

# New Baltimore

***From the Desk of Supervisor Jeff Ruso***

## **Highway Negotiation Update**

There has been many questions and concerns expressed by Town residents regarding the status of the Union negotiations with the Highway Department. There has also been much misinformation and rumors floating about that also needs clearing up.

1. The Town was served with notice from Teamsters Local 294 on December 14, 2020 that the Highway Department staff signed cards indicating their choice to be represented by them.
2. The Town's first response to the Teamsters was to waive the right to have an election for Union representation and to recognize the signed cards as the wishes of the staff. This decision by the Town was made to help expedite the negotiation process.
3. There were several negotiation sessions between the Town with most issues resolved, including health benefits, paid time off, and all other benefits as indicated in the existing handbook would be recognized.
4. In January of 2023, with an outside Mediator approved by the NYS Public Employee's Relations Board present for these negotiations, the Union and the Town agreed to a "Memorandum of Agreement," approved by the Mediator. The approval indicated the following:
  - a. An increase in wages of at least \$3.65 per hour for the lowest scale employee, raising the hire rate to \$21.96 per hour. This represents a 20% across-the-board increase.
  - b. Retro pay for all Highway employees of at least \$7,389 each, more for those at higher levels on the scale.
  - c. An agreement that there will be an additional raise of 2.5% for 2024.
  - d. That the full-time employees will work 5 days each week.

Notwithstanding the Memorandum of Agreement, the employees at the Highway Department rejected the offer.

5. In March of 2023, the Town offered to start paying the staff the new hourly increase and recognize that the remaining issues of the 5-day work week and the retro pay were left to be resolved at future mediations. The employees rejected that offer.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?** The Town has submitted the last 2 offers and has yet to receive a counteroffer. The Town has called the Teamsters on numerous occasions since our last offer and to date they've not returned our calls.

## **2023 Newsletter - Volume 1**

## *Ted Hilscher's Town Historian Report*

### OLD ROADS PART 3

We learned in the first two articles of this series that the first north-south road through what is today New Baltimore was the King's Road, beginning after 1710. I will call that old road King's Road/9W to distinguish it from current town roads named Kings Road and Old Kings Road.

The next north-south road was the Albany-Greene Turnpike. Beginning after 1806 the turnpike ran up Riverside Avenue, and connected to today's Route 61 through a stretch of road now abandoned and on private property. The turnpike continued on Main Street through the hamlet and north to Coeymans Landing.

I'm interested in why roads are located where they are. These early north-south routes were analogous to today's Thruway: they were planned with the long distance traveler in mind, in contrast to the roads which evolved when numbers of local persons were traveling to the same places over and over.

In his book on Coxsackie, Ray Beecher speaks of the "Dutch farmers" using "crude wagon tracks to and from their isolated boweries." In the early days of settlement, where were local people going to and from, creating the first roads to wind through the thick woods that covered the region? To each other, for a visit or provide help. To the river, to pick up items that arrived by boat at the river landings in New Baltimore or Coeymans hamlets, or to deliver goods to be shipped. To the gristmill, a necessary destination for almost all early settlers, or to the sawmill. Maybe to church. That's about it.

The first settlement in this town by people of European background was in 1713, when Teunis Van Slyke built a stone house near the river north of or at the northern end of Bronck Island. By the 1740's his son Andrew built a house near today's railroad crossing of Route 144. A road from Andrew's house to Teunis's house may be the precursor to Kings Road, which ran due west from the river road and reached Route 144 west of the tracks before it was cut off by the Thruway.

When the trickle of settlers began in the eighteenth century, to the north the Coeymans mill was operating on the Coeymans Creek and to the south the Van Bergen mill operated on the Coxsackie Creek. "Crude wagon tracks" began to converge at these points. After the Revolution, the hills west of the river were first settled, and Dean's Mill on the Hannacroix was built.

Today we still use the "wagon tracks" which ran to Dean's Mill, once located immediately north of the Deans Mill Road bridge. As a tell-tale sign of its one-time importance, roads converge there from the north, east, west and two from the south.

