Planning Board (Boehlke)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Motion to Accept Resignation of Highway Department Employee
- Resolution to Approve Advertisement for Full-Time Heavy Motor Equipment Operators for the Highway Department
- Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of Propane Per Greene County Resolution 233-23
- Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of #2D Diesel Fuel Per Greene County Resolution 239-23
- Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of Gasoline Per Greene County Resolution 240-23

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

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

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Downes)

Technology/Website (Chair Downes/Member Boehlke)

Town Courts (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Veterans and Memorials (Chair VanEtten/Member Irving)

Wastewater Treatment (Chair Irving/Member Boehlke)

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

- Resolution to Re-Bid Silver Lake Park-New Ballfield Facility, General Construction Contract-1G

**Upcoming Meetings**

- August 10, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- August 12, 2023 Family Fun Day at 12 Noon
- August 14, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- August 28, 2023 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- September 16, 2023 Townwide Yardsale

**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 WORK MEETING**

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

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** As you can see Jeff Ruso’s not here tonight. He is recovering from surgery so I’m gonna be filing in.

***Supervisor Jeff Ruso***

The monthly financials for June were forwarded to all Board members. Has everyone had a chance to review? I’ll entertain a Motion to accept the financial reports.

Motion by Councilmember VanEtten seconded by Councilmember Downes to accept the June financial reports.

AYES: Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Ruso

**Motion Carried**

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Jeff and I had a meeting with New York State DOT on July 12 at their offices on Wolf Rd. Instructions given regarding the request for an “Expression of Interest” (EOI) to be submitted to the approved Engineering firms. The cost of this study is estimated between \$75,000 and \$100,000 and to be paid by the Town, with eligibility for reimbursement. We put a draft together of the EOI and has been sent to New York State DOT for their review. So I’ll keep you informed as we go down further. We have a list of Engineers that we’ll be putting out bids for the extensive survey for that property.

**Ellie Alfeld:** What are we talking about?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Route 144.

**Ellie Alfeld:** In the hamlet?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** In the hamlet.

***Town Clerk Barb Finke***

1 CO Search Compliance Commercial \$98, 3 Building Permits \$360.50, 1 New Septic System \$50, 5 CO Searches \$250, 3 EZ Pass Tags \$75, 3 Fishing Licenses \$4.42, 32 Dog Licenses \$252, 8 Late Licenses \$40, 1 Fire Inspection \$100, 1 Marriage License \$17.50, 2 Beer Permit \$40, 1 Park Rental \$25, 2 Demolition Permits \$150, 2 Above Ground Swimming Pools \$120, 1 Renovation \$250, 2 Solar Residential \$317.50, 9 Certified Copies \$90, 1 Photo Copy \$0.25, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program \$52, to the New York State Department of Health for Marriages \$22.50, to the Department of Environmental Conservation for Fishing Licenses \$75.58, Total to Supervisor \$2,323.17.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The July 10, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Councilmember Downes 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: Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Ruso

**Motion Carried**

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***Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley***

June 28, 2023-July 24, 2023 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastics) 9, 7 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 38 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 73 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, 1 Refrigerator, Large July 5

***Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin***

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for June, 2023, is as follows: Building Inspections: 25; Total Permits Issued: 6; Building Permits Renewed: 3; Building Permit Renewal Letters Sent: First Notice: 1; Certificates of Compliance Issued: 2; Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 2; Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 6; Demolition Permit Applications Received: 1; House Re-Hab Permit: 1; Total New Applications Received: 9; Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 18; Open Building Permits: 194; Pool Permit Applications Received: 2; Septic System Application– New: 1; Sign Permits Issued: 1; Solar Permit – Rooftop: 1; Application Fees for June, 2023: \$1,421.00 Total Fees for Year to Date: \$13,031.03

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

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. There were 15 EMS calls in June for a total of 75 for this year 2023. We had 180 calls for all of 2022.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** In the month of June there 14 overdoses in Greene County, 2 in New Baltimore, and there were 11 strokes in Greene County, and 1 in New Baltimore. The number of calls that we had in New Baltimore for 2022 is gonna raise our budget for 2024 approximately -- as of today I got the notice – approximately 12.8 percent. And we also got a notice from our insurance company that our insurances are going up 16 percent for 2024.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Yeah, that’s happening all over

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** It’s not just us, it’s all over.

***Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer***

Highway Report June 26 to July 24 2023 Cut driveway rebates on High Rock Road, Picked up trash from Town Hall, Picked up dead deer on Mathews Point Road, Blacktopped crossover pipes on High Rock Road, Picked up excavator from High Rock Road and brought back to garage, Went to District one park to see contractor about damaged drainage, Mark was not there and no one else knew anything about it.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I talked to the contractor, excuse me, but he did fix it.

Installed two watch for children signs on Aquetuck Road, Installed two driveway signs on Shady Lane, Picked up truck number 13 from Gallaghers Garage, Mowed along Roads, Installed side boards on new truck, Repaired well cap for District one park and put back on, Picked up knocked down sign on Hillcrest Road, Patched was outs on School Hill Road, Changed oil in 2017 F350 unit #2, Made repairs to Case Roadside mower, Ordered 30 sign posts and 30 bases from Chemung supply, July 4 at about 9pm heavy storms went through the hamlet, we had many trees down on Mill Street, Main Street, and Mathews Point, and Cornell Park, we worked until 1am. I would like to thank members of Cornell Hook and Ladder for their assistance, Removed fallen tree form road to sewer plant, York raked School Hill Road, and spread calcium chloride on it to try to stabilize the road surface., July 5 called Central Hudson regarding a tree still in the wires on Mathews Point, Sent one truck to assist the Town of Athens oil and Stone, Started to replace shift solenoid on 2011 F350 unit #1, Replaced fuel shut off switch on 2006 F350 unit #10, Recharged A/C on case tractor, Started chipping brush in hamlet, Registered the New Truck, Cut last remaining leaning trees in Mathews Point with help from County bucket truck, 7/10 moved our excavator to Cornell Park, 7/11 spent entire day cleaning up Cornell Park, thank you to Town of Athens for their bucket truck and Town of Coxsackie for labor help., 7/13 sent one truck to help Town of Coxsackie to help stone and oil, Replaced heat/A/C switch on 1996 International Dump truck unit #8, Cut dead tree on Old State Road, 7/16 Very heavy Rain more damage in the hamlet due to overwhelmed culverts. Mill Street and Main Street were the most damaged., 7/17 Patched School Hill Road once again washed out by heavy Rain, Opened

