

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING**

**APRIL 27, 2020
AGENDA**

In consideration of COVID-19, the open meeting of the Town Board regularly scheduled for April 27th has been postponed. Our goal, as articulated by the CDC and the NYS DOH, is to mitigate against the spread of the virus and reduce its rate of transmission. This action will allow the Town of New Baltimore to exemplify infection control procedures to prevent the continued and pervasive spreading of disease.

Per communication from NYCOOG (New York Committee on Open Government):

The New York State Committee on Open Government issued guidance regarding the “Open Meetings Law ‘In-Person’ Requirement and the Novel Coronavirus.” The guidance acknowledges that there is no process for waiving the Open Meetings Law’s “in-person” requirement for conducting meetings. Furthermore, the Committee conceded that there is no jurisprudence regarding the ability of local governments to forego or waive the “in-person” meeting requirement. Nonetheless, the Committee opined that judicial review of alleged violations of the Open Meetings Law will likely take into consideration the public body’s desire to protect the public health while continuing to perform necessary government functions. However, the Committee urges that if a public body determines that limiting public in-person access to an open meeting is necessary in response to the COVID-19 virus, that the public body limit discussions and actions taken to those matters for which harm would be caused by delay in order to mitigate potential impact of constituents.

That being said, Town Hall has not allowed entrance of the public to this facility as of Monday, March 16th. Meeting of the Town Board and Town Clerk will occur on the evening of April 27th at 7 PM, however, said meeting will be held in a very limited extent to enable the monthly bills to be reviewed and paid. A special meeting may be scheduled, pending DOH recommendations for continued ‘social distancing’ at a later date. Minutes will be posted within a few days.

Per orders by the Office of Court Administration, all court proceedings are suspended until further notice. Should you have any questions, please contact Court Clerk Kimberly Ruby at (518) 756-2079.

Officials will hold regular hours, and all business will continue to occur via telephone and email. This being a time when tax payments are still being collected, and cash cannot be refused, please contact Tax Collector Diane Jordan at (518) 756-6671 Ext. 2 should you require a cash transaction. Please consider mailing your payment in check form or delivering in a sealed envelope through the mail slot on the red door of the Meeting Room. Receipts will be sent and a confirmation call will be made if requested.

The Highway Department has a skeleton crew and can be reached at (518)756-2078.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance; please stay well.

Jeff Ruso, Town Supervisor, Town of New Baltimore jruso@townofnewbaltimore.org, (518)756-6671, Ext. 7 or (518)337-9238

Pledge of Allegiance

- Audit of Claims

Upcoming Meetings

- May 11, 2020 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Adjournment

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OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Also attending Councilmembers Boehlke and Irving, Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti, and Town Clerk Finke. Absent: Councilmembers Downes and VanEtten

Supervisor Ruso: Good evening everybody, Town of New Baltimore residents, and others. Tonight we have another closed meeting, unfortunately. We look forward to having more people here in the future. But, in the meantime, if you could, here in the room and at home, join me for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Ruso: As everyone knows, Town Hall remains closed. It shall be until we have changes in the directives from the State and the County and our meeting tonight is rather compressed and we're going to pay our Audit of Claims and that will be all. We do have one announcement. We have a Town Board Regular Meeting at 7PM on May 11 and aside from that we have no upcoming meetings. I know that we notified people that the AgFest is cancelled this year so keep that in your mind.

Audit of Claims

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 73-2020
APRIL 23, 2020

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO PAY
AUDITED CLAIMS

WHEREAS the Town Clerk has presented claims to the Town Board for audit and review, and

WHEREAS the Town Board has audited claims 2020b-04-01 to 2020b-04-28, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2020b-04-01 to 2020b-04-28.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until June 30, 2020.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

General \$15,554.11, Highway \$3,521.44, Sewer 1 \$32,336.08, Sewer 2 \$253.44, Water 2 \$3,308.37, Water 3 \$71.80, for a total of \$55,045.24

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you, Barb. Any further mention or points on the Agenda?

Councilmember Boehlke: How is this affecting our budget as far as staying on track for our budget, our budget outlook?

Supervisor Ruso: Well, our costs are fixed so we don't have any changes in our costs. There are going to be some changes in revenue particularly as it relates to the Court operations. There might be some other minor points, whether they're Building Permits which are all on hold, dog licensure, and other fees that one would collect throughout the year.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: Park Permits.

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Supervisor Ruso: Park Permits as well, thank you. But the biggest alteration or change is going to be in our revenue from the Courts.

Councilmember Boehlke: And will that affect our operations if this extends much further as far as our ability to pay our bills?

Supervisor Ruso: It could. It could, it depends on how many of these tickets and of the like are pushed back until when the Courts are open. The Courts are closed through the end of May at the very least so we don't have any knowledge on how that's going to have an effect, but we did budget for a certain level of income which is not coming in right now.

Councilmember Boehlke: So is there any word from the State as far as any funds that may be coming available through the stimulus program that would filter down to townships that might keep us out of debt, keep us afloat until this is over with?

Supervisor Ruso: All I can say is we're fine cash-wise for a great deal of time because the tax season is behind us. So we're fine in terms of money in the bank.

Councilmember Boehlke: Okay.

Supervisor Ruso: Plus we had a fairly decent unallocated fund balance which gives us a reserve of quite a distance.

Councilmember Boehlke: So we should be good until the Fall probably.

Supervisor Ruso: Oh, certainly, certainly.

Councilmember Boehlke: Okay. That's good to know.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, there has been conversation about some proviso for local governments in terms of their lost revenue and expenses. There's nothing absolute about those points at this time.

Councilmember Boehlke: But, it's a good testimony to the financial management of this Town. I'd like to just point that out.

Supervisor Ruso: We're solid with money in the bank. We had over \$300,000 in reserve. That's just for Town General. A similar amount of about \$200,000 is in our Highway Reserve. So there could be some extraordinary expenses come through and we'll be fine even still. But we will have a struggle not going into the red for this year if things stay as they are. Any other thoughts or questions?

Councilmember Irving: We're just in territory we haven't been in and I know you're right that we're gonna be fine.

Supervisor Ruso: We're in good, solid financial condition. I think that's a point that should be made to everybody who may be listening. So that is not going to be of concern to us and it's certainly in the short-haul.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: We saved for a rainy day and rainy day is here.

Supervisor Ruso: We have a rainy day fund.

Councilmember Boehlke: Whether it's individual finances or a Town, no one's got a crystal ball, but the whole principle of striving to stay out of debt whether personal or municipal, here's where it pays off. You can't count on crises, but accidents are gonna happen, crises are gonna come. So I just want to point out it's a real testament to how this Town's finances have been handled and everything else. I think it's very commendable. I really do.

Supervisor Ruso: Any other thoughts or comments? Any other business before us?

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Motion by Councilmember Boehlke seconded by Councilmember Irving to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes, VanEtten

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Good night.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC
Town Clerk