

6:45 PM Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 5 of 2023 to Establish a New Schedule of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Persons 65 Years of Age or Over and Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2023
AGENDA**

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

- November 27, 2023 Town Board Work Meeting

Public Comment Period

New Business

- Resolution to Approve Local Law 5 of 2023 to Establish a New Schedule of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Persons 65 Years of Age or Over and Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes
- Resolution to Set Organizational Meeting Date
- Resolution Authorizing Supervisor to Execute Agreement with Columbia-Greene Humane Society
- Resolution to Authorize Councilmember VanEtten and Supervisor Ruso to Apply for a 2024 Bank of Greene County Veterans and Youth Grant
- Resolution to Adopt Changes to Sewer District 1 Roll for 2024
- Resolution to Establish Sewer District #1 Use Charges for 2024
- Resolution to Establish Water District #2 Use Charges for 2024
- Resolution to Establish Water District #3 Use Charges for 2024
- Resolution to Temporarily Transfer Funds from the Highway Reserve to Highway Contractual Account
- Resolution to Transfer Insurance Costs to the Sewer Account
- Resolution to Approve Recycling Antiquated Town Court Printer/Copier
- Discussion of Mold Assessment in Town Hall Basement
- Audit of Claims

Upcoming Meetings

- December 14, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- December 25, 2023 Town Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday
- December 27, 2023 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- January 1, 2024 Town Board Organizational Meeting at 2 PM
- January 1, 2024 Town Offices Closed for New Year's Holiday
- January 3, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- January 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- January 11, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- January 15, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Day
- January 22, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Public Comment Period/Community Events

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.

TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING ON 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
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
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OPENING OF PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Ruso opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 PM. Also attending Councilmembers Boehlke, Downes, Irving, and VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; George McHugh, Esq.; Town Clerk Finke; Assessor Dawn DeRose; and 8 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Highway Superintendent VanWormer

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

Supervisor Ruso: ‘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.’ So the meeting is now open. We will now hear from the public anything they may request. All those requestors or speakers please step to the lectern to address the Board. As a matter of information, we have our Town Assessor here who would be able to answer any questions particularly detailed questions as it relates to the aforementioned law.

Councilmember Boehlke: Is the Board included in this Question and Answer period?

Supervisor Ruso: The Board shall be included by decree of the Town Supervisor. Proceed, sir.

Councilmember Boehlke: Dawn, so what’s the percentage of taxpayers in the Town of New Baltimore that looks like they’ll be eligible for this any idea?

Assessor DeRose: Not at the moment.

Councilmember Boehlke: No, are we anticipating much of a shift?

Assessor DeRose: You’re probably gonna look at maybe about another 50 people that might qualify. You’re only raising it \$1,100 so it’s not gonna be a large amount.

Councilmember Boehlke: Okay.

Supervisor Ruso: How many people would that be then? Is there a rough idea as to how many people currently are on?

Assessor DeRose: We have probably about 180 so far that are on it, so I would think no more than 50 more around.

Supervisor Ruso: No more than 50. Okay, thank you. Any other questions?

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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OPENING OF WORK MEETING

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Also attending Councilmembers Boehlke, Downes, Irving, and VanEtten; Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti; George McHugh, Esq.: Town Clerk Finke; and 8 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Highway Superintendent VanWormer

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The November 27, 2023 Town Board Regular Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember VanEtten. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Public Comment Period

Ellie Alfeld: The reason why I'm addressing the Town Board is first of all I know you had a meeting concerning the town roads of New Baltimore as it pertains to the electric lines that are coming in from Canada.

Supervisor Ruso: Oh, yes, that one.

Ellie Alfeld: That one. Could you tell me first of all how many Board Members were a party to that meeting on the roads I believe it was down by the kennels in thereabouts.

Supervisor Ruso: It was myself and one other.

Ellie Alfeld: Who's the one other?

Supervisor Ruso: Was it Chuck, weren't you there?

