

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

**MAY 14, 2017**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentation by Coxsackie-Athens and Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central Schools**

**Approval of Minutes**

- April 23, 2018 Town Board Work Meeting
- May 3, 2018 Town Board Special Meeting

**Public Comment Period**

**Correspondence**

- Letter of Resignation from Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan
- Motion to Accept Resignation of Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan
- Cornell Hook & Ladder Health & Fire Safety Day on Saturday, May 19 from 10AM-4PM
- AARP Fraud Watch Network, Operation: Stop Scams, Free Shredding Event, June 16 10AM-1PM at the Village of Ravena Municipal Building, 15 Mountain Road
- Letter from Senator George Amedore to Correct Figures Received from the Department of Transportation for CHIPS, PAVE NY and Extreme Winter Recovery Programs

**New Business**

- Resolution Congratulating Brianna Katherine Melick on the Occasion of Receiving the Distinguished Girl Scout Gold Award
- Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution
- Resolution to Authorize the Deputy Highway Superintendent to Attend Training
- Resolution to Appoint Deputy Tax Collector
- Resolution to Approve Advertisement for Full Time Heavy Equipment Operator for the Highway Department
- Resolution to Accept Quote for Upgrades to Meeting Room Exterior
- Resolution to Authorize Purchase of Special Events Liability Insurance for AgFest
- Audit of Claims

**Upcoming Meetings**

- May 22, 2018 Grievance Day with the Board of Assessment Review 4-8 PM
- May 28, 2018 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- June 2-3 2018 AgFest at the VanEtten Farm
- June 6, 2018 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM if Needed
- June 8, 2017 Planning Board at 7 PM
- June 11, 2018 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- June 14, 2018 Senior Committee Picnic at 12 Noon Hallock Park, Raindate June 15
- June 14, 2018 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- June 25, 2018 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Adjournment**

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

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**OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING**

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

**Supervisor Ruso:** Tonight, we have two presentations; alphabetically we'll just go to Coxsackie-Athens where we have Randy Squier, Superintendent, and Leslie Copleston is the Business Manager.

**PRESENTATION BY COXSACKIE-ATHENS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Superintendent Squire:** Appreciate the Town of New Baltimore inviting us here to give a brief presentation on our school budget vote which is tomorrow. School budgets across New York State are tomorrow, Coxsackie-Athens are from 1-9 PM in both of our elementary schools. C-A's budget plan for 2018-19 is \$31,302,000, that's about a 1.49% budget increase year-over-year and as far as our levy goes, it's a 1.71% tax levy increase which is at our tax cap for that. Our budget maintains all programs and staffing that we currently have. It increases in two areas. We're increasing our mental health services throughout the district. We plan to partner with Greene County to add some additional school social workers in our district to help with our families' mental health needs. We also planned to add a librarian position in our district so that each of our libraries now will have a certified library media specialist. So all other areas of our budget stay the same programmatically. We have three school board positions that are open and we have three people running. So we have incumbents Mike Petramale and Bart Wallace running and we have newcomer David Taylor running and he'll take the third seat that had been held by Chris Chimento who decided not to run this year for that. That is our budget really in a nutshell, not a lot of bells and whistles so to speak or anything brand new in that regard. We're excited to be able to maintain and actually we're able to grow within the budget with the current staffings. We're always continuing to look to provide more options, more opportunities for our kids whether it's more electives at the high school/middle school level. This year we expanded what we call our STEM program -- science, technology, engineering, math -- in our elementary school so our elementary students starting this year have been able to in second grade get an additional period of STEM every week and our third and fourth graders two periods additional STEM every week. This is an outside the classroom science classes etc. so it's kind of like a special, library, phys. ed., music, or STEM twice a week. Very exciting there. In fact, we have four students who are traveling down to New Jersey on Wednesday. They had created an invention, an idea for an invention, so they're going down to Thomas Edison Museum down there to pitch their invention to a panel of judges down there so they're excited about that as we go forward. So that is our budget.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** What's the invention?

**Superintendent Squire:** Well, as I understand it, somehow they came up with an idea to help Troy out -- Troy, New York -- and it's an invention to somehow be able to take all the runoff that comes off the hill and pump it back up to the treatment facilities so the water that then finally is discharged into the River is clean or cleaner than just direct runoff from the storm sewers. This is like fourth and fifth graders coming up with that so it's pretty amazing for that. They get like ten or fifteen minutes to pitch, kind of like a Shark Tank kind of thing, pitch their idea down there, and so kind of excited.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** That is exciting.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Troy should be excited.

