

**COUNTY OF GREENE  
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE  
WORK MEETING  
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The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Supervisor Nicholas Dellisanti followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Other Board Members in attendance were Councilwoman Shelly Van Etten and Councilman Jeff Ruso. Absent were Councilman Chris Norris due to vacation and Councilwoman Lisa Benway due to illness. Others in attendance were Tax Collector/Deputy Town Clerk Diane Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk Marjorie Loux and 14 members of the public who signed the attendance sheet.

**Check Presentation from CSX by the Loux Family**

Dr. Joseph Loux advised all present that two and a half years ago CSX, current owner of the old West Shore Railroad, approached Marjorie and I, asking us to sign away the animal pass under the railroad. We said "no"; the reason being back in the late 1980's, early 1990's, while the Town's Master Plan was being reviewed, there was discussion about putting in a walking/horse bridle path through the Town beginning somewhere near District 2 park and ending down at the river. Looking at the sites, there were two sites that would get that path under the railroad and under the Thruway and that was along the Hannacroix Creek, which would prove to probably be high maintenance because of high water, erosion and so forth. The other possibility was the animal pass on our farm. We are located in such a place whereby the Thruway intersects the railroad so there was an ideal way to get a path underneath CSX and also the Thruway. We had talked with the Town and said we would give a permanent easement for this and also a right-of-way across the property.

With that, we began to negotiate and ultimately, we signed away the rights to the animal pass; but Marjorie and I had another thought and that is we want to create another animal pass of sorts. That is we are going to give a gift to the Town and we want that gift to be used for an interior stairway here in Town Hall between this floor and the Town offices, vault and the Deputy Sheriff's office that is downstairs. . With that being said, we would like to present the people of the Town of New Baltimore with a check for \$10,000. Supervisor Dellisanti thanked the Louxes for their gift to the Town.

**Presentation By Assessor Gordon Bennett**

Assessor Gordon Bennett was present to speak to all present about exemptions. There has been conversation about the number of exemptions. One of the questions was how much of the Town is actually exempt? The difference between the total assessed value and the total taxable assessed value is about 13.3% exempt.

There has been some conversation about the exempt amounts for other municipalities —the City of Albany is believed to be 70% exempt. There are some municipalities in the New York City watershed where New York City has purchased a lot of the property which is therefore exempt.. Those municipalities are up over 80% or 90% exempt sometimes. So looking to that comparison, 13.3% is not all that bad.

What we did on the two-page spread sheet, being passed out, was we tried to break down that 13.3% into exemption categories. There are Town cemeteries, County-owned property, New York State owned property and then Town property which obviously are all exempt. We don't have a ton of that. Once you get down to IND DEV AG, that is the agricultural exemption. The religious resorts, not-for-profit religious; not-for profit charity so we are talking about 11 through 15 are churches and religious organizations. Volunteer fire obviously is the fire company property which is exempt. The Change in Level Vets, one of our veteran's exemptions, Eligible Vets, so that goes from 17 all the way down to 31. Those are all Veteran's exemptions. The Cold Ware Vet., the last two, 30 and 31. 32 is a Clergy Exemption. We have Ag Buildings and some more Agricultural Exemptions.

On the second page, we start with the Senior Citizen Exemptions. 36 to 42 are low income senior citizen exemptions. The two that are kind of anomalies on this page are the Star Enhanced and the Star B; and the reason, I call them a little different than others is that for every dollar that a resident receives in exemption for the Star, the State of New York reimburses the School District so it is not in that category of a shifting tax burden. Then we continue on down with the low income disabilities 45 through 48. We have a silo exemption and then some of the others are Solar and Wind, wholly exempt. I am not even sure what #54, wholly exempt, is. That I will have to look up.

That in a nutshell gives us a profile of where the 13% goes. We don't really have a lot of levity in a lot of those. The New York State Real Property Tax Law sets up the criteria for someone to get that exemption. My Office administers whether or not they do get it or not. They need to present to me the things that are required in the law in order to get it; but the amounts of most of

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those exemptions are presently designed either percentages or flat dollar amounts so we as a Town really don't have a lot of choices in how much those exemptions are, what kind of shifting there is to the rest of the taxpayers.

One of the other questions that we had from last month's meeting was about PILOTS and the Town of New Baltimore has two PILOTS. One of them is SERTA and the other one is the parking lot for the liquor distributorship. I am not sure of the exact amounts because Payment In Lieu Of Taxes essentially means they move outside of the regular assessment process and that is a deal struck between the IDA, the town, county, school district and the taxpayer so I guess the IDA would know the exact dollar amount of those PILOTS.

One of the other questions we had was about the settlement of the truck stop and the reduction that was given to them through the settlement of that lawsuit and what kind of an impact that would have. Basically, what that means is the \$331,000 total reduction is about 50 cents on a \$100,000 house and I guess the real question is not that the assessment—it is that they were granted that. That they were deserving of that. That the assessment was essentially too high and we didn't have a defensible position in court so we negotiated that settlement to have some control over where the assessment would land.

