

COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
WORK MEETING
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OPENING OF WORK MEETING

Supervisor called to order the Work Meeting at 7:05 pm, followed by Pledge of Allegiance. Also attending: Councilwomen Benway and Finke, Councilman Norris, Town Clerk Brooks and 15 members of the public who signed the attendance sheet. Absent: Councilmen Meredith, Highway Superintendent Jordan.

Supervisor asked that all present turn off their cell phones.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Supervisor reports Town Board has received January and February budget reports to date, but with some missing items noted by Supervisor. Supervisor received a request for waiver of 30-day notice for liquor license for Boathouse Grille, at Shady Harbor Marina; the Liquor Authority will be accepting public comment for 30 days; copy available in Town Clerk's office; Application is for liquor, wine and beer, full menu restaurant, no music checked, outdoor patio and deck. Received \$21,485 from Mid-Hudson special franchise fees, down from 2012; over 5 past years has increased; Councilman Norris and Supervisor are reviewing 10-year contract (September 2013) for negotiation. NYS Comptroller's Office examiners are still here; Supervisor thanked Clerk's office for making information available; Supervisor sent email to Board regarding putting in extra money for deputy hours to compensate the Clerk's office; timing of dog census, recent newspaper press, and rise in licenses, looking to add \$500 to Personal Services (deputy hours); comments or questions to Supervisor. Water District 2 will end year with a shortage due to water main break, few users in district, doesn't take much to push over budget, not allowed by State to borrow from General Fund past that year, Board may consider go for small bond; Board may need to initiate a user fee; a standalone district, no local law for that, exact dollar amount is not known, maybe \$1200. With an aging system, Councilman Norris reminded, problems come up, surplus is used, rebuild surplus and it may be used for additional repairs. Supervisor suggests considering 'ad litem' charge; not everyone who lives in district is a user; not like debt service. In Water District 1, a tax pays for fire hydrants; user fee is invoiced by Village of Ravena; Town taxes residents for the fire hydrants; if fire hydrants need repair, Town cannot pay for from General Fund. Supervisor asked for thoughts toward a local law; additional fee on users or tax levy for resides in district.

Councilwoman Finke asked how many residents in district; answer: 30 and about 40 parcels. Ellie Alfeld clarified that district is short for expenses, cannot take money from General Fund; Supervisor responded General Fund is created by all taxpayers, the district pays back General Fund within a year with payment or financing paid by the folks within the district just as the engineering cost at the time of expansion.

Ellie asked the approximate cost per resident per year; Supervisor answered average metered water usage is about \$146.50 twice a year.

Councilman Norris said this fee would be for repairs. Supervisor answered operation and maintenance.

Clerk Brooks asked when main break had occurred and when clock begins to tick; Supervisor responded technically to be paid by end of fiscal year but Village of Coxsackie invoiced the Town at end of December. Supervisor asked to take this up at April Regular- propose local law and hold public hearing.

Supervisor reports two NYS Assembly bills regarding vacant properties under foreclosure; bills would require bank or mortgage holder to make good faith effort to maintain property (Town has struggled with answering machines up until actual foreclosure) and require a mortgage company to provide a contact. Other towns and villages have sent resolutions to NYS Assembly in support of this bill.

She reported NY State sent out letter to cemetery owners, Local Law 165A(?), that towns can now enter into intermunicipal agreements with cemeteries; Town of New Baltimore made agreement last year with Chestnut Lawn Cemetery. One cemetery contacted Town asking for available funds; with none available, Town can have discussion (nothing built into Town

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budget). If a privately-owned cemetery goes defunct, the Town takes on the responsibility; better for towns, in long run, to 'help' rather than suddenly 'have'. Councilman Norris reminded that the Highway transported gravel to the cemetery, from point a to b; bought on Town's state contract and reimbursed, added Supervisor.

County Legislator -no report.

Town Clerk Brooks reports for February: building permits 7 \$2810.00; certificate of occupancy searches 1 \$15.00; dogs 46 \$347.00; replacement tags 1 \$2.00; beer permits 2 \$40.00; park permits 2 \$50.00; certified copies 12 \$120.00; photocopies 8 \$2.00; recycling fees 1 \$10.00. Local revenue to Supervisor \$3,396.00; to NYS Ag and Markets for spay/neuter \$68.00.