**Superintendent Squire:** That's something every Town could... We all, unfortunately, probably some water we would prefer not to be running straight to the River headed there. We'll see how that goes.

**Supervisor Ruso:** If it works in Troy, it will work anywhere.

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**Superintendent Squire:** That's true in a lot of ways. Any questions?

**Supervisor Ruso:** What's the total changes in your employment, more, less or the same?

**Superintendent Squire:** Employment, about the same. We're adding really one position, we're contracting out for the other one. Our employees have been pretty steady, our enrollment has too. We're losing on the scheme of things about a few kids each year, we have one or two more larger classes in the high school, but we pretty much leveled out now districtwide so our enrollment's not really dropping more than it had in the previous decade in that regard and again we see most of any increase in employment coming through toward special education or counseling-type services. That's where we're seeing a very growing need as we're all aware of the things that are going on in our communities, unfortunately, with those types of mental health issues.

**Councilmember Downes:** Now at one time there was a Resource Officer in the school. Is there still one there?

**Superintendent Squire:** We contract out individually with the Village of Athens and the Village of Coxsackie. We have an Intermunicipal Agreement directly with them so they both provide us with a police presence if you will on both campuses.

**Councilmember Downes:** Because at one time it was the State.

**Superintendent Squire:** Yes, that was free at that time, well free to us, not out-of-pocket for us. This is in our budget, we pay for that. It's cost-effective compared to what we see in other schools when they're looking to have the same type of thing.

**Councilmember Downes:** And that's only because it hit the news tonight that everybody was looking for the Resource Officers so I didn't know. Where is that person stationed, at the high school level, at the middle school level, or...?

**Superintendent Squire:** Well, on the Coxsackie campus they wander throughout the campus, most of their day is spent in the high school. That's where they're trying to create relationships with the students there in that regard so they're wandering the halls, hanging out in the cafeteria during lunch and stuff like that, but they make a concerted effort to make sure they're in the middle school during the day as well, time when the kids are out and about, and the same with the elementary school. They go to the assemblies and such like that just to make sure that they're there in that regard.

**Councilmember Downes:** It's kind of scary to hear Coxsackie has a campus.

**Superintendent Squire:** We call it campus.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** What's your average class size?

**Superintendent Squire:** About 20 kids, 18-20 kids in a class. It varies. Some of our Honors programs, we have a few extra kids. We have about 100 kids, 105 kids in a grade pretty much K-12. We have one larger class, one smaller class mixed in there at the elementary right now. So by the time you get up to middle school, high school you have about a little less than 20 kids in a class. Generally, most of our teachers at the middle/high school level, like I have a seventh grade math teacher, only has five sections of seventh grade math in one section with extra help interventions for those kids as well so we kind of divvy up their day if you will.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Question, what actually is your total enrollment for students?

**Superintendent Squire:** 1,328.

**Ellie Alfeld:** And do you have any idea about how many come from New Baltimore?

**Leslie Copleston:** 146.

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**Superintendent Squire:** It was in our Annual Report that came out in December. I don't know if you are in our district so you would have a copy of that.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** You're prepared, Leslie.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Well, Leslie knows my question.

**Superintendent Squire:** Like we anticipate.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Like Ellie, I don't get your Annual Report, I get the Ravena reports because I live in RCS. We don't get yours.

**Superintendent Squire:** We could send our newsletter, a couple copies to the Town of New Baltimore because we can do that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's probably available on the web if I had thought to look.

**Superintendent Squire:** We'll make sure you get a paper copy,

**Supervisor Ruso:** I guess that's it. Thank you very much. Actually, I'll add something, I think next time instead of doing it the day before the vote, because this does get on the Mid-Hudson Cablevision and it comes on the week following our meeting so it would come on next Monday; well, the vote's over. So I think what we need to do is get you perhaps a month earlier and that way maybe you could reach more people, both schools. Thank you very much.

**PRESENTATION BY RAVENA-COEYMANS-SELKIRK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Let's hear from Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk. We have Dr. Brian Bailey, the Superintendent, and I don't know who his fine assistant is.