The old roads snaked around rock outcroppings and ridges, and wetlands. Climbs and descents which were less steep were chosen. In the days before communities could afford the expense of bridge building and maintenance, streams had to be crossed where they could be forded, at least in dry weather. The need to find low stream banks and a wide shallow spot on the stream so as to permit fording dictated the route to be taken as the stream was neared, not the ultimate destination. Fords could be improved by laying flat rocks on the stream bed to provide a hard surface for wagon wheels. Kings Road/9W forded the Hannacroix at the end of Carhart Road, a crossing which has now been abandoned. Modern roads which faithfully follow the old roads now have bridges at old fording sites.

It has occurred to me that where flat ground is available, giving many options for the location of a road, the old road often runs along the bottom of a hill, just before the terrain begins to change. If you look at the original location of Kings Road/9W, before 9W was "improved" in the 1930s to accommodate faster automobile travel, you see Flatbush Road and Old State Road south of Ravena both running closer to the bottom of the high ground rising to the west of the flats now crossed by the new road. Similarly, north of and behind Albrights, the old road ran slightly to the east, hugging the bottom of the hill there. I'm guessing that the roads first went where it was easiest to go, and as the woods were cleared and turned into farmland, the roads were moved against the hills so as to keep as much open farmland as possible. You see this also where Route 51, heading west from West Deans Mill Road, hugs the bottom of the hill instead of running through Ted Flegel's fields.

In contrast, roads built in the automobile age very often destroyed farmland.

After the Albany-Greene Turnpike was discontinued just north of the Riverside Cemetery, a now abandoned road running west to Van Bergen Mills became the way from Coxsackie village to New Baltimore hamlet. The mill, located not much more than a stone's throw east of the current Route 61 bridge over the Coxsackie Creek, sat right next to a bridge that carried traffic into the automobile age. Town minutes indicate in 1935 that bridge was reopened after being closed for repairs, subject to a weight limitation. I do not yet know when that stretch of road was abandoned for good, resulting in the current dead-end for Riverside Avenue.

**Please send questions or comments to [townhistorian@townofnewbaltimore.org](mailto:townhistorian@townofnewbaltimore.org).**

# **Greene County News from County Legislator Pat Linger**

## **2023 Greene County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Update**

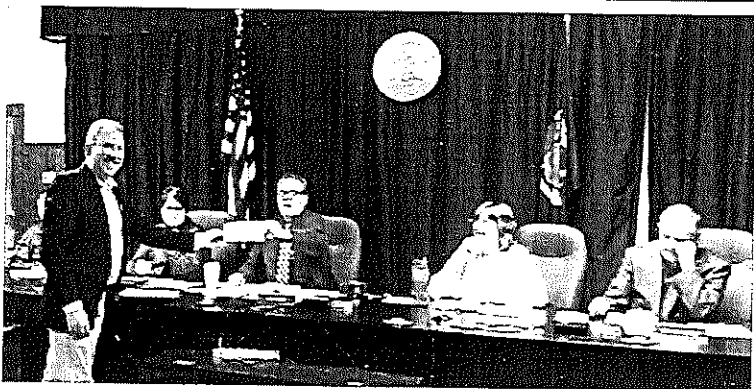
One of the duties of County Government is enacting policies that keep our residents safe. When disaster strikes, the Chief Executive Officer may issue an Emergency Declaration to accomplish this goal. As Chairman of the Legislature, I am the Chief Executive Officer for Greene County. We have recently updated our policies that will guide operations in the event of an emergency. These policies are structured around the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System. Both are recognized nationally as effective and efficient tools to manage critical operations.

Over the last 10 months, we have surveyed our Towns and Villages, met with local responders and County department heads, and collaborated with other County, State, and Federal agencies to gather information. The CEMP addresses all phases of emergency management for all types of incidents, including prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Policies are written with flexibility so each phase can be tailored as needed. Effective plans ensure Continuity of Government through communication, succession of command, continuity of operations, and preservation of records. Administration, Finance, and Logistics are key components of any large-scale incident.