March 18 marked the anniversary of the completion of records project begun in October 2007 and completed 2010. In early 2008 I discovered that most of the boxed records were records series that had been included in a previous grant, making them ineligible for future grants and making them the Town's responsibility. Prior town supervisor David Louis shared the vision and the prior Town Board was supportive and willing to place value on sound records practices; I promised to commit to maintenance. Some 374 cartons were reviewed; several culls executed per the NYS Archives MU-1, adopted by the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore in 1989. Records clerk Diane Jordan continues to serve in this ongoing process. Aware of space limitations, Clerk Brooks reminds Town Board members to surrender Town correspondence and records for evaluation and safe storage; many records are subject to FOIL. Supervisor commented on 46 dog licenses in February.

Tax Collector Jordan reports for March 25: Sewer District 1 payments are accepted with 3% penalty until close of business April 15 or postmarked that day. Property taxes are accepted with 1% /month penalty through close of business March 31 or postmarked that day. Water District 2 payments are accepted with 4% penalty through close of business April 8 or postmarked that day. Many phone calls request paid tax receipts as soon as possible as they prepare 2012 income tax returns. Many realty companies and banks call to request information in order to make payment, perhaps under the conditions of a recent second mortgage. Water District 2 has only 3 unpaid customers; Water District 3 second quarter billing is being mailed, due April 28.

Highway Superintendent Jordan reports Feb 22 to Mar 20: Repaired roof light on 2002 pickup; Adjusted steering box on 2002 pickup; Chopped ice from grates in hamlet and New Baltimore Road; Changed oil and filter on 2006 F350; Washed all trucks; Built ladder for sander on 2011 International; Patched holes with winter mix and crusher run; Cut some dead trees along the roads; Wed Feb 27 called all in at 4am plowed and sanded all roads; Repaired DEAD END sign on Kreitmeier Road; Raked stone from lawns on Independence Lane; Straightened bent guiderail post on Schoolhouse Lane; Replaced 25mph sign on West Deans Mill Road; Fri Mar 8 called all in at 3am for snow. Plowed and sanded all roads; Mixed up more sand and salt and put in shed; Repaired bent sign at Cedar Lane and White Birch Lane; Picked up dead deer on road; Tues Mar 19 called all in at 5:30am for snow, plowed and sanded all roads; Repaired crack in snowplow on 85 Oshkosh; Wed Mar 20 called all in at 4am sanded all roads; Replaced wing cables on 93 International. Supervisor received good news: \$29,953 additional allocation in Consolidated Highway Improvements Programs (CHIPS).

Buildings & Grounds/Recycling Operator Spencer Sebert reports *free to residents*: 60 gallon bags of plastics 21; 55gal drums of cans 7; bundles of magazines 37; bags of newspaper 41; bags of shredded paper 15; boxes of cardboard 22. Also, 2 tires from Highway Dept; Highway also removed 13 tires from the Center. Councilman Norris reports following Spencer's retirement from maintenance and Roger's retirement from mowing, combining two chores into one part-time year-round position: maintenance at town hall and parks mowing; four applicants.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Blaisdell reports for February: Building Inspections 20; Building Permits Issued 3; Building Permits Renewed 4; Certificates of Compliance Issued 1; Compliance Orders 2; Do Not Occupy 1; General Complaints 2; New Building Permit Applications Received 4; Application Fees for February \$2,810.00; year to date

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\$3,007.00. Councilman Norris asked Officer Blaisdell to attend this night: renewal fees linger for years with perhaps bit of injustice; propose fees reset after two years and reapply in third year. Supervisor said an original permit can be renewed indefinitely under the fee schedule in effect at time of application, some as low as \$15; technically, structures should not be occupied without C-O; Town doesn't want to issue Do Not Occupy or Eviction signs. There is a cost factor for renewals' and repeated inspections. John Cashin weighed in: these buildings are occupied without proper certificate. Councilman Norris asked whether temporary may be issued? Yes, but 60 days maximum under special circumstances. Supervisor asked about other neighboring towns. John Cashin said Town of Coeymans gives two year, then renew; Town of Catskill sends out 6 month letter offering free renewal; at one year a flow chart displays percentage completed, ie indoor trim, fee based upon percentage. Supervisor asked if that is confusing; John offered a comprehensive list arrives at percentage point. Clerk Loux offered that renewal letters and second notices cost clerk time as does issuing Compliance Order (act within certain number of days or see the town justice), takes renews or applying for final inspection. Councilwoman Benway believes some projects go on for far too long, may be economy, but don't want half-finished building sitting either. John Cashin added that the percentage requires onsite inspections to see progress. Councilman Norris observed that a decreasing fee provides incentive to call inspector back.

