

NEW BALTIMORE NEWS

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Town Holds Public Hearing on Proposed Comprehensive Plan Update

On December 4th, the New Baltimore Town Board held a Public Hearing on the proposed update to the Town of New Baltimore Comprehensive Plan, and the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement that has been prepared for the Comprehensive Plan Update. Over 40 residents heard a presentation by Lisa Nagle of Elan Planning and Design, a professional planning firm retained by the Town Board to assist in the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan update. Several residents expressed support for the Comprehensive Plan Update and no one spoke in opposition.

This Town Board Public Hearing follows the unanimous referral of the Comprehensive Plan Update to the Town Board by the Comprehensive Plan Committee on October 11th after the Committee had held its own public hearing on September 27th. The Comprehensive Plan Committee had previously been appointed by the Town Board in September, 2005, and held monthly meetings for one year to prepare the Update, based on the Vision and Goals Statement that had been prepared by the Citizens Planning Advisory Group during 2004 and 2005. The Comprehensive Plan Committee, co-chaired by Supervisor David Louis and Councilmember Arlene McKeon, included town residents Eugene Albright, John Cashin, Paul Court, Jr., Warren Curtis, Lee Davis, James Eckl, Barry Guptill, Meave Tooher, Alta Turner and Louise Warner.

The proposed update includes strategies aimed at the goals of preserving and protecting the rural character and environmental quality of the town; encouraging business development consistent with the rural and historic character of the town and that contributes to the town tax base; promoting agriculture and protecting farmland by recognizing the unique role that agriculture can play in supporting economic prosperity and

(continued on page 2)



On September 24, family and friends honored the memory of four residents who have served the Town in an exemplary manner – Lon Boehlke, Frances Dietz, Walter Dietz and Lambert Nethaway.

After introductions by Town Supervisor David Louis, and a moment of prayer given by Rev. Susan Kerr, members of the Public Memorial Committee dedicated payers engraved with the names of those honored. Weather kept the ceremony inside and the pavers were later installed in the Barbara Weeks Memory Garden.

Here, Richard Guthrie presents a flower to Dottie Nethaway.

Water District Update

On November 17th, property owners in New Baltimore Water District No. 4 voted on a proposition to increase the amount to be expended for capital improvements for New Baltimore Water District No. 4 from \$3,048,000 to \$4,994,230. The new proposed maximum cost was based on an updated project cost estimate provided to the Town by an independent engineer, Delaware Engineering, P.C.

The vote results on the voting machines were 78 in favor of approving the increase, and 80 opposed. Of four paper ballots that were cast and not counted, only one is eligible to be counted; this ballot has not yet been counted but will not change the outcome that the proposition was defeated.

Given these developments, Supervisor David Louis will be contacting the State Comptroller's Office to clarify the status of New Baltimore Water District No. 4, since the Water District has been found by the Courts to have been legally established, but voters have not authorized the increase in funding that would be necessary to construct the water system as currently designed at the currently estimated cost. No further action will be recommended to the Town Board until clarification is received from the State Comptroller's Office.

In This Issue

- Building fees updated. Page 2
- Town announces new Good Neighbor Program. Page 2
- Town Board adopts 2007 budget. Page 3; Tables page 4-5
- News from Town Board and Planning Board. Page 6-7
- Historical Notes: The Terrible In-Laws. Page 8
- Business Spotlight: New Baltimore Animal Hospital. Page 8
- Historical Society seeks New Baltimore listings. Page 9
- Winter parking regulations announced. Page 9
- Weatherization tips. Page 9

Community News and Issues

Comprehensive Plan Update (cont. from page 1)

protecting the things that make our town special; and advancing the administration and understanding of local laws and ordinances. The strategies put forth in the Draft Comprehensive Plan are focused on addressing potential impacts of large scale residential and commercial development. The Plan makes no recommendations that would impact upon normal residential building activity and does not impact minor subdivisions which create less than 5 building lots.

The Town Board, upon its receipt of the Draft Comprehensive Plan Update, declared itself as Lead Agency for purposes of environmental review under the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and issued a Positive Declaration of Environmental Significance, which has led to the preparation of a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) analyzing environmental impacts of the proposed Plan Update.

