

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

**NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

*Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.*

**Reports**

Supervisor

- Resolution to Approve Streetlight LED Conversion

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- Resolution to Forward Delinquent Water and Sewer Accounts to Greene County Real Property Tax Service for Relevy onto 2024 Property Taxes
- November 13, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Historian

Agriculture/AgFest (Chair Boehlke/Member Irving)

Animal Control (Chair Irving, Member Ruso)

Assessment (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

- Resolution Setting Public Hearing for a Proposed Local Law to Establish a New Schedule of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Persons Sixty-Five (65) Years of Age or Over and Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes

Audit and Budget (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

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

- Motion to Approve Use of Town Hall on December 6 from 6-9 PM by Ann Marie Vadney

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

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

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

Greene County Planning Board (Boehlke)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

- Resolution to Approve Emergency Repair to 1993 International Plow Truck

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**

- December 6, 2023 Senior Luncheon at Pegasus Restaurant at 12 PM (Reservation Only)
- December 6, 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM if Needed
- December 11, 2023 Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 5 of 2023 to Establish a New Schedule of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Persons Sixty-Five (65) Years of Age or Over and Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes
- December 11, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- December 14, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- December 25, 2023 Town Offices Closed, Happy Holiday
- December 27, 2023 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.

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**OPENING OF WORK MEETING**

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Also attending Councilmembers Boehlke, Irving, and VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; County Legislator Linger; Town Clerk Finke; Highway Superintendent VanWormer; and 10 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Councilmembers Downes

***Supervisor Jeff Ruso***

The monthly financials for October have been forwarded to each. I hope you’ve had a chance to review them, but I’m gonna make a Motion to accept them.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** I’ll second.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** In the past week I have knowledge that the Town is going to receive two checks from Champlain Hudson Power Project and one is for \$10,000 and the other is for \$5,000. These are, particularly the \$5,000 is an escrow account, in the case there’s any repairs that they didn’t take care of. They do get that back. So just in case anyone sees it on the financial reports and wants to know what the heck that is, it’s an escrow so it’s gonna be a separate account that we have to set up.

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**

**RESOLUTION 121-2023**

**NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE STREETLIGHT LED CONVERSION**

**WHEREAS** Central Hudson was requested to provide a proposal to convert the remaining non-LED streetlights in Lighting Districts 1 & 2, and;

**WHEREAS** their proposal, including the deduction of \$2,658.56 for an Energy Efficiency rebate which decreased the cost of the conversion to \$5,670.11, and;

**WHEREAS** such conversion to LEDs should save the Town approximately 16,000 KWH annually, and;

**WHEREAS** 16,000 KWH would reflect an approximate savings of \$3,000 annually, thus providing the Town with about 2 years for payback on the upfront initial investment,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the Town Supervisor sign the agreement with Central Hudson to convert the remaining non-LED streetlights to LED.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

**Supervisor Ruso:** We tried to do this about eight years ago but the cost was too much.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

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***County Legislator Linger***

