

COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
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Supervisor O'Rorke called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending: Councilwoman Finke, Councilmen Byas and Meredith, Highway Superintendent Jordan, Town Clerk Brooks, and 26 members of the public. Absent: Tax Collector Taylor, Councilman Norris.

Supervisor O'Rorke welcomed all attending and reminded the public that it was announced at the January Regular Meeting that the December Monthly Reports would be given at the January Work Meeting, giving Board members the opportunity to hear department heads' concerns - staffing, resources, equipment or training- before action was need to be taken. This practice will be followed for the next few months; if it does not work well, can return to previous custom. Action may be taken at a Work Meeting under emergency situations; it is not the Supervisor's or Board's goal to begin taking actions at the Work Meetings.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Supervisor reported having attended NYS Association of Towns Training School for Newly-Elected Officials on January 5-7, 2010, that was very informative. Supervisor received a contract from the Ravena Rescue Squad; action will be taken at the February Regular Meeting. By their defining resolution, the semi-annual reports for Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals will go to February 8 Regular Meeting of the Town Board. Councilman Byas asked if they were quarterly; Supervisor confirmed: semi-annual.

Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan reported for the month of **December 2009**: Cut down dead trees with Greene County Highway Dept. bucket truck; Saturday, December 5: Snow, plowed and sanded all roads; Patched holes with winter mix and crusher run; Wednesday, December 9: Called in at 3 a.m. for snow, plowed and sanded all roads 4 times; Cleaned up intersections from snow storm; Salted ice on Shady Lane; Took Ford F550 to Crossroads Ford for transmission work; Replaced plow blades on 2 trucks; Sunday, December 13: Called in at 12 noon for snow, plowed and sanded 2 times ; Monday, December 14: Called in at 3 a.m., sanded all roads; Washed, greased, and checked over all trucks; Replaced battery box on 89 International; Replaced drive bearings in paver; Picked up steel from Albany Steel and repaired holes in 2 snowplows; Built ladder for sander on '89 International; Having transmission problems on Samsung Loader, Vantage equipment made repairs so it will move but transmission is in very bad condition; Cleaned up in and around shop.

Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan reported for the month of **January 2010**: Saturday, January 2: Snow, very windy, called all in at 4 a.m. to plow and sand worked until 8:30am; Saturday, January 2: Called one man back in at 12 noon to help plow drifts until 5p.m. very windy; Saturday, January 2: Called one man in at 6 p.m. to plow drifts until 12 midnight; Sunday, January 3: Snow called all in at 5 a.m. plowed and sanded all roads until 4 p.m; Sunday, January 3: Called all back in at 6:30 p.m, plowed and sanded all roads until 10:30 p.m; Monday, January 4: Snow, called all in at 4 a.m, plowed and sanded all roads; Changed plow blades on 3 trucks; Changed oil and filter on 2002 Ford pickup; Repaired or replaced 10 street signs; Changed oil in 2 air compressors; Patched holes with winter mix; Removed ice from High Bridge Road with backhoe; Friday, January 8: Snow, plowed and sanded all roads; Saturday, January 9: Called in one man to salt icy spots; Sunday, January 10: Called in one man to salt icy spots; Replaced broken headlight on Ford F550; Hauled one load of winter mix from Callanan; Monday, January 11, Superintendent and Deputy Highway Superintendent Van Wormer attended Town Board Meeting until 10:30 pm; Washed and greased all trucks; Sanded and painted rear fenders on 80 Oshkosh; January 13: Ordered new loader (John Deere 544K); Tightened sander chain on 80 Oshkosh; Replaced exhaust manifold gaskets and studs on F550 ; Replaced front brakes on F550; Friday, January 15: Returned rental loader to Vantage equipment; Sunday, January 17: Snow, called in all at 5 p.m. plowed and sanded all roads, worked all night until 3:30 pm on January 18; Replaced rear brakes on 2002 Ford pickup; Replaced pinion seal in transfer case on 80 Oshkosh; Replaced plow blade on 85 Oshkosh; Picked up steel from Albany Steel to repair rusted spots in dump bodies; Serviced all lawn mowers for spring; Wednesday, January 20; Took delivery of John Deere loader from Nortrax and sent old loader as trade in; Installed body, raised lights on all dump bodies, per NYS Department of Transportation, for inspections; Installed electrical disconnect switch on '85 International dump; Removed floor mat from '91 International, will be painting the floor and replacing the mat, starting to rust; Sunday, January 24: Called in all at 7

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p.m. sanded all roads until 10p.m. Monday, January 25; Checked all drains and culverts, heavy rain expected.