**Joanne Moran:** Joanne Moran. I'm the school Business Manager.

**Supervisor Ruso:** You've been here before.

**Joanne Moran:** I have.

**Superintendent Bailey:** So, the story is not dissimilar between our school and Randy's. I think you'd find across New York State some of our priorities are very similar in trying to find enriching technological opportunities for our students to make them ready for workplace and the world. Also, as Randy mentioned, STEM or STEAM – science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics -- is another huge push in preparing our students for the future. Also, mental wellness in the schools and we've had a lot of very in-depth discussions at our Board level about whether it's appropriate in the school. When we were growing up, we had very nominal supports in that respect, but unquestionably you watch the news, you watch the world events that are happening and we know that proactivity is much more productive than reactivity in trying to prevent some of these cataclysmic incidents that are happening. The funny thing about work that we're doing through social emotional wellness is you can never tell how many you've prevented. You just hope that you prevented and we're expanding in those particular realms so we have no expansion in staffing this year. We're instead reappropriating our staffing. For instance, we're taking a retirement at the middle school level and turning them into a behavioral specialist. What this will allow us to do is to bring some of our students that are special ed back into the district. We use BOCES to help us with programs where we don't feel we can meet that need and a behavioral specialist actually will primarily work with staff in order to help them better understand the complexities of working with students with social, emotional, behavioral issues. The other thing we're doing is we're expanding our School Resource Officer in district. We gave your three documents, but if you look at the very first one which is in black and white, at the bottom of that very first page it actually outlines, it says 'Budget Hearing' on the top. It outlines some of these things I'm discussing right now. We currently have a relationship with Coeymans Police Department for a Resource Officer. We are interested in expanding that to include the Albany County Sheriff's Department. They

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currently do not have any Resource Officers, but are actively seeking to become involved in that and we know nationwide and statewide obviously, there's a big draw for that and we're very fortunate in that the Albany County Sheriff, Sheriff Apple, is a graduate of RCS and his heart is definitely still in our community. He still has family there and he's interested in partnering with us. The creation of a satellite space for mental health, we have two options for that. BOCES is currently seeking the opportunity to partner with school districts in the Capital Region BOCES whereas Cossackie-Athens is part of QUESTAR. BOCES is offering this at a very significantly-reduced cost to districts for \$30,000. We can actually have satellite mental health facility. It would serve our students, our students and their families. So it might do student counseling and perhaps do family counseling. So it's not for outside clients, it's just for our families in the district. I mentioned technology and we're going about that two ways. Cossackie-Athens is well ahead and very future-proofing the needs of their students. We're interested in increasing access of hardware for our students. Last year was the first year we significantly invested in that through the purchase of chrome cards and this year we're purchasing the same amount, about \$70,000 of chrome books which is hardware which will allow almost all of our middle school students 1-1 access and about 40-50% access. So in other words, at any given time during the day, 100% of middle school students and about 40-50% of our elementary and high school students will have access to this technology. And along with that, something that we've learned is we as adults who were educated 25 years ago need the assistance of instructional technology education so we are repurposing one of our middle school librarians to allow them to teach other teachers how to use the technology. At the elementary schools, we're increasing access to STEM and STEAM by again repurposing our elementary school librarians. We have a retirement so we're able to hire an elementary teacher who can help teach our students not only project-based STEAM-type initiatives, but also can again help our other staff understand what that would look like in the classroom. And one of the biggest issues for most schools is determining transition between elementary and middle, middle school and high school and we're doing some investment for summer transition for our eighth graders to come to ninth grade and also figuring out how to propose a boot camp for those ninth graders that are failing. The statistics clearly show that if a student is unable to pass and get through ninth grade, they're likely not to graduate. Basically, everyone makes it through eighth grade. They either age out or they accomplish it educationally. So, it's so important for us to focus on the needs of our students in ninth grade. So between last year and this year's budget, this year's budget is \$47,738,000. We have approximately 1,830 students in district right now and interestingly after quite a few years of decline, we actually have added about 25 students this year and it's difficult to predict, although we do try to predict the future. Although this represents a 4.17% increase in our own budget, it only represents 2.68% increase in the tax levy and that is our tax cap for the RCS School District and it's reflected differently in each of the municipalities, it reflects differently in their tax bills. So if you flip over to the fourth page in that document, at the bottom of the fourth page it says 'Estimated Tax Rate Impact,' it talks specifically to the Bethlehem, Coeymans, New Scotland, and New Baltimore. I believe New Baltimore has the issue of full assessment or...