Councilmember Irving: Yes.

Ellie Alfeld: It's only two of you went? Okay.

Town Clerk Finke: More than that would be a meeting.

Supervisor Ruso: We don't put more than three...

Ellie Alfeld: I'm not questioning anything about it, I just wanted to know who was there that's all. The next thing I'd like to know is, refresh the memory of some of the Board members, if you remember back then we had that construction down by the trestle and it was pretty difficult for myself and the rest of the members on Independence Lane with the destruction of what that outfit did to our road and in fact it even took aerial photos of the damage in order to prove our case so that the road was repaired. I think you may remember some of that. What I would like to know is this outfit that is going to be running that line from I don't know Canada to New York City has already given you a map of where they will be running including the roads that that will agree in their contract with you to repair to your standards if there's any damage done. You signed a contract and, George, I believe you should have looked it over correct?

Town Attorney McHugh: Which contract, the CHPE? Yeah, I did.

Ellie Alfeld: Yes. Okay, what I'm asking you to keep in mind if they proceed off of their legally right-of-way property that is Central Hudson's right-of-way that they will be using and the railroad right-of-way from what I've been led to believe, if they go out of the bounds of that especially down where the trestle is in order to get out, are you prepared to represent the people on Independence Lane if we have to go through the damages that were inflicted like last time?

Supervisor Ruso: As it relates to Town roads, certainly.

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Ellie Alfeld: Well, I put that road in. I paid with blood, sweat, and tears. The Town never paid anything for that road and they did none of the construction of that road so it perceives to be that it is a major concern to me what ends up with that road.

Supervisor Ruso: Sure. The road has for many years now, maintenance has been provided by the Town Highway Department for many years now and so any repairs and they plowed and they have certainly resurfaced that road so that would be continued by... that will be, yes they have.

Ellie Alfeld: When you say resurfaced you've got I betcha 100 places in this Town that have gotten blacktopped and everything like that. We've never been a party to that okay.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you. Okay, the next comments I have are from Mr. Vadney. Proceed.

Harold Vadney: I'm certain we can agree that the privilege of voting is one of America's most taken for granted privileges so when elections start to get a little crooked and corrupt some of us wake up. Just some of us and we're a minority it seems. On December 6 right here in Town Hall a number of concerned citizens met to discuss and to address November 7th elections, voting machine failures, and other issues. A bipartisan group, NY Citizens Audit, sent two speakers to the meeting. Attendees even included residents of the Town of Bethlehem coming all the way out here from Delmar. But conspicuously absent were members of this Town Council specifically Ms. Downes, Ms. VanEtten, and Mr. Irving. To his credit Mr. Boehlke was present and participated in the discussions. Supervisor, Mr. Ruso, appeared late at the meeting but at least he attended. Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti was conspicuously absent. My question would be where were you people? This is a voting issue, an election issue, part of your government, part of the reason why you're sitting up there. Even more conspicuous and troubling was the absence of the recently-elected Town Councilpersons Janet Kash and Debra Sottolano, two outspoken Democrats who run the campaign political slogans of 'Politics Over People and listening to the people.' New Baltimore Democratic Committee Chairwoman Eilleen Vosburgh was also conspicuously absent. One member of the New Baltimore Democratic Party, Mr. Rich Guthrie did attend, but when the Chair recognized him as the token Democrat, his response that he was there to see what was going on. Where were the Councilpersons-Elect and Democrat Party chairperson? Of course it would be too much to expect political hacks and appointees, Republican Brent Bogardus and Democrat Marie Metzler, to attend a bi-partisan meeting to address critical election issues after all they're only the Elections Commissioners. From the perspective of a voter and a resident I have to observe a total indifference of elected officials and voting discrepancies, malfunctioning voting machines, and the disgusting indifference of Board of Elections and the absence of these political hacks that was indicative of the source of the problem. A lot of talk during campaigns and nothing doing. I've heard such silly explanations as 'I didn't see the email.' Well, I think we can all agree that such stupid excuses belong to the likes of 'my dog ate the homework' and 'the check is in the mail.' They just don't work, they're not credible. I'll conclude my remarks with the observation that according to Supervisor Ruso the Town of New Baltimore is being billed \$11,000 for Election Day services from the County. I doubt if many of our Town residents are aware that we're paying that kind of money -- \$11,000 -- for the guaranteed Constitutional right to vote. Well, the ball is in your court members of this Town Council and the newly-elected Councilpersons to find out what's going on with the BOE, the Board of Elections, why we're paying for our privilege to vote, the apparent interference in government administration, abuse of office, defrauding the government, the para-conspiracy, and outright corruption not to mention violation of our civil rights. Aren't you elected officials the least concerned about these issues and haven't you taken an oath of office swearing to defend the Constitution? And I wonder what happened to that oath of office. I'll conclude with one last remark. I know that there's a resolution to approve recycling an antiquated Town Court printer/copier. Well, might I suggest that you also entertain a resolution for retiring and sunsetting these antiquated cassette recorders that we're using to record the proceedings here. How many times does the Town Clerk have to jump up and change tapes in the middle of a meeting? Why don't we just get rid of these things, sell them as antiques, and perhaps get a nice digital?

