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

#### JUNE 28, 2021 AGENDA

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

### Report by Superintendent Randy Squire on Updates at Coxsackie-Athens Central School District

#### Reports

Supervisor

- Discussion of the American Recue Plan Act Funding
- Greene County Broadband Project

County Legislator

Town Clerk

Tax Collector

Historian

Agriculture/AgFest (Chair Boehlke/Member Irving)

Animal Control (Chair Irving, Member Ruso)

Assessment (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Audit and Budget (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Buildings & Grounds/Recycling (Chair Irving/Member Boehlke)

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer (Chair Downes/Member Ruso)

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement (Chair Dellisanti/Member Downes)

 Resolution to Approve Use and Waive Fees for Park Rentals by the Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company for the Purpose of Hosting the 2021 Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association Convention

Grants/Promotions/Economic Development (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Greene County Planning Board (Boehlke)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

• Resolution Appointing Part-Time Highway Department Employee

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten

Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals (Chair Boehlke/Member Irving)

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Downes)

Technology/Website (Chair Downes/Member Boehlke)

Town Courts (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Veterans and Memorials (Chair VanEtten/Member Irving)

Wastewater Treatment (Chair Irving/Member Boehlke)

Youth, Parks and Recreation (Chair VanEtten/Member Boehlke)

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- July 7, 2021 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM if Needed
- July 8, 2021 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- July 12, 2021 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- July 26, 2021 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

#### **Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Audit of Claims** 

Adjournment

\*\*\*\* Agenda Subject to Change\*\*\*\*

#### GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC CONDUCT DURING TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

- 1. The Supervisor shall preside at the meetings of the Town Board. In the absence of the Supervisor, the Deputy Supervisor shall be the acting Supervisor. In the event both the Supervisor and the Deputy Supervisor are absent, the other members shall designate one of their members to act as temporary chairman. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn.
- 2. Town residents who wish to speak shall fill out a card at the entrances of the meeting room listing their name, contact information, and the subject matter in which they would like to speak. These cards will be collected prior to the beginning of the Town Board meeting and given to the Town Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor in the absence of the Supervisor.
- 3. Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer and then proceed to the lectern and state their name and address. They must limit their remarks on official town business to up to three minutes on a given topic and may not yield any remaining time to another speaker. They must address their remarks to the Board as a body and not to any member thereof and not to other members of the audience in the form of a debate.
- 4. Speakers should present their remarks in a courteous manner and may not make disparaging remarks or personal comments about public officials, town residents, or others. All speakers will observe the commonly accepted rules of courtesy, decorum, dignity, and good taste with no cursing, swearing, clapping, booing, finger pointing, bullying, whispering, or talking that disrupts the proceedings of the business of the Town Board.
- 5. Any speaker who disregards the directives of the presiding officer in enforcing the rules, disturbs the peace at a meeting, makes impertinent or slanderous remarks, or generally conducts themselves in an inappropriate manner shall be barred from further participation and will forfeit any balance of time remaining for their comments.
- 6. After a final warning, if a speaker willfully refuses to step down, the Town Supervisor shall contact the appropriate authorities to remove the speaker from the meeting room and to restore order.
- 7. The Town Supervisor, or in their absence the Deputy Supervisor, shall ensure compliance with these rules.

This policy will be amended by Majority vote of the Town Board.

JUNE 28, 2021 - Page 1

#### **OPENING OF WORK MEETING**

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Boehlke, Downes, and VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; County Legislator Linger; Town Clerk Finke; and 8 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Councilmember Irving, Highway Superintendent VanWormer, and Tax Collector Jordan

#### **Updates at Coxsackie-Athens Central School District**

Kerry Houlihan: Well, we just had a fabulous graduation so that's what's going on, but there's a few other things. We were just talking about it. I don't know if you heard we had a flyover during graduation this year because one of our students was learning to be a pilot and he couldn't come to graduation in person so he decided to fly on over it. So that was awesome. So we were very excited about that. Mr. Squire apologizes for not being able to be here today. He had to go to a wake. He just wanted to update everyone on a few things that are going on with the District. So the first is the mascot. So the Board of Education voted to retire the Indian mascot so now the District will embark on a two-part parallel process. The first part is going to be to develop a systematic curriculum K-12 that educates our students on the indigenous peoples of the region as well as beginning the process of instituting a land acknowledgement on our campuses. But the other part will be asking community members and the student body to take an active role in determining the new name and mascot that will bring pride and excitement to the entire C-A community. So in the next few months and in the fall he will be reaching out to have people come and attend some forums and give some ideas and suggestions about what our new mascot could be and then the District once that is decided upon will embark on a rebranding using the mascot along with the C and the A that interlock. So that is the mascot update. The District is also having forums right now, having a conversation about the possibility of grade grouping. So what that would mean is that the Athens campus would become a pre-k to second grade campus and then the campus up in Coxsackie would house students from grades three through twelve. We are currently holding forums to explain the plan and get feedback from the community on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Edward J. Arthur for anybody who's interested in coming and hearing more about it or giving some input and August 5th at the High School auditorium on the Coxsackie campus.

Councilmember Downes: So they're having forums right the height of vacation. I mean that's a little ridiculous for elementary school students that you're gonna bus for ridiculous amounts of

**Kerry Houlihan:** Well, there were two forums happen in June before school got out and then the feeling was there wasn't enough time so we're having some in August, but that doesn't mean that's it's done. We may be having some more in September. In terms of the busing, that would probably be a question to ask if you came to the forum. But if you have a specific question, you can feel free to email either Mr. Squire or myself.