**Joanne Moran:** Reduced assessment.

**Superintendent Bailey:** Reduced assessment, thank you. So reduced assessment and if you turn over to the following page, you can see what the impact is on the homeowner at \$150,000 per homeowner. For a homeowner in New Baltimore, home value at \$150,000 would be an increase of \$108 for the year. So the three documents we gave you, this black and white is the full scope of the budget presentation that we gave at our budget hearing. The color one which you can read later is our programmatic presentation which really talks about the highlights of what it is we're trying to do. School Districts are trying to accomplish something like (unable to understand) successful students, and the last thing is our *Chalkboard* which residents of the district would have gotten and I agree with Mr. Squire, we'll certainly make a point of sending you a copy of our newsletter when budget time rolls around.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I was looking in this for your figures on how much you spend for special ed out of the district?

**Superintendent Bailey:** Good question because the special ed numbers that we have are all encompassing so it includes our in-district special ed staff as well as our contractual budget.

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**Joanne Moran:** It's about \$1.5 m what we have budgeted in our school district for our out-of-district.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Both in-house and out-of-house.

**Joanne Moran:** Private placement, private and public placement that would include students that go to public enrollment, BOCES program, or a different private placement like Wildwood.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Langan or one of those.

**Superintendent Bailey:** And the benefit of BOCES placement obviously is we're reimbursed, our reimbursement is a little above 50% each year and the following year we're reimbursed a good portion of that money and as I mentioned our goal and we have over the past two years actually brought a couple of programs back into district allowing our district students to attend district schools with the additional support that they need.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** You got a significant increase in state aid this year didn't you?

**Superintendent Bailey:** Not significant, but a timely one. We had anticipated having to take from our reserves in order to balance the budget this year and it was \$240,000 or so and the midnight as all of us were waiting to see, we were anticipating taking about \$120,000 from our reserves and \$240,000 allowed us not to do that and instead consider how we could reallocate those monies into savings. We've had a lot of discussion with our Board about our reserves and how we maintain a healthy school district. Any of us who have been in the municipal world and the school world have known that in the last five years we've certainly with the tax cap, we've taken a significant change in the philosophy of how we funded our schools. But also in the short time that I've been in education, we've seen three significant recessions which have caused cutbacks, tax hikes, and staffing loss over the years and having a healthy reserve allows us to be able to at least weather the storm for a year when those things occur.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** So then what was your actual increase in spending? 4.17%, was that your actual increase in spending this year?

**Superintendent Bailey:** Correct. Part of that is due to the fact if you ever looked at like *The Business Review* or some of the other local statistics, we were out of the Capital Region schools, we were about second from the bottom in our salary schedule for teachers meaning that we were hiring, not only were we hiring maybe \$7-8,000 below neighboring schools. When you get to the mid-range of the salary or the retirement age, we were also dragging behind \$8-10,000. All of us worry less about what we do with a 20-year teacher, they're not likely to leave, but not being able to attract new teachers. And as an example Cocksackie eight or nine years ago identified that for a rural school. It's very difficult to attract staff who will stay the long-term and they made a strategic choice and it was pre-tax cap which was helpful to say we're going to change our salary schedule and they're among the most competitive in the area which has helped them really attract and maintain quality staff. So I was going to say that we finally after a year of being out of contract we finally settled a contract with the teacher's union and we've raised our salary up so at the end of four years, we'll be a little bit above halfway amongst the Capital Region schools in salary.

**Supervisor Ruso:** You said you hired a behavior specialist for the first time. Is that a mental health degree or is that like a child life specialist?

**Superintendent Bailey:** It's actually, it's interesting. It can be someone with a psychology, guidance counseling, social work degree. I think those are the three. So any one from those pupil personnel-type services and it really has to be someone who has behavior specialist background. Special Ed teacher, sorry that's the fourth domain. And what we found, we've hired a few Special Ed teachers who actually have that background and they definitely come with a skillset that is above their colleagues in dealing with students that have those special needs.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I know the question, but I was going to ask it anyway.

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**Superintendent Bailey:** A little over 100; it hasn't changed much since last year.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Do you know how much New Baltimore paid to RCS in school taxes?

**Superintendent Bailey:** I think that's also on Page 4 here.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Well, I don't have the same page. It's alright, no, I've got my post-it notes.

**Superintendent Bailey:** \$1.8 million.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Do you know how many students from New Baltimore are in RCS?

**Superintendent Bailey:** Just over 100.

**Ellie Alfeld:** 102. We are giving you, the School District, \$1,886,173 as of last year's tax payment for that we educate 102 students. That's a high price for 100 kids.

**Superintendent Bailey:** It is, but it's obviously the school zoning that's done by geography and not by student population.

**Ellie Alfeld:** I realize that. What I'm saying to you is, I don't know if you're aware but at one point in time New Baltimore was looking at some grants and we had a survey done of income levels. I don't know if you are aware, but I believe the medium income in this hamlet was around \$60,000.