The DGEIS document includes an evaluation of the impacts of the adoption of the proposed Plan Update on land, water air, plant and animals, agricultural land, aesthetic resources, historic and archeological resources, open space and recreation, critical environmental areas, transportation, energy, noise and odor, public health, and growth and the character of community. The DGEIS document concludes that the adoption of the proposed Comprehensive Plan Update for the Town of New Baltimore will **not** result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

A copy of the Draft Comprehensive Plan of the Town of New Baltimore is available for public review during business hours at the Town Clerk's Office at the New Baltimore Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY, the Ravena Community Library, 15 Mountain Road, Ravena, NY, the Heermance Memorial Library, 1 Ely St., Coxsackie, NY, and the Greenville Public Library, Route 32, Greenville, NY, and on the

internet at

www.townofnewbaltimore.org.

Following the end of the public comment period on December 14th, the Town Board will meet at its regular meeting on January 8th and it is expected that a final Generic Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for the February Town Board meeting and that final adoption of the Comprehensive Plan Update will take place in March.

Town Board Increases Building Fees

At the October 9th Town Board Meeting, the Town Board adopted a new fee schedule that includes many increases in town building fees. This increase is made necessary by increases in operating costs for the Town Building Department. In adopting the new fee schedule, the Town Board has decided that it would be fairer to pay for higher building inspection costs by collecting higher building fees than increasing town taxes to pay for these costs.

Category	Revised Fee
Residential Building (new and additions)	\$25 per 100 Square Foot Floor Area
Non-Residential or Combined Use	\$35 per 100 Sq. Ft. Floor Area
Utilities	\$1500 up to 300 Sq. Ft. \$35 per 100 Sq. Ft. after 3,000 Sq. Ft.
Renovations Where Building Permit Required	\$150
Garages	\$100 per sq. ft. floor area
Decks and Porches	\$75

Category	Revised Fee
Chimneys, Wood Stoves and Gas Heaters	\$40
Mobile Homes (Single)	\$150
Mobile Homes (Double Wide)	\$225
Swimming Pools (Above Ground)	\$60
Swimming Pools (In-Ground)	\$100

Additional Fees:

Park Usage (Parties, Reunions, other day usage)	\$25 plus deposit of \$25 to be repaid if park is properly cleaned up after event
Beer Permit (Associated with park permit)	\$20

Good Neighbor Program

One of the hallmarks of a great community is the degree to which its citizens are willing to take the time and effort to help each other out. All across New Baltimore, residents are extending themselves — donating hours, labor and expertise to those who need it most. Beginning next year, one of our local businesses will sponsor an annual award honoring the individual who best exemplifies what small town values are all about.

The Good Neighbor Program will also include suggestions, to be announced in each newsletter, for those who wish to get involved. Greene County Community Action offers a program to train citizens who would like to help neighbors prepare their taxes. For dates of the new session, call Florence Ohle at 943-9205.

Town Board Adopts 2007 Budget

The New Baltimore Town Board has adopted the 2007 Budget, which calls for a decrease of 1.18% in the town-wide tax rate. The proposed town-wide tax rate of \$4.89 per \$1,000 assessed valuation includes funding for the General Fund and the Highway Fund. In addition to these town-wide taxes, the Town property tax rate will include a chargeback from Greene County for the cost of sending New Baltimore residents to community colleges other than Columbia-Greene Community College. The tax rate for these chargebacks will be \$0.20 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, a decrease of \$0.03 per \$1,000 assessed valuation below the 2006 tax rate.

In addition to these taxes, the January, 2007 tax bill will include property taxes levied for Greene County services (currently projected to decrease by 10% on a countywide basis, and 15% for Town of New Baltimore taxpayers, in the proposed Greene County Budget to be enacted by the Greene County Legislature), and taxes levied for Special Districts in the Town of New Baltimore. All New Baltimore property owners will pay taxes for their fire and ambulance district. In the New Baltimore Fire District, which serves the eastern part of the Town of New Baltimore, the fire district tax rate will decrease from \$2.41 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$2.40 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The ambulance tax (which includes paramedic services) will increase from \$0.157 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$0.159 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. In the Medway-Grapeville Fire District, which serves the western part of the Town of New Baltimore, the fire district tax rate will decrease from \$1.77 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$1.58 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The ambulance tax (which includes paramedic services) will decrease from \$0.087 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$0.073 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

