

**COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 26, 2010-Page 1**

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Opening of Meeting

Supervisor O'Rorke called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending: Councilwoman Finke, Councilmen Meredith, and Norris, Highway Superintendent Jordan, Town Clerk Brooks, and 26 members of the public. Absent: Councilman Byas (vacation). Supervisor O'Rorke welcomed all attending.

Moment of Silence – Francis Williams

A moment of silence was observed by all attending for the passing of Francis Williams, a lifelong resident of the Town of New Baltimore, who served the Town as Highway Superintendent for 14 years.

Monthly Reports

Supervisor attended a meeting of county legislators, town supervisors, and village mayors in preparation of the 2011 Greene County Budget; sales tax is down, health insurance is up, more news forthcoming by the county legislator, but there will probably be tax increase in the county. Town Clerk has been notified that the state has announced that the dog licensing will move entirely to the local municipality; a local law will be mandatory to establish fees, the purchasing of license tags will need to be determined. Clerk Brooks said all this information has been shared with the Town's attorney.

County Legislator Jim Van Slyke was not present.

Town Clerk Brooks reported 1 certificate of occupancy search, 16 building permits, 4 conservation fees, 13 dog licenses, 3 marriage licenses, 2 beer permits, 5 park permits, 2 lots created by minor subdivision, 17 certified copies, 10 photocopies, and recycling fees for local receipts for the month totalling \$3,778.71. Also, disbursed to county treasurer was \$28.32; to NYS Agriculture and Markets \$9.00; NYS Department of Health \$67.50; NYSDEC \$109.60. Clerk Brooks attended NYS Archives workshops in managing electronic records (June 16, Schoharie County Office Building) and disaster planning and response (June 22, Ulster County Community College), has been collecting for the New Baltimore sewer district, Scheller Park water district, trained and began the new year for sporting licenses for NYSDEC, processed human resource paperwork for summer recreation program staff, counsellors, handed out and received participants registrations, transmitting personal information to accountant, and payroll each week. Supervisor asked for a presentation, regarding the two workshops, to the Town Board. Also, at the Board meeting going over the budgets, the Town Clerk is required to keep statutory minutes (kept by colleagues), summary minutes are done currently; Supervisor pointed out that she finds looking back to be helpful, however there are costs associated with the two, and asked the Board members to think about that. Councilwoman Finke agreed that should not be statutory. [unable to hear] Councilman Norris had no comment. Supervisor is looking for resolution to formalize the request. Diane Louis asked to define the difference; 'statutory' is the simple actions of the Board. Supervisor said some towns have gone to verbatim minutes; to go back to topics that were discussed the minutes do take longer.

Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan reported for the month of Highway Report June 15-July 23 2010: Finished driveway approaches on Alcove Road; Patched dirt roads with crusher run; Mowed and weeded around Town Garage and all cemeteries; Hand patched roads with blacktop; Cleaned beaver dam from culvert pipe on West Deans Mill Road; Cleaned ditches in hamlet; Took tires from Recycling Center to W&J; Repaired turn around on Beaver Lane; Grader patched Independence Lane; Installed No Parking signs on Old State Road; Mowed along roads; Finished first round of mowing along roads and now starting on second; Installed 2 – 24" x 35' culverts on Scheller Park Road; Cut sumac trees on Acquetuck Road; Cut fallen cherry tree on Schellar Park Road;

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Repaired mower deck on John Deere Lawn Mower; Replaced broken light on Hyster roller; Repaired washouts on School Hill Road; Trimmed brush and weeds around street signs.

Regarding the recent Board conversation about bonding for road repairs, Supervisor said there are road repairs still to be done, 7 miles to do, and falling behind, and is willing to listen to options having gone through the 6month budget review. Other expenses may total about \$100,000. Councilwoman Finke asked Greene County Clerk Flynn about county taxes facing 25-30% increase, wants to pay as we go, is very scared right now, stay with 4.3 miles of road, and is afraid to do anything. Councilman Meredith contributed that bonding is at its lowest level of use according to *USA Today*, Towns are not doing it and wants to make do with what we have. Bonds are at 2.4%, said Ellie Alfeld; our Town holds the line, but will be impacted by the powers that be. Ellie added that for the piece of surplus highway equipment, Brockett is paying by ton-weight, and urged the Board to scrap it; Supervisor said it is scheduled to scrap and the price for scrap is going down.

With that, **Supervisor moved to enter Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Norris**, for the purpose of discussing threatened litigation on Jennings Road.

**BYAS-Absent FINKE-AYE MEREDITH-AYE
NORRIS-AYE O'RORKE-AYE**

Motion Carried

Executive Session began at 7:52 pm.

Councilman Norris moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Supervisor O'Rorke.

**BYAS-Absent FINKE-AYE MEREDITH-AYE
NORRIS-AYE O'RORKE-AYE**

Motion Carried

Executive Session ended at 8:04 pm.