**Deputy Superintendent Dellisanti:** \$52,000.

**Ellie Alfeld:** \$52,000 excuse me. When you're talking about and the word is 'only' or 'just,' those are my fighting words. When you say it's 'only a matter of \$100-and-some-odd increase', or it's 'just \$100-and-some-odd increase,' that increase is falling on the backs of those people and in this Town, I think the Board can verify, that we have an abundance of seniors. They outnumber this 102 and that's how they just, increases are hitting the hardest. I don't know what the answer is. I don't think I need a tennis court on 9W. I don't know why we needed a tennis court, okay.

**Superintendent Bailey:** It's for our students.

**Ellie Alfeld:** I also want to know from you and I doubt if you would know, but your Business Manager might, you have that tower that was built some years ago in the back of the Middle School. It's a climbing tower. I bet you've got it insured, too, and I don't see any kids on it ever. Why don't you take the damn thing down?

**Superintendent Bailey:** Students use it annually, we have our staff training on it.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Honey, if you say annually, that could mean one day every other six months or so. That doesn't for me say that all of this stuff is needed. We're in a bad time in this Town and we believe that we're overpaying when it comes to almost \$18,000 per kid. Also, is it true that there's been a major increase in your salary?

**Superintendent Bailey:** No.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Okay.

**Superintendent Bailey:** I can tell you what happened really on the budget process.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Yes.

**Superintendent Bailey:** My predecessor earned about \$15,000 less than me. So, I was hired July 1, 2017 to fulfill this role. Therefore, the budget for this year was his salary, \$15,000 less. As we go into the next school year, it's my salary, no raise. I don't actually get a raise until

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I've completed the year and the School Board does a review of me and then they vote whether or not to allow me a raise in July or August. So I have no raise at this juncture.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Okay, that's what I wanted to hear. Thank you.

**Superintendent Bailey:** I'm glad you asked me that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you very much. I appreciate your time and, again, I think we do need to have you guys in earlier and I think that, again, could reach some people. I don't know how much our viewership is.

**Ellie Alfeld:** And we should congratulate them because it's been at least six or eight, maybe even ten years since RCS has come here.

**Town Clerk Finke:** No.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh, no.

**Joanne Moran:** I was here two years ago.

**Town Clerk Finke and Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, you were.

**Joanne Moran:** In 2016.

**Ellie Alfeld:** The Superintendent that came, and I can't remember her name, but I thought we were paying her..."

**Supervisor Ruso:** No, two years ago.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Didn't the Superintendent pass away.

**Town Clerk Finke:** The Superintendent passed away 2015, confirmed for that meeting, and he passed away that weekend. So that was '15 and you were here '16.

**Supervisor Ruso:** '14, we don't remember that far back.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Oh, I can look.

**Supervisor Bailey:** I would say it's a very difficult thing that we all face. I'm a taxpayer, my parents are a taxpayer, my mother's a taxpayer and she was an educator as well and I certainly hear from them frequently about the obligation that we have and it is difficult to grapple with, but the one thing, the solid set remains is that it's a democratic right. Educational process in this Country is preparing our future leaders, our doctors, our lawyers, our mechanics, and our welders and if we're not investing in that, we as a Country will be sorry. So I know that it is always impactful and general costs of other things in the world continues to increase and it is difficult when you can't see that child in the school that's doing that work, but it is an investment in our communities' future as well. Even though there's 102 of them, it's an investment in those 102 children.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** What is the graduation rate?

**Superintendent Bailey:** Just this past year we experienced a significant debt. We were at 89%, close to 90%. This past year, our graduation rate was 83.5% and there's a lot of reasons why those things happen. It can be related to out-of-District special ed, or in-District special ed, or our own students where you have a difficult cohort. We have a good five-year graduation rate. New York State in all honesty does not value that. The accountability comes with the four-year mark, but we know -- and I have a child in college who is going into his fifth year -- we don't all finish at the same time. So our five-year graduation rate is 3% or 4 % higher when we get to that point.



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**Councilmember VanEtten:** And there's several different diplomas you can get now, it's not just the two.