There are a few other special districts in the town with taxing jurisdiction over a smaller number of taxpayers. In the hamlet area, the Lighting District tax

will increase from \$0.337 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$0.374 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. Water District Number 1, which provides funding for fire hydrants on the northern section of Route 9W will see no change in taxes. In Water District 2, in the Scheller Park Road area, the property tax (\$0.123 per \$1,000 assessed valuation in 2006) will be eliminated, as debt service payments have ended for infrastructure dating back to 1975. The user rates for the New Baltimore Sewer District in the hamlet of New Baltimore are still being formulated, but the overall user fees to be levied will slightly decrease for 2007. For a complete listing of all estimated 2007 tax changes for town taxing jurisdictions, please refer to **TABLE 1- 2007 TOWN BUDGET - ESTIMATED TAX RATES AND CHANGE FROM 2006** (see page 4).

A summary of the 2007 Town Budget is presented in **TABLE 2** (see page 5). Total expenditures for the General and Highway Funds are budgeted at \$1,392,388, of which \$853,590 is budgeted for the Highway Fund (61%), and \$538,798 is budgeted for the General Fund (39%). The largest spending item is personal services in the amount of \$554,823 (40% of total budget), which includes salaries and wages for the Highway Department employees (\$267,500) and other town employees paid from the General Fund (\$287,323). These employees include the Town Highway Superintendent, Town Clerk, Justice Court Clerk, Assessor, Assessor's Clerk, Planning and Zoning Clerk, Deputy Justice Court Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, other Elected Officials (Town Supervisor, Town Board, Town Justices, Tax Collector) and other appointed boards and officials (Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officers, Animal Control Officer, Town Historian, Recycling Station Operator, Parks Program Director and staff). For 2007, overall salaries will be increased by \$46,823. Of this amount, \$12,303 is going towards an increase in salaries and

staffing in the Justice Court to handle an increase in workload, \$9,400 is going towards an increase in salary for the Building Department to address increased state requirements, \$13,300 is going towards an increase in the hourly wages paid for Highway Department employees to bring their wages in line with other Greene County municipalities, and the balance of \$7,005 is going towards cost of living increases for other town employees.

The 2007 budget for benefits will be \$200,000, which is about the same as the amount budgeted for 2006. Benefits include health insurance for full time Highway Department employees and retirees, the Highway Superintendent and the Justice Clerk; the Town's mandated contribution to the State Retirement System, the employer's share of Social Security and Medicare, and Workers' Compensation and Disability Insurance.

The 2007 Budget for Highway Improvements and Repairs will be \$235,000, which includes the cost of all paving materials, and this is being increased by \$35,000 over the amount budgeted for 2006 to address escalating fuel and material costs which have significantly increased the price of paving materials. The Debt Service budget (\$104,190) includes the annual repayment of the five year, \$385,000 bond issue for road reconstruction, of which 95% of the funding has been expended to date to resurface miles of roads throughout the Town; the debt service budget also includes bonds issued for highway equipment. Centralized Services includes all insurance on town buildings and Highway Department vehicles and equipment, the cost of maintaining the Town Hall and Highway Garage, printing expenses including the cost of publishing and mailing the Town Newsletter, and other miscellaneous expenses, such as replacement of stolen road signs, disposal of recycled tires, dues to municipal organizations, educational seminars and technology.

(cont. on page 5)

TABLE 1				
2007 TOWN BUDGET - ESTIMATED TAX RATES AND CHANGE FROM 2006				
	Tax Rate			Est. Tax Change
	per \$1,000	Change		for Home
	Assessed	(per \$1,000	Percent	Assessed
	Value for 2007	Assessed)	Change	at \$100,000
TOWN WIDE FUNDS				
GENERAL FUND	\$1.626	-0.033		
HIGHWAY FUND	\$3.261	-0.025		
TOTAL FOR TOWN-WIDE FUNDS	\$4.887	-0.058	-1.18%	-\$5.80
COUNTY CHARGEBACKS	\$0.202	-0.026	-11.37%	-\$2.60
TOWN TAX TOTAL	\$5.089	-0.084	-1.62%	-\$8.40
<u>FIRE AND AMBULANCE DIS- TRICTS</u>				
NEW BALTIMORE FIRE DISTRICT	\$2.400	-0.010	-0.41%	-\$1.00
AMBULANCE DISTRICT #1	\$0.159	0.002	1.27%	\$0.20
MEDWAY-GRAPEVILLE FIRE DIS- TRICT	\$1.580	-0.190	-10.73%	-\$19.00
AMBULANCE DISTRICT #2	\$0.073	-0.014	-16.09%	-\$1.40
<u>OTHER SPECIAL DISTRICTS</u>				
LIGHTING DISTRICT (HAMLET AREA)	\$0.374	0.037	10.98%	\$3.70
WATER DISTRICT #1 (9W HY- DRANTS)	\$0.080	0.000	0.00%	\$0.00
WATER DISTRICT #2 (SCHELLER PARK)	\$0.000	-0.123	-100.00%	-\$12.30