The Veteran's Exemptions that the Town Board has control over...there is a great deal of conversation now because the School Districts are now starting to contemplate whether or not they want to grant Veteran's Exemptions. The State of New York sets up, on that single page, the chart, the basic max of \$12,000, \$8,000 and \$40,000 is where the law requires that they start. If they just adopt the exemptions, they will go to that 12, 8 and 40. They can reduce it further or they can increase it. The Town of New Baltimore somewhere in the vicinity of 2003 or 2004 jumped from 12, 8 and 40 to the \$18,000, \$12,000 and \$60,000. That was through a local law with a Public Hearing and all the associated stuff that goes with that. So the Town Board does have the opportunity to go to any one of those levels and grant further or lower the exemption that we give.

The problem with the School District is if they are going to implement the full--where we would just be tweaking it a little bit if we changed ours a little bit, it would have a consequence or a small shift but it would be small. I think the Town of Greenville just bumped two up from us. I think there are six towns at 18; a couple towns at the 12 and then there are a couple of Towns on the mountaintop that decided to go way up to the top. That would be a significant shift. There would be a change in the tax rate if any Town were to go to that kind of a change. If a School District implements it all, it is going to be a significant dollar amount that is going to be shifted. It is going to be a real interesting discussion on how that all works out.

Questions were as follows: Ellie Alfeld commented you had a settlement with the cell tower company. Mr. Bennett clarified, not signed by the Judge, so it wasn't a real big. Ms. Alfeld continued my question I guess is this. When you decided or when the powers that be decided to make the settlement, was any thought given to what amount of money is paid to the property owners because they in fact are the ones that are really getting the settlement. They in fact are receiving payment monthly and I know some of them can be substantial so was that information brought into the settlement? Mr. Bennett responded not at all and it didn't enter into my thought process at all because it is the real estate that has the value on it. They are kind of funny animals; and in the valuation process of those things, it is more about the carriers than it is about the lease. The carriers are what generate income. Ms. Alfeld added and the amount carried on a tower.

Mr. Bennett continued yes and its location relative to other towers so there is that line of sight thing with no interruptions. There is a whole science to the value of those things. The lease is between the property owner and the owner of the tower, which I don't believe enters into the valuation process at all because it is more about, again the number of carriers they have on the tower. Now the tower people would like you to believe that they are not assessable and they go down that whole road with me but New York State Real Property Tax law says they are taxable. They also want us to factor in how difficult it was to put the tower in and all that stuff. I keep going back to how much money are you pulling in?

Ms. Alfeld continued I have even heard numbers of as much as \$1,000 a month to some of the land holders where the towers are situated. I thought if they are making that kind of money, why are we giving them a reduction. Mr. Bennett responded again, the cell tower people actually own the real estate and they are the ones paying the tax dollars. Ms. Alfeld clarified they are paying the tax bill but they are not the property owners in every instance; to which Mr. Bennett responded it can be both ways, yes. That is right.

Kevin Kemnah questioned on the 18, 12 and 6 on the Veterans Exemptions, is that the one where every year when they come out, the Town Board says they are going to do exemptions. These are

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the exemptions. We are going to go along with what Greene County says. Mr. Bennett responded no, the 18, 12 and 60 is a Veteran's Exemption limit which hasn't been discussed by the Board since probably when they adopted that limit. It is not something that gets reviewed every year. We have had conversations before and it is something that they do have the ability to have a conversation about. Like in Greenville, a veteran came to the Supervisor and said, because he availed himself of the information, why aren't you raising your Veteran's limits so the Town Board then prompted by his question had that conversation. I don't think that has occurred here. No one has brought it up and no one has brought it up over the long period of time since we adopted that law. The one you are talking about is the Senior Citizen and Disability Exemption where every taxing jurisdiction has the ability to adopt a set of limits. We usually follow the County simply because if all of our limits are the same, then it is much easier for us to calculate the exemption amount. Plus, it is much easier for the Senior citizen or the disabled person to say I get 30% off each of these; so we have tried over the years to keep the exemption limits all the same. Some Towns do and some Towns don't.

Mr. Kemnah continued second question. On the PILOTS, when the IDA is going to do a PILOT in the Town of New Baltimore, do they come to you and do you give an assessed value to the company that is coming in prior to them issuing some kind of PILOT for 10 or 20 years so that company will know what the assessed value of their place is going to be? Mr. Bennett responded we have a conversation on the front side about the value of the building so that they can calculate how much of a break they are getting; so yes, that conversation does occur. I would be hard pressed to say that the assessment on Serta, on the front side of the construction would be the same 20 years from now. I think what happens is when the PILOT expires, generally speaking, there is immediate conversation with me because the law says once they go on the assessment roll as fully taxable, that conversation does occur. Mr. Kemnah continued I was just wondering because when you look at other towns, it seems like a lot of times when we do this, after 20 years, usually if it is a cheap type of building, the life of the building is done. They say good-bye, we are going to another town and we gave them a tax break for 20 years. I think there should be something in there that they are going to stay for 20 years or pay back all the taxes we gave.

Mr. Bennett explained Brockway-Smith actually when they ran out of their 45B Exemptions or there 10-year PILOT with the County, they bought their way out of the PILOT. Then they sued the Town of Cocksackie. They ended up with a big assessment reduction because the amount of the assessment reduction and the taxes at a regular tax rate were less than what their last PILOT payment was because they had an escalating PILOT. That can happen with the business exemption, the 45-B exemptions as well. You get a 10-year sliding scale exemption. Pay one-half the first year and then your exemption is done in ten years. Sometimes people disappear after that too.