**Councilmember Downes:** Well, it just seems that the Administration is not very positive towards the families of the District or what District residents want. They seem to do things so that they can slide them through.

Kerry Houlihan: I'm sorry that you feel that way. I really would hope that you would come to one of forums and feel free to express your opinion, feel free to email, there's lots of information on the website, and we have had presentations at the Board meetings with people who've put some input in that could not come to the forums so you can feel free to use that opportunity as well.

Councilmember Downes: Well, it was just like you had said 'we had a great graduation.' That graduation was a disgrace to the parents when you had the kids with their backs to their parents and you had a processional that started ten minutes before the ceremony that people missed their kids walking in and it was a show as far as a lot of people are concerned for the Administration to show off their talents so the parents couldn't see their kids, but they saw the Administration do a song and dance up there. It was not what you said was wonderful for the parents. Families of these kids, they couldn't see their kids until they walked off, they saw them one time. You could have turned them around so they could have looked at their parents, but you had their backs to their parents. That was awful.

JUNE 28, 2021 - Page 2

**Kerry Houlihan:** That's great feedback and I'll definitely bring that back to Mr. Squire.

**Supervisor Ruso**: When is your forum scheduled, the next one?

**Kerry Houlihan**: They're August 3rd is gonna be at Edward J. Arthur Elementary School and August 5<sup>th</sup> will be at the High School Auditorium on the Coxsackie campus.

Councilmember VanEtten: I'm curious has anybody studied how long a child may be on that bus from the furthest, especially the little ones?

Kerry Houlihan: Mr. Nugent has done an analysis and at this point he is saying that there will be no bus run that's longer than any bus run that we currently have. So students should not be on, that's not to say any particular student might not be on the bus longer, but there should not be any bus runs that go any longer than the bus runs that currently go.

Councilmember Downes: I mean where we live, the kids were on the buses for a half-hour, 35 minutes. Now if you've got a kindergartener that's got to go all the way to Athens from outside of Coxsackie, there's no way it's not gonna be longer for that kid on the bus. I just don't see this Administration going in a good direction. I think they are very nonstudent or parent-centered. You're more about your Administration and what you guys feel the popular thing is, not for what's best for the community. And the Indian thing is just awful. I mean that should have been put out to vote throughout the District not six people who live in Coxsackie and have not been here for years. And you've got a lot of people upset.

Kerry Houlihan: Appreciate the feedback.

#### Supervisor Jeff Ruso

**Supervisor Ruso**: We wanted to bring forth some conversations about the American Rescue Plan Act. The American Rescue Plan Act is a federal grant process by which we are supposedly to receive \$360,000.

Ellie Alfeld: There's a catch in it somewhere.

Supervisor Ruso: The ARPA, also known as the American Rescue Plan Act, and there's a lot of strings. So far much of what we've come up with has been shot down, but we're not gonna be done.

Ellie Alfeld: Who's doing the rescue?

**Supervisor Ruso**: It's the federal money.

Ellie Alfeld: But we don't have any Committee yet.

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, we have a Grants Committee.

**Supervisor Ruso**: We have a Grant Writing Committee, that's her and I.

Councilmember VanEtten: Jeff, Nick and Nick has been helpful.

Supervisor Ruso: But we're just bringing everyone else up-to-date on this. I'm gonna read some things. 'ARPA can be used for Replacement of lead service lines, Creation or consolidation of drinking water systems, Public infrastructure to manage and treat stormwater, Water reuse, Cybersecurity needs, Climate change mitigation, Water conservation, Green infrastructure, Interconnecting water systems and well rehabilitation for drought resiliency.' That's what they said so we had a couple of things that we had -- and by the way there's also a part of the project, this is about accessibility and accessibility for the public -- and we thought that that meant certain things like the decrepit handicapped ramp and of the like. But apparently that's not the case. We thought some of this money could help relieve -- we didn't plan on having all of it to help the people in Water District #2 -- but they said that that's not covidrelated. We also thought it be better access and safety issues if we had a real paved parking lot instead of a half this and half that, but that doesn't count either. It is not to be used for any debt

reduction and so we have to come up with a number of different things. We do have some options in terms of, which to me doesn't make perfect sense but it's true, that if there's any income loss for the Town last year and we did -- \$60,000. And so we're working on other things to see what we can get. In fact the problem with the funds is -- there's two batches of funds, one's for counties and one's for towns. One, the counties get it directly from the federal government. Two, the town gets it from the state and it's rumored that they're gonna get a piece of it. I don't know if it's ten percent or zero percent, I don't know, but those are not absolutes, but we'll have up to \$360,000. We are also known as an NEU, a Non-Entitlement Unit. So that's what we're trying to do and I think what we have is a resolution before us in a little bit, we're going to have, a grant certainly this size, we're going to have another meeting, but the deadline for this is July 9. So, nevertheless, we're going to have a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday the 7th at 6PM, granted that everybody can accomplish that in this building, of course, where we are going to review what Jeff and Shelly come up with. I'm gonna make a Motion to schedule that Special Meeting for Wednesday the 7th of July at 6PM for the Town Board's final approval of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding grant application.

Councilmember Downes: I'll second.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS: ABSTAIN: ABSENT: Irving **Motion Carried** 

**Ellie Alfeld**: My question is if this is a meeting that's gonna come up with some ideas on the  $7^{th}$ , the closing date is the  $9^{th}$ ...