(cont. from page 3)

The 2007 budget includes \$68,000 for the operation and maintenance of vehicles and equipment used by the Highway Department, primarily used for fuel and parts. Much of the actual upkeep of Highway Department equipment is done in-house by the Highway Superintendent and Highway Department employees, yielding significant savings to the Town. The amount budgeted for Snow Removal and Other Road Maintenance (\$59,000) includes road salt and sand used during winters. The amount budgeted for Departmental Non Personal Service (\$31,600) for 2007 reflects a decrease resulting from the completion of the update to the Town Comprehensive Plan. This category also includes the costs incurred by the Supervisor for bookkeeping and payroll services, the expenses of the Justice Court, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessor, Animal Control Officer, Building Inspectors and Code Enforcement Officer, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Much of these costs cover postage, newspaper publication and mileage reimbursement.

The Town's budget for professional services (\$18,000) primarily covers legal expenses under the Town's annual contract with the Attorney for the Town. The budget for Programs (\$20,200) includes the cost of maintaining the Town parks, the Town's annual support of the AgFest and American Legion Post. The budget also includes \$15,000 to be transferred into the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund to set aside funds for future equipment purchases.

The Town's revenues will be bolstered in 2007 by the first year of payments in lieu of taxes by Serta Mattress Company. The Town will receive a total payment of \$46,900 in 2007 from this important economic development accomplishment. Other town revenues (excluding property taxes) include State Aid, including the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program, General State Revenue Sharing, Justice Court Fines, Mortgage Tax Receipts, permit and fee revenue, interest earnings and penalties levied for the late payment of property taxes.

TABLE 2		
TOWN BUDGET DETAILS FOR 2007		
EXPENDITURES:		
	Adopted	Change
	Budget	from
Description	for 2007	2006
Personal Services-General Fund	287,323	33,523
Personal Services-Highway Fund	267,500	13,300
Subtotal - Personal Services	554,823	46,823
Benefits (Highway and General)	200,000	(100)
Highway Improvements and Repairs	235,000	35,000
Debt Service (Highway and General)	104,190	(36,373)
Centralized Services (General)	81,575	(12,300)
Machinery (Highway)	68,000	3,000
Snow Removal/Other Road Maintenance:	59,000	8,000
Departmental Non Personal Service	31,600	(17,400)
Professional Services	18,000	200
Programs	20,200	1,000
Transfer to Highway Equipment Reserve	15,000	0
Contingency	5,000	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES	1,392,388	27,850
REVENUES:		
Property Taxes	961,936	(1,750)
Payments in lieu of Taxes (Incl. Serta Mattress)	47,102	46,900
State and County Aid	101,350	(11,800)
Justice Court Fines Revenue	85,000	15,000
Mortgage Tax Receipts	45,000	0
Permits and Fees	29,500	3,500
Interest and Penalty Revenue	32,500	11,000
TOTAL REVENUES	1,302,388	62,850
Appropriated Fund Balance	90,000	(35,000)
TOTAL REVENUES AND APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	1,392,388	27,850

Town Board News and Issues

Town Board Report

The Town Board has met in regular monthly meetings held on September 11th, October 9th and November 13th, and work meetings held on September 25th and October 23rd, a Public Hearing regarding an Increase in the Maximum Amount to be Expended for New Baltimore Water District No. 4 was held on September 6th and a Special Meeting for the 2007 Budget Presentation was held on October 2nd.

Here is a summary of the actions taken at these meetings:

September 6th

- A public hearing regarding an increase in the maximum amount to be expended for capital improvements to New Baltimore Water District No. 4 was held at the Cornell Hook and Ladder Firehouse. Approximately 50 people attended the hearing, and over 20 of those in attendance made comments — for and against — the proposal to increase the maximum cost from \$3,048,000 to \$4,994,230. At the end of the Public Hearing, a decision was reserved for the September 11th Town Board Meeting.