Councilwoman Finke offered that she had just learned this day that the funding levels for New York State Department of Transportation Budget Proposal, Dated 14-Jan-2010 for **Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS)** are the same as 2009.

Supervisor O'Rorke highlighted that Superintendent Jordan had negotiated \$8,000 worth of extras for no additional charge on the new John Deere loader, and is looking for a good price on a broom now that we have coupler; the Town has spent approximately \$4000 to rent a sweeper in the past. Building Inspector John Cashin will look at the red Highway barn's rafters and sill. Supervisor expressed an interest in comparing the cost of insulating the pole barn to the electricity costs incurred with the electric block heaters. Supervisor said there was still surplus equipment to be gotten rid of; Mr. Jordan said the boom mower was never sold.

Member of the public asked regarding expenditures and the budget. Supervisor said the former Supervisor's monthly statement of revenues and expenditures for the Board would be continued. Member of the public asked how the agenda was publicized; Supervisor answered the agenda would be on the website for the February meeting. Member of the public asked for folks who do not have a computer? Answer: Available at the Town Clerk's office. Member of the public asked for press release to communicate that; Supervisor said the deadline of the paper may be difficult. Member of the public asked for the items that were discussed tonight and headed for the next meeting's agenda.

Greene County Legislator - Jim Van Slyke reported that **Greene County Mental Health** has a name change, **Center for Behavioural Wellness** is a term that has been adopted by NYS Health Department as well. Greene County Clerk Michael Flynn is applying for a NYS shared municipal services incentive grant to study whether the county could provide centralized inactive records management for towns, villages, school districts, fire districts, and libraries; a grant application to do that has been authorized. Legislator Van Slyke said Town Clerk Brooks was spoken of at the meeting for very good records management in the Town of New Baltimore and the vault in New Baltimore is fire resistant. Greene County's sales tax revenue for 2009 is off by 8.5%; for 2010, the expectation was reduced. Delinquent taxes have increased to \$5.8 million from \$4.7 in previous year. There will be a meeting on January 28 to discuss the Maurer property; John Cashin has a meeting on February 2. Councilman Byas said 1-1.5 years ago [Byas] had the water tested by Bender Labs and there was no oil or anything. Rich Guthrie noted that Legislator Van Slyke is now on the Buildings and Grounds Committee and Building and Grounds Superintendent Search Committee; Mr. Van Slyke said 39 applications have been received.

Town Clerk Brooks reported receipts for the month of December: 1 Certificate of Occupancy search \$15; 1 sign permit \$10; 2 building permits \$675; 10 dog licenses \$89.75; 1 marriage license \$17.50; 38 certified copies \$380; 46 photocopies \$11.50; and recycling fees totally \$144, total local revenue of \$1342.75 and non-local revenues \$93.75. Clerk Brooks read her year end report: ~attached~ She reported attending a Certified Municipal Clerks' Institute (CMCI) webinar on January 14, which she began in the summer of 2009. 23 attendee from across NYS and 2 from California, included two friends from Town of Canaan and Village of Lancaster on the topic of Sustainable Communities; powerpoint screens will be emailed and available for members of the Boards who may be interested. She has been invited by County Clerk to use a shredder in Catskill—approximately 7-10 boxes identified as having **reached their retention**. Clerk Brooks also asked the Board's authorization to attend the New York State Town Clerks' Association conference in Saratoga Springs April 25-28, 2010; on agenda for February.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator Jim Polverelli reported a submersible pump runs constantly, and now the back-up pump is in use as the original has problems. Councilman Byas said that Mr. Polverelli is gathering prices, cost share with Honeywell, we will go to high-efficiency, Central Hudson's grant program will pay for difference in the motor and, depending on usage, the pump should pay for itself in electricity in 3-3.5 years according to the Honeywell chart. Scott Alarm previously provided an alarm system at pumping station; Mr. Polverelli is getting prices for that and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Clerk Brooks commented that we have a phone connection alarm at Houghtaling Road/Serta to provide the same. Member of the public asked if there was a standard approach to any expenditure [inaudible]; Answer: the Town's procurement policy was adopted at January 1, 2010 Organizational Meeting.