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blocked culvert on Mill Street, Opened blocked culvert on Church Street, Cut small trees from roads on Roberts Hill Road, and Lime Kiln Road, Repaired road shoulder on Mill Street, Repaired washed out driveway on Kings Road, Chipped and removed brush piles from around the hamlet, Met with Callanan about paving, Mowed parks and Town Hall as needed, Oil and stoned Staco Road thank you to Town of Coxsackie and Athens for their help., Borrowed mill head from Town of Coeymans to cut intersection rebates for paving on High Rock Road and Roberts Hill Road, Hauled in number 1 stone to mix item #4, Cut intersection rebates on High Rock Road and Roberts Hill Road, Took chipper box off 2006 f350 and put water tank on for paving, Patched washed out driveways on Mill street, Bearing went in main cutter shaft on roadside boom mower, we have it apart, just waiting on parts, I would like to thank everyone who has stepped up to help us in the past few weeks, including the Town of Athens, Town of Coxsackie, Town of Coeymans, Greene County Highway Department, Village of Ravena, and the Cornell Hook and Ladder Company. Without their help there are many jobs that we wouldn't have been able to get done. We are losing another Highway employee, Bill Spurdis is leaving us to take a job at Greene Correctional as a maintenance worker. This is a very hard hit to our department. His years of experience in every phase of this job from truck driving, snow plowing, equipment operating, to mechanical work, and his ability and willingness to jump in and do labor work is what kept us going many days.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Thank you, Alan. I've got a question for you on the Gallagher's Garage truck, #13. Did you get a bill on that one?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah, it should have been paid by now I would think. It should be here.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Do you know how much that was?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Not off the top of my head.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** What was that in for, the transmission?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** No, it was the crank case breather and that's what they do. EGR valve, EGR valve.

**Councilmember Downes:** Is that the Catskill truck?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** No, that one's still sitting there. Nobody wants to give me an estimate of fixing it.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** That's the one I was thinking of.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We're still working on to get estimates.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** That's what I thought 13 was,

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** No, 13 is a small plow truck that plows the hamlet.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Thank you. Speaking of the Highway employee, I'll entertain a Motion to accept his resignation.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I'll make that Motion.

**Councilmember Irving:** I'll second.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Any questions or comments on the resignation?

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AYES: Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Ruso

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 90-2023**

**JULY 24, 2023**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR FULL-TIME HEAVY MOTOR EQUIPMENT OPERATORS FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

*WHEREAS* the Highway Superintendent is seeking full time operators for the Highway Department.

*RESOLVED* the wording for the advertisement has been approved by the Town Attorney and following approval from the Town Board, the advertisement will be submitted to the Town Clerk for publication in the *Times Union* for one week.

The Town of New Baltimore Highway Department is seeking applicants for full time CDL driver/heavy motor equipment operators. Applicants must have a minimum of a clean CDL Class B license. Applicant must be able to perform labor duties including but not limited to shoveling, raking, weed whacking, lawn mowing, operating chain saws, and brush clipping. Heavy equipment operation such as front end loader, backhoe, tractors, etc. a plus. Experience plowing snow with a large truck with plow and wing preferred. Must be willing and able to work long hours, including nights and weekend, during winter months for snow and ice removal. Applicant must pass pre-employment drug screen and alcohol test and random drug and alcohol testing at any time and authorize driver's license check. The successful candidate will be considered probationary for six months beginning at hire date. For further information please contact Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer at (518)756-2078. Applications are available at the Town Clerk's office, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087 Monday-Friday from 9AM-4 PM.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: I'll accept a Motion on this.

Motion by Councilmember Boehlke seconded by Councilmember Downes

**Councilmember Downes:** My question is, Alan, have you looked once again into Columbia-Greene on maybe hiring someone who has their permit and would get them to the point of having their CDL because this seems to not be working so maybe come up with a different...

**Highway Supervisor VanWormer:** They are offering the grant program again. They don't get their funding until the end of July, but she told me to get back in contact in August if we have anybody that's interested and they'll pay for their CDL.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We could definitely consider that.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** What we faced in our industry is that you bring people in, you train 'em, you certify 'em and then there's somebody else that will pay more money. You know what I mean you've been seeing it, Alan.

**Councilmember Downes:** Right, but it's like anything you contract them...

**Councilmember Boehlke:** A CDL driver is worth a lot of money right now.

**Ellie Alfeld:** They've been worth a lot of money.

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**Councilmember Downes:** But we put a clause on it that he has to do at least 2 years or a year-and-a-half.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** That's what you gotta do, Kelly.

**Councilmember Downes:** That's what we have to do.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** That's what a lot of industries are doing to hold people that they train.

**Councilmember Downes:** We'll get you your CDL, we'll get you your practice, but you gotta at least commit to a winter or a year or something and if not then we just turn around and say 'then you have to reimburse us so many weeks.' But I mean we put this out before, I think we'll have to look at different avenues like I said before.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Probably a good thing to sit down and talk about it, Alan, how to word something like this, put some strings attached to it so to speak you know.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** It's kind of like they're hiring nurses today, they're giving them a sign-on bonus for two years in the hospital right now so that's something we have to think about.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** So that may not be a bad route to pursue.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** It's hard to hire somebody at \$18 an hour.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Like I was telling you before I mean there's an industry up the road here called the Railroad. They can't even fill hiring. I mean they're starting people at \$32 an hour and they can't even get people to work there.

**Councilmember Downes:** The Thruway can't, the County can't, DOT can't. Everybody's in the same thing.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** I've got a kid down in corrections there, same thing down there, they're always shorthanded.