**Supervisor Ruso**: No, it is not. It is a meeting to formalize our application not to come up with it.

Councilmember VanEttten: We'll have the application already done.

**Supervisor Ruso**: Shelly and I have until the 7<sup>th</sup> basically is what I'm saying.

Councilmember Boehlke: So we'll have plenty of time for the Zoning Board meeting.

**Supervisor Ruso**: Well, if you want to say plenty of time if you can say that, but if the meeting starts at 6, the Zoning Board meeting will happen that evening at 7:30. So it shouldn't take that long once we have it here.

**Thomasina Winslow**: I was asking I had heard something about a water main break or something.

**Supervisor Ruso**: Yeah, in District 2.

Thomasina Winslow: Would that...?

Councilmember VanEtten: No, we tried.

**Supervisor Ruso**: I wanted to help some of those people out, but I can't. I'm not done yet. I've been on the phone Thursday, well I've been on the phone but the other party hasn't. I've made three phone calls to a fellow by the name of Madison Wellman who is the regional representative or aide or whatever the title is for the Congressman to get his help on this. I've spoken to him in the past, not recent past, and he did indicate he's by background a grantwriter so I'm thinking this might be the right guy. So the main important thing to me is to get the \$360,000 and we'll use it where we can.

Ellie Alfeld: Are you looking for input from the public?

**Supervisor Ruso**: You can call me anytime.

Ellie Alfeld: Jeff, I mean to show up for this meeting.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, it's a public meeting.

**Ellie Alfeld**: But to bring and suggestions to be submitted to you.

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, you're gonna have to do it before this.

**Supervisor Ruso**: I'd rather you just call me. I'll be glad to talk to you. We do have some thoughts and ideas. I know there are some things that are covid-related and I was informed today that the Town of Athens -- this is second in, I didn't get it from the Town of Athens -- put in for a new plow truck. Well, what's that have to do with covid? Well, they couldn't order one last year.

Councilmember VanEtten: And they got it?

Councilmember Boehlke: But ours is a stretch right. So you've got residents during a

lockdown who need water.

Supervisor Ruso: I know.

Councilmember VanEtten: I think we just need to come up with an angle.

**Councilmember Boehlke**: I think it should be pushed a little harder anyway.

**Supervisor Ruso**: It can't be used to pay off debt so it doesn't help the Sewer District. Couldn't do any of that stuff.

**Councilmember VanEtten**: Because we had to bond it so the debt was already there before the grant.

Supervisor Ruso: So nevertheless that's what we have.

#### Supervisor Jeff Ruso

The monthly financial reports for the month of May have been forwarded and has everyone had a chance to review them? I would like to make a Motion to accept those financial reports, seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS: ABSTAIN: ABSENT: Irving **Motion Carried** 

Greene County Legislature: 'Greene County has initiated a broadband and cellular communications project and is working with ECC technologies, a technology and communications consulting firm. It is the County's objective to identify every remaining household and business without access to fiber or coaxial broadband service and to formulate a technical solution and its estimated cost to providing service. The First Phase of the project requires extensive mapping and data collection of existing broadband networks throughout the county. Greene County is currently working with the major broadband providers operating within the county. The (sic) have already provided their network system to us. Years of working with our local broadband providers to access broadband funds through the New York Broadband Program has enabled the partnership necessary to assist the county in this effort. The information collected is being utilized to develop a high-level budgetary estimate of capital to serve the remaining households and businesses lacking access, which will enable the county in a second project phase to build a business model to secure funding through grant applications such as the USDA ReConnect Grant Program or other means available, such as the American Recovery Plan. Also included in the First Phase of the project is the development of a Broadband Availability and Adoption Tool (BAAT) Survey to provide residents the opportunity to comment on broadband availability and adoption limitations, as well as identify

areas of low take rate, typically a barrier for our local providers to fully build-out to low density roads. A website-landing page has been launched for residents to provide responses to the survey and advertising and marketing will soon begin to make residents aware of the project and the survey. The website domain name reserved specifically for this survey www.greenebroadband.com will be live starting June 1, 2021. Communications with our local elected officials is equally important to the success of the project and your assistance is requesting in this effort: 1. Please assist the county in communicating the availability of the **BAAT Survey** by placing this link on your website and taking every opportunity to communicate to your residents about the survey; 2. Please inform the county about projects that you may already be working on with our local providers. We are collaborating with Mid-Hudson Cable, State Telephone, Margaretville Telephone, and Charter Communications. They are aware of the project and the on-going survey efforts; 3. If your Town or Village has conducted a broadband project of its own please provide the results to the county, especially identify specific roads that are a priority for build-out. Greene County and our local Internet Service Providers were very successful in driving public funding to support Internet expansion during the three rounds of the New York Broadband Program, with thousands of additional households being served through this investment. The proverbial "last mile" for the remaining households and businesses are proving to be the most expensive and therefore most difficult to serve. This project is being led by the County's Office of Economic Development and Planning with the assistance of the County's Office of Real Property Tax Services and the Office of Emergency Management and Services. Please direct your communications to Warren Hart, Deputy County Administrator, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning at (518-719-3290, whart@discovergreene.com. Thank you for your commitment to supporting this important project. Collectively we have a proven record of accomplishment in expending internet service, and together we can solve this problem to the benefit of our communities and residents. Sincerely, Patrick S. Linger, Chairman Greene County Legislature'

**County Legislator Linger:** It sounds like your Town application is slightly different from the County's application for those funds. We didn't have to identify anything as far as a specific project goes to receive funds. We had to say that 'yes, we'll use the funds that you give us for the purpose you tell us they can be used for.' And that was pretty much it.