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Historian Clesson Bush reported taking a walk on Main Street, met the builder of the new house, referenced a circular stone foundation that happens to appear on the map on the back wall of the Meeting Room; it was a large pumping structure or windmill- the builder will send a copy to the new owner. Regarding the Bicentennial Committee, former local resident Anthony Gambino, who recently published a cd book on nautical history, had interviewed several people in the 1970's, has digitized those interviews and given them to Historian Cless Bush and Greene County Historical Society.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer John Cashin summarized activities for the month of December 2009 is as follows: Building Inspections: 11; Building Permits Issued: 1; Building Permits Renewed: 1; Certificates of Compliance Issued: 3; Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 2; Commercial Site Fire Inspections: 1; Court Appearances: 2; Junk Vehicle Complaints: 2; Sign Permit Applications: 1; Code Violation Investigations: 3; Zoning Violation Investigations: 1; Application Fees for Dec., 2009: \$ 685.00; Total Fees for Year to Date: \$24,551.80.

Year-End Report for 2009-Summarization of Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer activities for the 2009 year are as follows: Building Inspections: 174; Building Permits Issued: 49; Building Permits Renewed: 22; Car Restoration Permit Applications Received: 5; Car Restoration Permit Issued: 3; Car Restoration Permit Renewed: 1; Certificates of Compliance Issued: 32; Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 35; Temporary Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 1; Change of Occupancy Applications Received: 1; Commercial Permits Issued: 3; Commercial Site Fire Inspections: 3; Court Appearances: 11; Demolition Permit Applications Received: 1; Demolition Permits Issued: 5; Do Not Occupy: 0; Junk Vehicle Complaints: 19; Manufactured (Mobile) Home Permits Issued: 2; Manufactured (Mobile) Home Permits Re-Opened: 0; New Building Permit Applications Received: 57; Outside Boiler/Woodstoves, etc. Permits Issued: 5; Pool Permit Applications Received: 2; Pool Permits Issued: 1; Septic Permit Application: 2; Septic Tank Replacement Applications Received: 2; Septic Tank Replacement Permits Issued: 3; Sign Permit Applications: 4; Sign Permit Issued: 3; Stop Work Orders Issued: 3; Code Violation Investigations: 80; Zoning Violation Investigations: 64; Application Fees Collected: \$24,551.80

Councilman Byas had no additions to the report. As there is only one building inspector in 2010, Supervisor asked Councilman Byas about looking to adjacent communities for coverage in the event of vacation, sickness or fire emergency (an inter-municipal agreement). Question from the public to define Car Restoration Permit; Answer: Car without plates, whose owner must make 50% progress in a year/18-month maximum, and applies for a permit for \$25.

Assessor Gordon Bennett reported for December 2009 regarding the STAR (Enhanced, Aged and Other Exemption) Renewals: Property owners are returning their completed forms that were mailed in December. Many are stopping into the office to return their completed forms in person after visiting the new tax collector. Follow-up contact is being made for any incomplete applications. For Data Collection 2010: This is on hold due to limited availability of Don Daoust. There is a possibility of hiring an individual who, at this time, is considering working as data collector for Cossackie, Greenville, and Durham.

Supervisor added that there is an opening on the Board of Assessment Review, the salary is \$200/year, the necessary training is 4 hours/year on one evening in March in Catskill, Grievance Day (5/24) is 8 hours long, and a possible decision-making meeting the following day. Ellie Alfeld added that two other meetings are held (with pizza dinner) if called by Assessor Gordon Bennett; the opening will be posted on website, Councilwoman Finke drafted an ad that calls for a letter of interest, Supervisor asked if a resume was required for the Board of Assessment Review; consensus was to require a letter of interest [inaudible] to run in Daily Mail, Greenville Press, and Ravena News Herald/Greene County Local Courier. All three positions require residency in the Town; a local law would be required if the residency requirement were to be waived.

Agriculture Committee - Councilman Byas had no report. Member of the public said the committee meets 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at Town Hall. Liz Loguidice, who was not present, has a presentation announcement coming out soon. Member of the public asked the content of the presentations; Answer: Local agriculture topics and it will be e-mailed to the Clerk.