In November, I attended 8 committee meetings, 4 special meetings, the regular Legislative meeting, and the 2023 Honor a Veteran Ceremony. In what I consider one of the most important tasks we have as Legislators, we adopted the 2024 budget in the amount of \$131,039,230. The levy to raise the approved funds will remain at \$27,404,370, the same amount as the 2023 budget and every budget passed since 2020. New Baltimore property taxpayers will see a reduction of 0.3% in their County property tax bills. Despite increases in costs, we have not increased our levy since my first year as County Chairman. While Greene is one of 11 counties who do not share sales tax receipts with Towns, I have been able to increase the amount of both fund balances and sales tax collections which get appropriated in our budget. This benefits our property taxpayers directly. Within this budget, we authorized \$100k to fund the Greene County Cares Fund. This CGCC Foundation grant will be dispersed to the college as \$50k for each of the spring and fall semesters. There are several students from New Baltimore who have received these funds, and student registration has increased as a result. We received \$110,558 in Opioid Settlement funds to add to the \$470,000 received in 2022. Funds will be used to treat opioid use disorders, support treatment and recovery, provide connections to care, harm reduction, training, and research. Programs are developed through collaborative efforts with mental health, public health, and the GCSO. The application period is now open for inclusion in Ag District 124. The Agricultural District 124 Application Form must be completed and sent to Greene County Economic Development, Tourism & Planning by the end of this month. We adopted the Greene County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. We authorized the purchase of vehicles for Public Health, Emergency Services, and the Sheriff offices with grant funds and cash reserves. We set Public Hearings for the Senior Tax Exemption and Persons with disabilities and limited incomes for Wednesday, December 20th, 2023 at 6:20 p.m. This will increase the maximum income limits by \$1,100. We authorized the distribution of mortgage taxes, including \$27,208.55 for the Town of New Baltimore. We authorized the advertisement of bids for the construction of new residential drop-off infrastructure at the Catskill Transfer Station. The Town recycling center is now a drop-off collection location for Project Ella. We reappointed Michelle Deyo as Director for Veteran Services. We have spent the last 18 months working on a development plan for the former jail site on Bridge Street in Catskill. The architect was hired, a project manager was hired, and bids were put out for the construction of the new Justice Center to be attached to the GC Courthouse. This building has been designed with parking at the ground level, the NYS Office of Court Administration on the first floor, and the GC offices for the Public Defender and District Attorney on the second floor. In a surprise move, the Chairman of the Public Safety committee unilaterally pulled the resolution to approve the low bids from his agenda. This created a challenge to his ruling by our Parliamentarian at the next meeting, which was sustained by a majority vote of the Public Safety committee members. Special meetings were held for Public Safety, Finance, and the full board on November 20, where the bids were subsequently awarded prior to the bid expiration deadline. The cost has been approved at \$28,800,000 and will be shared between the County, NYS OILS, and NYS OCA. Having recently retired nearly \$3million in bonds, the construction of this building will have no negative effect on property taxes. Moving forward, we are looking at a new Community Services building which we plan to use cash reserves for, also not affecting property taxes. This would be nearly \$50million in new construction with no increases in taxes.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Would the authorization of the mortgage taxes what we received is just a line item, New Baltimore \$27,000, is it possible I can get a breakdown as to where that was calculated?

**County Legislator Linger:** Yeah, it's done by the County Clerk's office. I can pass that onto you.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, that would be nice.

**County Legislator Linger:** They get a lump sum.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I understand.

**County Legislator Linger:** And then it gets split up however the formula is.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, I understand. I'm just curious in case there's errors on that, audited for one such as what we had with our franchise with the cable tv. People who had a Cocksackie mailing address, West Cocksackie, that went to Cocksackie even though they lived in New Baltimore. I just want to make sure that's all I want to do.

**County Legislator Linger:** Right, got 'cha. Understood.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That was years ago, but has nothing to do with Greene County, but errors happen.

**County Legislator Linger:** I can get it for you. Absolutely, yeah.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Because it's significantly down from last year.

**County Legislator Linger:** Yeah, and so is the housing market so that was kind of expected.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I don't know how it compares with every other...

**County Legislator Linger:** Nobody's refinancing right now at 6 percent.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Who is heaven's name or you care not to reveal, who is the Chairman of the Public Service Committee? Why would they pull that?

**County Legislator Linger:** Tom Hobart from Cocksackie and I don't know why he pulled it other than the fact he doesn't like the building that was designed that was approved by the majority of the Board.

***Town Clerk Barb Finke***

13 Building Permits \$5,592.00, 1 Chimney & Woodstove \$50, 1 New Septic System \$50, 2 CO Searches \$100, 2 EZPass Tags \$50, 11 Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$40.80, 1 Exempt Dog, 9 Dog Licenses \$66, 2 Late License \$10, 1 Marriage License \$17.50, 1 Lot Line Adjustment \$50, 1 Solar Residential \$278.40, 6 Certified Copies \$60, 2 Photo Copies \$0.50, Recycle Fees \$20, Total State, County & Local Revenues \$7,066.90, \$13 to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the Spay/Neuter Program, \$22.50 to the New York State Department of Health for Marriages, to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/ Fishing Licenses \$646.20, Total to Supervisor \$6,385.20. I would like to thank the many Town residents who called and those that I saw in our area who personally congratulated me on my recent designation as a Certified Town Official, a very proud moment for me and the Town of New Baltimore. I would like to thank everyone for their continued patience with our current staffing situation. One clerk returned for a few hours a day and one will be out until the end of November.