AYES: Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Ruso

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 91-2023**

**JULY 24, 2023**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF PROPANE  
PER GREENE COUNTY RESOLUTION 233-23**

**WHEREAS** the Greene County Legislature advertised for bids for propane and three bids were received, opened, and read publicly and the lowest responsible bidder meeting all specifications was Nolan Bottle Gas Company, Inc. at a price of \$1.19493 fixed per gallon.

**RESOLVED** the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the purchase of propane from Nolan Bottle Gas Company Inc. at the fixed rate contract price of \$1.19493 offered by Greene County Resolution 233-23 from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024.

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

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**Ellie Alfeld:** How much propane is New Baltimore actually in need of?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I have no idea.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Do we have a particular area that uses it.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We use it here in this building.

**Ellie Alfeld:** That's it?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** And we also use it for the Recycling Building at the Highway Garage.

**Ellie Alfeld:** But that's all the uses of it for hearing purposes.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Correct.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** And it's a good time of the year to buy it right now.

**Ellie Alfeld:** I understand, I just wanted to know how much...

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** This is a very good price because when I started here in 2014 it was 98 cents a gallon so this is an excellent price.

What were the other bids and how much were they?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I have no idea, it was a County bid. We don't get that here. This was the lowest bid.

AYES: Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Ruso

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 92-2023**  
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**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF #2D DIESEL FUEL  
PER GREENE COUNTY RESOLUTION 239-23**

*WHEREAS* the Greene County Legislature advertised for bids for #2 Diesel Fuel three bids were received, opened and publicly read and the lowest responsible bidder meeting all specifications was determined.

*RESOLVED* the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the purchase of #2D Diesel Fuel from Main Brothers Oil Co., Inc. offered by Greene County Resolution 239-23 from August 16, 2023 to August 15, 2024.

Motion by Councilmember VanEtten seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Ruso

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 93-2023**  
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**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF GASOLINE**  
**PER GREENE COUNTY RESOLUTION 240-23**

**WHEREAS** Greene County Highway and Solid Waste Superintendent advertised for bids for gasoline and three bids were received, opened and publicly read and the lowest responsible bidder meeting all specifications was determined.

**RESOLVED** the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the purchase of gasoline from Main Brothers Oil Co., Inc. offered by Greene County Resolution 240-23 from August 16, 2023 to August 15, 2024.

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Ruso

**Motion Carried**

***Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten***

The Planning Board met on July 13, 2023, with the following business conducted: Public Hearing was held on the Cindy Grogan Minor Subdivision Application. In the Regular Monthly Meeting that followed: ...The Grogan Minor Subdivision was approved. Required maps and mylar stamped and signed by the Chair. ...Representatives from the New Baltimore Conservancy were present to advise the Board of the plans for their annual fall event to be held at Long View Park on September 23. Since they plan to have music, they have to so inform the Planning Board and seek approval for the music per condition of original Special Use Permit approval. Resolution was presented and passed allowing them to have music at this year's event. ...Representatives were present on behalf of Teichos advising the Board of the current status of the Hannacroix Solar Project. They were present seeking a further one-year extension of their Site Plan to allow NYSDEC time to complete its review of Hannacroix Solar's pending Incidental Take Permit Application. Discussion in regard to number of extensions allowed will continue at the August 10 meeting. In the meantime, the Planning Board will seek a clearer Code interpretation from the Town's attorney as to exactly how many extensions are allowed before Building Permit is obtained and project begins to move forward. Teichos applied for a one-year extension in December of 2022 which was granted and will expire in December of 2023.

***Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Pat Linger***

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet on July 5 since there were no applications to come before the Board.

***Veterans***

**Councilmember VanEtten:** We had a very successful Veterans luncheon. We had a full house, I didn't actually count how many people but...

**Ellie Alfeld:** I thought about 70 at least.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** At least 70 people were there and everything went very well I thought.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** It was a great program, thank you.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Do you want to mention the gentlemen who was going cross-country?

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**Councilmember VanEtten:** Oh, yeah, and he as driving an old Willys 1940 Jeep across the Country for the Tower to Tunnels for the veterans as a fundraiser.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** He was following the same route that a Marine did in 1903 and it happened to be lucky to be at the luncheon. This old Jeep from World War 2 was made out, it was used then and they had music playing in the back of the speakers from the Jeep from the World War 2 era. It was really beautiful to see and they're gonna raffle the Jeep off in Times Square for Tunnels to Towers, the money's gonna go to Tunnels to Tower. It's a great program, the guy was terrific. He was a 36-year vet in the Marines. There is no roof on this Jeep and he had to drive from California to New York, rain, hail, sleet and he did it.

**Councilmember Downes:** And no windshield.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** He said he did that because the person that did the same thing back in 1903 didn't have a roof on his car either.

**Ellie Alfeld:** He was really very informational he really was.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** He was and the Miracle Network, I want to thank them, they brought t-shirts for the Veterans and also the Patriot Flight people came and signed up quite a few people for that.

***Youth, Parks and Recreation***

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Well, the playground was supposed to be finished today. I haven't had a chance to go down yet, but they were supposed to finish it today. The edging isn't in yet, but other than that it should be good to go.

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

**RESOLUTION 94-2023**  
**JULY 24, 2023**

**RESOLUTION TO RE-BID SILVER LAKE PARK-NEW BALLFIELD FACILITY**  
**GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT- 1G**

**WHEREAS** Plans and Bid Documents have been prepared for Silver Lake Park- New Ballfield Facility- General Construction Contract- 1G

**WHEREAS** the Town wishes to allow Delaware Engineering to assist in the rebid of the installation of a New Ballfield Facility at Silver Lake Park.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the New Baltimore Town Board hereby authorizes advertisement and publication of Bidding Documents with the opening of Bids to occur at the Town Board Work Meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 7PM, unless such date is extended by an Addendum issued by the Engineer.

Motion by Councilmember VanEtten seconded by Councilmember Irving

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** On the back page is the Delaware address where to apply for the bidding documents and so forth and so on. Delaware is our Engineer, has been on board with us for years, and they have been willing enough if any contractor wants to apply for this bid, they will hand out the documents to the contractor.