September 11th

- The Town Board adopted a Resolution to authorize an increase in the maximum amount to be expended for capital improvements for New Baltimore Water District No. 4 from \$3,048,000 to \$4,994,230, subject to a Referendum of property owners living in the water district to be held on November 17, 2006.
- The Town Board adopted a Resolution to request a reduction in the speed limit on Alcove Road, and on the portion of County Route 61 between its intersection with River Road and its intersection with State Route 144 (a previous request to reduce the speed limit on County Route 61 between the vicinity of Matthews Point Road and the Cossackie Town Line had been approved)
- The Town Board adopted a Resolution to make amendments to the 2006 Budget in various accounts.

October 2nd

- At a Special Town Board Meeting, Supervisor David Louis presented the Tentative 2007 Budget, calling for a 1.18% reduction in town taxes. A separate article regarding the 2007 Budget appears on page 3.

October 9th

- Following a public hearing, the Town Board approved an increase in various Town fees. Most of the increases relate to building projects, some increases relate to park usage fees.
- The Town Board authorized an increase in the annual salary for the Town Building Inspector, to reflect his completion of all certification requirements established by New York State and to acknowledge an increase in workload to comply with new mandates established by New York State.
- The Town Board accepted Supervisor Louis' Tentative 2007 without changes as the Preliminary 2007 Budget, and scheduled a Public Hearing to be held on October 23, 2006.
- The Town Board reappointed John Gaspar to a five year term on the Board of Assessment Review, expiring on September 30, 2011.
- The Town Board adopted a Resolution supporting the Local Land Use Leaders Training Programs offered by Pace University Law School, Land Use Law Center. These educational programs are provided for local officials to learn about laws and policies governing land use, and were recently attended by Supervisor Louis, Councilman Guthrie and Planning Board Member Alta Turner. There is no financial obligation or other conditions placed on the Town for its Resolution of Support.
- The Town Board authorized the issuance of bid specification for the purchase of ultraviolet disinfection equipment for the wastewater treatment plant. Councilman Kevin Kuenster presented a proposed mailing to be distributed to hamlet residents regarding the annual leaf pickup program to curtail leaf burning and promote composting.

October 23rd

- The Town Board, in receipt of the Draft Comprehensive Plan Update from the Comprehensive Plan Committee, adopted Resolutions to declare the Town Board as Lead Agency for the Environmental Review of the Draft Comprehensive Plan Update under the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and issuing a Positive Declaration, indicating that the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan Update may have an impact on the environment, and calling for the preparation of a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement.
- The Town Board appointed Barbara Finke, Katherine Gaspar and Barbara Tanner as Election Inspectors for the Referendum regarding the increase in the maximum amount to be expended for New Baltimore Water District No. 4 to be held on November 17, 2006.

November 13th

- Following a Public Hearing, the Town Board adopted Local Law No. 3 of 2006, which authorizes the Town Board to collect unpaid Justice Court fines for violations of local laws and ordinances by placing the amount of the unpaid fine on the property tax bill of the individual owing the fine.
- Attorney for the Town David Wukitsch reported that the Court of Appeals had refused to hear an appeal made against the establishment of New Baltimore Water District No. 4, meaning that the Town had been found to have acted properly in forming Water District 4. Attorney Wukitsch also reported that an appeal had been filed by Thomas Winslow in a case involving his violation of Town Codes that prohibit the siting of more than one mobile home on a parcel of property.
- The Town Board reviewed the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Draft Comprehensive Plan Update, and adopted a Resolution making a determination that the DGEIS was complete and setting a public hearing for comments on the

DGEIS and on the Draft Comprehensive Plan for December 4, 2006 at 7 pm at the Town Hall (see article on page 1).

- The Town Board accepted the low bid of \$8,200 from Sunlight Systems for the purchase of an ultraviolet disinfection system for the wastewater treatment plant.

- The Town Board designated David Louis to cast the Town's ballot in the Water District 4 Referendum and directed him to cast the Town's ballot in favor of the increase in the maximum amount to be expended for capital improvements.

- The Town Board authorized the expenditure of \$3,000 from the New Baltimore Sewer District No. 1 Capital Reserve Fund for Sewer District Repairs to cover the cost of repairs to equipment and facilities at the wastewater treatment plant

- The Town Board authorized an increase in the Town Clerk's petty cash fund from \$200 to \$300.