**Town Clerk Finke:** And she came back today and she's thrilled to be back from Brazil.

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**

**RESOLUTION 122-2023**  
**NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

**RESOLUTION TO FORWARD DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS  
TO GREENE COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE FOR RELEVY  
ONTO 2024 PROPERTY TAXES**

**WHEREAS** the Town of New Baltimore has 18 delinquent water accounts in the amount of \$10,875.95.

**WHEREAS** the Town of New Baltimore has 52 delinquent sewer accounts in the amount of \$15,613.37.

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***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that no further payments were accepted after October 31, 2023 and any and all unpaid water and sewer accounts for the year 2023 will be sent to Greene County Real Property Tax Service to be relieved onto 2024 property taxes.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

**Supervisor Ruso:** If you don't pay the bills it goes on their taxes.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The November 13, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Irving. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

***Assessment***

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**

**RESOLUTION 123-2023**

**NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

**RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING FOR A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO  
ESTABLISH A NEW SCHEDULE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS  
FOR PERSONS SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE OR OVER  
AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOMES**

***BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore will hold a Public Hearing on December 11, 2023 at 6:45 PM at the Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, New York to hear those members of the public who wish to be heard regarding proposed Local Law 5 of 2023, a Local Law to establish a new schedule of real property tax exemptions for persons sixty-five (65) years of age or over and persons with disabilities and limited incomes.

**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #5 OF 2023**

**A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A NEW SCHEDULE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX  
EXEMPTIONS FOR PERSONS SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE OR OVER AND  
PESONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOMES**

***BE IT ENACTED*** by the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore, as follows:

SECTION 1. This Local Law is adopted pursuant to the authority of Real Property Tax §459© and §467. All definitions, terms and conditions of such statute shall apply to this Local Law and are incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. Local Law #1 of 2023 is HEREBY REPEALED.

SECTION 3. The Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore will follow the Greene County Senior Citizen Tax Exemption and hereby establishes the following sliding scale of property tax exemptions for real property owned by persons sixty-five (65) years of age or over and for real property owned by a person with a disability whose income is limited by such disability, and used as the legal residence of such person, based on the income limits set forth below:

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Draft 12/6/2023

Adopted 12/11/2023

<u>Maximum Income Limit</u>	<u>Property Tax Exemption</u>
\$35,100.00	50%
\$35,100.01-\$36,099.99	45%
\$36,100.00-\$37,099.99	40%
\$37,100.00-\$38,099.99	35%
\$38,100.00-\$38,999.99	30%
\$39,000.00-\$39,899.99	25%
\$39,900.00-\$40,799.99	20%
\$40,800.00-\$41,699.99	15%
\$41,700.00-\$42,599.99	10%
\$42,600.00-\$43,499.99	5%

SECTION 4. Any person who qualifies for a property tax exemption as a person with a disability shall not be eligible for a property tax exemption as a person who is sixty-five (65) years of age or over.

SECTION 5. The maximum income limit set forth in Section 3 above shall be offset by medical and prescription drug expenses actually paid which are not reimbursed or paid for by insurance.

SECTION 6. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke  
AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving, VanEtten  
NAYS:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT: Downes  
**Motion Carried**

**Buildings & Grounds**  
**Supervisor Ruso:** We have a request to use the Town of New Baltimore, this room, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December from 6 PM-9 PM and the requestor is none other than Ann Marie Vadney and something with the NY Citizens Audit. This has to do with election integrity.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Yes.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I thought so and so we need to make a Motion to approve the use of the Town Hall for said purposes. So Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, I’ll make a Motion.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** I’ll second

**Supervisor Ruso:** It’s a legit outfit, it’s not something you made up?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** It has to be open to the public right?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** It’s for the public.

Many speaking at once.

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

**Supervisor Ruso:** I’ll look this over. Thank you, Ann Marie.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** You’re welcome.

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***Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley***

October 25, 2023-November 27, 2023 4 Tires up to and including 16” with rim \$20, 60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastics) 12, 29 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 43 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 122 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, 1 Refrigerator, Large November 1, and 1 Microwave Oven November 22. Total Income \$20

**Supervisor Ruso:** Just as a point we did receive last week a check from the Baroni Recycling for the metals \$329. I believe we’re \$1,200 this year.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** \$1,600.

**Supervisor Ruso:** \$1,600, thank you. Just keep throwing your stuff in.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Better in our pocket, right?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, of course.

***Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin***

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for October, 2023, is as follows: Building Inspections: 24, Building Permits (Miscellaneous) Issued: 7, Building Permits Renewed: 4, Building Permit Renewal Letters Sent: First Notice: 3, Certificates of Compliance Issued: 5, Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 2, Demolition Permit Applications: 1, Demolition Permits Issued: 1, Total New Applications Received: 9, New Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 12, Open Building Permits: 218, New Septic System Applications: 1, New Septic System Permits Issued: 2, Residential Ground Mount Solar Applications: 1, Application Fees for October, 2023: \$5,970.40  
Total Fees for Year to Date: \$25,938.83

***Greene County EMS Representative Nick Dellisanti***

The regular monthly meeting was held Tuesday, November 21, 2023. There were 19 EMS calls in October for a total of 140 for this year 2023. Last year in 2022 we had 180 calls.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** So we are actually behind our calls which is a good thing for this year.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We get charged for each one so.

**Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti:** We had seven strokes in October for Greene County and eleven overdoses.

***Highway Superintendent Alan Van Wormer***

October 23 to November 27 2023 Removed and Replaced leaking oil pan on 2006 F350, Took hydraulic hose from roadside boom mower to Mooradian for repair, Assisted Town of Coxsackie remove old pavilion from Coxsackie Senior Center with our excavator, Mounted roof light on 2023 F350, Grader patched East Honey Hollow and Old Kings Roads with blacktop, Put together and installed new speed limit signs on Old Kings road and North Ridge Road, Backed up driveway on East Honey Hollow Road with item4, Took 2023 F350 to access safety for lettering, Met with four companies about repairs to Garage door at highway Garage, Paved remainder of Town Hall parking lot, and handicap parking area to make safer and easier to plow. Thank you to the Town of Durham for your paver and crew, and Town of Coeymans for a truck to haul in the blacktop, Serviced 2012 International plow truck, Picked up garbage from Town Hall, Picked up bagged leaves in Hamlet, Replaced 4x4 solenoid on 2012 International plow truck, Put plow and salter on 2012 F350, Replaced oil sump on plow for 1012 f350, Having Engine issues on 2012 International plow truck keeps going into limp mode, had Town of Catskill hook it to their computer showed no codes. Truck is now at HL Gage waiting to be looked at. Emergency Repair request was submitted on 11/20/23 with no response. Replaced blown air intake hose on 1012 International plow truck, Brought 2023 F350 to Toads for plow install, Removed beaver dam from culvert on West Deans Mill Road, Cut and Removed fallen tree from Roberts Hill Road, Serviced all remaining plow trucks, Cut and removed fallen tree from Saw Mill Road, Put plows and wings on all trucks, Painted all plows and wings, Patched large hole on West Deans Mill Road with winter mix. Removed large hung up tree limb on Alcove Road, Replaced right side



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front tire on Roadside mower tractor, Cut and chipped brush on Haas Hill Road, Attended snow and ice control workshop provided by Cornell Local Roads, Started to replace bearing on Case International roadside mower, Cut and chipped brush at sewer plant, 11/21/23 sent 3 plows out at 7:30pm, worked until 2am on 11/22, Barnett Ryder, and Eugene VanAlstyne have started their CDL training with the Teamsters. Truck Status 2012 International is at HL Gage (waiting on emergency repair approval, requested 11/20) 1993 International is at W&W (waiting on emergency repair approval requested 11/21) 2002 International is still sitting with antifreeze in the oil.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Did you get any more bids on that?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer?** No, I talked to the guy. Jeff and Nick gave me a number. Every time I call the guy, I called him again today after I talked to you, and it says he's not accepting phone calls. It says the caller 'the person you're trying to reach is not accepting phone calls at this time, please try again later.'

**Supervisor Ruso:** He's got a repair shop right in town. I just wanted maybe as a Town resident you know.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Take a ride over, too; see if I can catch him at home.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yeah, really. Well, okay, so there's been nothing from HL Gage since we talked.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Nope.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Question or two if I may ask. Is there any rough idea as to when Barnett and Eugene, how long does that take?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** I would say probably another, both guys are getting through quick. I would say another couple weeks and they'll be done.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Really, okay, that's a good thing.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Oh, yeah.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** So when's the new truck due?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** They're not even gonna start building it 'til February.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** So you can put in a form saying that you requested bids on this thing twice right and you've got none except one.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We got the one \$10,000.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** So we can go ahead and authorize that repair to give us a form on that right?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Of actual bid, written estimate?