AYES: Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Ruso

**Motion Carried**

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INVITATION TO BID  
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids to furnish and install a New Ballfield Facility at Silver Lake Park will be received by the Clerk until August 28, 2023 at 4 PM, at the Town Clerk's office, Town of New Baltimore, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, New York 12087. All sealed bids will be opened at the Work Meeting on August 28, 2023 at 7 PM and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

The General Construction will be done in conjunction with Town forces and other contracts. Therefore; The successful General Contractor will need to coordinate their work with the Town and other contracts.

The prefabricated concession building is being stored locally and the successful GC is expected to prioritize placement of the concrete foundation as part of this contract.

The Contract Documents, including Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Additional Instructions, Bid Documents, General Requirements, Specifications, Contract Drawings and any Addenda, may be examined at no expense on line at the following website: <https://de.biddyhq.com>, or at the office of Delaware Engineering, D.P.C., 28 Madison Ave Extension Albany NY, 12203.

Digital copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained online as a download for a non-refundable fee of One-hundred Dollars (\$100.00) from the website: <https://de.biddyhq.com>. Complete hardcopy sets of bidding documents may be obtained from REV, 330 Route 17A, Suite #2, Goshen, NY 10924, Tel: 1-877-272-0216, upon depositing the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each combined set of documents. Checks or money orders shall be made payable to Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. Cash deposits will not be accepted. Any Bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall make arrangements with REV and pay for all packaging and shipping costs.

Any Bidder who submitted completed Bid Forms to the Town of New Baltimore, upon returning such set in good condition within thirty days following the award of the contract or rejection of the bids, will be refunded his full payment. Deposits will not be refunded to any non-bidder (including material suppliers, subcontractors, or those that provide quotes to Bidders).

Questions should be sent to Karla Nunamann- Project Coordinator via email at [knunamann@delawareengineering.com](mailto:knunamann@delawareengineering.com).

Please note that <https://de.biddyhq.com> is the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information. All Bidders are urged to register to ensure receipt of all necessary information including bid addenda. All bid addenda will be transmitted to registered plan holders via email and will be available at <https://de.biddyhq.com>. Plan holders who have paid for hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if hard copies of the addenda are required for their use, and coordinate directly with REV for hard copies of addenda to be issued. There will be no charge for registered plan holders to obtain hard copies of the bid addenda.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid within Thirty (30) days after the actual date of opening thereof.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- August 10, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- August 12, 2023 Family Fun Day at 12 Noon
- August 14, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- August 28, 2023 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- September 16, 2023 Townwide Yardsale

### **Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Debra Sottolano:** I wanted to talk about an issue that's already been raised this evening which is the Highway Department and some of the things we've been encountering. First and foremost I want to thank very much the Highway Department on both the July 4 storm and the July 16 storm just a week ago. They came within minutes of being notified, they worked for days, they removed huge boulders that had driven down you know the hill onto Mill Street. We didn't even know if the road had been destroyed because the boulders were so big there. They removed them all, they stayed late at night, they were back the next morning and thanks to the expertise and what I would call like institutional knowledge of workers like Scott VanWormer who knew the structure of the culvert and knew where exactly to go to try to find the opening and free it. He was able to do that much more quickly and as soon as he got that spot he opened it and the water stopped and it really had been damage and I know other people here experienced a lot of damage and the response was tremendous and I wanted to thank everyone for that and Alan and the Highway Department. But as residents actually and you've all raised this already

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tonight, we're deeply concerned about the situation. We've been bleeding Highway staff. We've lost four, we're losing a fifth one now this week and really we are not in a situation now where we could respond to a huge emergency. Our emergency preparedness is nil in a sense because we only have workers who could not do this work by themselves. They have no time for even doing maintenance if they're responding to these kinds of things and I've worked in emergency management at the state level and I know what it's like when there's a major event coming down the pike and the resources that go out of the counties and the state. Just as a reminder we're coming up on the start of the northeast hurricane season, August 1, and we've had, they're predicting five to nine hurricanes, one to four major hurricanes. We've had them in the past. We've been lucky in the last few years, we've not been hit, but we could be and if something like that happened our ability to respond is really nil. So as residents where do we go from here? We want this to be escalated to the highest level. You've got a \$250,000 piece of equipment that's being (unable to understand). Who's going to operate that and as you were just saying, Bill, that you know these workers demand a high rate of pay you know all over the place no matter what the job is it's hard to get workers right now especially. So as Alan said \$18 an hour is not gonna cut it and what we want to know if nobody applies for this job what are we gonna do and I appreciate what you were saying, Kelly, about you know trying to bring people in but what we really need are the very experienced people who can operate this equipment and respond quickly and those are the people who are gonna cost the most money for us and we've got to get them because we have almost nothing at this point. These workers can't do it two people doing it you know by themselves and also you know critical to attracting people is not only salary and benefits, but they need to know that the town is supporting them and is gonna come through and so one of my questions is like it really was in 2020 that the Union cards were signed and I know that in the last newsletter it's been mentioned that the Town has reached out to the Union to try to continue negotiations, but what's the update on that? Why is it taking three years to settle some of these issues?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I'm glad you asked the question. It's gonna take a few minutes, you might want to sit down for this. You're right the Union cards were signed in December of 2020 and we had the PERB conference call, Public Employees' Relations Board conference call, in January of 2020 and we were asked if we wanted to challenge, if the Town wanted to challenge the Union coming into New Baltimore and we said 'no,' we'd like to speed up the process. We don't need them to have an election, let's move this forward. So the Union negotiator and the Town set up meeting dates. We had one in February of 2020 – I'm sorry 2021 -- their demands, our demands, back and forth, took a few months to get through that. The last meeting we had they wanted to go to Mediation which doesn't really happen in Union negotiations, I've been doing it for 40 years in Long Island. Doesn't happen that quickly, but we agreed to go to Mediation. They gave us a list of Mediators, both sides selected a Mediator, and we met on February 20 of 2023. We came together with what is called a Memorandum of Agreement on the terms and conditions of employment. The Town Handbook for the employees was to remain intact as the full body of the contract, all the benefits would remain the same including the increases in health insurance, vacation days, holidays, etc. Nothing was going to change in the contract. The only issue was the pay scale and Scott VanWormer was the representative from the Highway Department and Rocco Losavio was the chief negotiator for the Teamsters, I was the negotiator for the Town, and Brian Clark was our Attorney. The terms were from 1/1/21 to December 31, 2024. The pay increases were to be 2 percent if you were on the payroll from February 15th is when everyone else got a 2 percent in 2021. 1/1 of 22 they would receive a \$2.75 per hour raise. In 1/1 of '23, they would receive a 2.5 percent raise and in 1/1 of 24 they would receive a 2 1/2 percent raise. Retroactivity pay would commence if you were on the payroll as of February 15th of 2021. What does that mean? Well, that means in 2023 a retro check for every employee would have been \$7,389 in 2023. Their raise which would have been almost \$4 an hour, it comes up to about \$3.65, would have accumulated to, for 2023, \$8,237 for a total of \$15,626 per employee for 2023. I'm gonna repeat that. \$15,626 per employee. The employees turned down that Memorandum of Agreement. So in March of this year we had discussed with the Town Board, because we were having trouble hiring people, the salary would have been \$21.96 per hour. The Town Board decided that 'let's give everyone the raise and leave any of the other conditions -- the work week and so forth -- on the table to go down the road when mediation takes place again.' That was also turned down by the employees. So you asked where we are right now. In March of this year we tried to contact the Union negotiator and through telephone calls, emails, text messages and to no reply to this date. As of this Friday I got a text message from Alan VanWormer who wanted to meet with me on Saturday at 10:00 which we set up the meeting and I asked him to contact the negotiator to make sure it was okay for a management employee to discuss the union contract with the Town negotiator so the Town would not get sued and lo and behold Alan got a response from the chief negotiator telling him that it was okay to meet with me. Is that correct, Alan?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yes, through a facebook message (unable to understand).