Planning Board Report

The Planning Board conducted the following business in the months of September, October and November 2006:

- Received Paul and Patricia Schiller Site Plan Application for log home sales center on Railroad Avenue off Route 144 near the Thruway. Required Public Hearing scheduled for September 28.

- Received from Paul Schiller a Minor Subdivision Application for the correction of a two-lot non-conforming subdivision located on Route 144 which would correct a parcel owned by Paul Schiller and a parcel owned by Wade Hanlon. Required Public Hearing was scheduled for October 11.

- Received from the Greene County IDA a Minor Subdivision Application to subdivide onto a separate parcel the old farmhouse located in Kalkberg Commerce Park. Required public hearing was scheduled for October 11.

September 28th

- Public Hearing was held on the Paul and Patricia Schiller Site Plan Application for a log home sales center.

In the regular monthly meeting following the Public Hearing, the following business was transacted:

- The Paul and Patricia Schiller Site Plan Application for the log home sales center was approved with conditions.

- The corrected subdivision maps for the Jean Feit minor subdivision approved on July 13, 2006 were stamped and signed by the Planning Board Chair.

October 12th

- Public hearing was held on the two-lot minor subdivision application of Paul Schiller

- Public hearing was held on the two-lot minor subdivision application for the Greene County IDA.

In the regular monthly meeting following the Public Hearing, the following business was transacted:

- Approved the minor subdivision application for Paul Schiller.

- Approved the minor subdivision application for the Greene County IDA

- Held a preliminary discussion with a Route 81 property owner regarding a proposed two-lot subdivision of her property. This subdivision would also correct the current non-conforming status of parcel.

- Received from Bruce Ackerman major subdivision application for the seven-lot subdivision of his property located on County Route 51.

November 9th

- Received a minor subdivision application for a two-lot subdivision of the Roberto Ponce property on High Rock Road. Required public hearing was scheduled for December 14.

- Received the minor subdivision application for a two-lot subdivision of the Jennifer Jones property on Route 81. Public hearing was tentative scheduled for December 14.

- Continued discussion of the proposed Ackerman seven-lot major subdivision on CR 51 with Mr. Ackerman's authorized representative, Surveyor Charles Hite. Public hearing on the preliminary

plot was scheduled for December 14.

- Discussed with a Route 51 property owner's attorney a proposed property swap that can be handled by deed annexation. At the conclusion of the swap, both property owners will still have the same amount of acreage.

- Held a preliminary discussion with a Route 51 property owner regarding a proposed three-lot subdivision.

- Held a very preliminary pre-site plan discussion with a Route 9W property owner for the siting of a fast food restaurant on his property. The restaurant franchise is still to be determined.

***Notice:** Due to the volume of business coming before the Planning Board, anyone wishing to be on the agenda should contact the Planning Board Clerk well in advance of the night they wish to appear before the Board.*

Zoning Board of Appeals Report

September 6th

- Public Hearing was held on the Paul & Patricia Schiller Special Use Permit Application for the proposed log home sales center was held and recessed until September 20, 2006, to allow for the required certified mail noticing of a property owner.

- The Board heard the Special Use Permit Application of William Brandt to allow for placement of an assisted living facility on property he owns on east side of Route 9W south of the Best Western New Baltimore Inn. Required public hearing on the application was scheduled for October 3.

September 20th

- The public hearing on the Paul & Patricia Schiller Special Use Permit Application for the proposed log home sales center held and recessed on September 6, was continued and completed.

In the regular monthly meeting, the following business transacted:

- The Board granted the Special Use Permit to Mr. and Mrs. Schiller for the proposed log home sales center.

(cont. on page 9)

Historical Notes

In-Law Troubles

In the summer of 1766, 19-year-old Elizabeth Waltermire married John Garrett at Rhinebeck, Dutchess County. Her sister Barbara married John Coonley. By the end of the 1770s, the Garretts and Coonleys were living in New Baltimore, which then was part of a place called Cocksackie District in Albany County. Nearby was John's brother Simeon, who did not marry a Waltermire. All was likely fine until the Revolutionary War. Then the ladies' brother, Johannes, came to visit.

Johannes Waltermire also was known as Hans Waltermire, John Walden Meyers, and other variations thereof. In 1777, he joined the British army and recruited loyalist forces. He became a scourge in and around Albany County, a frequent and elusive agent for the British and a carrier of enemy dispatches. Most famously, in 1781, Hans led a spectacular, if unsuccessful, raid on the house of General Philip Schuyler, still a topic for the tourists visiting that building in Albany.