Greene County is susceptible to a variety of natural, accidental/technological, and manmade/intentional hazards. Following an Emergency Preparedness risk assessment, we've identified the top 5 hazards to Greene County. These are high likelihood and high consequence potential events that include: Cyber Attacks, HazMat Release – in transit, Major Transportation Accident, Ice Storms (severe weather), and Pandemics. FEMA has also identified seven branches of 'Community Lifelines' which responses are structured around. Those include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical System; Energy; Communications; Transportation; and Hazardous Materials.

Article 2B of the NYS Constitution authorizes the existence of these plans. However, it is our County Emergency Manager, County Emergency Services Director, County Administrator, and County Legislative Chairman who must ensure plans are developed, approved, practiced, and amended as needed. I'd like to thank Dan King, John Farrell, and Shaun Groden for their dedication to keeping our residents safe!

**Thank you  
County Legislator Pat Linger**



County Legislator Pat Linger presented a \$100,000 check to Supervisor Jeff Ruso and the Town Board. In 2022, the Greene County Legislature provided grants from their ARPA allocation to all the towns and villages in the County.

The Town Board approved the purchase of a 2023 International HX620 at a cost of \$206,479. The \$100,000 of that cost will be paid from that grant and the difference will be paid from the Town of New Baltimore Highway Department Reserve funds.

## ***Upcoming Town Events***

### **AGFEST**

AgFest has been a very popular festival in our Town for 29 years with an amazing group of volunteers organizing this annual event. This year's dates are June 3-4 at the VanEtten Farm on Saw Mill Road. This annual weekend includes agricultural exhibits and tractor pulls, silent auction, crafts and contests for children, wildlife displays, horse drawn wagon rides, horse drawn tractor pulls, food vendors, musical entertainment for all and a car show weather permitting.

### **Veterans Committee**

The Veterans Committee is excited to announce their first post-Pandemic event. Please join us!

**All Veterans and their Families  
are Invited  
to a Complimentary Picnic  
on Saturday, July 15 at 12 Noon at  
Cecil Hallock Park**

In the event of rain, the picnic will be held at the Cornell Hook & Ladder Firehouse on Gill Road.

To RSVP please call Barb Finke or Amanda Eldred in the Town Clerk's Office at (518)756-6671, Ext. 5 by Wednesday, July 12.

The invitation list we have is from 2020 and we are working to update our database.

If you do not get an invitation and are a veteran, please call the Town Clerk's Office to be added to the list and join us on July 15.

We appreciate your service!

### **Family Fun Day**

Join us for Family Fun Day on Saturday, August 12 at Cecil Hallock Park beginning at noon. All events are free and open to the public.

Mark Rust will perform two shows. The first will be a 'Family Show' at 12 PM and at 1:30 'Classic Covers & Sing Alongs.'

Hot dogs, snacks, and beverages will be served.

Other events will be added to the schedule which will be updated on the Town website:

**[www.townofnewbaltimore.org](http://www.townofnewbaltimore.org)**

### **Seniors Committee**

Councilwoman Shelly VanEtten and Supervisor Jeff Ruso are planning two events at this time.

A picnic will be held in September at Cecil Hallock Park along with the annual Christmas event in December. Dates and details will be added to the website and posted in the next Newsletter.

## Greene County Rabies Clinic

Greene County Public Health Department is offering drive-up-only rabies clinics for Greene County residents at the Angelo Canna Town Park, Joseph D Spencer Lane in Cairo. If pets are due for a vaccination, the vaccine is free and donations will be accepted. It is asked that residents please pre-register by calling 518-719-3600 so paperwork can be ready. Residents are asked to arrive no sooner than 15 minutes prior to scheduled time. The dates are:

June 14 from 5-7 PM  
August 16 from 5-7 PM  
September 13 from 5-7 PM

The final day to register for each clinic is the Monday before the event. All dogs should be on a leash and cats or ferrets should be in a carrier. The Greene County Public Health Department asked residents to call ahead if bringing a ferret. Masks are required and those who attend are asked to stay in their cars at all times.