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Many jokingly speaking at once.

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you. One point of clarification, sir, the \$11,000 is the chargebacks for the County, for the majority of which is for elections issues, not the entirety of the \$11,000.

Harold Vadney: Well, the greater portion of it is.

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, I'd say about probably 60-70 percent in that range, but it changes by year, but I didn't want you tell everyone out there that we pay \$11,000 just for elections, There's other charges. Alright, that's the only point of clarification.

Town Clerk Finke: The other point, too, is that when the Town Hall, we received a grant to redo the entrance to Town Hall, that new equipment...

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, system.

Town Clerk Finke: Is part of that and we have been advised by our IT people not to do any upgrades until that goes in because we're just wasting our money.

Many speaking.

Supervisor Ruso: That's being paid by the Office of Court Administration.

Harold Vadney: Unified court system expenditure disbursement isn't it?

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 126-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 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:

<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%

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\$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 VanEtten

Supervisor Ruso	AYE
Councilmember Boehlke	AYE
Councilmember Downes	AYE
Councilmember Irving	AYE
Councilmember VanEtten	AYE

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 127-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

RESOLUTION TO SET ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING DATE AND TIME

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore will hold the 2024 Organizational Meeting on January 1, 2024 at 2 PM at the Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

Supervisor Ruso: We discussed this with our incoming Councilpeople and we're also going to have a Swearing-In Ceremony as first point of order.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 128-2023
DECEMBER 13, 2023

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT
WITH COLUMBIA-GREENE HUMANE SOCIETY**

RESOLVED that the Town Board does hereby authorize the Supervisor to execute an agreement with the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA for the period January 1-December 31, 2024 for shelter services at a rate of \$40 per dog per day for the first ten days of housing and \$350 will be added on the eleventh day where the dog will become the responsibility of the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA.

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Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Councilmember Downes: At one time we talked about trying to put this \$40 on to the Court for when the person as part of their fine.

Supervisor Ruso: If found.

Councilmember Downes: Yeah, like when they're on the Thruway and we end up having to take the dog from somebody that got pulled over whatever.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, correct.

Councilmember Downes: So we're still going forward with that to get reimbursement.

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, of course. The only problem is that some people on the Thruway are never are heard from again.

Councilmember Downes: Right, at least we got something.