**Councilmember Boehlke:** No, I'm saying stating that you've submitted bids and you haven't received any except...

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Except for the one, yeah. I'll try again tomorrow. I'll go to this guy's house and see if I can catch him at home.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Let's give it a shot.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** We have to get it fixed.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We've got one resolution right here for the '93.

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**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yes.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yup.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I have that here.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Is that the truck?

**Supervisor Ruso:** There's three trucks.

**Highway Supervisor VanWormer:** The 2002 is the one that has the antifreeze in the oil.

**Supervisor Ruso:** There's a '93, a 12, and a '02.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** The 93's at W&W.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah, the spacer in between the engine and the transmission, it's called a bell housing spacer, is broke. It could have been broke and we never noticed it before when we put the front rears in when I had all the damage, we just didn't notice it, but it's definitely broken. It's leaking oil.

**Councilmember Irving:** I'm not familiar when a truck goes into limp mode, it can only be reset by one entity?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** No, but we can't figure out why it's going into limp mode. The Town of Catskill came up and put their computer on it and it doesn't have a code, it's not showing a code, but if you're driving down the road it immediately goes into limp mode and you can't get over 15 miles an hour on it.

**Councilmember Irving:** What I'm understanding from truck drivers talking to them, when it goes into limp mode it can only be reset by the truck manufacturer? Because that could be a hold-up too.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** That I'm not sure. I thought anybody with a computer system can do it because the Town of Catskill and the Town of Athens both have one and they put their's on and they can't... It's got to be throwing a code in order to reset and it's not for some reason, at least not one that their computer system will pick up.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** This is a 2012, that could be a... Is this the one that you were saying that was blowing air or sounds like it was blowing...?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah, we think it has something to do with the inner cooler I think it's called.

**Councilmember Irving:** The seals.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Is that like a vacuum or air pump?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** It's air, yeah.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** It is.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** And there's a thing called an inner cooler. I don't know anything about it, but...

**Councilmember Boehlke:** But you can't trace the leak where it's at?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** We had the County's mechanic come up, Wes, looked at it, and gave us some tests to try and we did all those and we just can't find it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, HL Gage has that one now.

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**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Yeah and it's been there for two weeks and they haven't even looked at it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** They're the one's that really have to weight in on this because they're an International dealer.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Right.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Of all people they should have the authorizations for when you say or diagnostics for anything that's been said here.

**Councilmember Irving:** I think they're the ones that have to reset the limp mode.

**Supervisor Ruso:** You only got that over there in the last week or so. We're still waiting for that.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** That's if they don't have a manpower problem too.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So we don't have any assessment from them, just still sitting out (unable to understand)?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Nope, I called them today and I said 'you got it in yet?' and she said 'nope, we haven't even gotten it in yet.'

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, thanks, I guess.

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**

**RESOLUTION 124-2023**  
**NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EMERGENCY REPAIR TO**  
**1993 INTERNATIONAL PLOW TRUCK**

**WHEREAS** the 1993 International Plow Truck has a broken bell housing spacer between engine and transmission, and;

**WHEREAS** the repair of said truck, estimated at \$2,500 by the Highway Superintendent and the repair is such that this would be an "Emergency Repair,"

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore authorizes the Emergency Repair of the 1993 International Truck and the work will be performed by W&W Truck Transmission.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmembers Boehlke and VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

***Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten***

The Planning Board met on November 9, 2023, with the following business transacted:  
...Discussed with Kasselmann Solar representative a proposed 29.63kW ground mount solar project for a Town property owner. Since the project is over the 25kW limit allowed per the new solar legislation, the Board denied the submitted Special Use Permit Application and referred property owner to the Zoning Board of Appeals for Variance. ...Held a pre-application discussion with Dave Tompkins from CHA Consulting and representatives from Central Hudson about their proposed plans for expansion of the Central Hudson substation on New Baltimore Road. They will be moving forward into the application process early in 2024.

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***Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Pat Linger***

The ZBA Members and Clerk were present for the November 1, 2023, meeting but said meeting was not convened since neither applicant nor applicant's attorney appeared to present the application to the Board.