Ellie Alfeld pointed out three steps without a railing meant she couldn't get a certificate of occupancy, yet at least half dozen houses are without certificates that folk have been living in 8-9 years, not getting the tax base, and providing a 'domino effect'. Supervisor spoke about cost of Certificate of Occupancy searches; search may be easy or may be labor intensive, any violations or no C-O requires him to make a site visit; currently \$15. Surrounding communities (Town of Catskill charge as much as \$100. If code violations, plan must be made with title company. Clerk Loux said if a recent build, it is easy, others are searched in Assessor's office to determine if built before zoning. Councilman Norris would like to address topic and double C-O search fee to \$30. Councilwoman Finke agrees. Supervisor feels if plan is to change fees, do them all at once. Councilman Norris received memo about the proposed basement toilet.

Insurance Supervisor and Councilwoman Benway reminded, when transition to higher deductible HRA, a rider was added to CDPHP for vision, when Town went to higher deductible, Town opted for separate policy, but vision was not contemplated in the Town Health Plan. Supervisor said those employees paying 20% toward health also pay 20% toward vision, but this was not included in the Plan, nor about the vision. Another ambiguity while working with broker, Town has in past had employees or spouses who, although eligible under the Plan, did not opt to take health insurance, but Plan doesn't state anything for Medicare Part B reimbursement. The way it reads, even if employee or spouse is not eligible, they would still be eligible for the Medicare Part B, may be something to clean up. Supervisor, checking and going forward, noted Town is one of fewer providing retirement health insurance, not included in most union contracts, she is not suggesting change for current employees who came to work with that understanding, no fulltime employee on the horizon who may know this ahead, Board may want to put in the Plan to not have health insurance. Supervisor believed union contracts required it; Greenville she believes does, several others do not, but no decision tonight. Unlike a known salary that can be budgeted, health insurance for retirees cost may not be known til years out, not budgeted for that. Councilman Norris clarified anyone hired now still contributes 20 % of their health insurance, same as in retirement. Supervisor recommends cleaning that up too, always been the intent that they would pay that same percentage. Supervisor said retirees are not given dental, but Town's past practice has been to allow retirees to buy it; it is not stated in the Plan. Supervisor offered Board copies of Health Plan. Supervisor asked whether AgFest is ready to put application together for tractor pull; Rob Van Etten will meet with Councilwoman Benway who clarified no airport. Rob said if it came down to that, the committee would take care of it for last year's price, the committee is not totally committed to airport use; Supervisor said if that was the intent, Town can take out a policy and committee can reimburse the Town; these are prepaid before the event so timing is key. Councilwoman Benway offered to get the prices; the committee will make decision.

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Wastewater Treatment Chair Supervisor O'Rorke reported meeting held three weeks ago with engineers, invited the district's residents, heard engineer report and feedback. Committee will be meeting with Jim Polverelli and will report back to Board. Annual Certification for Design and Flow Management has been mailed, for March 28 deadline. After accepting the planning grant of \$24,000, more information has been requested, nearly every week, of Clerk's office or Supervisor to complete and return; the latest is the Smart Growth plan; Clerk added that we'd thought the acceptance paperwork was extensive. Councilman Norris confirmed Friday meeting with Jim.

Planning Board Chair Rundberg reports: Planning Board met on March 14 with the following business: Welcomed Dan Kelly back to the Board and welcomed new Board Member Phil Hersherberger; Discussed with a property owner a proposed adjustment to his 2011 minor subdivision map; Received Minor Subdivision Application from Anne Hohenstein, Trustee of AMEG Trust; Elizabeth Muscat, Trustee of Muscat Family Trust; Ellen Hohenstein, Trustee of Mason/Hohenstein Trust; and Frederick Hohenstein for subdivision of a nine-acre parcel from a 60 +/- acre parcel on County Route 61; Required Public Hearing has been scheduled for 7pm, April 11; for 2013, Dan Kelly was re-elected vice chair and Arlene McKeon was elected secretary.

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Meave Tooher reports Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet in March since there were no applications to come before the Board.

Assessment Assessor Bennett reports for March: *EXEMPTION RENEWALS*: Passing the March 1 deadline and breathing sigh from months of activity, the yearly renewals are: Agricultural Total exemptions 49; Disabled Total exemptions 14; Forest Total exemptions 7; Enhanced Star & Senior Total exemptions 332; Clergy & Nonprofit Total exemptions 17; Solar applications (new in past couple years) Solar Total exemptions 5. *DATA COLLECTION*: Ray Blaisdell has completed the data collection. *AROUND THE OFFICE*: In preparation for the Tentative Roll the software, RPSV4, that we utilize, received a big update last week, bringing us current to the latest software version available; 6 Grievance packets have been handed out to property owners; Julie & Marjorie celebrated working together for 1 year in the building department. Councilwoman Benway asked if there was any more info regarding the person walking in hamlet collecting information and thought to be data collecting; Greene County Sheriff was alerted. Rich Guthrie remembers exempting capital improvements [Local Law 2 of 2008, a local law to authorize a partial real property tax exemption for reconstruction, alterations, or improvements made to one and two family residential buildings]; Councilman Norris reminds it must be an attached structure and will ask Julie for update for next month. Supervisor said State performed audit of STAR (school tax) program and New Baltimore was one of 46 municipalities chosen for audit; the report is available on NYS Comptroller's website; mentions difficulty for assessors to determine eligibility, offers best practices, and asks for extensive amount of verification. Rich Guthrie heard that Legislature has agreed to suspend STAR and require reapplication for residences, based upon inconsistencies.