Mr. Van Slyke commented I am just concerned about your PILOTS. You said that when their PILOT runs out, you negotiate. You need to do that about two years before it runs out. Mr. Bennett responded I have nothing to do with that. It is all IDA. Mr. Van Slyke continued I understand that. What happened to the school up in Ravena is they let the PILOT run out on that Co-Gen. They let it run out and they said oh, gee, well, we didn't re-negotiate it so they didn't pay taxes for the 21<sup>st</sup> year. Mr. Bennett responded PILOTS and IDA's are a great way to get stuff here but they are a tricky operation.

Councilman Ruso advised I have two questions. In looking at your list here, please tell me or help me to know what is the difference between a Clergy Residence and a Religious Residence. What is the difference? I am looking at 11 and 32. Mr. Bennett explained a religious residence is the house that they live in and a clergy is the person not the house. Mr. Ruso questioned we tax people property tax? Mr. Bennett responded no, we give them an exemption because they are clergy. Ms. Alfeld questioned do they have to be active clergy? Mr. Bennett responded yes. Mr. Ruso continued one is a parsonage probably; and one just happens to be the place they live in and they pay everything else but the property tax, sewer, etc. Mr. Bennett continued the exempt amount is only \$9,000, the amount they get for being a clergy and owning a house in the Town of New Baltimore is \$1,500 on the exemption. So looking at that, we have six of them.

Councilman Ruso continued the other question I have is with regard to PILOTS. I would say it was about two years ago, there was a land transfer where Diederichs went to Cocksackie and there was an IDA property that became part of the Town of New Baltimore. Is there a PILOT on that property because I heard there was a pile of money going to Cocksackie still for that property or is that just someone talking? Mr. Bennett explained there is no PILOT until there is a tenant. The IDA owns the property. They don't pay any taxes on it. So until there is a building there—usually what happens, they struck a deal like with Serta. They strike a deal with Serta. Serta builds the building. Serta takes possession of the property, builds the building and then they title

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everything back over to the IDA because the IDA is the only one that can get the exemption that takes them out of the normal assessing value process. Then the PILOT comes into play with the deal that they strike. Mr. Ruso questioned there was no PILOT on that property?

Mr. Bennett continued actually, I think quite honestly that was a pretty good deal for New Baltimore and that property is right on the front. Actually, I think the Liquor Warehouse wanted to go there but because it was split between the two Towns, there was that whole Lead Agency conversation, two Building Inspectors, etc. and so they went to the parcel behind. So putting that together made that a much more salable, much more viable piece of property for the IDA to market plus that fixed the quirky mess that had existed for many, many years, with resultant lawsuits between the municipalities.

Supervisor Dellisanti thanked Mr. Bennett for coming in this evening and answering the questions.

**Presentation by Karla Flegel, President of the New Baltimore Farmers' Market**

Our goal is to sustain the small town farmers in raising crops to sell. We also value our community, its health and our future generations. For this, we create an environment at the Cecil Hallock Park that is inviting, that brings people together and we also advertise quite a bit for vendors as well as for the community to get their fresh produce. In the past year, 2013, our number of visitors has increased quite a bit. Our vendors, while small in number, were very satisfied. They offered good suggestions. One is to extend the market after it closed in the fall, September 20. We will extend it by having it in the hamlet for about three weeks on Saturdays, same time, at the New Baltimore Reformed Church. We also had sponsors and we had activities that attracted people but also encouraged learning about the community and just enjoyment. All of this was possible through the funds we received last year and we are asking again for about \$300 from the Town to support our community. It is not us. It is the people, it is their health, their sociability and their education. Thank you.

Supervisor Dellisanti commented back on April 14, 2011, \$400 was given to the Farmers' Market. On May 14, 2012, they were given \$250 and on May 13, 2013, they were given \$300. Going back through some of the records, Councilman Norris had commented that the authorized dollars have been stepping down year by year as was the intention of the Agricultural Committee when the Farmers' Market was first established. In that particular year instead of going down, they actually went up \$50 so I just want to let you know that that is where these particular resolutions have gone back to, all the way back to its inception. Supervisor Dellisanti questioned what would the Board like to entertain here? Councilwoman VanEtten suggested \$300 and then we go down for there.

Councilman Ruso questioned the number of vendors for 2014. Ms. Flegel responded that applications are coming in and there are about four definite right now. There are quite a few possibilities. We would aim for eight or ten. In other years, we average about seven, give or take. Question was raised are the vendors charged a fee? \$8 was mentioned. Ms. Flegel responded she did not have it memorized but it was less than \$10. Councilman Ruso pointed out he had been there and had not seen that many vendors. If there is nothing to draw, I worry about what comes first, the customer or the vendor. You are not going to get more vendors if you don't have more customers. It is a cycle and I worry about that. Mr. Flegel responded some vendors can only vend on certain weekends. They can't be there all the time and some just skip a week or something like that.

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**RESOLUTION - MARCH 24, 2014**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the amount of \$300.00 to be paid from the budgetary appropriation from 7989.4 Cultural Programs to the New Baltimore Farmers' Market for its 2014 season.