Supervisor Ruso: You can't do what you can't do. Alright, so I'm gonna sign this.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 129-2023

DECEMBER 11, 2023

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COUNCILMEMBER VANETTEN AND
SUPERVISOR RUSO TO APPLY FOR 2024 BANK OF GREENE COUNTY
VETERANS AND YOUTH GRANT**

RESOLVED that Councilmember Shelly VanEtten and Supervisor Jeffrey Ruso, Chair and Member of the Youth, Parks and Recreation Committee and the Grants/Promotions/Economic Development Committee, are authorized to apply for a 2024 Bank of Greene County Veterans and Youth Grant.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Ellie Alfeld: You are going for the Veterans and Youth. That is also in the budget is it not?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, we have some rough estimates along the way, yes.

Ellie Alfeld: And what about the Seniors?

Supervisor Ruso: If they have a Seniors grant, we'll apply for that too.

Ellie Alfeld: And that's what it's about? This is the only place that has grants?

Supervisor Ruso: Oh, heavens, no.

Councilmember VanEtten: These are County grants.

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Supervisor Ruso: No, these are some grants that are out there.

Ellie Alfeld: Alright, I was just checking.

Supervisor Ruso: If we find out where more grants are available, we certainly will apply to them.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 130-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CHANGES TO SEWER DISTRICT 1 ROLL FOR 2024

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts the following changes for the 2024 Sewer Roll.

1. Tax Map 7.16-4-16, Karoline Prisciandaro, previously listed on the 2023 Sewer District Roll as 10 Points Debt Service, 10 Points Operation and Maintenance, is hereby changed to 5 points Debt Service and 5 Points Operation and Maintenance to accurately reflect parcel status as a single-family dwelling. On Tuesday, December 5, 2023, Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin confirmed compliance as a single-family dwelling.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

Councilmember Downes: What was this prior to this, before she bought this property?

Supervisor Ruso: It was a two-family home and she's converted it to a one-family home. By the way just as a point, there's double the points if it's a two-family home. Nobody has called us when they have made an addition that made it a two-family home. Why? Because they get charged double, but everybody who changes it down will let us know. Nobody who's put an addition, nobody who's put a loft apartment, nobody who's using as a B&B has ever yet called us, of course.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 131-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SEWER DISTRICT #1
USE CHARGES FOR 2024

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore establish the following fees in accordance with the 2024 Budget for Sewer District #1:

Debt Service	\$26.7748
Operation and Maintenance	\$35.9150

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 132-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH WATER DISTRICT #2
USE CHARGES FOR 2024

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby establishes the following fees in accordance with the 2024 Budget for Water District #2:

Water Usage	As Per Meter
Debt Payment	\$157.00 Quarterly
Operation and Maintenance	\$20 Quarterly

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 133-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH WATER DISTRICT #3
USE CHARGES FOR 2024

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby establishes the following fees in accordance with the 2024 Budget for Water District #3:

Water Usage	As Per Meter
Operation and Maintenance	\$20 Quarterly
Commercial User Fee Minimum Rate	\$1,788.16 Annually
Commercial Operation and Maintenance	\$300.00 Annually

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 134-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

RESOLUTION TO TEMPORARILY TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE HIGHWAY
RESERVE TO HIGHWAY CONTRACTUAL ACCOUNT

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore approved the purchase of a 2023 Ford F350 on Resolution # 106-2023 on September 11th, 2023, and

WHEREAS the amount of funds currently in the New Baltimore Highway Department is low, and will be restored upon receipt of the 2023 CHIPS funds,

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the use of the Highway Reserve account to pay the bill for the F350 for \$49,000, and upon receipt of the CHIPS reimbursement the \$49,000 will be restored into the Reserve Account

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 135-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER INSURANCE COSTS TO THE SEWER ACCOUNT

WHEREAS the total cost of insurance for 2023, \$43,331.04, was paid from town account A190.4, and

WHEREAS the proportion of the total cost for insurance related to the operation of Sewer District #1 is \$4,726 for 2023 per the underwriters,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the transfer of \$4,726.00 from account A190.4 to SS8110.4.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Their documents are on the back of that, they came from Marshall and Sterling.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 136-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RECYCLING ANTIQUATED
TOWN COURT PRINTER/COPIER**

WHEREAS the Town Board approved the lease of a printer/copier for the Town Court in 2013 and this equipment is no longer able to be serviced due to age.