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Planning Board Chair Lee Davis reports for the Month of December 2009: The Planning Board has met twice since its last report to the Town Board. At the November 12, 2009, Planning Board Meeting: Public Hearing was held on the Site Plan Application for Dr. Marvin Gertzberg's Dental Office. In the Regular Monthly Meeting that followed, the Dr. Marvin Gertzberg Site Plan for his dental office was approved with conditions. Planning Board Chair signed and stamped revised Site Plan for Raj SAI Hospitality adding the currently existing Manager's residence for Best Western to the Site Plan. At the December 10, 2009, Planning Board Meeting: Renewed Site Plan for Jyoti SAI Hospitality (Holiday Inn Express) for the period January 1, 2010, through April 30, 2010, to give them time to complete the remaining work on the building.

YEAR-END REPORT - 2009 The Planning Board reports for 2009 as follows: Meetings Held: 12 Regular Monthly, 1 Work; Subdivisions Approved: 1; New Lots Created: 3; Illegal Subdivisions Corrected: 0; Minor Site Plans Approved: 1; Site Plans Approved: 2; Site Plans Extended: 1; Special Use Permits Approved: 1; Fees Taken In: \$780.00. Councilman Byas said there is an opening on the Board. Supervisor said the Semiannual report will be given at the February Regular Town Board Meeting by the Chair.

Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk Marjorie Loux stated that there are 3 members currently on the ZBA, all are required in attendance to hold a meeting, there is an action before them this month and there may be a second action. Chair Meave Tooher reported for the month of December, 2009: The Zoning Board of Appeals met on November 4, 2009, and heard the Variance Application request of Stacey Miller to allow her to temporarily have two residences on the property she owns on County Route 51. Necessary Public Hearing on the application has been scheduled for 7:30pm, January 6, 2010. **YEAR-END REPORT -2009 -** The Zoning Board of Appeals reports for 2009 as follows: Meetings Held: 3; Variances Approved - 1 Renewal; Fees Received: \$0. Councilman Byas said there was an opening on the Board and asked if Stacey Miller hadn't been postponed to February 3; Answer: Yes.

Rich Guthrie asked about the time element for ads, and selection of Board members needed, and asked if not a quorum, what occurred. Councilwoman Finke said her consult with NYS Association of Towns was to simply accomplish the meeting as soon as possible. Planning Board Chair Lee Davis, in Subdivision Ordinance, said once the application has been accepted that the clock starts ticking that the public hearing must be held and approval by so many days; if it doesn't occur within a certain number of days of acceptance of an application, statute provides a defaulted acceptance, and he added that he didn't know if that was the same for Variances. Rich Guthrie suggested an expeditious search to fill vacancies on the ZBA to avoid a potential situation. Supervisor said ZBA has a commitment for the upcoming meeting, barring sickness or emergency; Planning/Zoning Board Clerk Loux reported that the agenda addresses a second residence that is temporarily on the property.

Building and Grounds/Maintenance Spencer Sebert reported having installed a new doorknob on the Sheriff's satellite entry door, lubricated the door knob of the meeting room door, and shoveled snow. As **Recycling Center** Operator, Spencer Sebert reported receipt of 2 washers at \$7.50, 22 tires at \$2.00, 29 60-gallon bags of plastic, 10 55-gallon drums of cans; 59 bundles of magazines; 84 bags of newspapers; 4 bags of shredded paper; 42 boxes & bundles of cardboard, for total revenue of \$59.00. Also, 5 tires came from the Highway Department, and the Highway Department removed 28 tires from Recycling Center.

Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement At the December 15, 2009, Greene County Emergency Management Services meeting, there was discussion on a program called electric patient care reporting (EPCR). This new program will improve revenue recovery and assist in better patient care. Eventually, information gathered at the 911 center in Greene County will be uploaded to laptop computers along with patient data and response times. When the call is closed out, the data is then sent to the billing agency for patient billing. In order to implement this program, the board needed to vote on the purchase of five new laptop computers and contract with the firm that will oversee the input of the data collected by the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) with the laptops. The cost of the system and five laptops is approximately \$25,000, the board voted to approve this program with much of the funding provided by the Greene County Rural Health Network. It is anticipated most of the ambulance companies in the county will also participate in this program. The Town of New Baltimore in the month of November had six EMS calls for a total of 79 in the 11-month period of 2009.