**Superintendent Bailey:** Yeah, it's expanded significantly with CDOS credentials and you'll see over the next two years, you'll see an even further expansion of that. Career development, occupational studies was relegated to special ed students and now general ed students are able to do that as well. It's a great investment. New York State is sometimes very microscopic in it's viewport, but allowing students to access career work while they're in school is essential. They don't know what they want. We're going to send them to \$200,000 worth of college without having a vision for what it is they want to do when they grow up. So we're very pleased and you saw as a component of this, we're expanding our access to those community businesses and to BOCES too. We've been a very good supporter of that. Where we think we've lost attraction is we have great businesses, so many of which are run by our local graduates. People graduate from school and we're not partnering with them. We're taking steps to make sure that happens.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Do you do a level of collaboration with other school districts that benefit either the district or the children or is it all through BOCES?

**Superintendent Bailey:** Actually for the first time I believe that, Randy, one of your children...

**Superintendent Squire:** That's Cairo.

**Superintendent Bailey:** That's Cairo sorry, where we actually in one of our special ed programs, which has been a remarkably successful program for us, we're actually have an Intermunicipal Agreement where we're taking tuition from Cairo-Durham and they have one of their special ed students with us. But, that is the wave of the future.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Is there any transportation collaboration?

**Superintendent Bailey:** We do that as well and our Cap Region BOCES is working all barrels firing to insure that we can get a larger group then we've had. There's six school districts working together. Actually our Transportation Director has been one of their key components to that. We've offered them to BOCES one day a week where she's actually doing mapping to help us collaborate on busing. Busing is such a dire straight for all of us.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I have an experience with my workplace. I have three children who are in our workplace that go to Langan School from three different school districts. All three school districts send a bus to Niskayuna, New York and take one kid and they follow each other to Langan School and then at the end of the day they all go to Langan School and they follow each other. Three kids, three buses and I called the business officer manage and said 'why don't you guys get together.'

**Superintendent Bailey:** That's very easily done.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, it didn't happen. One from Rensselaer County, one was from Schoharie County, and the other I think in Albany County and c'mon guys it's not my money, it's not my school district, didn't affect me, but I'd like to see a little... It didn't happen.

**Councilmember Downes:** Since I'm not a Ravena graduate or my child went there, Coxsackie and Greenville, I don't understand why New Baltimore has 27.7 while the others have 20.9, 20.5. Can you explain that to me just because I want to understand.

**Joanne Moran:** It has to do with the equalization rate and how the property is assessed. We have no control over that. So when you have an equalization rate that is lower than what the other townships are, results in an increased rate. You represent a little bit more than the other smaller town, New Scotland, and again you're paying more because your equalization rate is lower. So again, those things are out of our control. We don't get those final figures until July or August.

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**Superintendent Bailey:** Who sets the equalization rate?

**Joanne Moran:** The towns do.

**Councilmember Downes:** Just so I understand. I'd rather get it from the mouth than have just 'oh, well it's this, this, or this' so that's the reasoning behind it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I want to thank you, it seems like we gave you a tougher time than we did Coxsackie. We appreciate your time, thank you very much.

**Many Responded:** Thank you very much.

**Superintendent Squire:** Can we ask a question?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Sure.

**Superintendent Squire:** Just to confirm the rumors, when you drive up the Thruway and all the construction at the New Baltimore Rest Area.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That's a Visitor's Center, the Capital Region Visitor's Center is located across the way from the Rest Area on the other side of the Thruway as you approach Albany and it's supposed to be historical welcoming center for visitors, not for us I guess because we live here.

**Ellie Alfeld:** But I guess it's only northbound.

**Superintendent Squire:** So if you're going northbound...

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's only for northbound

**Superintendent Squire:** If you're going northbound, can you still visit the Rest Area?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes

**Councilmember VanEtten:** It's a little confusing I know.

**Supervisor Ruso:** And one of the questions that I had goes a little different, but it's purposeful is the rescue squad is going to service them from the rest area side across the bridges and service them if there's any need. That's what that is.

**Councilmember Downes:** Once they unlock the gates and you guys can get through.

**Supervisor Ruso:** They have a key combination. Any thoughts or questions? Thank you very much.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The April 23, 2018 Town Board Work 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, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

**Motion Carried**

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The May 3, 2018 Town Board Special Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Downes. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

**Motion Carried**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Dated May 2, 2018 “I Denis Jordan Resign the position as Highway Superintendent as of 05/03/2018.’ I’d like to make a Motion to accept Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan’s resignation effective May 30, seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

**Motion Carried**

**Cornell Hook & Ladder Health & Fire Safety Day** on Saturday, May 19 from 10AM-4PM, Free and Open to the Public, Bystander CPR, Narcan Training, Jaws of Life Demo, K9 Demos, LifeNet NY Helicopter, Fire Extinguisher Training, Blood Pressure Checks, Various Health Care Agencies on hand to answer questions, Apparatus and Equipment on Display, Refreshments Served