Moved by: Supervisor Dellisanti  
Seconded: Councilwoman Van Etten

AYES: Dellisanti, Van Etten, Ruso  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAINED: None  
ABSENT: Norris, Benway

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REPORTS

Supervisor – Supervisor Dellisanti reported that he attended the monthly meeting with the Coxsackie, Durham, Athens and Greenville Supervisors to discuss purchase of sand and salt off season when prices are approximately \$12. a ton cheaper. The issue with that is the storage or delivery schedule since no one has an area large enough to hold a large quantity of salt and sand.

Spoke with Mid-Hudson Cablevision representative regarding our franchise agreement that expired early in 2013. The information has been included in the Board Members packets tonight and he requested everyone's thoughts on it. It has been sent to our Attorney for his review. While he is trying to find out why this was not completed last year, we are at the point where we have to move forward on it now.

He attended the New Baltimore Fire District monthly meeting. The Red Cross representative present asked to have the firehouse designated as a shelter during an emergency situation. They will provide security and staffing for the duration of the emergency. The resolution was adopted by the Fire District Board and he asked that the Town of New Baltimore be named as secondary insured.

Attended the third Public Hearing of the EMS Task Force in Catskill and heard comments on both sides of the issue—whether to have Greene County take over the ambulance service or leave it as it is now in the Towns. Presently, there is no County in the State of New York with an ambulance service.

Received information from Troy & Banks, Inc. who worked with a number of municipalities saving on street lighting electrical accounts. That was also included in everyone's packets. There is quite an extensive list of towns, approximately 30, that have had a reduction in costs. There is a fee from the company of about 33% but 67% of something is better than nothing. Supervisor Dellisanti is going to look into it a little bit further. We are going to have a few interviews with these people and see if we can save the Town some money on our street lighting and our electrical bills.

Received a letter from Lizzy Morehouse about the Henry Hudson Youth Soccer League in Coxsackie asking for donations for their trip to Orlando in July to represent the Henry Hudson Coxsackie Athens soccer team. Although there are no New Baltimore girls on this particular team, the letter has been included in the Board Member's packets. Board members can make a donation if they would like but there will be no money coming from the Town.

The monthly financial reports have been forwarded to all Board Members. As an update on the snow removal to date, in January and February, we had expended \$17,737.20 for Personal Services and \$11,626.04 for Contractual Services. The Town' budget for those two areas are \$73,023 and \$72,000 respectively so we are holding our own in a very difficult year right now.

On March 17, Councilwoman Van Etten and I attended a forum by the Greene County Civil Service Commission at Columbia-Greene Community College. They covered appointments, promotions, residency requirements, disciplinary actions and other services provided by the Civil Service Commission; and at our request, they will also provide job descriptions for employee titles for which we are advertising.

Also met with NEXtera Energy who is in the process of bidding with the Public Service Commission along with others on high voltage transmission lines coming through our particular Town. The project is targeted to begin on 2017. We only have a small amount of information and will try to get more as it goes along. They are looking at using the area closest to the New York State Thruway. Hopefully, it will not be on any of our properties.

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**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR TOWN CLERK  
APPOINTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, a vacancy has occurred in the position of the Town Clerk of the Town of New Baltimore and an election to fill the vacancy shall occur at the general election to be held in November 2014, and

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the Town Board to make an appointment to fill the vacancy until such election and the Town Board shall advertise and interview all applicants for such position, and

**WHEREAS**, applicants must be electors (residents) of the Town of New Baltimore and the appointment shall be effective until December 31, 2014.

**RESOLVED**, the wording for the advertisement has been approved by the Attorney for the Town and following approval of the within Resolution by the Town Board; the advertisement will be submitted to the First Deputy Town Clerk for publication in The Daily Mail for seven (7) consecutive days in the public notices section. Additional copies will be posted on the Town sign board and on the Town website.

Moved by: Dellisanti  
Seconded by: Van Etten

Discussion was held regarding the deadline for applications. THE DAILY MAIL is printed Tuesday through Saturday. The Deputy Town Clerk will send ad to paper on March 25 with posting most likely to begin appearing on March 26. The ad will run through April 2. Applications to be received by the close of business on April 11.

**TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE  
REQUEST FOR RESUMES FOR TOWN CLERK**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore is seeking persons interested in being appointed as Town Clerk. A letter of intent for the position and a resume should be sent or delivered to First Deputy Town Clerk Marjorie Loux at New Baltimore Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087 and must be received by the close of business on April 11. All applicants must be an elector (resident) of the Town of New Baltimore and all applicants will be considered and interviewed for the position.

The appointment shall be effective until December 31, 2014.

By order of the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore.  
Marjorie Loux, First Deputy Town Clerk  
March 24, 2014

Moved by Supervisor Dellisanti  
Seconded by Councilman Russo

AYES: Dellisanti, Van Etten, Ruso  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAINED: None  
ABSENT: Norris, Benway

**County Legislator** - County Legislator James Van Slyke was present and reported that the Legislature had had a very busy March.

He provided the Board with a copy of the Local Law passed by the Greene County Legislature authorizing the award of purchase and service contracts on the basis of best value criteria pursuant to the NYS General Municipal Law and Finance law. This was done because at times when you put something out to bid, the lowest price may not be what you want. So there is criteria under that New York State Law that allows you to make selections using this law. Thus, the County passed the necessary Local Law.