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Animal Control Officer Joe Tanner reported for December 2009: traveled 203 miles in the month, had 6 dog, 2 cat and 3 livestock complaints, mostly about cold weather and shelter. Also, had a call about a dog running on East Honey Hollow Road and the owner was found. A dog was picked up on Medway-Earlton Road, held for 2 days, and owner was found. Clerk Brooks added that an unlicensed dog had been found running on State Route 144 near marina, and Joe was holding it. Supervisor asked Councilman Byas how long ACO Tanner could hold the dog for; Answer: Unsure, that we have our own shelter. Councilman Byas thought it was a week but didn't know offhand, NYS Agriculture and Markets had given the Town guidelines. Cless Bush asked for a description; Answer: Small and calling Joe Tanner was recommended. Councilman Byas said usually Joe can find the owner in a couple of days, there is no money involved, and the person gives a bag of dog food.

For **Antique Agricultural and Machinery Festival/AgFest**, Councilman Byas said there was no report yet.

For **Parks**, he reported working with Amy Decker to get the report done for Greene County. Councilman Byas reported receiving the Park Rental Permit application to review for possible changes for 2010.

Promotion/Economic Development/Grants Councilwoman Finke reported having attended a NYSERDA session in New Paltz on January 8; their program did not cover Wastewater Treatment Plant. She was able to make some contacts, ask questions, and was glad to have gone.

Newsletter/Web Site/Technology Councilman Meredith reported [inaudible] that changes are done by the Town Clerk; he will upload meeting agendas. Former Councilwoman Arlene McKeon added her offer of help with the Newsletter; email Councilwoman Finke or Councilman Meredith with items for the Newsletter for which there is a March 13 **Newsletter submission deadline**. Town Clerk Brooks asked to announce the March 24 **Free Rabies Clinic** at Medway-Grapeville Firehouse, direct questions to Greene County Public Health, at 719-3600. Councilman Byas asked if that was free; Clerk Brooks answered yes, and Councilman Byas would be seeking volunteers for the event [inaudible]. Former Councilwoman McKeon said that Joe Tanner has done well finding people to help him. Councilman Byas asked if a rabies shot was needed to license a dog; Answer: yes. Deputy Town Clerk Loux commented in the Town Clerk's Year-end report for 2009 there were 248 dog licenses and added that there must be more than 248 dogs in the Town [laughter]. Councilman Byas asked if there were multiple-year licenses; Answer: not in New Baltimore. Deputy Town Clerk Marjorie Loux recalled at the time of former Town Clerk Barbara Weeks' passing, a candidate for office went to a door and, talking and off-guard, a dog bit her and Clerk Loux was able to find the dog within the Town's licensing system and confirm rabies vaccination.

Promotion/Economic Development Councilman Norris reported the Farmers' Market Committee met on January 14th and the following actions took place; Lynn Taylor was voted onto the committee and was elected secretary. The location of the Farmers' Market will be changed to the District 2, Cecil Hallock Park. The hours for the market will be changed to 9:00 to 12:00 noon. The first day of the market will be June 12th and run for 16 weeks, the last day will be September 25th. The committee is looking for vendors who would like to participate in the market. The next meeting will be February 11th. The Holiday Inn Express is expected to open sometime in February; the signs of the establishment should be going up shortly and we welcome this new business to the Town of New Baltimore.

Personnel The Town's newly-adopted Workplace Violence Prevention Policy requires training of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members- who are in the building after business hours. Assessor Gordon Bennett has completed training; the Board of Assessment Review will not be required to undergo training. With regard to the New York State and Local Retirement System, elected and appointed officials who are part of the Retirement System and do not fill out a time card or time sheet in the past have kept a one-month log submitted to the Town Board, now will be a three-month log sent to the Town Clerk, due by May 30, 2010. If a previous log was submitted in last eight years, there is no need to do; if that log is not representative of current work, then a new log may be submitted. The log will be retained 10 years or until updated. Those affected individuals will be notified by Supervisor or Councilman Meredith. Following that, the Town Board has until June 29, 2010 to pass a resolution designating the hours that they require for elected and appointed positions that can be anywhere from 6-8 hours per day

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and can be different from department to department, i.e. clerks working 6 hours a day, building department working 7 hours per day. Town Board will take this up at March meeting. The resolution must be posted on Town's website for 30 days. This only applies to newly-elected, newly-appointed, re-elected or re-appointed in the year of the election or appointment.

Town Employee Manual- Councilman Meredith and Supervisor O'Rorke will be working on an employee manual, with the guidance and updating of former Councilwoman McKeon.

Insurance Requests For Proposals/quotations on insurance have been advertised. Grapeville Agency is interested, asked for quotations for presentation at the February Work Meeting. Supervisor has made request to the Town's current broker, Marshall and Sterling, for a four-day extension because the renewal is March 1, 2010; if that extension is not granted, action may need to be taken at the February Work Meeting.