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**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I don't know how you did it, but you got ahold of him and we haven't been able to get ahold of him since March. So that's where we stand right now. We are able, willing, and ready and able to sit down and finish this thing for the last four months, but I can't get the Union to get back on the table, hasn't contacted me, hasn't contacted our Attorney. That's where we stand. Does that answer your question?

**Debra Sottolano:** That was very helpful, but I think (unable to understand).

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Okay, thank you very much.

**Debra Sottolano:** So I think that's interesting and surprising that they said you could speak with the...

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Me too, never happened to me in 40 years just so you know.

**Debra Sottolano:** Union because that's actually prohibited, but apparently they did.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I know that.

**Debra Sottolano:** So but I think some of the other issues just questions on the staff who've been staffed for a longer period of time or who have a higher level of expertise and what I understood from the newsletter was that the \$21.96 was for new hires.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** That would have been the lowest person on the payroll. Yes.

**Debra Sottolano:** That would have been the lowest person. What was the rate to be for the, would the rate be much higher for exiting staff like something more like in accord with what other towns give like \$24-\$25 an hour for...

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** It would be just under \$23 an hour for the highest paid person.

**Debra Sottolano:** Under \$23, well, that's the \$22.51 with the raise right? Yes, but that was for the new hires so I'm wondering what would it be for the more experienced or the longer tenured people.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** The highest paid employee in the Town is Scott VanWormer. He would be around \$23-and-change, I don't know the exact number.

**Debra Sottolano:** After the raise, okay. And then another issue I know was the four day, ten hour per week and as you were mentioning and several people mentioned here now you know they're out all hours at night during storms and other things and preparation in the morning hours so would the Town consider negotiating the hours because one size doesn't fit all, most people work a five day work week, but if it suits and is better suited to the Highway job would it be considered to allow for the you know the four day, ten hour work week?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** That's on the table. The Mediator had suggested that 'why don't you have some people work on Friday and some people work on Monday so you have some staff in the Town' and that was rejected by the union.

**Debra Sottolano:** So what next steps are there if you can't get back to being... What is your next steps? I mean you're at a stalemate, is that what you're considering at a stalemate?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Right now we're at a stalemate, yeah. The next step would be arbitration and arbitration is binding. Mediation is not binding.

**Debra Sottolano:** And how soon do you think you'll go for that?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** That's up to the Union, it's not up to me. They have to make that decision. If they want to settle this thing, they have to come to the table. I mean we've been doing this openly for months and if they don't want to respond to us, I can't force them to respond. We've been very open with them. These numbers are not terrible. I mean I worked in government for 44 years, I never got a \$15,000 check in one year in my entire life and I don't know how many people here has worked for the State or the County, I don't think anyone's ever gotten that kind of money in one year. I know you didn't.

**Debra Sottolano:** I never did. I can guarantee you I never did. Okay, well, I don't want to overtake my time, but thank you.

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**Jake Colwell:** Just to stay on topic and my question is related to a cost-benefit analysis as to how the Board has looked at this particular decision related to Unionization and the requests of the Union both locally and the representative of the Union compared to the risks that we're taking as a Town by being so shorthanded. So I think my big concern, and I think other people share this is that, and we've been very fortunate to get help from outside municipalities, but at some point that could go away and we could put ourselves in a situation to be liable as a Town could be sued for not being able to complete the jobs at the Highway Department because they're so shorthanded and so my question is where does that concern factor into your cost-benefit analysis of rejecting some of the offers from the Union or some of the requests from the Union cause I'm sure there's been, again I'm not part of the negotiations, but I'm just going to assume that there's been back-and-forth, I assume there's some type of offer put out there and requests.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** There's a Memorandum of Agreement.

**Jake Colwell:** Memorandum of Agreement okay.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** That's been agreed to by both sides to bring back to the employees. The employees turned it down, not the Union negotiator and not the Deputy Superintendent.

**Jake Colwell:** So the employees certainly had other requests, things that they're asking to add onto.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I asked Alan that on Saturday and he doesn't know what they're requests are, I have to ask Scott.

**Jake Colwell:** Okay, are we factoring into this decision the concern of being shorthanded and how that might put the Town at a liable position?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Of course we have. What's this lawsuit you're talking about?

**Jacob Colwell:** No, I'm not. Potential lawsuit. There's a concern of...

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** A potential lawsuit. Oh, I see.

**Jacob Colwell:** Yes, that's a concern of being in a, putting ourselves in a position where now we as a Town get sued because we can't do our job. I just want to know how that factors in and your thoughts on...