Economic Development Committee Chair Councilman Norris will contact Shady Harbor's new Boathouse Grille for Business Appreciation Breakfast date.

Grants Chair Finke observed on website that youth grant deadline was approaching; Councilman Meredith is working on that, came in last Saturday.

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement Chair Norris reports they did not meet this month due to inclement weather; quarterly report next month.

Technology/Website Chair Benway and Councilman Meredith met with Joe/ITS last Saturday to review issues (no central backup, no shared server, security); Invited to April meeting to explain features. Councilwoman Benway wasn't able to open his link; will forward to all for April Regular. Councilman Norris asked whether Town of Catskill has server; John Cashin answered

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yes, Councilwoman Benway said most do, eliminating emailing desk to desk, and maintained with password protection.

Newsletter Chair Finke reports new postal regulations, looking at 8 pages not 10, paper 70# offset, 2 postal tabs, and an increase of \$250; she added the regulations require 5 working days to print, 3-4 working days for post office. Supervisor asked what that added to overall; Councilwoman Finke said depends on the post office, she's been printing in 2 days, needs 5 working days, paper is harder to fold. Councilman Norris asked to go forward with electronic newsletter and offer sign-up for paper. Councilwoman Finke said we have; Supervisor reminded the offer has been made to sign up for electronic copy. Councilman Norris suggests offer to receive sign-ups for paper copy, otherwise make available on website. Councilwoman Benway agrees because she has spoken to many folk who are throwing it away. Ellie expressed problem that seniors don't ask for what they are entitled to. Councilman Norris asks to return to publishing four times a year as it was; print and mail to 100-200 residents who sign up. Supervisor suggests including this option in the next newsletter. Councilwoman Benway added that printing regulations for dog census card were confusing to the point that the printer got them wrong, although post office mailed; 1800-1900 were mailed to every door for \$290.70. Ellie asked to keep people informed, have had bigger audiences. Councilwoman Finke said estimate to cost \$297.70 total or about \$3.20/year per family. Ellie said it is all she gets for her tax dollar, with the roads.

Animal Control Committee Councilwoman Benway reports mailing from 4 post offices, 29 email responses already today to the dog census, she's compiling a list. Town Clerk Brooks reports applying info to list generated by Assessor's Clerk Fisk. Officer Tanner reports traveling 419 miles for the last 2 months, in court 3 times, 16 dog complaints, 7 cat complaints, 2 horse complaints. Supervisor reports emailing Board; Town may need to hire a prosecutor to handle a dog complaint, been to four different courts, dangerous dog hearing, Greenville judge wants to see Town attorney (who is a justice in New Scotland and so cannot prosecute), however, most towns hire a different prosecutor, reached out to Town Historian Hilscher, who agreed to meet with Officer Tanner. Rich Guthrie asked where; Towns of New Baltimore, Cocksackie, Cairo, and now Greenville. Greene County Public Health Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic will occur on Wednesday evening, 6-8pm, at Medway-Grapeville Firehouse.

Parks Member Councilwoman Benway received two resumes for summer rec director; scheduling interviews this week. Councilman Meredith is dealing with some issues with Cocksackie OWLZ baseball club; portajohn contract for which they would pick up beginning and end, and issue of fencing, Councilman Meredith was going to talk to them; they will take down once season ends.

Personnel Chair O'Rorke reports one item from Comptroller's auditors' visit: regarding NYS Local Retirement System, Town has not collected employee declinations if they did not participate; state says they must sign letter of declination. Letters will go to employees who are not participating by timesheets (including planning board, ZBA); she sent Town Board a sample letter; please let Supervisor know any suggestions and she will include letter in quarterly paychecks. Councilwoman Finke asked whether she needs to resubmit log; Supervisor believes employee is given the option to certify or resubmit, new officials who have begun terms must.