In late 1780, John Garrett and John Coonley were detained by Albany County's Commission for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies for an unspici-

fied transgression, though the charge soon became clear. Brother-in-law Hans was in the neighborhood. Coonley was jailed and ordered before the Commissioners to defend himself, only to be recommitted.

By this time, though, the two men were respected members of the community. Their bails were paid by Richard Bronck and Cornelius Conine, members of two of Cocksackie's most prominent and anti-British families. The Johns were commanded to good behavior and to report to the authorities as ordered for the rest of the conflict.

At the same time, Simeon was victimized by accusations to the Commissioners that he, while now living on Hans' former farm, was having "frequent intercourse with the said Waltymier and harbours him when on his way through the Country." Further research is needed to determine if Hans' farm was in New Baltimore. Simeon was discharged because of his diligence in reporting to the Commissioners and paying a 100 pound bail. However, his problems were not over.

In mid-January, 1781, John Garrett and John Coonley asked that they be excused from further legal proceedings by promising to notify the Commission-

ers about Hans' reappearances in the future. This likely was a carryover from the previous event noted above. The board discharged them.

By late spring, 1781, Simeon was appearing once again before the Commissioners. He said he had been imprisoned by Hans and kept captive in the woods. Simeon's testimony also relayed the news that Waltermire had spent several nights in John Ver Planck's barn in Coeymans. Given Ver Planck's previous questionable behavior, he was brought before the Commissioners where he testified he did not know that Hans was there. The commissioners accepted his excuse.

Despite considerable efforts of many people including Governor George Clinton, Hans never was captured; he later became a successful businessman and community leader in Canada. The Garretts and Coonleys became lifelong citizens of the area and never had any land confiscated, what should have been the ultimate penalty for people willingly consorting with the enemy. It was apparently attributed to being a case of a problem relative.

Palsits, V.H., ed., Minutes of the Commissioners for detecting and defeating Conspiracies in the State of New York, Albany, N.Y.: State of New York, 1909, 567-568, 578-579.

Business Spotlight

New Baltimore Animal Hospital

Residents of New Baltimore who rely on the New Baltimore Animal Hospital to care for their pets might not recall that only about thirty years ago, the spot where the hospital now stands was the site of a gas station and garage.

To Stephen Ohm and Barbara Buckie-Ohm, it was the ideal site for the veterinary practice they'd planned together since graduating from Cornell Veterinary School. One of only a handful of animal hospitals in Greene County, the clinic cares for anywhere from 10 —15,000 cats, dogs and "pocket pets," Barbara Buckie-Ohm approximates, the majority located within 10 to 15 miles.

The hospital has expanded frequently over the years, adding new wings and expanding their equipment. Recently, the practice added a digital radiography unit.

"Of course there are difficult parts of the job," says Buckie-Ohm, but the majority of it is very rewarding."

As for offering advice to the many pet owners in the area, she suggests using preventative measures to combat woodticks, adding that Greene County is one of New York's most afflicted counties when it comes to ticks. "My best advice though," she adds, "is to be a responsible pet owner, to enjoy your pet."

The New Baltimore Animal Hospital is located at 12774 Route 9W. Hours are by appointment only, call 731-2551.



Barbara Buckie-Ohm with office cat, Hercules

Events & Announcements

Historical Society Seeks New Baltimore Listings

The Greene County Historical Society established the Greene County Historical Register May 30, 1990 to document the County's structures and sites of historic and architectural significance, and to advance public awareness, appreciation, and preservation of the County's historic resources. Since that time, over 200 historic homes or sites have been listed on the Register. Proudly, New Baltimore has seventeen places listed, a good number for the size of our town. The latest addition for New Baltimore is the Vosburgh's residence on Mill Street.

The Register Committee, composed of volunteers from several towns, invites anyone interested in listing a structure or site to submit a completed application with the appropriate fee. Applications are available at the Greene County Historical Society's Vedder Research Library or from any vol-

unteer. Those interested should call Jean Bush, New Baltimore's representative, at 756-9268.

Winter Parking Notice

Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan has announced the parking regulations, effective December 1st to March 31st.

- There will be no discarding of snow on any highway or public road (pursuant to Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1660-Section 8).
- No parking on streets and roads (pursuant to Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1660-Section 8).