Wastewater Treatment Plant is in Flood Zone A; Supervisor has asked for a flood insurance quote for the Plant- depending on the deductible it would be anywhere \$6,000-\$12,000; Federal Emergency Management Agency is reluctant to provide assistance if a municipality does not protect itself and the Town of New Baltimore does not have coverage currently. Councilman Byas asked how many years the Plant has been there; Answer: 1986. Councilman Byas asked if there has been a flood in that time, will ask Chief Operator Jim Polverelli. Rich Guthrie suggested the Pump Station be included in the investigation; Supervisor believes the Pump Station is also Flood Zone A, adding that the cost of the Pump Station was significantly less than the Plant.

Supervisor O'Rorke is also waiting on the court security officer issue, insurance carrier asked for the Town's Policies and Procedures for that officer, Supervisor responded that the Town did not have Policies and Procedures for that position. Supervisor is waiting for a proposal from Greene County Sheriff Seeley as well. Councilman Byas asked if the Town couldn't just put him on the payroll; Supervisor answered that the Town still needs a law enforcement policy (additional cost) and Policies and Procedures- this is an armed individual in a courtroom. Councilman Byas asked what Cocksackie was doing and could we model after them.

Bernie Jones believes the Pump Station is a sealed unit.

New Business

Court Clerk Position- Councilwoman Finke said Justice Cosenza have resumes in hand, will schedule interviews after court on Tuesday, Councilwoman Finke will be present, and the Town Board will take further action at February Regular Meeting of the Town Board.

Technology issues- The Town has been fortunate for computer technology support to rely on former Councilwoman McKeon's late brother, Jeff Broadhurst, Councilman Chris Norris (who is spending time in Florida); and former Supervisor David Louis who was very knowledgeable with computer issues. What would employees in Town Hall do if they could not get their computers up and running? What does the court do? What kind of back-up plan does the Town Board want to have in place for them? Who could be contacted? Clerk Brooks suggested to the Committee: Radical Systems in Greenville, a family firm in Cocksackie servicing the Town and Village of Cocksackie, Brick Row Technologies in Ravena, and B&B Computers in Catskill.

Goals and Projects for 2010

Board of Ethics -The previous Town Board has put funding in place to follow-up and some new things that the Board may wish to tackle. At the NYS Association of Towns (AOT) Supervisor learned about a Board of Ethics; General Municipal Law provides minimal standards for conflicts of interest that each Town must abide by and the Town can adopt more stringent standards- the Board of Ethics can offer opinions to elected officials and employees.

Rules of Procedure - NYS Association of Towns also advocates Rules of Procedure as opposed to the adoption of Roberts Rules of Order. (AOT says Roberts Rules conflicts with Town Law, for example: in Roberts Rules of Order the presiding officer-Town Supervisor in this case- cannot vote. Town Law requires that the Town Supervisor cast a vote.)

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Town Hall's Downstairs Offices - Supervisor asked Councilman Byas the status of the downstairs construction; Councilman Byas answered that the space could be two offices, or four if they were divided in two. He did not know the balance in that line item, he hoped for community service workers in the next 2-3 months, all the materials are there, one room needs sheetrock and drop ceiling for volunteer crews to do. Councilman Byas will contact the Greene County Sheriff's Office; previously there were union labor issues. Rich Guthrie asked if there were insurance issues to be addressed before the work? Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan asked to hire someone and finish in 2-3 days. Councilman Byas said the individual would have to move a hot water heater. Supervisor asked about the stairs. Councilman Byas didn't think there was money for stairs, and didn't know how much money was left in the account. Supervisor said there was money in Reserve. Town Clerk Brooks asked that the Town Board hire someone to complete the electrical work: hanging wires in the Utility Room, put lighting in the Furnace Room, and install switches and light fixtures.

Agenda February 2010 meeting

Budget Amendments will need to be made; there may be monies left from 2009.