Legislature passed resolution approving home rule request for mortgage taxes which is a renewal

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of the mortgage tax for the County. It is the same amount that the Town gets right now which is about .5% on a mortgage. The Legislature has to re-do the resolution every two years at the County. He did not believe that the Town had to do any kind of resolution.

Passed a resolution opposing the new capacity zone. They are re-zoning our electrical zone and we are getting stuck in with Manhattan and our rates are going to go through the roof. The Legislature has sent a letter to the PSC. This re-zoning is being done by the Federal Government, not the PSC and is to take effect on May 1. If it goes into effect, your rates will go up about 15 to 20%. Some places, it will double and it is even worse for commercial businesses. The Legislature passed a resolution opposing it and sent it to the Governor and others.

The Legislature authorized a loan—Community Development Block Grant for the Cocksackie Ferguson Enterprises Project. Did a \$25,000 loan for Nina's Last Chapter out on the mountaintop.

The County prepared bids for propane and materials for County Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Van Slyke will let the Board know the prices when they come in and who it is awarded to. The Towns will be able to get the propane and/or materials at the awarded bid price. Bids are going out this week, to be in by the end of the month. It was noted that the Town Board was preparing a resolution for the next meeting for propane and questioned if it should be postponed. Mr. Van Slyke responded that he should know next week who was awarded the bid.

An agreement has been signed with the Seniors Project of Ravena which gives service (meals on wheels) in the hamlet of New Baltimore. It was noted that Medway is taken care of by Greenville.

The Legislature has approved monies for the Community College chargebacks. We are now in our final year of paying 20% and there was quite a large amount, \$46,000, in chargebacks just for the spring semester. Next year, you will not pay any more college chargebacks. It will all be covered by the County. Councilman Ruso questioned the Town is paying 20% of the \$46,000? Mr. Van Slyke responded you are not paying it. When the Town's budget is done, the County tacks on the community college chargebacks. It is an add on.

A Greene County Jail Task Force has been created. The County jail is in a terrible condition. The State has shut down six beds and the County is farming out 12 to 18 prisoners or more every day at \$80 per day for each. By starting the Task Force, it is hoped that the jail may be able to get the six beds back. Preliminary discussion is in process with the Corrections Department to see if a new County jail could be constructed on the property where the prisons are located at Cocksackie. To place a new jail facility on the current site would mean farming out all the prisoners during the entire construction period which would be cost prohibitive.

With regard to Hurricane Irene, the County spent \$15 million to repair bridges and road. \$10 million was bonded last year to pay the contractors; \$5 million was taken out of the County funding. \$10 million had to be borrowed so the County would not run out of money. Thanks to FEMA and the State, all the projects are finished and all the paperwork has been submitted but the County has only gotten back \$8 million. The County had to re-bond \$7 million but the good news is the County was able to do it as cheaply as they did the first time around at .056% for \$7 million. It cost \$26,000 last year and the County will probably spend that much this year. Question was raised does the project have to be finished before you can apply to get the money back? Mr. Van Slyke responded it has to be submitted and sometimes re-submitted. It is a lengthy process. The Feds send the money to the State; the State reviews the project itself. Councilman Ruso questioned how much is the County due to receive? Mr. Van Slyke responded \$7-8 million dollars. The County will be paying out some money. The State usually only pays 15%; we pay 10%. The Feds pay 75%. The State stepped up at the beginning and said they would be paying the full 25%. The County will be paying the loan interest.

Town resident Ellie Alfeld inquired about the former Maurer property that was taken over by the County. It was her understanding it had been sold. She questioned what happens to the debris that was left there when the County took possession of the property and it is still there, portions of

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camping trailers and house trailer which are wide open. It was noted with the property having been sold, it would be up to the Town's CEO to see that the property is cleaned up. The Code Enforcement Officer will be advised accordingly and further noted that he is already aware of it.

**TOWN CLERK**

Report for the month of February: 3 Building Permits \$563.00; 69 dog licenses \$546; 1 marriage license \$17.50; 1 culvert permit \$35.00; 60 photocopies \$15.00; Total revenues taken in \$1,317.00. Amount paid to New York State Ag & Markets for spay/neuter program \$113.00. Amount paid to New York State Health Department for marriages \$22.50. Total local shares remitted to Supervisor \$1,181.50

Deputy Town Clerk Loux further reported Diane and I would like to thank the Town residents for their patience and also to publicly thank the Town Clerks in the neighboring Towns for their offers of assistance during this transitional period.

A comment I have been hearing with increasing frequency is "I called and there was no one in the office." At the present time, Town Hall has three telephone lines and a dedicated fax line. The one telephone line is the court's; the other two handle the calls of the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessor, Building, Planning and Zoning; and we also get court calls when people either don't listen to the menu or think the Town Clerk's Office is the Court Office. There is an extremely high volume of calls in January and February to the Tax Collector and the Assessor's office with the March 1 deadline for filing exemptions. We can be sitting right in our respective offices. If the lines are busy, the call automatically goes to voice mail. So please if calling the Town Clerk's Office, leave your name, telephone number, a brief message and we will get back to you.

FOILS - With regard to FOILS, I recall a question having been asked I believe it was early last fall regarding how many FOILS had been received in 2013. The exact number was not available at the time the question was asked. I had occasion to go back in the 2013 FOILS recently and decided to count just how many we did receive last year. 20 FOILS were received; 19 processed and one was withdrawn after much of the research, which had taken quite a bit of time, had been completed

As of today, the Town Clerk's Office has already received 14 FOIL requests in 2014. Ten have been completed, extra time has been requested on two because of the amount of research involved and the other two were received within the last week.