Agriculture Committee Chair Norris could not make it; Councilwoman Benway attended, Kingsley Greene presented on growing barley, conversation about dairy farms and Greek yogurt companies use of millions of gallons of milk; now 1300 employees at Chobani.

Seniors Chair Councilwoman Finke thought there was a meeting, seeking location; can ask auditors to work elsewhere. For next Food 'n Fun luncheon, Ellie reports 2nd Wednesday, menu includes vegetable lasagna, thanked Bob and Lynda Knighton who have prepared these meals, 99 corned beef dinners, no one would have expected this success, thanked Pastor Susan Kerr. Program needs good preparation. Bob added that Dick Brooks has also taken turns as chief cook.

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Supervisor asked about potato peeler rules? [Laughter] Clerk Brooks asked if there was anyone in the room who hasn't attended, mark it on calendar- Brian Melick will be the entertainment. Reservations are coming from as far as Cairo, Voorheesville, and New Scotland.

Memorial Committee Chair Benway has not met, scheduling issues, and hope after Easter, after dog census, and after summer rec planning resolved.

Ag Fest Committee Rob Van Etten reports a meeting tomorrow night to plan entertainment, hawk handler, community dinner, Ralph Barger and Peaceful Country, to consider larger tents for farmers' market vendors and for silent auction; June 1-2, 2013.

Town Courts Councilwoman Benway had satisfactory court audit; reported month of January collected \$23,418 of which \$12,303 to state and county; February \$30,967 of which \$19,564 to state and county. Court applied and received grant of \$7,977 for equipment upgrades; in order to expend those monies, must have resolution from Town Board. Rich Guthrie asked for updates regarding NYS Governor's proposal to eliminate contribution to communities for plea bargaining assessment and revert those back to state; no word.

Historian Hilscher reports for February: highlight of the month was the presentation *Lost: New Baltimore Hamlet*, attended by about fifty; wonderful to see so much interest in local history; sold more copies of Heritage book and have no more left; hope to work with Heritage Society and have more printed; In preparation of my slide show, studied maps and photos and walked around the hamlet; I drove out to the western end of the town and took photographs of historic structures; interviewed Ed Volmar, who lives on the Greenville/New Baltimore line, about his long-deceased neighbor John Wood and am studying Wood family photographs and ephemera; continue to participate on the planning committee for the Conservancy regarding management of the Bronk/Armstrong farm, committee met on February 20; prepared a list of recommendations for uses of the site, based on discussions at prior committee meetings, will present the list of recommendations to the New Baltimore Conservancy Board in April; With Jean and Cless Bush, I looked at the lime kiln and related sites on Lime Kiln Road.

Kevin Kemnah asked when Board members negotiate with Mid-Hudson Cable, talk about expanding? Supervisor said yes, with Councilman Norris.
Rich Guthrie said it has come to his attention that some places in New Baltimore no longer exist according to GPS and various email address locator systems; he attempted to send letter to Congressman Gibson that called for a street address; system rejected saying his 'did not exist', wondering if others had same experience and if so, bigger issue. He observed NYS Police on emergency call, address wasn't showing up correctly on dispatch, up on Independence Lane looking for Main Street has wider implications. He brought issue to Congressman Gibson's attention by phone call. Regarding 12124, Councilwoman Benway has two insurance companies that say it doesn't exist. Councilman Norris will call John Farrell at Greene County Emergency Services and said his own street name change took several years; Hannacroix Preserve on GPS will direct a person to 'West Cocksackie'. Nick Dellasanti has same issue, as does Jean Horn; Jean checked with 911 and they are befuddled as to what to do, her address comes up on smartphones although not on GPS.

Ellie asked, regarding Scenic Hudson, would Kathy, as chair of Planning Board, describe the trust that came before the Planning Board regarding the land on west side of highway also being turned over to become tax-free property. Supervisor was aware there was a private sale; Scenic Hudson pays the going rate for real estate purchases. Ellie wants everyone to be aware of loss of tax base, hurting all of us, and feels sorry for Cocksackie-Athens Schools.

Rich Guthrie wondered if Highway or Code Enforcement Officer would take a close look at Central Hudson's new lighting system at US Route 9W and New Baltimore Road; is aimed higher and out onto the highway; he is concerned that under fog or rain would make the turn more difficult for drivers. Kathy Rundberg agreed and was surprised they are so high.
John Cashin said Central Hudson worked with him on glare shields, advised to get pole number and send Central Hudson a note.

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Supervisor moved to adjourn, Councilwoman Benway seconded. No discussion. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

BENWAY-AYE FINKE-AYE MEREDITH-AYE
 NORRIS-AYE O'RORKE-AYE

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully,

Janet A. Brooks
Town Clerk