RESOLVED the Town Board approves the recommendation by the Town Justices to recycle said antiquated printer/copier as it is no longer serviceable.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Irving

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 137-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

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 2023-12-01 to 2023-12-47, it is

RESOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2023-12-01 to 2023-12-47,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will prepare an Abstract and hold it for public review until January 31, 2024.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke and VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

General \$16,539.55, Highway \$55,753.97, Sewer 1 \$2,852.67, Sewer 2 \$41.79, Street Lighting 1 \$2,207.53, Street Lighting 2 \$314.56, Total \$77,710.07

Supervisor Ruso: If I may ask is that with the amended amount for the...?

Town Clerk Finke: It was not, it was as we started.

Supervisor Ruso: There was an invoice pulled that comes to \$659.04 that needs further explanation so that's less that amount.

Town Clerk Finke: I can give you that amount. General \$16,539.55, Highway \$55,094.93, Sewer 1 \$2,852.67, Sewer 2 \$41.79, Street Lighting 1 \$2,207.53, Street Lighting 2 \$314.56, Total \$77,051.30

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you. So everyone's anticipated Mold Assessment. About two weeks ago it was noted by one of our staff that there was mold growing down below in our basement. I went down and took a look and certainly looks more substantial. As a result I called in a Certified Mold Inspector. I let the staff know to refrain from going into the basement and to call me if they needed anything such as a record or something beforehand. Also called the Sheriff's Department and told them as well. So we kept people out of the basement. The assessment has come through and I received it and it tells us what the problems are, it even gives a rough estimate of the cost. His assessment is \$300, but the abatement which we need to get a certified abatement company, he suggests it will be in the neighborhood of \$7,500. So the next step that I have, I actually reached out to one abatement company, I'd like to get a couple more and get some idea as to what they would have in mind and see if there a better pricing. But I don't have that as of yet. There are some suggested remedies to prevent recurrence certainly inclusive of fixing the gutters because that adds to the moisture around the building. I know we already have in-hand prior to this event a quote from a local company, Albright's, to install a dehumidifier. I'm going to have to call him back in. I just want to insure that the dehumidifier doesn't just address... I don't want the dehumidifier that's being proposed to just address a particular zone, but the entirety of the basement. So I will have to call them back to see exactly to insure that that dehumidifier fits in with what the mold assessment and abatement and prevention project is.

Councilmember Boehlke: That's really what's needed.

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Supervisor Ruso: Yes, for the long haul. So, anyway, I wanted to make sure the Town Board is aware of this and I will be proceeding with getting quotes from others.

Councilmember Irving: Jeff, I noticed there was a mention about improving the grade around the building?

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, I know there was some of that as well.

Councilmember Irving: But with the oncoming winter, changement of the ramp in the front, the handicapped ramps maybe, might be taken into consideration, future grading of that because if we don't do a job over again and the gutters are something that should be taken care of soon either way I would say.

Supervisor Ruso: Alright so that's what we will do.

Ellie Alfeld: Is this area where you detected the mold being used for storage of records or cardboard?

Supervisor Ruso: There are some papers in there, but the record room is free and clear.

Ellie Alfeld: But what I'm primarily asking about is cardboard. Is there any boxes of that nature?

Supervisor Ruso: Yup, there's some.

Ellie Alfeld: Because that contributes a great deal to mold.

Supervisor Ruso: The most severely affected room is the Code Enforcement Officer room which was installed about 20... It was before I came on the Board, 2010, 2011, okay and it's particularly low ceiling and they put zero ventilation in that room when they made the room. It used to be open and that's what the cause is. Now there are other areas where the mold has migrated to – some in the corridor, some in the I call it the holding room, it's part of the Sheriff's Department that has a two-way mirror, handcuff things on the wall, police station.