Town Board resumed at 8:05 pm.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator Jim Polverelli reported processing 692,137 gallons in June 2010; groomed drying beds #2 and #3; pumped sludge to beds #2 and #3; cleaned grit channel; installed repaired auger; installed and repaired pump at pump station; installed new motor for grinder; groomed drying bed #1; performed preventive maintenance on exhaust fans. There are manholes to repair. August 2 will be New York State Rural Water's compliance review of the Town.

Historian Clesson Bush had no report.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer John Cashin reported for June 2010: Building Inspections- 22; Building Permits Issued-10; Building Permits Renewed- 5; Certificates of Compliance Issued- 2; Certificates of Occupancy Issued- 1; Court Appearances-1; Junk Vehicle Complaints-1; New Building Permit Applications Received- 8; Pool Permit Applications Received- 1; Pool Permits Issued-1; Code Violation Investigations- 4; Zoning Violation Investigations-2; Application Fees for June, 2010-\$3,165.13; Total Fees Year-to-Date-\$6,649.42. To renew a building permit is half the cost of the original permit. One zoning violation investigation involved the ATV track. Councilman Norris asked if there had been an issue like this years ago; answer: yes, vicinity of Deans Mill, sent to ZBA at that time for special use permit, the track was close to road, could be an area violation of zoning, some vehicles were jumping into road and causing traffic problems. The new tracks are within the setbacks. Now the Planning Board would process a Special Use Permit if the Board went in that direction. Code Enforcement Officer Cashin will report to Town Board further.

Assessor Gordon Bennett reported for final roll 2011: The final roll has been completed. Total assessed value is \$241,586,220 for 2,070 parcels at 68.5% of full market value as

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compared to last year's assessed value of \$213,989,879 for 2,065 parcels at 64%. Regarding income limitation for basic and enhanced star 2011 exemption: the income eligibility for seniors 65 years or older and also for the Basic STAR has been raised to \$79,050. Around the office, the new computer is working great; all data from the old computer was transferred to the new one. A marked decrease in spam and junk mail has been noted since working with Joe and Intelligent Technology Solutions. In the next few weeks the office will be spruced up; wallpaper border has been removed and the walls will soon have a fresh coat of paint. Gordon and Julie are doing the revamping.

Agriculture Committee does not meet in the summer.

For Ag Fest Committee, Rob VanEtten thanked the Town Board, said Saturday was excellent and Sunday attendees were tough. A couple of new acts, including a woman with hawks and owls, takes in injured birds; added kids activities with face painting, Silent Auction was especially good with good sponsors to help in January with start-up money; looks like the money is within their budget. Councilman Norris was new to dunking booth.

Planning Board Chair Lee Davis reported having met on July 8 with following business transacted: public hearing for Palmer minor subdivision. In the Regular Meeting the Board discussed the proposed Palmer minor subdivision was discussed, prepared semiannual report to the Town Board on any and all effects the amended zoning had on the Planning Board in the last 6 months. Report was given at July 12 Town Board meeting. Following close of meeting, the Planning Board received required Workplace Violence Prevention and Ethics Policy Training. Supervisor asked if in-house training for those two boards had been discussed; with consensus, Supervisor will arrange with Town Attorney. Cost expected is \$350; ideal time (2-3 hours) is September and October.

Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet in July as there were no new applications to come before the Board.

For Building and Grounds/Maintenance, Spencer Sebert reported cleaning up and removing window box from the cement walkway, checked out odor complaint in Sheriff satellite, cleaned up flies in window of meeting room, changed exit light bulbs, and changed air and water filters. As Recycling Center Operator Spencer Sebert reported receipt of 2 washers at \$7.50, 6 tires at \$2.00, 30 60-gallon bags of plastic, 11 55-gallon drums of cans; 37 bundles of magazines; 109 bags of newspapers; 6 bags of shredded paper; 37 boxes & bundles of cardboard, for total revenue of \$27.00. Also, 2 tires came from the Highway Department, and the Highway Department removed 18 tires from Recycling Center. Also, 7 batteries were stolen from Recycling Center between Saturday, June 19 and Wednesday, June 23. Supervisor asked how Councilman Byas has made out looking for someone to weed the gardens; no one knew. Supervisor researched flag etiquette, the President and the Governor can call for flag to be flown at half staff; looking for (committee, American Legion or Boy Scouts) and understands that lighting is needed; this Board did fly the flag at half staff for prior highway superintendent Fran Williams; seeking a policy. Member of the public asked for a Town flag on a separate flagpole. Supervisor called to Building Committee's attention a very large jump in electric bill; met with Central Hudson and NYSEERDA, and Supervisor asked Central Hudson to put together information for replacement of lighting. Supervisor believes the meeting room is being used more frequently an extra office, extra heat of this summer, and talked to Councilman Byas about progress on offices in basement, we are out of room and the supplies are all bought and ready.

Animal Control had no report. Councilman Norris is seeking information for grant for a chip reader (\$500-700). Dog tags were discussed. Animal Control Officer was recently called out-of-town, someone had a dog problem and needed assistance. Councilman Norris will ask adjacent towns.