Councilwoman Van Etten commented with regard to the FOILS for 2013, that in the Town Clerk's report, there were only nine. She questioned was that because most of them were Building Inspector, Planning and Zoning FOIL requests? The Deputy Town Clerk responded that she had no idea what was in the Town Clerk's report at that time. I just know when I went through them, some of them included C-O searches and other things; some asked for things in the Assessor's Office, Building Department, Planning, Zoning. Some of them encompassed information from all those Departments. Councilwoman VanEtten continued that she was just curious if only the ones that the Town Clerk did were under her report. The others should be under Building. The Clerk further explained we do not include FOILS in the Building Department report. Actually, all FOILS are handled by the Records Management Officer; and of course, right now under our current situation, I am more or less the acting Town Clerk and this has fallen within my purview as well. As to why there were only nine stated for last year, I do not have any idea. It was noted based on the number received already this year, the Town could easily receive a total of 50 or 60 in 2014.

Mrs. Loux explained FOILS take a tremendous amount of time to complete. You may be able to finish one or two in 10 or 15 minutes and others take much longer. She cited as an example one being worked on currently which is requesting information from 1986 to 2000, which includes in part going through the minute books for all those years.



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**Tax Collector**

Property/County tax bills. I am still collecting property/county payments with a 2 % penalty added until March 31. After March 31, there will be a 3% penalty fee added to that bill as property/county payments have a 1% penalty fee added per month. The collected taxes are being sent to the Greene County Treasurer's office and the penalty fees collected, which are retained by the Town, are turned over to Supervisor Dellisanti.

Sewer District #1 billing. A 2% per month penalty fee will be added to the payments past due. Sewer payments are coming in steadily. There is a 4% penalty on these bills until April 15. After the April 15 date, a 6% penalty will then be added to the bill. A 2% penalty is added to the bill after the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Supervisor Dellisanti receives all Sewer District #1 and Water District #2 payments.

Water District #2 billing. I will be sending out Water District #2 bills in April. These bills will be due by May 15. After the May 15 due date, a 2% penalty fee will be added to the bill per month. This is the second billing being sent out for the 2014 year. I am still collecting for the Water District #2 first billing that went out with a February 15<sup>th</sup> due date. These bills have a 4% penalty fee on the bill until April 15<sup>th</sup>. Then after April 15, these bills, if remaining unpaid, will have a 6% penalty added to the bill.

Respectfully submitted  
Diane Jordan / Tax Collector

**Historian**

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT - FEBRUARY 2014**

Met with Priscilla Coates, Alan Bedell, Arlene McKeon, Beth and Bill Finke and Shelly VanEtten to review family photo albums. Photos were borrowed, copied and returned. Slides were made, delivered and retrieved from McGreevy Labs in Albany.

Visited the site of the Deans Mill with the property owner.

Prepared text for the slide show, based on interviews with family members and consulting the Heritage and Cless Bush's book. The slide show was attended by 30-35 citizens and apparently well received.

I also met with Ruth Carr Tompkins of Greenville and collected oral history of her childhood on Roberts Hill Road, and borrowed photos, made copies and returned them.

Agriculture – There was no report available. Councilman Norris was on vacation and Councilwoman Benway was ill.

Ag Fest Liaison – Rob Van Etten reported as follows: The death of Rick Albright, who did a great deal (i.e. oversaw tractor pull, getting the scales and the announcers as well as a lot of other things) for the Ag Fest has left a great hole in the organization and will be greatly missed. However, the Committee was moving on trying to fill the gaps. The entertainment schedule is being re-arranged due to conflicts. Squeeze Play, the Gospel Band and others from last year will be returning. A mailing has been done. A "save the date" postcard has been made up and gotten out. Letters to sponsors are done and sent out.

Animal Control - Report was given by Councilman Ruso as follows: I (Joe Tanner) traveled 102 miles for the month of March. 9 dog complaints. 2 times to court. Reminder, the Rabies Clinic will be held Wednesday, March 26, at the Medway-Grapeville Firehouse from 6-8 p.m. This is a free service for all Greene County residents.

**Assessment**

**EXEMPTION RENEWALS**

Once again we are past the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for all exemptions. Listed below are the exemptions that were processed.

**Agricultural:** Total exemptions 52. (3 new)

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**Disabled:** Total exemptions 13. (-1 receiving Enhanced w/ Senior now instead)  
**Forest:** Total exemptions 8. (1 new)  
**Enhanced Star w/ Senior:** Total exemptions 72. (Added 3 and lost 4)  
**Enhanced Star IVP:** Total exemptions 147 (10 new)  
**Enhanced Star:** Total exemptions 57 (6 new)  
**Non-Profit:** Total exemptions 13  
**Clergy:** Total exemptions 6 (1 new)  
**Parsonage:** Total exemptions 4  
**Solar & Wind:** Total exemptions 7 (2 new)  
**Basic Star:** Total exemptions 729 (removed 67 due to failure to register w/ NYS)

Board of Assessment Review member, Ellie Alfeld advised all present that Julie called at least twice, sometimes three times, sent out notices. This is a shame because she has gone above and beyond. Supervisor Dellisanti pointed out this is now out of the control of the Assessor's office. They have to go back to the State.