Please make arrangements to park vehicles elsewhere. The Highway Superintendent is authorized to have any vehicle in violation of this notice towed at the owner's expense.

This Notice is effective immediately and residents should be aware that this Law will be enforced.

Weatherizing Tips

Whatever winter has in store for our town, one of the easiest and cheapest ways to save – up to ten percent – on your energy bill is take a close look at your house and apply caulk to any gap where air and moisture can penetrate. Some of the most commonly overlooked areas are: Joints between foundation and siding;; spaces between the roof overhang and the house and between the chimney and the siding. Also check around windows and doors and any where wires or pipes enter (phone, cable and gas).

Caulking guns tend to be the most efficient way to apply caulk. Make sure the area is clean and dry; squeeze the trigger and push (pulling decreases the penetration and adhesion) along the gap; gently smooth with a plastic spoon or an ice cube and wipe away any excess with a rag.

Zoning Board of Appeals Report

(continued from page 7)

October 4th

- Public hearing was held on the William Brandt Special Use Permit Application for an assisted living and recessed until November 1 to give time for additional input.

November 1st

- The public hearing on the William Brandt Special Use Permit Application for an assisted living facility recessed on October 4, 2006, was continued and closed.

In the regular monthly meeting following the Public Hearing, the following business was transacted:

- With regard to the William Brandt Special Use Permit Application for an assisted living facility, the Board went through the Full Environmental Assessment Form; and at the conclusion of the review determined that the project may result in one or more large and important impacts that may have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, a positive declaration will be prepared.

Assessor Report September 11th

- School Tax Bills 2006 -- All school tax bills have been mailed by school districts. School rates and contact information can be accessed by visiting the town website.
- 2006 Star Rebate -- The State Department of Taxation and Finance's website provides questions and answers for STAR rebate checks and how to obtain them. Visit www.nystax.gov. Or call toll free at 1-877-6-STAR-NY. To be valid, it must be filed with the Tax Department between October 1, 2006 and January 20, 2007.

- The Assessor included a copy of a "Disaster Relief Legislation Request from New York State by the Town of Vestal."

The Request asks for property tax relief for extensive property damage due to recent flooding, the relief coming in two forms: as a NYS tax credit for school, town/city and county taxes, and for enactment of permanent legislation to take care of this type of natural disaster in the future.

- Continuing Education -- The assessor attended a seminar on Assessment Administration on September 17-20.

October 9

- 2006 Star Rebate -- All New Baltimore residential property owners should have

received their rebate check from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance. We encountered a few corrections for property owners receiving checks in other parcel names (life estates, deceased members of families) which were not honored by some local banks. Contact the office if you need assistance in reapplying for the rebate.

- Senior STAR Enhanced Renewals -- Those enrolled in the renewal property at the office will be receiving their renewal applications next week.

November 13th

- Senior STAR Enhanced Renewals -- Seniors have been returning renewals to the office. Other exemption renewals will be sent in January after the finalization of the new income limitations from the Town, County and School Districts has been forwarded to the office.

- Distribution of STAR Administrative Aid -- The Town will be receiving \$1,209.14 or \$1.12 per parcel from the state for the administration of STAR.

Note: A Letter of Congratulations was received by the Town from the NYS Office of Real Property Services in recognition of the accomplishments of Town Assessor Gordon Bennett in completing all requirements for the designation of State Certified Assessor, Professional.

Town Officials

Supervisor

David Louis

Board Members

Lisa Benway
Richard Guthrie
Kevin Kuenster
Arlene McKeon

Planning Board

Lee Davis
James Coe
Barry W. Guptill
Kenneth Kuder
Eric Hogland
John Murray
Alta Turner

Zoning Board

Stephen Volkheimer
Meave Tooher
Christy Jo Cone
Anthony Rago
Roger Wilson

Town Clerk

Janet Brooks

Tax Collector

Diane Stuart

Assessor

Gordon Bennett

Town Justices

Joseph Farrell
Joseph Cosenza

Superintendent of Highways

Denis Jordan

Town Board Meetings:

2nd and 4th Mondays

Planning Board Meetings

2nd and 4th Thursdays*

Zoning Board Meetings

1st Wednesday*

*if no agenda, no meeting

Town Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-4

Highway Hours

Monday—Friday 7-3

Telephone

(518) 756-6671

Website

www.townofnewbaltimore.org