### Did You Know?

The Town's Recycling Center is open from 8 AM to Noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Since 2014 the Town has had an agreement with Baroni Metal Recovery to remove the metal dumpster when filled and to pay the Town the going rate for metals.

In 2022 the Town was paid \$1,199.80 and has received similar reimbursement for the last 9 years. These dollars are used to reduce the amount of taxes to be raised each year. In the last 9 years, this program has saved the taxpayers of the Town of New Baltimore approximately \$10,800.

So keep that scrap metal coming in and help yourselves and your fellow neighbors.

### New Baltimore Service Area to Open Soon

The New Baltimore Rest Area located on the southbound side of the New York State Thruway will be opening soon.

It is expected to include Chick-fil-A, Shake Shack, Panera Bread, a drive-through Starbucks, an Applegreen Market Store, and Mobil gas station.

Additionally, this 20,145 square foot facility is slated to include a seasonal farmers market and Taste NY products.

The New Baltimore facility is one of 27 service areas that are being renovated as part of a \$450 million project and one of 16 included in Phase 1.

Reconstruction of 11 service areas in Phase 2 will begin this year.

**2023 Greene County Household  
Hazardous Waste Collection Event**  
Saturday, June 24  
[www.greenegovernment.com](http://www.greenegovernment.com)

### **Do You Need A 911 Sign or EZ-Pass Tag?**

Call Dawn or Sandy in the Assessor's Office at (518)756-6617, Ext. 8 to place your order for a 911 Sign.

E-ZPass Tags are available in the Town Clerk's Office for \$25 which is credited to an account when activated.



### Joseph Wyche District #1 Park Update

Renovations are 95% complete at the Joseph Wyche District #1 Park on New Baltimore Road. Presently we are awaiting our new playground equipment to be delivered and installed by the Miracle Recreation Equipment Company. Now that the weather is finally cooperating we are planning the installation for the end of May weather permitting.

### DOT Approves Speed Reduction on Town Roads

The Town has been notified that their request for speed reductions on Old Kings Road, North Ridge Road, and Flatbush Road has been approved.

Old Kings Road and North Ridge Road were unposted and governed by the statewide 55 mph. After review, the speed limit has been lowered to 35 mph and 40 mph respectively.

Flatbush Road was 40 mph and after field investigation, the limit has been reduced to 35 mph.

New signs will be installed shortly.

### Thank You to the Friends of New Baltimore Recreation



Shelly VanEtten presents Supervisor Jeff Ruso with a \$2,000 check from the Friends of New Baltimore Recreation.

The 'Friends of New Baltimore' was formed in 2015 and raises funds to assist the Town in refurbishing and upgrading our Parks.

This \$2,000 check will help with the purchase and installation of the new playground equipment at Joseph Wyche District 1 Park.

### Community Choice Aggregation Update

In September of last year, the Town of New Baltimore renewed their Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program locking in rates for residents and small businesses for the next two years starting in December of 2022.

Central Hudson electricity supply rates fluctuate every month and had spiked several times last year. The Town wanted to ensure that residents and small businesses had a more stable fix price option.

Although the Town's Community rate increased from last year, it is still lower than the historical Central Hudson rates. Residents and small businesses were automatically enrolled in the program and had 30 days to opt-out in November. However, if a resident chose to opt out from the program in the past, they would not be enrolled in the CCA program renewal.