**Veteran's Exemptions:**

War Vet: 77 (3 new) Combat Vet: 75 (2 new) Disabled Vet: 7 (3 new)  
Cold War Vet: 16 (1 new)

**DATA COLLECTION** - Data collection is in process.

**AROUND THE OFFICE** - The Assessor's computer was wiped twice by ITS so that it could be restored to the Windows 7 OS. This enabled us to upgrade our RPSV4 software to the latest version.

Gordon Bennett, Assessor

**Audit and Control Committee** - Councilman Ruso reported that a March 21 letter has been received from the Office of the State Comptroller reading as follows:

*Dear Mr. Dellisanti:*

*This is to acknowledge receipt of the Town of New Baltimore's corrective action plan to our reported examination 2013M-203 entitled Procurement Practices.*

Supervisor Dellisanti thanked Councilman Ruso for the many hours he spent putting the well-done corrective action plan together. His work was greatly appreciated. Mr. Ruso responded all they say is they have it; they don't say they have approved it.

**Buildings & Grounds/Recycling** – No report available

**Building Inspector/Code Enforcement**

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer Gordon Pebler's activities for February, 2014, is as follows:

Building Inspections: 1  
Building Permits Renewed: 3  
Certificates of Compliance Issued: 2  
Do Not Occupy: 1  
General Complaints: 3  
Code Violation Investigations: 1  
Zoning Violation Investigations: 1

Application Fees for February, 2014: \$563.00  
Total Fees for Year to Date: \$732.00

**Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement** - Supervisor Dellisanti advised that he attended the Greene County EMS Meeting in Cairo. Aiden O'Conner was elected President; Phylis Dinkelacker, Vice President; and Dave Battini, Treasurer. There were six EMS calls in the month of January and four in February in New Baltimore. Fifteen medics attended

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the OSHA training on February 12. The next scheduled meeting is March 27 and there was a demo of the Fleet Eyes Program that works with the web EOC Program that the County is installing in the CAD system right now.

**Grants/Promotions/Economic Development** - Councilman Ruso advised that he spoke with the Bank of Greene County earlier in the day and that we do have grant approval for the Youth Program. A letter will be received with the specific amount of funding at the end of this week or in the first part of next week. One will also be submitted to the County. County Legislator Van Slyke urged that it be gotten in as soon as possible.

**Greene County Planning Board**

The County Planning Board met on March 19th and reviewed six applications.

From the Town of Catskill two items -, a special use permit and a site plan for the re-opening of the Pine Grove Inn and an update to the Town of Catskill zoning map.

The Town of Greenville - special use permit and site plan for a Dunkin Donuts on Route 32 in front of GNH lumber.

The Town of Windham - a site plan to add a second floor deck to Prime Steakhouse.

The Town of Jewett – Site Plan to reuse an existing building for equipment storage.

The Board voted to approve all these applications. There was an application from the Town of Cairo to extend a moratorium on permits for the conversion of resorts to other uses. The County Planning Board voted to deny this application.

**Highway**

Highway Report February 20, 2014 to March 19, 2014

Cleaned snow from grates and drains in hamlet

Mixed up more sand and salt and put in shed

Washed all plow trucks and loader

Saturday February 22 called all in at 7:30 am for black ice, sanded all roads worked until 10:30

Changed oil and filter on 2011 international 4300

Patched dirt roads with crusher run

Changed gear lube on 1985 Oshkosh transmission, transfer case, and front end

Cleaned inside cabs on all trucks

Patched roads with winter mix

Put plow blade on 2012 ford pickup

Replaced wing blade on 1985 Oshkosh

Cleaned up in and around shop

Picked up sheetrock dumped on Haas Hill, found out where it came from, restitution should be made to the town for the dumping fee.

Painted plow frame on 2011 International

Picked up garbage on Roberts Hill Road

Changed oil and filter on 2002 f350

Changed oil on 1980 Oshkosh plow truck

Wednesday March 5 called all in at 7pm sanded all roads

Repaired headlights on 2011 International

Changed oil and filters on John Deere Loader

Changed oil and filters on John Deere Backhoe

Cut pine tree on Sodom Road

Cut limbs along roads

Checked truck over for coming storm

Wednesday March 12 called all in at 7pm sanded all roads worked until 10pm

Thursday March 13 called all in at 3:30am plowed and sanded all roads

Took 1985 Oshkosh to W&W for transfer case repair

Made repairs to spare sander and put on 1991 International

Repaired fallen Stop sign on Highmount Road

**Insurance** – No report

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**Memorial Committee** – No report

**Personnel** - Councilman Ruso advised that he had received from the Sheriff a copy of their background check and we also have a copy of the Town of New Baltimore's background check policy which was put in place September 9, 2013. The Town has to start getting it going because it has not gone all the way. The Sheriff's report has many, many pages and lines. The Town does not need all that they have. All Board members have been provided a copy and were asked to provide input on what are the important questions. Some of the questions have no bearing on what we would be asking for Town employees. Basically, we want to know if they have ever been arrested; and for certain positions, we will need a credit check as well. When the questionnaire is completed, it will be sent to the Town Attorney for review. While the policy was put in place last September, the mechanism portion has to be completed.