**Supervisor Ruso**: Well, the application has to be submitted to the State. That's the problem.

**County Legislator Linger**: I was involved with two meetings on the County side with the Congressman and I was at the meeting here on the Town side with the Congressman and I can tell you that 90 percent of what we were told in those meetings from the Congressman is not what the guidance from the Treasury Department says.

Councilmember VanEtten: We're finding that too.

County Legislator Linger: We're having much of the same problem and I do have that in my report as well for this month. I also have a conference call that we're setting up with Jessie and Robert from the Congressman's office. They believe that some of the projects that we have suggested will be able to be used with that funding even though the guidance says otherwise and the guidance documents -- there's an original document and there's a supplement that came out afterwards -- it's about 180-some pages between both of them. So it's pretty convoluted. It was supposed to be simple, this was supposed to be the funding to the local governments under a half-million people to help them cope with the costs of covid and it's not nearly as simple as people think it is.

**Supervisor Ruso**: Just to point out the previous legislation had funding for any community over 750,000 and that wasn't gonna be us.

**County Legislator Linger**: This was supposed to help those communities.

#### County Legislator Pat Linger

On June 2, 2021, I rescinded the remaining GC Emergency Orders related to Covid-19, and on June 4, 2021, I rescinded the State of Emergency. Resorts are opening, restaurants are busy, and unemployment hovers near 5 percent. Staffing levels continue to be a problem for not only our businesses in GC, but for our County departments as well. There are multiple job listings on our

website for the jail, DSS, Highway, and PH just to name a few. Senior centers are open again, but current staffing only allows the three cook centers to be operational, as we are short staffed by 50 percent. All other County departments are once again open to the public at this time. The exception to this is the DMV office, which is run by the County Clerk and not the Legislature. DMV will continue to primarily use scheduled appointments, drop boxes, and the USPS for business, but will accept walk-ins as time allows. I've requested she open at least one window for walk-in business for County residents. Public Health continues to track and trace positive cases, which have remained in the single digits for several weeks. I would encourage anyone who has not been vaccinated to do so. All of our quarantined residents are individuals who were exposed to a positive case, and are unvaccinated. We have initiated our broadband survey to gain the data required in developing our master plan for the 'last mile' of coverage in the County. The pandemic has brought to the forefront the need for broadband access to every home and business. The survey is available on our website, you can email planning@discovergreene.com to have it emailed, or call 518-719-3270 to have a hard copy mailed to you. Everyone should fill out this survey for any residence or business in the County. Postcards will be mailed in July to anyone not recorded as having taken the survey. Results will be analyzed after the August 31 completion date. We do expect to have availability to both State and Federal funding to help with this buildout. We have received half of our Federal American Rescue Plan funding. We're working with the Congressman's office to help navigate the Treasury Department guidelines in planning to invest this \$4.5 million. Due to the conservative budgeting of GC, we can't show a loss for 2020, which limits us somewhat in how we can spend this money. We do not plan to return this funding, and we will work to find the best allowable investment purposes for it. The good news so far for GC taxpayers is that our sales tax revenue is up 26 percent over 2020, which allows us to continue to conservatively budget without reducing services. We have opposed two initiatives that came from this year's State Legislative Session. The first asks the Legislature to reconsider the impacts to GC residents of the Climate and Community Investment Act. This bill, which has not yet passed the Legislature, will add an estimated \$0.55 per gallon tax to the fuels we use here in the County. It unfairly targets rural counties and their residents. The second is a bill that passed both houses, and awaits action from the Governor. We have asked the Governor to veto this bill imposing liability on law abiding firearms businesses for the criminal use of firearms. Passage of this bill into law will have a detrimental effect on many of our small businesses within the County. We held a workshop regarding establishing an animal abuse registry in GC and have set the Public Hearing for this Local Law for July 21 at 6:20pm in the Legislative Chambers, A second workshop was held last Wednesday to discuss the increasing need for mutual aid response with ems transport throughout the County. All Town Supervisors who operate an ambulance transport agency were invited to attend. Unfortunately, the Town Supervisors of the two agencies who are requiring the most assistance, Cairo and Coxsackie, did not attend. While BLS transport isn't a function of the County, this is a problem that is affecting residents countywide. We'd like to know what we could do to help alleviate the problem. Town Supervisors in attendance were going to take the information gained from that workshop back to their respective boards and ems personnel. We approved bids from Callanan Industries for 13.5 miles of paving around the County, including CR 26 and CR 51 in New Baltimore. This may be increased if the weather cooperates. With all municipalities receiving extra CHiPs funding this year, paving availability is limited. We awarded bids for the transportation of children with disabilities, as required by NYS. The household hazardous waste day has been scheduled for July 31, beginning at 7am at the County Highway garage on Scott Rd in Athens. We awarded the 2021 Employee of the Year awards to co-winners Heather Buffa and Amanda Lyons from Mental Health. I awarded the 2021 Chairman's Award to Dan King (Emergency Svcs), Penny Martinez (PH) and the entire Public Health Staff for their exceptional service during the Covid-19 pandemic response and recovery. GC was the recipient of the 2021 Pioneer Award from NYSAC and PERMA. This award is recognition from our peers in successfully exceeding all metrics in program participation, financial analysis, and ongoing adherence to safety and wellness protocols. Keeping workers compensation claims low reduces our risk, lowers our premiums, and keeps our employees safe and healthy. The GC Youth Fair is poised to open on July 22, where I will present Youth of the Year and Merit awards. The fair runs through Sunday, July 25. I presented a Wayne C. Speenburg Youth Grant to the RC Sportsman's Club in support of their Youth Fishing Derby on June 6, with 65 local youths in attendance.