**For more information about the Town's CCA program and the rates go to [www.greenecountycommunityenergy.com/new-baltimore](http://www.greenecountycommunityenergy.com/new-baltimore)**

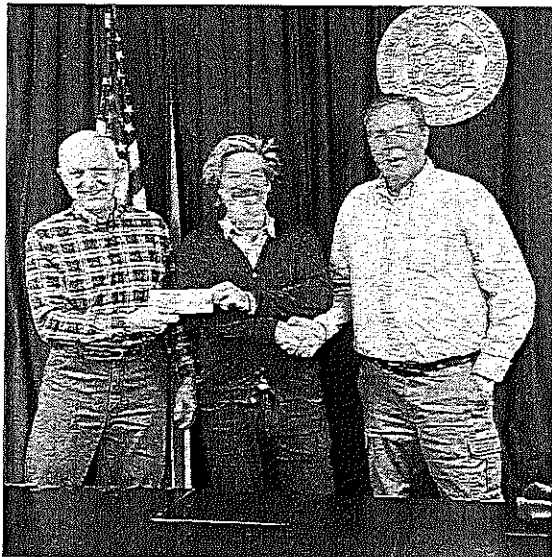
## Speed Study Results for Route 144

Town Supervisor Jeff Ruso and Town Councilman Bill Boehlke requested Sheriff Pete Kusminsky to assist in fact finding about the conditions of speeders on Route 144. They met and did a walking tour of the road when the speed monitor was installed in front of the post office. That speed monitor captures data about the speed of the vehicles. Here is the data as gathered for May 7 through May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Total vehicles	2128
Average Speed	30.3
Number at or below speed limit	1633
Percentage at or below speed limit	76.7%
Number over the speed limit	495
Percentage over the speed limit	23.3%
Number 10 miles per hour over	5
Number 20 miles per hour over	1



The Town Board thanks Sheriff Kusminsky for his assistance in gathering this information. Currently, the speed monitor has now been placed facing the opposite direction for additional data gathering. We will continue to keep you updated on our findings.



**Paul McMenemy of Solar Generation Inc.**  
visited Town Hall to present the  
Town with a check for  
\$20,000 in March.

This was the result of negotiations  
with the Town for a  
“Community Host Agreement.”

Solar Generation is the first  
commercial solar project  
in New Baltimore and is  
already in operation  
off Route 9W

## It's Yard Sale Time

The 2023 Townwide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, September 16 at 9 AM. Sign-up forms are available at Town Hall, by calling the Town Clerk's Office at (518)756-6671 Ext. 5, or at [www.townofnewbaltimore.org](http://www.townofnewbaltimore.org). Categories of goods for sale include A-Antiques; B-Books; C-Clothing, F-Furniture, H-Housewares, KCT-Kids' Clothing/Toys; SG-Sporting Goods; T-Tools; and O-Other. Maps will be available at 8 AM on the day of the sale **only** on the steps at Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Cecil C. Hallock Park, and other locations throughout Town.

## Calendar

### Town Board Meetings

2nd and 4th Mondays  
7 PM

### Planning Board Meetings

2nd Thursday\* 7 PM

### Zoning Board Meetings

1st Wednesday\* 7:30 PM

\* If no agenda, no meeting

For agendas and other  
Town information, please  
call Town Offices or visit  
our website.

[www.townofnewbaltimore.org](http://www.townofnewbaltimore.org)

## Town Hall Contact Information

Town Hall FAX (518)756-8880

Animal Control Officer Sheri Vieta		(518)322-9783
Town Clerk	Barb Finke	(518)756-6671, Ext. 2&5
	Amanda Eldred, Deputy	
Zoning/Planning/ Building		(518)756-6671, Ext. 6
	Allan Jourdin, Building Inspector	#1
	Marjorie Loux, Clerk	#2
Town Supervisor	Jeff Ruso	(518)756-6671, Ext. 7
Assessor/Clerk	Dawn DeRose	(518)756-6671, Ext. 8
	Sandy Trombley, Clerk	
Highway Superintendent	Alan VanWormer	(518)756-2078
		FAX (518)756-3078
Town Court	Justices Huff and Konsul	(518)756-2079
	Lynne Layman-Wallace	
	Asia Irizarry-Decker	
Greene County Sheriff		(518)756-3300

New Baltimore Town Hall  
3809 County Route 51  
Hannacroix, NY 12087