***Seniors***

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I just wanted to say the Seniors Christmas Party will be on December 6 at noon at Pegasus on a Wednesday.

**Ellie Alfeld:** And you have to have reservations.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yes, and please call Barb for reservations so she knows.

**Supervisor Ruso:** When are the reservations shut down? Is it the first?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yeah, a few days before.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay we're at 50-plus, I know that.

***Town Courts***

The following is the Town of New Baltimore Court monthly report for October 2023.

- Total October monies received was \$13,882.00
  - Judge Huff                      \$9,194.00
  - Judge Konsul                      \$4,688.00
  - State/County Share\*      Town Share\*
- Total 2023 (January-October) monies received \$151,045.00
  - State/County Share \*      Town Share \*
- Total New Cases Received 124

We have received one new laptop for use in the courtroom, along with two new PCs, and a new printer for the Court office. All supplied from the Third Judicial District at no cost.

\*State report not available

**Town Clerk Finke:** I have the totals through the end of September. Judge Huff \$83,647, Judge Konsul \$67,398, Total \$151,045, State Share \$77,722, County Share \$270, Town Share \$59,171

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE**

**RESOLUTION 125-2023**  
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**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 2023b-11-01 to 2023b-11-27, it is

**RESOLVED** that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2023b-11-01 to 2023b-11-27.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until December 31, 2023.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

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General \$12,064.12, Highway \$2,347.54, Sewer 1 \$2,435.30, Sewer 2 \$187.14, Total \$17,034.10

**Upcoming Meetings**

- December 6, 2023 Senior Luncheon at Pegasus Restaurant at 12 PM (Reservation Only)
- December 6, 2023 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM if Needed
- December 11, 2023 Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 5 of 2023 to Establish a New Schedule of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Persons Sixty-Five (65) Years of Age or Over and Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes at 6:45 PM
- December 11, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- December 14, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- December 25, 2023 Town Offices Closed, Happy Holiday
- December 27, 2023 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Supervisor Ruso:** (Debra Sottolano) The question is asking for an update on truck traffic assessment. I've got three firms that we've approved and we have meetings beginning next week. (Councilmember Boehlke) In fact I wanted to ask you if you'd join me.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Sure.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Each of them estimated they didn't want to start, I think I mentioned this in previous meetings, they really didn't want to get rolling until certainly the bridge was complete and traffic was resumed and that's accomplished as of last week and we're looking for first quarter of '24.

**Debra Sottolano:** Yeah, I was wondering about that because you know we want to make sure it's kind of like the average traffic rather than you know a slower period or something like that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Suppressed. Yeah, you don't need that, yeah.

**Debra Sottolano:** On the interviews will there be other people besides the Town Board or is it just gonna be the Town Board on the meetings?

**Supervisor Ruso:** They were a little put out, they didn't even like coming to the Board meeting last time or a month ago. It was very atypical is what they tell me. I said 'too bad.' It didn't bother me at all.

**Debra Sottolano:** Yeah, I saw them yeah. And do they have an idea how long the study would go for you know or proposed an idea?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I haven't gotten that from them. I will find that out, but those meetings will be, two of the three at least, are next week.

**Debra Sottolano:** Thank you.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, first I wanted to say thank you to Bill and Chuck for all their hard work while they were on the Board and we will miss you. I wanted to make sure that the meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> everyone knows it's bipartisan, it's open to the public, and it's an educational information center on an organization who has worked very hard over the past few years to identify issues within our election system. I've read quite a few of their reports and it's enlightening and fearful, I'll use that word. And that brings me to the wonderful activities that occurred on November 7<sup>th</sup> during Election Day. I think everyone is aware of what actually occurred. The machines malfunctioned, there were screens coming up that no one ever saw before. I called the Board of Elections several different times. They did not have a clue what was going on, did not really advise us very well on how to deal with it. We ended up, it was not just our, the Town Hall location, but I think it was also down...

**Eilleen Vosburgh:** We didn't have the same issues you had.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** You had your machine got clogged.