Councilmember Downes: So I hear you have a headache at the jail.

**County Legislator Linger**: Not so much a headache it's more the same from State Commission on Corrections. We had hoped that with their involvement all along through our construction process that we could avoid anything at the end that they didn't like. Apparently, they had to justify their jobs and they found a few things that they didn't like.

**Councilmember Downes**: So what are we looking at just later in the summer?

County Legislator Linger: I don't even think it's gonna take that long. It's gonna more depend on the availability of what they come up with to solve their issue and how quickly we can get it. Right now there's a lot of supply chain issues so that's part of the issue. We had two corrections officer exams that we cancelled last year because of covid. That put us behind the eight ball on hiring. I think we're only three positions short right now for filling the entire staff which was better that we thought we would be at this point, but I think it's probably gonna look at a couple of weeks maybe a month delay for moving inmates in.

**Councilmember Downes**: That's not too bad because when I read it it was like they came down and they were just being themselves.

**County Legislator Linger**: The building is done. Now it's just satisfying the Commission on Corrections on some of these smaller things and some of them were in our design to begin with and they changed them back then and now they don't like it. They want us to go back. We'll get there.

Councilmember Downes: So are you hiring co's provisionally or do you have a list?

County Legislator Linger: We are. We have two lists; we have another exam that's coming up, it might have just been earlier this month. It's right around now, but that will be six to eight weeks before we get the results there. What we are able to do is take on some of our Sheriff's Deputies that are getting hired and provisionally put them into the jail if we need them and then move them out into the road patrol as we fill those spots within the jail. Again it's all based off of CoC approval. They're actually requiring us to run our kitchen 24 hours a day with no one there to make sure it works and prove it works. There's some very silly things that are going on. It's what we have to do, we don't have a choice here.

Councilmember Downes: I know. I just saw that in the paper. When it came up it was like...

**County Legislator Linger**: We'll get there. It's impressive for them to have gotten that building to the point that it is of completion on schedule and under budget. So if we've got to go another couple weeks here. We've been 18 months now so it won't kill us.

**Councilmember Downes**: Now are any of these other positions that you can't fill awaiting exams or are there lists out there?

**County Legislator Linger**: No, there not awaiting exams. We always can appoint provisionally until they pass an exam, but there's not a lot of people knocking down the doors for jobs. We're still I think 11 short in Highway. Those are generally basic labor positions. We can't fill them.

Ellie Alfeld: Isn't that common for almost all the industries and businesses?

Councilmember VanEtten: Yeah, everybody. We have problems.

County Legislator Linger: Everybody out there right now.

Ellie Alfeld: I mean it's really sad.

County Legislator Linger: Our resorts are having a hard time finding enough help. We have restaurants that are closing two days a week because they don't have enough staff to keep the restaurant open for their regular hours. We have businesses that are shortening their hours. It's everywhere. It's a big problem. I've spoken with the Assemblyman on reaching out to take away the extra incentives for the unemployment.

JUNE 28, 2021 – Page 8

**Councilmember Downes**: Do we see any light at the end of the tunnel for that? I thought it was like September or something.

County Legislator Linger: September is supposed to be when the funding runs out from the federal side. I didn't anticipate the rental order being extended again but it was. So I would just be taking a guess like everybody else if I said it's gonna end in September and people are gonna have to get back to work. As long as this federal money is out there and it's being handed out, there's not a lot of incentive for someone who is okay with living on the edge to go out and work and get a job unfortunately.

**Councilmember Downes**: I was at a function the other day with someone and a person that they supervised was out of the Bronx. They shipped up their resume to like the Residence Inn in Albany to prove so that they could stay on unemployment that they were looking for a job. No intention of taking it, but now they are coming down a little bit on that to prove that you are actually looking for a job.

**County Legislator Linger**: And, Jeff, I did get an answer to your question on the mortgage tax. You asked me last month how that split was. That is a 50/50 split with the county and towns and then **it's** based off of the value of the mortgages sold within your town.

**Supervisor Ruso**: There is a second part to the question. When do I get the check?

**County Legislator Linger**: You just asked. I'll check. It went through our Board last month, but it may not have been through the audit last month because that's before the Board meeting, but I'll check.

**Supervisor Ruso**: I think I'll just point out, I don't have the numbers exact in my head, but we had budgeted \$50,000 for mortgage tax which is similar to what we got in years gone by. It comes in two payments so roughly half and half. It comes in June and the other comes in November, but in the June one that we're supposed to have, it's already \$50,000.

County Legislator Linger: \$56,700 I believe.

**Supervisor Ruso**: We're already over our income projections for our mortgage tax and we still have another one at the end of the year.

**County Legislator Linger**: We budgeted \$950,000 for the County and that one came in at \$1.1 million. Very similar. Any other questions?

**Supervisor Ruso**: I did want to point out that the 55 cents per gallon is not just on our cars.

County Legislator Linger: All fuels.

**Supervisor Ruso**: You got it. It's on your heating fuel and your propane, but I hear it's not gonna be on natural gas.

County Legislator Linger: Which most of our County doesn't have.

**Supervisor Ruso**: Natural gas is not a rural feature. I wish it were, but, unfortunately, I think you pointed out it's gonna hit people like us.