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Well, what Mr. Dellisanti is trying to explain and he did explain it is that this is on the table for the Union to act upon. So the Highway Department can't negotiate with us, we can't negotiate with the Highway Department.

**Jake Colwell:** Understood.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** So the Union is legally lawfully representing the Highway Department at this point so this is part of the stalemate you run into when you...

**Councilmember Downes:** When you choose to go Union.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Negotiate and so this is not something we're choosing to do right?

**Jake Colwell:** Sure. Understood. Right. Certainly you're looking at it as a long time negotiator and as a Board that there's a cost-benefit, where do we draw lines, what numbers are we comfortable with? I get that.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** And Nick's trying to tell you that...

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We're comfortable with these number that we have here.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** We're willing to settle.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Through December 31 of 2024 we are comfortable with the numbers. The Board is comfortable with the numbers.

**Jake Colwell:** Great.

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**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** The Union negotiators are comfortable with the numbers. The men turned down the contract. That's what I'm being told.

**Jake Colwell:** Understood.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I asked Mr. VanWormer what the vote was. He didn't even know if they had a meeting to discuss the vote on the contract.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** I was in a Union for 38 years, we never got a contract on time. There was always a four-year lag at minimum. Four-year lag.

**Jacob Colwell:** It's a time-consuming process certainly.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** It's often made to be a time-consuming process.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** The last contract I negotiated in Long Island was with Nassau County Medical Center. It was a five-year contract. It took four years. The first three years the employees – this is for 4,000 people not four or five people, 4,000 people -- the first three years of the contract they got zero, the fourth and fifth year they got three percent.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** It's sadly typical.

**Jake Colwell:** Again, I think I just kind of speak for the group is we're concerned. We're shorthanded, and we're afraid you know...

**Councilmember Boehlke:** We are, too.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** So are we.

**Councilmember Downes:** So are we as a Board.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We appreciate what you're saying.

**Jake Colwell:** Certainly, of course, and I don't doubt that you are. I really don't. I'm just factoring in what could be done to speed up the process, what can we do as a Board, as a Town?

**Councilmember Downes:** You get the Union to come to the table, we'll get it done. That's the problem. We can't get the Union here.

**Jake Colwell:** Appreciate you sharing the information. Thank you.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Thank you.

**Janet Kash:** I think Deb and Jake addressed many of the issues that I was thinking about as well, but this has all been very fascinating to learn the ins and outs of the Board's negotiations or attempted negotiations with the Union, but in past meetings we always got the impression that it was all very hush hush and you couldn't talk out loud in public about the negotiations and all that.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Not until we had an MoA.

**Janet Kash:** But then I was really surprised when the Town newsletter came out and the entire front page of it was devoted to the Town Board's position on the Union negotiations which I thought was supposed to be kind of hush hush.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Well, at that point we can talk about it.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** The Memorandum of Agreement was out before it.

**Janet Kash:** Well, I don't know when you're supposed to talk about it and when you're not.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Not until you have a document. Once you have a document that's agreed by both sides then you can talk about it.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** It's a legality it really is.

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**Janet Kash:** Right. Okay, well I thought that it was as well which is why I was confused when the front page of the newsletter was just talking about the Town Board's position on the Union.

**Councilmembers VanEtten and Downes:** Well, that was after the Memorandum of Agreement.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** After that.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** February 20<sup>th</sup> of 2023.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** And we were freed up to give our side of it.

**Janet Kash:** Okay, alright. So I guess my question would be and I hope that it's not gonna draw, continue to drag along the way that it has, but perhaps since the newsletter is a nonpartisan, taxpayer-financed document perhaps it might be good to let the Union share their point of view on where the negotiation are and the issues that they have with what has been presented to them and way they are continuing to not approve it. It just seems fair that you guys have put your position out there, why can't the Union do it too since it's a non...

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Well, that is strictly up to them.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** But the Union has approved it, that's when we got the Memorandum of Agreement.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** The Union has approved it. It was on the front page of the newsletter.

**Janet Kash:** Okay so it's been approved but yet the contract still does not exist because the Union did not go along with it.

**Councilmember Downes and Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Not the Union, the employees.

**Councilmember Downes:** Voted it down.

**Janet Kash:** Oh, okay, so the Union employees, maybe the employees should be able to tell the people of New Baltimore what their objections are.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** That would be nice.

**Janet Kash:** So that everybody could hear both sides of the story.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** We'd like to know that too.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** That's always a good thing, Nick.

**Janet Kash:** It just seems reasonable to me because I would like to know what they have a problem with. Anyway so that was just kinda the point that I wanted to make that if the employees do not agree to the proposed contract perhaps the people of New Baltimore through the newsletter should learn from them what their issues are so that everybody in New Baltimore has a really good idea of what both sides are and where the disagreements are. I mean just as a matter of public information in a nonpartisan, taxpayer-funded newsletter. I think that that might be a good idea.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I asked that exact question to Mr. VanWormer on Saturday morning and he doesn't know the answer to that question either. He said I'd have to get in touch with Scott.

**Janet Kash:** Yup, well, you got his phone number. Anyway beyond that I just wanted to mention one other thing that you may or may not be aware of and it just comes as general information about wages. Um in September I believe that there's a state law going into effect that's going to require any advertisement for any municipal jobs or probably private jobs as well to detail the wages and the benefits so that anybody actually applying for the job has an idea of what they are actually applying for.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Well, I think that's pretty basic right.

**Janet Kash:** Yeah, except it's not required in New York State until this September so that might be a good thing to put in your advertisements just so that people know what they're applying for and if you are actually able to come up with some higher wages and better benefits if the employees and you guys ever agree on something that would probably make it easier for you to get some folks because you're in a

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competitive position obviously with the Railroad, Greene County Correctional Facility, other places but I think just letting people know off the bat you know what it might be might be a tool to make it more attractive particularly if you are able to increase the wages and if you could get 'em to I know \$23 or \$24, I think you said Scott's making \$23 an hour and he's been here 23 years.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Not yet he's not making \$23 an hour. This contract goes...