Councilmember Irving: The other thing, Jeff, is that the duct work and the propane hot air heating system is antiquated. With the new air source heat pumps they provide, dehumidification without having to go to a further step, they have built-in dehumidification and would probably be something that might get considered.

Supervisor Ruso: This room has been, the door has been closed and seldom used so clearly that room which is the source and focal point of the problem needs to be opened up I'm thinking as well as a dehumidifier fixing that.

Councilmember Irving: There is a dehumidifier downstairs. Was that being run?

Supervisor Ruso: The dehumidifier in the records room, Town Clerk's record room, is working perfectly fine and that area is perfectly fine.

Harold Vadney: One thing to take into consideration is the fact that if you have vital mold growing now or mildew, the difference between the two (unable to understand) and you have vent work, then you have the problem of spores and you're going to have to deal with that.

Supervisor Ruso: It's all there.

Harold Vadney: It's in there? Spores are rather dangerous to humans and documents.

Supervisor Ruso: As are the mice. Well, anyway, I don't have a resolution for today, but I want to make sure people were alert to this. I'm going to proceed accordingly based upon the quotes I get, but I can't wait much longer. I want to get it going okay and some of the issues may not be well-resolved until the spring such as I don't know if, weather could hit us any day

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now and putting gutters on the building in the snow may not be a wise idea, but earliest possible time. Okay, any other questions guys? Alright, let me move on. Now we go to Resolution number, this was added so if anyone doesn't have it, it just came in at the tail end. I just wrote it ten minutes before the Board meeting.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 138-2023
DECEMBER 11, 2023

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REPAIR OF 2002 INTERNATIONAL PLOW TRUCK

WHEREAS the Town Highway Department 2002 International Plow Truck is in need of repair and

WHEREAS there is antifreeze fluid leaking into the oil which would require the head needs to be rebuilt and due to rust and corrosion further complicating the repair.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board approves the repair of the aforementioned plow truck at a price not to exceed \$10,000.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Boehlke

Councilmember Boehlke: Well, do we know if ever received a second bid on this?

Supervisor Ruso: No, we never did.

Councilmember Boehlke: Never did. He was never able to contact...?

Supervisor Ruso: That fellow? No, I even called him myself and I didn't get anywhere with it.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: Wasn't the original bid \$9,000?

Supervisor Ruso: Yes, and they've added another \$1,000 as a contingency due to the amount of rust and corrosion that may also need to be addressed. That's why I wrote in 'not to exceed.'

Councilmember Boehlke: So we've got a protocol for this, but this is actually considered now an emergency type of repair.

Supervisor Ruso: Well, we need plow trucks and we don't have our new plow truck until at least next year. They haven't started building it yet.

Councilmember Boehlke: In our Procurement Policy...

Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, up to \$10,000.

Councilmember Boehlke: We're always supposed to get at least two bids on a contract. So I'm just questioning it, that's all.

Supervisor Ruso: Correct. We have to have formal bids when it's in excess of \$10,000 which gives me another reason why I'm going to say 'not to exceed.'

Councilmember Downes: And was Mr. VanWormer requested to be here tonight?

Supervisor Ruso: I thought he might very well have been, but I didn't formally request him, no. He's here on many occasions, but maybe he was at the big accident down the road.

Councilmember Downes: Nope, came past it.

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Supervisor Ruso: There was a big accident about 6:00, well, maybe 5:30 on 9W.

Question: Is that was the fire whistle was for?

Supervisor Ruso: I don't know that, it could be some other reason. Maybe it was a wakeup call.

Statement: Not for you.

Supervisor Ruso: Not for me, I was awake.