With regard to questions and misunderstandings about the new zoning, Supervisor looks to new Board members as to what may be the best way to alleviate those misunderstandings, perhaps Town Hall meetings with representatives of professional community, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Planning Board. With regard to the contents of the Town's Building Code versus the New York State Uniform Fire Safety and Building Code, maybe involve the Department of State's Division of Codes, and, regarding economic development, address citizens' concerns about zoning's effects on economic development. The Town Board can also look at establishing a committee of landowners and business owners who may want to make recommendations to the Board; Councilwoman Finke liked the committee idea, having heard that people didn't feel they had a voice in the zoning. [inaudible]

Planning Board Chair Lee Davis felt these were good ideas, that a good number of folks were involved in the 5-7 year process that led up to the enactment of the zoning, and is concerned that the Town is polarized over the zoning; he added that the people that worked on those committees had the best interests of the Town at heart, put in a lot of honest work, but that there is significant misunderstanding and misinformation, and when their concerns were addressed that their emotions went down, but that polarization is not good for the community. There was effort to make an open process, maybe people thought there were things that were not well-communicated, still the community can look at itself and say job well-done.

Supervisor asked if Town Hall meetings were hosted, would members of the Planning Board and ZBA come and answer questions. Planning Board Chair Lee Davis would come and answer questions. Member of the public said that the people who are impacted need to be involved, small businesses and large landowners. Supervisor asked if question and answer format Town Hall meetings would be helpful; member of the public thought it needed more thought by the Board. Bob Knighton asked that if a committee were to be formed, thought should be given to how to staff and support it, as well-informed amateurs need [assistance] with technical and legal content. Nils Backlund said the biggest thing that went wrong was polarization, he wants to be on committee, he did sit home, those who were involved had good intentions, natives were ignored or chose not to participate, and documents and passages need to be changed. Nils continued that there were too many professionals involved who were paid and [don't live here].

Lee Davis said it wasn't "a bill of goods" but it was tailored to the needs of the Town. Nils Backlund said that professionals do this as a living. (inaudible) outside of budget to get answers. Lee Davis repeated Bob Knighton's issue, and, depending on the level of revisiting amendments that may occur, that would also impact the newly-adopted Comprehensive Plan and the new zoning. To re-open the Comprehensive Plan, there are state laws and procedures that were followed by the various committees and need to be understood as we move forward. It is up to the Town Board to decide at what level and how and that is not a simple process, consult with the Town Attorney about what those requirements are, will they look at general things and come up with initial recommendations of small amendments without affecting the Comprehensive Plan, or if you are looking at reopening the entire 5-7 year process.

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Member of the public [inaudible] any amount of work, [inaudible] Highway Department, everything has to be valued, and the Board needs to talk about it. Nils Backlund said [you folks] knew what you were doing, that it would be difficult to go back and look at and change, if [you] had worked with [us] on the conservation easement and made a compromise there would be no objection in the room, if that is what it will take to undo it, he is in, felt "wool was pulled over" their eyes, and the Town Board that voted against the public opinion should be ashamed.

Bob Knighton said the Board did not vote against the public's opinion, having held publicized open meetings for anyone who wanted to come for 2 years, and when people came they became part of a group and were notified, and included more, no effort to pull wool, there was a lot of compromise made, many say that the revised zoning did not go far enough to protect the rural character of the Town, we don't know what the 5% voting margin think—those who are against zoning say, "We want to protect the rural character of the Town of New Baltimore." Member of the public said can't turn your back on 300 people who signed a petition. Diane Louis asked to stop pointing fingers, come together, and start talking about. Member of the public needed to hear that [inaudible] [the Board] was taking on some input. Diane Louis felt that was clear.

Supervisor O'Rourke stated that, in her suggestion, the Town Board and the community would be included, has heard lots of questions, she still has questions, wouldn't mind listening to other individuals, and it was her suggestion that the Town have people of varying viewpoints come and ask questions of other various resources, some in the community and some outside the community. If [the Board] feels that [the Board's] done information-gathering and is well-informed, that the Board put together a committee or two with full Board input. Public law prohibits the Town Board from meeting outside as a group and so this is the opportunity, a Work Meeting, and Supervisor wanted to open the topic. Councilman Byas feels it needs to be discussed further, doesn't think one committee will do it, may be three Town issues in one, the hamlet, the 9W corridor, Medway, and the farmers; and to have the right approach to go about it. Councilwoman Finke feels it is time to communicate.

Former Councilwoman Arlene McKeon hears misinformation, confusion, and misunderstanding. The process was started long time ago, 6 open meetings, asked for volunteers, representative large landowners, home business owners, people who have lived here for generations, and she has minutes of meetings that can list the hundreds of people who came through Citizens Planning Advisory Group, Comprehensive Plan Committee, and the special group meetings. What New Baltimore went through became a model for other communities to follow. Former Councilwoman McKeon regrets that some people still don't understand the process that was followed for openness, she remembers bringing doughnuts, and she offered to put together a listing of all the meetings to show the process that was done; in noticing someone shaking their head, she said that in doing so the person is closing off what really happened.