**AARP Fraud Watch Network, Operation: Stop Scams,** ‘Join us for a free shredding event Every two seconds someone’s identity is stolen. Shredding confidential documents you no longer need is a good way to protect yourself, and the AARP Fraud Watch Network wants to help. Bring any confidential documents to our Operation Stop Scams event, and we’ll shred them for free. It only takes a few minutes and can save you lots of headaches later on!’ Free Shredding Event, Saturday, June 16 from 10AM-1PM at the Village of Ravena Municipal Building, 15 Mountain Road, Limit is 3 grocery/shopping bags full of documents per person.

**Letter from Senator George Amedore:** ‘Dear Denis, We were recently made aware that figures distributed by the Department of Transportation regarding apportionments for CHIPS, PAVE NY and Extreme Winter Recovery programs were inaccurate. Please review this letter, as these are the new and correct figures for your municipality. The Town of New Baltimore will receive \$142,314.74 from the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) as part of the recently enacted 2018-2019 State Budget. Additionally, your municipality will receive \$32,484.76 in funding under the PAVE-NY program, as well as \$27,682.64 under the Extreme Winter Recovery program. I apologize for any confusion. If you have any questions regarding your updated CHIPS funding, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (518)455-2350.’

**Supervisor Ruso:** The total dollar figures, we will receive \$470.67 less in CHIPS and \$105.43 less in PAVE NY funding. When you think about getting \$200,000, we’re going to be shorted \$500-and-some.

**Councilmember Downes:** It’s only \$600, \$575.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you for that.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Supervisor Ruso:** We have a resolution in regards to one of our young people here who I’ve known for many years and I want to read that here for us.

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

**RESOLUTION 89-2018**  
**MAY 14, 2018**

**RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING BRIANNA KATHERINE MELICK ON THE  
OCCASION OF RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD**

**WHEREAS** Brianna Katherine Melick, a resident of the Town of New Baltimore, through her diligence and rigorous efforts, has achieved Girl Scouting's highest and most prestigious honor, the Girl Scout Gold Award.

**WHEREAS** the Gold Award Reception is being held on June 3, 2018 at the New Baltimore Reformed Church.

**WHEREAS** the mission of the Girl Scouts of America and its members is dedicated to the development of character and leadership in our youth.

**WHEREAS** the Gold Award is the highest achievement within the Girl Scouts of the USA earned by Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts and only 5.4% of Girl Scouts successfully earn the Gold Award.

**WHEREAS** Brianna Katherine Melick has been involved in Scouting for many years as a member of Girl Scout Troop 1368, has lived up to Scouting's ideals and has attained all of the necessary achievements.

**WHEREAS** Brianna created a learning and activity packet available in schools and libraries featuring the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society whose mission is to maintain, preserve and restore the lighthouse located in the middle of the Hudson River between Hudson and Athens.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore joins with Brianna's family, friends, and our community in recognizing her outstanding achievement and congratulates her on this proud and special occasion of achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the Town of New Baltimore, New York to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

**Supervisor Ruso:** Does anybody know Brianna at all?

**Councilmember Irving:** My neighbor, I'm very proud of her. It's quite an achievement.

**Supervisor Ruso:** She's a nice kid.

**Councilmember Downes:** Does anybody know what time this ceremony is?

**Town Clerk Finke:** We haven't received an invitation.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I'm looking forward to having the Melicks come to our next meeting where we can present them with the certificate that we signed tonight. Actually, I saw Brianna not long ago where she was dressed in authentic period costumes where she does Civil War period costumes that she was dressed up in, reenactment.

**AYES:** Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:** Briody

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 90-2018  
MAY 14, 2018

STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the Town of New Baltimore hereby establishes the following as standard work days for an elected official and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body.

Title	Name	Social Security No. (Last 4 Digits)	Registration Number	Standard Work Day (Hours/Day)	Term Begins/ Ends	Participates In Employer’s Time Keeping System (Y/N)	Days/ Month (Based on Record of Activities)
ELECTED OFFICIALS							
Town Council	Kelly Downes			6.5	01/01/18-12/31/21	N	2

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

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 91-2018  
MAY 14, 2018

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO ATTEND TRAINING

*WHEREAS*, the Association of Towns of the State of New York and Cornell Local Roads Program will be holding their 2018 Highway School from June 4-6, 2018 at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York.