**Planning Board**

Due to cancellation of the February 13, 2014, Planning Board Meeting due to the snowstorm, the Board has held two meetings since its last report to you with business transacted as follows:

**On February 27, 2014**, Public Hearing, properly re-noticed, was held on the minor subdivision application for Roberto Ponce for a two-lot subdivision of his property on High Rock Road.

In the properly noticed Regular Planning Board Meeting that followed;

...Minor subdivision for Roberto Ponce was approved.

...Held a preliminary informational discussion with the attorney for the proposed purchasers of J.B. Car Services. The proposed purchasers wish to obtain their own Site Plan approval and Special Use Permit.

**On March 13, 2014**, the following business was transacted:

...Received Special Use Permit/Site Plan Application for Hudson Valley Scrap Recycling, Inc. of Cohoes, New York, the proposed purchasers of J.B. Car Services. Required Public Hearing on the application has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m., March 13, 2014.

...Received Minor Subdivision Application from Lyle and Clarene Tompkins to re-divide property owned on Lydon Lane. The re-division will enlarge one lot they own and decrease size of bordering lot they own; both lots, from the former Ackerman major subdivision. Public Hearing on the application will be held at 7 p.m. on March 13, 2014.

...Received Minor Subdivision Application from Derek and Noreen Adler for a two-lot subdivision of property they own on Haas Hill Road/Lime Kiln Road. Public Hearing on the application will be held at 7:15 p.m. on March 13, 2014.

...Discussed with two neighboring property owners the steps necessary to complete a lot line adjustment of their properties.

M. Kathleen Rundberg, Chair

**Zoning Board of Appeals** - The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet on March 5 since there were no applications to come before the Board.

Meave Tooher, Chair

**Seniors and Veterans** - The Seniors Committee will be meeting 1 p.m., April 3.

Councilwoman VanEtten advised that she had spoken with several Veterans and they are interested in a monument. A Veteran's Committee meeting will be set up in the next couple of weeks.

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**Technology/Website** - Councilwoman VanEtten advised that the problem with the copier was going to have to be addressed very soon. It was believed that there was a grant last year but it did not get done so that is past its due date. It was noted that there was a person here from Ricoh and gave a presentation. It was then corrected that the person had spoken with Janet Brooks.

**Town Courts Liaison** - Councilman Ruso advised that there were five applications for the court position that is open. Report for Justice Court fines for the month of January were \$15,451 of which \$9,564 were sent to the State Comptroller and the Town retained \$5,887. Justice Farrell's court activity brought in \$11,781; Justice Davis \$3,670.

**Wastewater Treatment** - Supervisor Dellisanti advised he had had a conversation with Jim Polverelli regarding Blue Diamond, a sludge removal company. Our last bill was around \$800. Mr. Polverelli calls them when he needs them to come. Supervisor Dellisanti advised him that per our procurement policy, quotes were going to have to be obtained for the future.. Mr. Polverelli is currently on vacation but that will have to go out to bid.

**Youth, Parks and Recreation** - Councilwoman VanEtten advised some applications have come in and interviews will be scheduled for Director and Assistant Director for the Summer Park Program. She further advised that there is still time to apply.

**Personnel/Audit & Control** (Cont'd)

Councilman Ruso advised we are going to have a training session 6 p.m. next, Monday for Town employees on the new procurement policy which will be given by Tal Rappleyea. It is a publicly noticed meeting. All Department heads have been asked to attend. SEQR training will be held at 7 p.m. on the same evening.

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

Ellie Alfeld reported on the Community luncheon held at the church in the Hamlet earlier in the month. 113 meals were served, 30 of them being take-outs, meals delivered to seniors in their homes. Susan and her volunteers are to be thanked. This luncheon came into being when the Seniors Program was first started through the Town. Next meal is April 9, menu veggie lasagna, tossed salad, Italian bread and butter, spumoni ice cream. Meal is served promptly at noon. No set cost of the meal but donations are appreciated. Reservations not required but appreciated so there is an idea of anticipated attendance.

Kevin Kemnah – You spoke earlier about renewing with Mud-Hudson Cable. It seems like every year, you are renewing. He questioned if every year, they can extend the cable more in the community? We signed up years and years ago and never heard another word about it. He did not feel that they had added another foot since they put the original in. Supervisor Dellisanti responded that he hoped to be meeting with them in the next week or two and will put that on the agenda. It was noted that it has been extended in some areas, (i.e. out Route 144 from the hamlet) and further noted that the agreement with Mid-Hudson Cable is not for just one year at a time but rather for 15 years.

Diane Louis – She asked that Jim Van Slyke's name, as our County Legislator, be added to the Town's website. It was noted that the website needs to be updated in several instances and that it had been brought to Councilwoman Benway's attention.

Bob Knighton – He advised this coming Sunday, March 30, 4 p.m., there will be a concert by the Oriole Trio from New York City at the gray church at 380 Main Street, flute, viola and harp. The musicians all play with the New York Philharmonic or the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Music in the program will include classical, Celtic and Beatles. \$15. per ticket.

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Adjournment

At 8:26 p.m., it was moved by Ruso and seconded by Van Etten to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: 3      Nays: 0      Abstained: 0      Absent: 2

mbi