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**Eilleen Vosburgh:** Oh, that was because there were so many write-ins.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, that's another issue because apparently the machine couldn't handle the number of write-ins so if everyone shows up to vote that's another issue. We won't even get into that. But we sent, that evening the poll workers that were at the Town Hall, we wrote a letter to the Board of Election identifying the issues and requesting a meeting to figure out what went wrong so it does not occur at any future elections. That was November 7<sup>th</sup>. Of course, we have not heard or had any response from them. So I wanted to ask, Jeff, we spoke about this briefly, has the Town Board, members of the Town Board, spoken to the Board of Elections and are you going to assist and promote some type of meeting to resolve these issues?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I spoke with the Board of Commissioners two occasions and they didn't really tell me they were looking forward to having a meeting.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well that's too bad isn't it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I told 'em you've got to address this issue with at least the people that were here working so that we can improve it and not have it happen again so that we can get these things right and better numbers. That's what I told them.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, I'll be quite frank with you. Many of the people that are working the polls after the day we had, I don't know if they're going to come back. We had voters so frustrated they were tearing their ballots up. That is not what we're here to do. I don't come here for 15 or whatever number hours to frustrate people. We're here to help them vote and help them understand what's going on. The machines came up, the confidentiality is just going out the window. We could see everyone they voted for. The screen came up, it took their ballot in, and then it came up and had several different items that it would say which were all inappropriate and then I called the Board of Elections for the third time because I realized everyone they voted for was coming up on the screen. Yeah.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Have they responded to you whatsoever?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** No, they told me to ignore it the day it was happening.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I'm talking about subsequent, subsequent to your letter.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** No.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Wouldn't it be the Republican Chair and the Democratic Chair who have control over that? Brent Bogardus and...

**Supervisor Ruso and County Legislator Linger:** Brent and Marie.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, that's who the letter went to, Shelly.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Any phone calls go to them?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Oh, yes. I called several times because...

**Supervisor Ruso:** I didn't get the feeling from my conversations that they were inclined to meet. Not with you, but with a group. Not about you, I don't want to make it personal.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, I think something has to be done then. If they don't want to meet with people that were here, then at least they have to meet with the Republican and Democratic Chairpersons. This is not a partisan issue I've said to both of you.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I understand.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** How can we continue when this is what's happening to our voters? People don't want to vote. I can say nine of the ten people that came in here that day to vote left

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saying they wanted the paper ballots and the click back and I don't blame 'em. I had to stand by that machine all day so I could properly explain to the voter.

**Supervisor Ruso:** My next step is I will reach out to our County Legislator.

**County Legislator Linger:** I've already reached out to the County Attorney.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Well, they had this same issue down in Pennsylvania.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** They had them in other areas in New York State, too.

Many speaking at once.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Mr. Linger, what was the response please?

**County Legislator Linger:** The only response that I got and this was at the beginning of last week, they were almost finished with counting. They were gonna get through the previous election, this past election, before they looked at...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, they finished Monday last week.

**County Legislator Linger:** Right, Monday they finished and then Thursday was the holiday so I have not heard since.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** This is not the only place it happened. I know it happened in Saugerties and another place in Putnam County so something's wrong with these machines. I mean obviously no one should have to go through what the voters have, what happened to them on.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Let me just leave it with the following, what you're saying is that they weren't going to start any meetings until after the Thanksgiving holiday. Let's see what this week brings and we can renew our calls.

**County Legislator Linger:** There was more than one recanvass (unable to understand) in Greene County.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I understand. I think it was Prattsville. Anyway, let's see. If they were waiting for the election and the holiday so hopefully they'll have something scheduled in the next few days.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Okay and another issue that we spoke about, the poll workers would like me to request that we move forward on half-days.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's already approved.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** It is?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, ma'am.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Alright so that means we'll need to get more poll workers. When you say it's already approved that means the next election we can have people only work half-days?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Okay, now are we going to have some consistency and someone has to stay a full day so that make the Chairpersons that they...?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Every time you find a poll worker who's gonna work half a day you gotta find the other one's gonna work the other half.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Absolutely.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** So the numbers of people could potentially double so I think we're gonna have to crawl before we walk.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, we might be crawling before we walk for sure because as you know on Election Day there were issues on how many election people were available for poll workers so... Alright, will the poll workers that were at this location be aware of anything is discussed with the Board of Elections?

**Supervisor Ruso:** I would hope so.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** How would that happen?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, they're gonna schedule the meeting with the people who signed the letter I would expect.