*RESOLVED*, the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore approves the attendance of Deputy Highway Superintendent Scott VanWormer and the Registration Fee, overnight accommodations, tolls, and meals for said training.

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

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

**RESOLUTION 92-2018**  
**MAY 14, 2018**

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR**

**RESOLVED** that Kimberly Ruby is designated Deputy Tax Collector at the rate of hourly pay she is receiving as the Deputy Court Clerk deducted from the Tax Collector's annual salary.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

**Supervisor Ruso:** You do know that her prior Deputy clerk was Julie Fisk who's left us.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 93-2018**  
**MAY 14, 2018**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR FULL TIME  
HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Superintendent is seeking a full time Heavy Equipment Operator for the Highway Department.

**RESOLVED**, the wording for the advertisement has been approved by the Attorney for the Town and following approval from the Town Board; the advertisement will be submitted to the Town Clerk for publication in *The Daily Mail* for one week.

**FULL TIME POSITIONS IN  
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Seeking one full-time equipment operator/truck driver with minimum of clean and valid CDL, class B license with experience driving large trucks up to and including 10 wheelers, snow plowing experience with large trucks with plow and wing helpful. Able to operate front end loader to load trucks as needed; perform labor like shoveling, raking, chain saw operation, brush chipping, and weed eating among others. Six month provisional; employee benefits including health insurance with 25% employee contribution; must pass pre-employment drug and alcohol testing and submit to random testing when selected. Contact Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan at (518)756-2078 Monday-Thursday between 6 AM- 3:30 PM; application deadline May 25.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

**Councilmember Downes:** Who are we replacing?

**Supervisor Ruso:** For reasons I cannot disclose, but we have one of our employees, one of our more recent hires, has resigned. One of the drivers that was hired last fall and that just came in last Tuesday-Wednesday, so we put it on the Agenda. He's already gone.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 94-2018**  
**MAY 14, 2018**

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT QUOTE FROM AMERICAN PAINTING FOR  
UPGRADES TO MEETING ROOM EXTERIOR**

*WHEREAS* Councilmember Irving procured three quotes for painting and upgrades to Meeting Room exterior and the lowest responsible bidder was American Painting for \$4,950.

*RESOLVED* that Supervisor Jeffry Ruso is authorized to sign an agreement with American Painting for power washing the Meeting Room and stained decking; scraping, priming and painting the bell tower of Meeting Room; scraping, priming and painting all three sides of the Meeting Room; and staining all decking.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Irving

**Supervisor Ruso:** You can see the other quotes in there; that one was the lowest.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Going to make us look a little better I think.

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

**RESOLUTION 95-2018**  
**MAY 14, 2018**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF SPECIAL EVENTS  
LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR AGFEST**

*RESOLVED* that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore hereby authorizes the Supervisor to take the necessary actions to purchase special events liability insurance for the annual AgFest event to be held June 2-3, 2018. The premium amount for this coverage will be \$928.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I think that's the same as last year.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** No, it's down.

**Town Clerk Finke:** It's less.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh, is it?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** It went down.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

RECUSE: VanEtten

ABSENT: Briody

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 96-2018**  
**MAY 14, 2018**

**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 2018-05-01 to 2018-05-48, it is

**REVOLVED** that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2018-05-01 to 2018-05-48.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until June 30, 2018.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

**Motion Carried**

General \$3,923.41, Highway \$7,178.75, Sewer 1 \$692.86, Lighting 1 \$1,650.74, Lighting 2 \$152.42, Total \$13,598.18

**Upcoming Meetings**

- May 22, 2018 Grievance Day with the Board of Assessment Review 4-8 PM
- May 28, 2018 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- June 2-3 2018 AgFest at the VanEtten Farm
- June 6, 2018 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM if Needed
- ~~June 8, 2017 Planning Board at 7 PM~~
- June 11, 2018 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- June 14, 2018 Senior Committee Picnic at 12 Noon Hallock Park, Raindate June 15
- June 14, 2018 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- June 25, 2018 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

On a Motion by Councilmember VanEtten seconded by Councilmember Downes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

AYES: Ruso, Briody, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Public Comment Period/Community Events**

**Ellie Alfeld:** Jeff, I would like to make a comment that church luncheons have ended for the season. It was a very profitable year. I think everybody's been more than happy and I checked with the people there, that was our tenth year of this and so they've done very well.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I saw a lot of cars there last week, maybe I ought to stop in and have some food. Thank you, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC  
Town Clerk