**Janet Kash:** Okay, but I do believe Scott's been here 23 years so he's making under \$23 as the Deputy Highway Superintendent.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Yes, he gets a stipend on top of that, but yes.

**Janet Kash:** Yeah, it's not very competitive and just right now with extreme weather that we're pretty sure it's gonna continue to happen throughout the summer and into the hurricane season not to mention the winter, all of us here I think are here to say we have two Highway employees plus Alan and that's really just not gonna work I mean within the space of what two weeks we had this extreme weather.

**Councilmember Downes:** Right and we know that.

**Janet Kash:** I know obviously.

**Councilmember Downes:** It hasn't been easy for us.

**Janet Kash:** It rains on everybody.

**Councilmember Downes:** Right and you know the other thing is getting back to the negotiation part, we have to tow a line. It's not like we can go up to employees and say to them 'well why did you vote it down' because what happens is we can be...

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** It's an improper labor practice.

**Councilmember Downes:** Thank you, that's where I was going because looking like we were pushing them to sign the contract.

**Janet Kash:** Right, right.

**Councilmember Downes:** And there's a fine line that we've all been playing for the last three years.

**Janet Kash:** I know, I know, that's why I've been very confused about all of this.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Well, Janet, this is a very hard adjustment because there's a labor shortage...

**Janet Kash:** Oh, I know. I completely understand that.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** So everybody's gravitating to the highest bidder right.

**Janet Kash:** Right, but we have had people come here and then leave.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** We've got a Fortune 500 company right up the road paying very good money and very good benefits.

**Janet Kash:** Yeah, I know. Yeah, but you have been able to attract employees. They have come here because they want to work for the Town of New Baltimore, but then they have to leave. The new guy that's leaving I think he's making \$23 or \$24 and as I understand it he said that it was just not financially...1

**Councilmember Downes:** But he's also going to the State and going to the State also gives him a career ladder and opportunity to make more money in different ways.

**Janet Kash:** Oh, I understand that.

**Councilmember Downes:** We do not have that career ladder and that's another thing that people don't seem to see and yeah they're using us to get their foot in the door and they get their foot in the door and then they get an opportunity to go to DOT once again, a career especially a young guy. A young guy is not gonna stay because there's nowhere for him to go.

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**Janet Kash:** Oh, no, and I understand what you were talking about about the service requirement. Would that have to be something that would be negotiated as well into the contract?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** What service requirement?

**Janet Kash:** If you wanted somebody to get their CDL you would require them to stay for two years.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We don't have to put that into the contract, we can do that as a Board.

**Councilmember Downes:** But it's been an option and I've talked to Alan about this probably three or four years ago because we could see the writing on the wall at that time and about the program at Columbia-Greene we have to realize we are the small town, we are small fish you know what I mean so we have to be inventive on how we're going to get folk into these positions and you know not just go the old way. We need somebody with a CDL, we need somebody with a CDL, we look good because we have good health and benefits. We have good retirement where some of these other places that are running CDL's, the companies -- not the State, not the County -- but the company they're just doing 401k's when they're lucky so all those kind of things have to play in and have to be weighted out, but we do, we have to be more inventive.

**Janet Kash:** Right, but I also think you need to be more competitive so I think possibly...

**Councilmember Downes:** And once this contract is signed, we'll be more competitive.

**Janet Kash:** Raising from that \$21.96 to something higher you know that might help.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We got the message, thank you.

**Janet Kash:** Alright thank you and again thank you to the Highway Department and Cornell for coming to our rescue literally during these last storms.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** They did a great job, thank you

**Bob Turan:** You're probably wondering what I'm gonna speak about.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I couldn't guess in a million years.

**Bob Turan:** Okay, well, it's gonna be the Highway Department and just a couple of observations. I appreciate the Highway Department greatly. I've been a resident, my family's been a resident for 70 years. We have always appreciated what the Highway Department does. I remember we had damage to our road in Irene, culvert torn up, half the road washed away. They got right on it. They did the job. They fixed it. I know that when there are disasters locally, we didn't get much rain this last time, you know maybe three inches, but other places got totally swamped so we didn't have the damage and when there's damage that's localized you can get the fire department or you can get another town or the county to help out with some of their equipment. When everybody gets hit totally and what I'm thinking is when you get two feet of snow, you don't have, you may have equipment, but you don't have enough drivers to plow. I was in the City of Troy in the late 60's when I was in school there and the City of Troy to make their budget balance sold all their snowplow equipment so they didn't have it and they said 'well, if it snows, we'll borrow the stuff after the Rensselaer County plows all the roads. That year there was easily two feet of snow on the roads that you had to drive on. Cars were like totally encased. You could barely walk on sidewalks, it was impossible. It was impossible to move. The campus was cleared because they had their own group, but it was a mess. Yeah, they saved some money in the budget, but relying on someone else to bail you out when something that big hits everyone equally, they were busy trying to plow the roads out in the County and the City never got plowed. I mean there was some private people hiring guys with trucks and that's what I'm worried about because we live on a road that has probably the best service we get from the Town of New Baltimore is what the Highway Department does. It does the best job of clearing snow, plowing, maintaining the roads of virtually anyplace I've lived. I really appreciate it and I'm just afraid with two employees that if there's only two employees when it starts to snow you know I don't know if all the residents are going to come after the Town Board with flaming torches or something like that. I understand that it's not your fault that the employees rejected the...

**Councilmember VanEtten:** The Memorandum of Agreement.

**Bob Turan:** Memorandum of Agreement but maybe the thing to do is when you're trying to hire new employees is if it's just gonna go in the *Times Union* for a week or something like that can it go up on social media somehow, can it go out on other places so that you're reaching people that aren't reading the

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newspaper but could be an important part of your, especially if you're looking for younger employees, that might be a place to do it so it's worth thinking about.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** I know that Alan posted on Facebook all the time.

**Councilmember Downes:** And then once it's out there then I share it.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We all share it around.

**Bob Turan:** Well, that's good but it would be good if you could say what a starting wage is going to be because eventually that's gonna happen, a few months you're gonna have to do that.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** We're hoping, too.