Councilmember Boehlke: I mean we could pass this. Jeff, I'm just perplexed sometimes because I mean we have the Town of Coeymans on one side of us, we have the Town of Coxsackie on the other side of us. There's a lot of towns, Greenville. There's a lot of towns and they contract this work out. They bid it out to different... I don't know how he's putting these bids out, but there's other means on putting these bids out. We may want to explore this in the future because there's a lot...

Supervisor Ruso: I will specifically ask for his presence on the 27th, two weeks from tonight, from Wednesday. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, thank you, because Monday is Christmas Day and we can discuss it. How does that sound? In the meantime do we want to move forward on this?

Councilmember Boehlke: Yeah, we do. We just want to expand our capability of getting bids on this equipment you know because otherwise... I mean the whole purpose of getting more than one bid is that...

Supervisor Ruso: The problem is I have two more plow trucks that are in different garages. I have three different garages right now. We have three different garages, three different plow trucks, and I have this one invoice. I don't what to say.

Councilmember Boehlke: Well, at the rate we're going we ought to have probably about half a dozen contractors in reserve right?

Ellie Alfeld: Did we ever get bids on the people plowing for the Town?

Supervisor Ruso: No, we didn't. Well, they hired people and that was only a contingency in the event we didn't have staff.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, I knew you hired, I didn't know if you honored that bid that's all.

Councilmember Downes: And have we been told how many people passed their CDLs?

Supervisor Ruso: Last meeting he said sometime soon. Well, he did say, he said he expected soon.

Ellie Alfeld: Christmas is sometime soon, too.

Supervisor Ruso: Stop it, don't be mean, don't be mean.

Harold Vadney: This is a little bit perplexing really because back in September (unable to understand) sealed bid procedures etc. for the new truck that your purchased for \$49,000 and he only got one bid. I actually put out feelers and got bids for it in Albany, Latham, and south of here. I got bids on that truck. I don't understand why the Highway Superintendent couldn't have done the same thing that I did and put out bids and got... I can provide you with the names of the people who provided the bids. Now I don't understand this... It was my understanding that it should be good policy to put out for bids for any amount, any reasonable amount. I don't understand why we don't have a vendor list or a supplier list. I don't understand why Alan is not getting a response from these people. Maybe Alan needs some clerical support. Maybe Alan needs some training in requesting bids. This is very unusual.

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Supervisor Ruso: Him not being here I don't want to throw things at him in absentia so I think I would defer that to a future opportunity.

Councilmember Boehlke: It's an important question.

Harold Vadney: It is an important question.

Councilmember Boehlke: The thing is that we're hiring a lot of new people in the Highway Department which when you have trainees and new people starting it's just going to be inevitable you're gonna have more incidents.

Harold Vadney: This is fundamental accounting and transparency.

Supervisor Ruso: What do you mean by incidents?

Councilmember Boehlke: Well, there's more damage to the equipment.

Ellie Alfeld: Mailboxes and stuff like that.

Councilmember Boehlke: Well, a lot of times it's plows and it's truck right and you got new drivers and you got new people and it goes with the territory. What I'm saying is we should have a better procurement for these bids.

Supervisor Ruso: We had an accident or incident however you want to define it on the 22nd of November and I believe it was on the 4th of December I heard about it from people in Town around Town and I had to ask what happened. I have not been informed. Well, I wasn't until then and it was already what two weeks. So we do need to have better dialogue. So let's save it for a time when people are here, I don't want to throw things in absentia as I said.

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Upcoming Meetings

- December 14, 2023 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- December 25, 2023 Town Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday
- December 27, 2023 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- January 1, 2024 Town Board Organizational Meeting at 2 PM
- January 1, 2024 Town Offices Closed for New Year's Holiday
- January 3, 2024 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- January 8, 2024 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- January 11, 2024 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- January 15, 2024 Town Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Day
- January 22, 2024 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Public Comment Period/Community Events

None

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Downes seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM

AYES: Ruso, Boehlke, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Good night everybody, enjoy your Holiday.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC CTO
Town Clerk