**County Legislator Linger**: I've been told that there is a rebate program as part of that bill. I read the almost 5,000 lines in that bill and I didn't see it, but I've been told there will be a \$1,000 rebate for families under a certain income level to offset some of that cost.

**Councilmember VanEtten**: And what about businesses that have all these trucks on the road. That's really gonna take a hit.

**County Legislator Linger**: I was told that there is a \$1,000 rebate. I don't recall what the income threshold was on it mostly because I read the bill and I didn't see it in there, but it very well may be true. It hasn't passed both Houses yet anyway so it's still stuck in Committee at the

Legislative level. We're trying to make sure they fully understand that it unfairly treats rural counties.

**Councilmember Downes**: Anybody that's gotta drive to work.

**Eilleen Vosburgh**: Can you ask the County to look at Main Street? There's a pothole starting just as you come down the hill area.

County Legislator Linger: On which end?

Eilleen Vosburgh: 144 coming down.

County Legislator Linger: 144.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Right in front of Knighton's as you start to go down.

County Legislator Linger: Call me anytime because I can always call them. They can run up

with patch.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Alright, thank you.

#### Town Clerk Barb Finke

1 Special Use NonCommercial \$40, 3 Building Permits \$207.50, 1 Chimney & Woodstove \$40, 1 Deck & Porch \$75, 3 CO Searches \$45, 1 EZ Pass Tag \$25, 4 Fishing Licenses \$5.52, 14 Dog Licenses \$96, 5 Late Dog Licenses \$25, 2 Marriage Licenses \$35, 1 Beer Permit \$20, 2 Demolition Permits \$150, 1 Excavation Fees Culvert Under Driveway \$35, 1 Park Rental \$25, 2 Minor Subdivisions \$60, 3 Above Ground Swimming Pools \$180, 1 Solar Residential \$50, 1 Sign \$25, State, County & Local Revenues \$1,297.50, to New York State Agriculture and Markets for Spay/Neuter Program \$19, to New York State Department of Health for Marriages \$45, to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation \$94.48, Total to Supervisor \$1,139.02 There were two FOILs in May for a total of 11 for 2021, the information has been compiled and residents have been notified. I just wanted to update the Board and the public on E-Z Pass sales. We have so far sold 52 since we were licensed to sell in the fall of 2018, adding revenue of \$208 to the Town. An order was received for the third batch of 25. The first Newsletter of 2021 was mailed to residents with articles from Supervisor Ruso on the financial condition of the Town, the new date and procedures for Grievance Day 2021 from Assessor Justin Maxwell, congratulating Diane Jordan on her retirement, the canceling of AgFest, the pause for the Summer Recreation Program, Town Historian Ted Hilscher's interviews with Irv Smith, restoration of Joseph Wyche District #1 Park and Silver Lake District #3 Park, Wastewater Treatment Plan construction project status, Route 144 bridge replacement, Townwide Yard Sale, Champlain Hudson Power Express and contact information, Water District No. 2, Greene County 2021 Rabies Clinic, County Legislature Pat Linger's thoughts on the County's partnership with the Greene County EMS Paramedic Service, availability of 911 signs or E-Z Pass tags, Supervisor Ruso's appointment to the Advisory Council to the Greene County Department of Aging, introducing Sherry Vieta as the new Dog Control Officer, Town meetings calendar, and contact information for all departments. This is a team project and I would like to thank everyone who assisted in writing articles, copying, folding, stamping, labeling, and tabbing. This is one of my favorite jobs as Town Clerk and I'm happy that Supervisor Ruso and Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti recognized the importance of getting information to our residents and restored the necessary funding that was cut in 2013.

#### Tax Collector Diane Jordan

Property/County Tax— There is a 5% penalty added to unpaid bills until the June 30, please have the bills to the post office and post marked on or before the 30, of June. After this date there will be another 1% penalty added to the bills that are still due. I collect this payment until July 31, 2021, then all paperwork goes to Greene County. You will pay Greene County all property taxes after the due date of July 30, Sewer District #1 Sewer #1 now has a 10% penalty added to the bill and are due by July 15, after this date there will be another 2% penalty added to the unpaid bill. Second billing for Sewer #1 will go out again in July for August 15 payment. Water District #2 Also Water #2 bills now has a 10% penalty on February 15, bill or a 4% penalty added to the May 15, bill that are due by July 15, bills unpaid by then will have another 2%

penalty added to the unpaid bill after July 15, Third quarter water # 2 bills will also be sent out in July for an August 15, payment. Anyone with questions please call me at (518) 756-6671 x2 and I will be happy to help you any time.

#### Building & Grounds/Recycling Coordinator Kirk Trombley

April 26-May 28, 2021 4 Tires Up To And Include 16" Without Rims \$8, 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastics) 9, 9 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 51 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 128 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, 1 Air Conditioner June 26, Total Income \$8

#### Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for May, 2021, is as follows: Building Inspections: 26, Total Building Permits Issued: 21, Building Permits Renewed: 1, Certificates of Compliance Issued: 3, Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 4, Commercial Permits Issued: 5, Demolition Permits Issued: 3, Total New Building Permit Applications Received: 15, New Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 7, Open Building Permits: 171, Pool Permit Applications Received: 2, Pool Permits Issued: 2, Sign Permit: 1, New Septic System Applications: 1, New Septic System Permit: 1, Total New Applications Year to Date: 49, Application Fees for May, 2021: \$727.50, Total Fees for Year to Date: \$3,966.10

#### Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement Representative Nick Dellisanti

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. There were 7 EMS calls in May for a total of 44 for this year, 2021. We had 89 calls for all of 2020.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti**: So we are ahead of the curve and our numbers appear to be going up. We also had our third Telemedicine call this month which is very good.

#### TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

#### RESOLUTION 115-2021 JUNE 28, 2021

### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE USE AND WAIVE FEES FOR PARK RENTALS BY THE CORNELL HOOK & LADDER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOSTING THE 2021 GREENE COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

**WHEREAS** the Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company is commemorating their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and will be hosting the 2021 Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association Convention from September 7-11, 2021.

**WHEREAS** the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore approves the reservation of the Joseph Wyche Park to host these historic events and waives all fees and deposits for said rental.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Irving
Motion Carried

#### Highway Superintendent Alan Van Wormer

Highway Report May 24 to June 22, 2021 Cleaned up brush on Lime Kiln Road from tree that had fallen over the weekend. Finished installing new culverts on the roads that we will be paving this year. Tore down old building at District 3 park. Began working on drainage project at District 1 park. Mowed and weed whacked all cemeteries Hauled in more number 2 stone for District one park. Worked on utilities building at District 1 park preparing for new electric. Shimmed Jennings Road with blacktop preparing for paving. Grader patched School Hill Road. Checked over 1985 International truck number 9 for NYS inspection. Replaced ignition switch on bomag roller. Cleaned debris from culvert pipe on West Deans Mill Road. Cut back grass at intersections where visibility was becoming an issue. Picked up 2x6 lumber for concrete forms a

district 3 park. Grader patched small section of Roberts Hill Road. Mowed and weed wacked parks, Town Hall, and Highway Garage as needed. Changed tires on 1991 International truck number 5 and had inspected. Took rear tire from Case International tractor to McCarthy Tire to be repaired. Changed and sharpened blades on Case International mower. Cut brush and weeds around road signs. Tuesday June 15 we took delivery of our new skid steer. Monday June 21 all employees attended training on the new skid steer. Replaced two sets of stolen road name signs, one at Staco Road and Featherbed Lane, and one at Lime Kiln Road and Schellar Park Road. Started digging out roadway going from parking lot to pavilion at district 1 park and backfilling with millings.

#### TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

#### RESOLUTION 116-2021 JUNE 28, 2021

### RESOLUTION APPOINTING PART-TIME HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE

**WHEREAS** due to a resignation, a part-time vacancy exists in the Highway Department and the Highway Superintendent has made a recommendation for appointment.

**RESOLVED** that James Meade is appointed as a Part-Time Heavy Motor Equipment Operator at a salary of \$17.81 per hour for a probationary period of six months where the salary will increase to \$18.31 following successful evaluation.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

Councilmember Boehlke: Is this in response to this resignation?

Supervisor Ruso: It's related. That's gonna be under Personnel which is only two spots down.

**Councilmember Downes**: What is this person for? Is this person for snowplowing or all year long? Do we know?

**Supervisor Ruso**: Right now it's yes, he's gonna be all year long. I don't have any absolute about snowplowing, but he is a qualified Heavy Equipment Operator.

Councilmember Downes: Equipment Operator so he must have a CDL, but I just didn't know.

**Councilmember Boehlke**: All the positions now are standard.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, VanEtten NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Irving
Motion Carried

#### Personnel

**Supervisor Ruso**: You all have a piece of paper that came to you and I'll just briefly read it. It is dated June 28. 'To Whom It May Concern, I Harry Medert Resign from my position of part time equipment operator effective June 28, 2021 from the Town of New Baltimore Highway Department. Thank you Harry Medert' So you're absolutely right, William, it is related. We knew this was coming and we were certainly prepared ahead of time. He had made it quite clear that he was not going to be with us. So I'll make a Motion to accept his resignation.

Councilmember Downes: I'll second.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS: ABSTAIN: ABSENT: Irving **Motion Carried** 

OWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY JUNE 28, 2021 – Page 12

**Ellie Alfeld**: How long did this gentleman work for the Town?

**Supervisor Ruso**: I don't think a year. I can't say why he's leaving. It's a personal reason that he's leaving.

**Ellie Alfeld**: I'm wondering if the rate of pay has anything to do with how difficult it is sometimes to find the qualified people.

Supervisor Ruso: That's always true. It's not related to this case though.

**Ellie Alfeld**: I'm not referring to this case. Overall the employment on the Garage end, it's hard to get qualified people and they don't last a very long time some of them.

**Councilmember Downes**: But that's across the board. These CDL's are a huge problem.

**Ellie Alfeld**: When you go through that CDL you have to really pay your dues you know that and plus the fact does the Town pay the difference between a CDL and a regular operator?

Supervisor Ruso: Absolutely.

Ellie Alfeld: You do?

Supervisor Ruso: You're at a higher rate when you have a CDL if that's what you're saying.

Ellie Alfeld: You know I want you to pay the cost of a license itself.

**Councilmember VanEtten**: But it's been all the way across the board even for companies that pay more and have full benefits and everything else. Their still having a hard time getting employees. People don't want to work.

**Councilmember Downes**: The County's having problems, the State's having problems.

**Councilmember VanEtten**: Private industry is having problems, but on the other hand we have a lot of employees who have been there long term for the long haul so.

#### Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten

The Planning Board met on June 10, 2021, with the following business transacted: Public Hearings were held as follows: ...Public Hearing was held on the Holly Richardson Minor Subdivision Application for a two-lot subdivision of property owned on Reservoir Road. ...Public Hearing was held on the Erin Patrick & Erol Kekic Special Use Permit Application for a ground mount solar array of size to require a Special Use Permit. Due to public comment received and concerns raised because of size and visibility to neighboring property on Route 61, Public Hearing was recessed to a later date for Solar Company representative present on behalf of applicants to discuss possible alternatives for the solar array. In the Regular Monthly Meeting that followed: ...-Richardson Minor subdivision was approved with no conditions. ...Jim Brockett from J.B. Car Services was present for discussion with regard to his Special Use Permit requiring annual renewal. Following discussion, the Board passed resolution for Permit to continue with no added conditions beyond those previously established. ...Representatives were present from Teichos as well as their authorized representative for a re-cap and to present additional information on the Hannacroix Solar Project. Our engineer from Crawford Engineering and several ZBA members were also present so the same information would not have to be presented before both Boards separately. Discussion will be continued and more information presented at meetings in the coming months.

#### Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Pat Linger

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet on June 2, 2021, since there were no applications to come before the Board. Some of the Board Members attended the June 10 Planning Board Meeting. Since due to COVID, the Hannacroix Solar project had been somewhat on hold since early 2020 with regard to coming before the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Appeals, applicant's representatives were present to re-cap what had transpired so far and to present some

new information. With both Boards present, it meant that it would not be necessary to go through the same information twice.

#### Town Court

The following is the Town of New Baltimore Court monthly report for May 2021.

- Total May monies received was \$28,217.
  - Judge Melewski
     Judge Huff
     \$15,093.00
     \$13,124.00
  - o State/County Share \$18,269.00 Town Share \$9,948.00
- Total 2021 (January-May) monies received \$117,652.00
  - o State/County Share \$75,274.00 Town Share \$42,378.00
- Total New Cases Received 301

#### TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

#### RESOLUTION 117-2021 JUNE 28, 2021

#### 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 2021b-07-01 to 2021b-07-31, it is

**RESOLVED** that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2021b-07-01 to 2021b-07-31.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until July 31, 2021.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS: ABSTAIN: ABSENT: Irving **Motion Carried** 

General \$35,562.85, Highway \$20,640.95, Sewer 1 \$186.15, Water 2 \$4,856.05, Ambulance 1 \$3,903.48, Ambulance 2 \$2,292.52, Total \$67,442.

#### Public Comment

**Eilleen Vosburgh**: I saw in the *News Herald* that there was an article 'Developer revives Hannacroix solar proposal' and one thing I was excited about it said that 'energy generated by the project will remain in the local power grid and will not be transported downstate to New York City like similar solar projects in the county.' I think that's a really good thing. The article said that it revived the solar proposal. Was this called something else or was it called the Hannacroix Solar?

**Supervisor Ruso**: It's had two names, Teichos as well as Hannacroix Solar. It was initiated in 2019, but it went way on the back burner during the covid times. There's been no action or proposals or submissions for over a year.

Eilleen Vosburgh: There were some comments made by Ken Finke which were really good. It said 'Planning board member Ken Finke asked about the grid's capacity to handle the additional power.' He said, 'We were talking with another solar project,' I assume that's Oriole, I could be wrong 'in town and we were told that the grid system is maxxed out and the grid system will not support any more than maybe another megawatt in the area here within a 10-mile radius.' Ken Finke said. 'I don't know if you have an approval letter from Central Hudson or the utility company' and then the project manager said that 'The Hannacroix project is already included in

#### TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE COUNTY OF GREENE TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING

Draft 7/8/2021 Adopted 7/12/2021

### TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087 JUNE 28, 2021 – Page 14

the capacity.' 'The project already has an existing agreement.' It was approved in the Governor's 2019 proposal something like that, but I'm hoping that Ken and the Planning Board will make them show that it is.

**Councilmember VanEtten**: Did you go to the Planning Board meeting? They've had several. They really are deciding that, but we really don't have anything...

**Supervisor Ruso:** At this point, yes, it is just before the Planning Board.

**Eilleen Vosburgh**: Okay and I'm making a comment and I have a right to say something about it

**Councilmember VanEtten**: Right, but if you go to the meeting you might find our more information about that kind of thing.

**Eilleen Vosburgh**: Thank you, Shelly. I guess that's my question. Do they really have it and I hope the Planning Board will you know make sure. Not saying people are liars or anything, I'm just saying you have to follow through.

Supervisor Ruso: Trust that verifies, is that what you're saying basically?

**Eilleen Vosburgh**: Yeah, yeah. But I am really glad to set that the Town will supposedly get some benefit from this.

Supervisor Ruso: The area.

**Eilleen Vosburgh**: Whatever happened to that first project? Remember they were going to sell subscriptions.

**Supervisor Ruso**: They're proceeding.

**Eilleen Vosburgh**: What happened to the subscriptions?

Supervisor Ruso: Did you buy one?

**Eilleen Vosburgh**: We were supposed to be told about it.

Town Clerk Finke, Supervisor Ruso, Councilmember VanEtten: By them.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Right. Well, I didn't get a letter. Did you?

**Supervisor Ruso**: Me neither. (To Ellie Alfeld) Did you get one?

**Ellie Alfeld**: None of us did that I know of.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- July 7, 2021 Town Board Special Meeting at 6PM on the American Rescue Plan Act
- July 7, 2021 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM if Needed
- July 8, 2021 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- July 12, 2021 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- July 26, 2021 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS: ABSTAIN: ABSENT: Irving **Motion Carried** 

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you, have a good night each and all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC Town Clerk