**Ann Mari Vadney:** Well, one would expect that but I also know the Board of Elections.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Okay so let's just see what happens.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** So that's why I'm asking these apparently you know not too bright questions here.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Hopefully I'll be informed.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Okay, we're also sending the letters just so you're all aware they're being notarized by each poll worker and we're sending them to the New York State Board of Elections because we were informed that they're the only ones that can initiate an investigation to any activities or occurrences of this nature so just so you're aware of that. I've sent several emails out to the poll workers with the instructions and where the information was obtained.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** So, Ann Marie, you're saying that this is going to be an informational educational meeting right?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Absolutely.

**Councilmember Boehlke:** So who is going to be present for that beside you?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** I'm hoping people from the community. We're going to call people, send emails, and we'd like everyone. I mean I think everyone should come and listen to what these people are saying because...

**Councilmember Boehlke:** Citizens Audit with be there with some reps.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Yes, yes. I've gone to couple of their meetings and I've read the information that they have prepared from their checking the numbers and all of the activities they're involved in and it's very impressive and it's I think essential for all of us to know what's going on and the issues with our elections and there are big issues with our elections and some of us are familiar just with the numbers of dead people on there, the numbers of...

**Councilmember Boehlke:** All the technology we have at our fingertips and this should not be complicated.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Yes, absolutely should not. No. What happened on Election Day shouldn't of happened. I mean how do you have a program and you have not one screen coming up, four and five different screens coming up. I mean and no one knows and then the poor voter comes in and I have to say this, too, our population in this Town is not the youngest. So we have elderly individuals coming in to vote who can't even read the ballot because the print's so damn small on it and then they get up to the machine and the machines malfunction. I mean you know something has to change here.



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**Councilmember Irving:** The Board of Election doesn't have the IT experience to make those determinations. It has to come from an independent IT firm, whatever firm is hired, to make those investigations. I'm just saying the BoE doesn't have the expertise.

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Well, people better start standing up and saying there needs to be some changes here because when the Presidential election comes around, this kind of stuff can't happen.

**Councilmember Irving:** No.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Well, I do think that people need to contact their Legislators and...

**Ann Marie Vadney:** Absolutely.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you, Ann Marie, alright and December 6<sup>th</sup>, here, Town Hall at 6 PM was it?

**Ann Marie Vadney:** 6 PM.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright, thank you everybody.

**Town Clerk Finke:** I know at the last meeting there were some questions raised about the Champlain Hudson Power Express and an open meeting and I just wanted to let everyone know that we did have a meeting here, a presentation by Rick Chase from the Champlain Hudson Power Express on October 26, 2020 and there's eight pages of Minutes. I have three people that signed in one of which is Ellie, Pat, Nick. Then on April 26, 2021 we had the Municipal Consent for the Champlain Hudson Power Express Transmission Line Project. There was one person that signed in, that was Nick Dellisanti. There's also seven pages of Minutes. On December 13, 2021 we had a letter from Rick Chase and that was an update and there were three people that signed in – Mr. Eckl, Eilleen Vosburgh, and Alan VanWormer. And also the Newsletter 2021 Volume 1 there was an article about the Champlain Hudson Power Express. There is a website, Jennifer White with Transmission Developers, her phone number, her email, and there was all kinds of information and that went to everyone's home and that is informational. So that went to everyone. So there were quite a few occasions it was discussed. Just wanted the Board to know.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I knew about it. The suggestion was that we've been keeping things from you, we haven't been telling you what's going on. We've had four Board meetings over the course of three years that not many people attended. So the information has been given to you folks, your accusations to the opposite notwithstanding. So I just thought I'd point that out. Thank you. We heard enough about this last meeting where I was accused of not telling the public what's going on. We had Public Hearings here in this room that you didn't attend. What am I supposed to call your homes? Seriously. Knock on your doors to tell you. You didn't come but you came here and said we didn't give you folks information. That wasn't valid. It wasn't a valid accusation folks.

**Debra Sottolano:** I only asked you for an update I didn't say that...

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I'm not pointing fingers at one individual, I'm talking about the group here says no one tells anyone anything. Those Minutes are available. The opportunity has been out there. The fact that folks didn't come. Again, am I supposed to knock on your door or call your home and tell you the stuff that's in the meetings or you just gonna come here and accuse me or us of not being informative? I'm not sure which it is. Well, anyway, let's move on.

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**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember VanEtten seconded by Councilmember Boehlke, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Downes

**Motion Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO  
Town Clerk