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Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement Councilman Norris read the report of Emergency Management Officer Alan Van Wormer: Put Recorded Emergency Information Line into service during heat wave; thank-you to Janet for her help again. Had one inquiry as to whether the Town would be opening any cooling stations, advised Town Hall that if more of a necessity come to be one would be arranged, could not justify opening and staffing a fire station for one person, advised to contact relatives for assistance. For cooling stations, I would like to put a plan into place, proposing that the Town Hall meeting/court room and New Baltimore's Gill Road Fire Station be designated as cooling stations. Would not consider Medway Grapeville Fire Station at this time as it does not have air conditioning; asking them to spend the money to install it for this case is too much. Regarding using the Town meeting room, there would already be people there; town hall staff is busy, a call could be put out for volunteers willing to come and staff the cooling station on an as-needed basis. In the event the town hall is not available or is filled above capacity we could move to the Fire Station. There are no mandated requirements for opening a cooling station, my suggestion would be to have water for people to drink and use of restrooms. I hope we never have to use this plan but I feel it would be wise to have it in place, and add it as an annex to the Emergency Response Plan.

I have recently completed the following NIMS training classes which brings the Town to full compliance until 2012: IS701/NIMS Multi-agency coordination system (MACS); IS702/ NIMS Public information Systems; IS703/ NIMS Resource management; IS704/ NIMS Communication and Information Management. I understand there will be no new mandates for 2011.

Recently picked up new batch of 911 signs; they will be delivered. I have spoken to Councilman Norris about taking on the 911 sign project ourselves. As signs come in I am seeing signs ordered in 2009 not being delivered and signs more recently ordered coming in. I feel that in-house we can fill the orders as they come in and not get so far behind. I would be willing to set up space in my basement to do this. Councilman Norris has all the sign blanks, and number decals, working it out.

On a not-so-official note, I would like to remind everyone the Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Convention Dress Parade will be held September 11 at 1 pm in Cocksackie, with a Mardi Gras parade Friday evening.

At the last Greene County EMS meeting the 2011 Budget was discussed, a proposed 7% increase in all towns' contributions and Greene County pays 66%; the overall expense is divided by Towns' runs.

Parks Councilman Meredith read the Park Use Reports. Town Clerk Brooks clarified the comment about Cornell Park being used by local dogs out for a walk. Discovered suitcase was taken by deputy sheriff to Catskill. A recent renter of District 3/Silver Lake wrote requesting some attention be paid to the building; Councilman Meredith will review. Summer Recreation Program has begun, request made to correct the tether ball and take care of bees/wasps. Ellie Alfeld offered to get them removed if they are bees. Supervisor gave 2009 Grant application to Summer Recreation Director.

Promotion and Economic Development / Grants Councilman Norris said grant from Bank of Greene County was received for breakfast and from New York State for 911 signs. Supervisor asked about completing applications on our own; Councilwoman Finke said sometimes the match is high, even 100%, or there is a level of disadvantaged to prove.

Newsletter/Web Site and Technology Councilwoman Finke said Hillcrest Press, with 4 changes will shortly go to print; Councilwoman Finke recommended 3 issues per year to save money; Board members will have 24 hour review before it goes to print. Councilman Meredith must get training on website but is very busy at work and out of town. Councilwoman Finke said the website has been an issue for years and when they can, they will get training. Supervisor thanked the Clerk for updating the Summer Recreation Program information and getting the new emails set up including aliases; Councilwoman Finke is having an issue, Supervisor did not hear back from Board members. Supervisor asked for Tax Collector's computer status, not on original schedule

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of machines, she was unable to print bills; with no word back, Supervisor authorized a ticket for work on her computer and asked if there is an inventory list of computers and asked what was shared with its staff.

Personnel Supervisor received confirmation that Ethics Policy was received, no comments yet. Planning Board is the only group trained; Councilman Meredith will train Highway, Supervisor will train Zoning Board of Appeals.

Insurance no report at this time; health insurance rates may be available September 1.

Town Courts Councilman Norris spoke to Justice Cosenza, aware that it will be up to the Board to oversee. No start date scheduled. Councilman Norris said the justices asked that the project be started near the date of New York State Magistrates' conference. Ellie asked where events would be held during construction; Supervisor said Councilman Byas has been asked to work that out and is certain it is under control.

Bicentennial Committee Supervisor contacted current chair, Councilman Norris believes she is not available, Historian Cleson Bush volunteered ideas, there is conversation happening.

Farmers' Market Councilman Norris said a week ago there were 80 attendees and 5-6 vendors including a bread vendor and a Girl Scout troop. Next four Saturdays there is music scheduled; Councilman Norris is updating the Farmers' Market website.

Seniors Ellie Alfeld offered that Town Clerk Brooks had given her another possible name to use a seniors' bus- one neighbor looking out for another; formal meetings will wait til the fall. She commented about people going hungry in America and in our town; the Cocksackie Food Pantry/ First Reformed Church in Cocksackie is open to seniors and non-seniors. Councilwoman Finke said it is covered in the newsletter.

Adjournment

With no more from the Board, Councilman Meredith moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Finke.

BYAS-Absent	FINKE-AYE	MEREDITH-AYE
NORRIS-AYE	O'RORKE-AYE	

Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully,

Janet A. Brooks
Town Clerk