**Bob Turan:** I mean that might be better than trying to say there's gonna be a sign-on bonus or something like that. Maybe that's it. Maybe there is a sign-on bonus with a caveat that you've gotta keep working a couple years, but that...

**Councilmember Boehlke:** One of the complications and I think Alan would agree with this is that when you have a half a dozen guys in the Highway Department you can't have specialties, you have to cross train and cross qualify everyone to work the various jobs so that's one of the reasons we wanted everyone to have a CDL so everyone was capable of driving a truck right. So now the CDL has raised the bar for a lot of people to hire and also as we discussed before a CDL driver is very valuable. If he has a CDL, he can take a truck driving job in a lot of places or \$30 plus an hour and this is one of the things we're facing right now and it's being exasperated with just a general nationwide labor shortage that we're facing. I mean Pat's not here, Pat Linger our County Legislator, but I think last time we talked to him what was he down 11 men?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** He's down nine guys right now in the Highway Department in the County.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Nine guys. I mean this is...

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** It's nationwide, it's not just here.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** I mean it's difficult, it makes it difficult.

**Councilmember Irving:** It's a problem all around. I just retired as a school bus driver Class B CDL for the last decade. Matter of fact I think my family's been in New Baltimore a little longer than yours. John Irving, by the Laverne Irving Trail, that farm. So we're looking for school bus drivers and the pay rate is very close. I've been receiving emails on my phone because I have a Class B CDL, but I can remember starting out, we're gonna go back a few years with General Electric with Jack Welch. He said to me, he called me in his office as a production supervisor said 'don't come to me with the problem, come to me with solutions' and I walked away perplexed. But I understand what he means now. We're all working very hard on this and Nick has reiterated several times that as it stands right now we're doing the very best we can and I want to thank you, Alan, for putting signs up for the schoolchildren on my road. As a school bus driver I understand how important, I knew you did, we had the waste treatment plant, the tree was down and Mr. Betke called me, the operator, Alan went, my text is on the phone, we conversed back and forth, he had several trees that were blocking highway. I said that takes priority, the roads need to be open, but he went down right away and his men took the tree out of the road and we were able to continue with the waste treatment plant and I thanked him and it worked out well.

**Bob Turan:** But what I'm saying is that all of the residents are counting on you guys. We don't have the solution. We don't even know how some of the internal mechanisms work, but we're all in the same boat.

**Councilmember Irving:** Well, I'm glad we're here tonight and we had this discussion and I think we've covered our part very well and we're working as hard as we can on it.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Thank you, Bob. I just want you to know we will supplement any way we possibly can even if we have to contract to help Alan out to get through this winter.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** We got Alan a brand new \$250,00 truck, we'll find somebody to drive it right.

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**Emily Wheeler:** I personally want to thank the Highway Department and the Fire Department that came twice both nights immediately. Greene County followed up the next day, but, again Main Street was a disaster both evenings but thank you very much. Secondly, I guess after listening to the pay tonight of \$23 an hour, I mean that's insulting in itself for the job they do, the hours they put in, I understand why it wouldn't be accepted. I (unable to understand) nine years ago in the Highway Department there, we pay very little. We're making \$55,000-\$60,000 in that position so I completely understand why. You could go anywhere and make \$20 an hour now so anyway I guess that's it. Thank you guys very much.

**Judy Felsten:** My question is how many people are in the bargaining unit now?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We have two full-timers and two part-timers.

**Debra Sotolano:** So all the things you've said about the difficulties that you know we're experiencing in getting people and it's everywhere, it's not just here. I'm just saying with all the things you've mentioned here and the difficulty everywhere to get people, do we have any recourse to the County to take what action is the County maybe taking? Have you discussed things with the County and what have you heard?

**Councilmember Boehlke:** They're behind the eight ball, too.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We talked with Pat Linger about consolidating both services together and there has to be a chargeback. They'll be chargeback, but we're working on that as well to help Alan as best we can.

**Jake Colwell:** Are we using job boards beyond just capitalareahelpwanted.com, things like that, job boards, Indeed?

**Councilmember Boehlke:** For advertising for positions?

**Jake Colwell:** Yeah.

**Town Clerk Finke:** I think we have an Indeed account.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We do have an Indeed account, yeah.

**Janet Kash:** Just to Bob's point also Kelly, I haven't looked at it recently but (unable to understand) the official New Baltimore Town Facebook page and as far as I know it hasn't really been updated in two years except for an occasional post and stuff by some media group called Porcupine Soup, but I really think that if we are going to make better use of social media particularly in this day and age that maybe we could do a bit more to actually bring the New Baltimore Facebook page up-to-date and you know put information on it. Just a thought and we all know how easy it is to post.

**Amelia Scarlata:** So you guys are working on the budget right. So do you have, what do you have into the Highway Department? So are you working on the budget?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Yes.

**Amelia Scarlata:** Okay, so how much have you put into the Highway Department?

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We haven't sat down with Alan yet. He's coming in Saturday morning.

**Amelia Scarlata:** Okay, then plus maybe you should put like on all your social medias and stuff, I'll bring the new channel station in and say 'you know, hey Town of New Baltimore residents, do you guys care when you get to point A to point B because maybe you should you know consider giving yourself an hour or two hours extra time when the roads are bad because you're probably ain't gonna get there. And we all have jobs and events to get to and these guys work their butts off and we understand everybody has something to do. So you know try to do the best they can.

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

**RESOLUTION 95-2023**  
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**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO PAY AUDITED CLAIMS**

*WHEREAS* the Town Clerk has presented claims to the Town Board for audit and review, and

*WHEREAS* the Town Board has audited claims 2023b-07-01 to 2023b-07-37, it is

*RESOLVED* that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2023b-07-01 to 2023b-07-37.

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

Motion by Councilmember VanEtten seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Ruso

**Motion Carried**

General \$13,549.12, Highway \$100,668.29, Sewer 1 \$1,960.92, Sewer 2 \$577.67, Water 2 \$3,358.99, Water 3 \$1,036.20, Street Lighting 1 \$1,831.77, Street Lighting 2 \$200.12, Total \$123,183.08

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM

AYES: Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Ruso

**Motion Carried**

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** Thank you all for coming.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC  
Town Clerk