Member of the public said she wants to be heard, and there was something wrong, [inaudible] Former Councilwoman McKeon would like to give that information to the Board, having visited businesses regarding the misinterpreted sign laws and knowing about the misrepresentation of thousands of pages when the code book was revised; and added that misrepresentations keep things fired up. Councilwoman Finke likes the idea of a committee. Alta Turner said it is good to open communication; there is anxiety, confusion, not flawless, but it would be a tragedy to lose the time, energy and problem-solving that went into it, it isn't a simple thing and isn't black and white. Supervisor apologized for the wording to a newspaper reporter, adding that it was not the best choice of words. Nils Backlund felt the comments were valuable; asking not to throw out document, but make it palatable for people who have lived here all their lives and [don't] want to be part of it, but don't want to be shut out of it either; two new Town Board members campaigned for property rights issues, and won handily, as a message from the people.

Historian Clesson Bush offered that he will get angry when at an open meeting or hearing points are not cogent arguments; if he were a Board member he would want it to hear: what specific part of the law the individual didn't like, why, and what alternative they would give in its place, how the person with the problem would resolve the problem; he added that he wouldn't want to hear a person say they wanted to do away with zoning. Planning Board Chair Lee Davis offered, regarding misunderstanding, that he's heard a lot about conservation subdivisions, people don't want them, they don't want to give up 1/2 of their land to the Town; he wouldn't want to and the law doesn't do that. People think that, if they want to subdivide 20 acres, after the subdivision that they must give away another 20 acres. The law does not state that. With the old zoning and

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20 acres, with swamps, steep slopes, and a 2 acre minimum, you could end up with 10 parcels; with the conservation subdivision features, you still could have 10 parcels, but, if you're a farmer, the old use of that land could be preserved by agreement with the new owner for crops or livestock or pasture. With the old zoning, your large parcel and its use were gone when you sold. Supervisor thanked all for good comments and is glad to start dialogue.

Ellie Alfeld brought January 22, 2010, Times Union article about the Hudson Valley, in which Representative Hinchey proposes adding the 185-mile long Hudson River Valley to the National Park System. The article raises property rights, restrictions, would it be like the Adirondacks in terms of rules and regulations, and taxation. Councilman Byas asked if it specified how many miles or feet from the center of the river; Answer: no. Bob Turan said that was the reason to have the Comprehensive Plan and more; the work that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore has done so far in adopting the Comprehensive Plan actually protects the Town of New Baltimore, showing that we want to handle things in our Town.

Councilman Byas said if they're going to make the 185 mile Hudson River Valley into a park, they're going to do it; the Town isn't going to stop that with the Comprehensive Plan, the Town isn't going to stop that with anything; whatever they want to do, they'll do it, if that's the power they want to be. Jonathan Donald felt it was improbable, too much involved, too much at stake, and it will never happen; it is not as it was in 1910 with President Teddy Roosevelt wanting to make Yellowstone or Yosemite into [national] parks. A similar plan was enacted along the Delaware River/New Jersey/Pennsylvania line, said Rich Guthrie, and local plans and local ordinances had overriding jurisdiction when it came to government involvement.

Nils Backlund reminded that the prior Board had an opportunity to join the Greenway; [the document] read well, he said, until the wording *if you adopt this you will abide by all present and future regulations that are adopted by this agency*. Also, he said that when they first started the project he had a group visit his home while mapping the bike trail from here to New York City.

Ellie Alfeld said, referencing the January 1, 2010 Organizational Meeting, no Town Board member works with Senior Services for which there is money in the budget. Supervisor O'Rorke believed that the position had not existed in the past, volunteered to be that liaison, and Town Clerk Brooks offered that former Councilwoman McKeon had performed that service in the establishment of the Food and Fun Luncheons at the New Baltimore Reformed Church, although it did not appear on the resolution of committee appointments.

With no more from the Town Board or the public, Councilman Byas moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Meredith.

Motion Carried. Ayes- 4 Byas, Finke, Meredith, O'Rorke
 Nays- 0
 Absent-1 Norris

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully,

Janet A. Brooks
Town Clerk