

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

AUGUST 26, 2019

AGENDA

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Pledge of Allegiance

Reports

Supervisor

County Legislator

Town Clerk

- Adoption of August 2, 2019 Town Board Special Meeting
- Adoption of August 12, 2019 Town Board Regular Meeting

Tax Collector

Historian

Agriculture (Chair R. VanEtten/Member Irving)

Ag Fest Liaison (Member Irving)

Animal Control (Chair Irving/Member Ruso)

Assessment (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Audit and Budget (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

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

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement (Chair VanEtten/Member Briody)

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

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

Greene County EMS (Representative Dellisanti/Deputy Ruso)

Greene County Planning Board (Member Irving)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Briody)

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

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

Seniors (Chair VanEtten/Member Ruso)

Technology/Website (Chair Briody/Member Downes)

Town Courts Liaison (Chair VanEtten/Member Briody)

Veterans and Memorials (Chair VanEtten/Member Irving)

Wastewater Treatment (Chair Irving/Member Briody)

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

Public Comment Period/Community Events

- September 4, 2019 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting (If Needed) at 7:30 PM
- September 9, 2019 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- September 12, 2019 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- September 21, 2019 Townwide Yard Sale at 9 AM, Maps Available at Town Hall at 8 AM
- September 23, 2019 Town Board Work Meeting
- October 24, 2019 Seniors Committee Meeting at 1 PM

Audit of Claims

Adjournment

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

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC CONDUCT DURING TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

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

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

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 8/27/19**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 9/9/19**
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 26, 2019 - Page 1

OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Ruso opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Councilmembers Downes and VanEtten, Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti, County Legislator Linger, Town Clerk Finke, Highway Superintendent VanWormer, and 4 members of the public who signed the attendance book.

Absent: Councilmembers Briody and Irving and Tax Collector Jordan

Supervisor

The monthly financial reports for July were forwarded to all Board members. Has everyone had a chance to review them? I will entertain a Motion to accept the July financial reports. Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten to accept the July financial reports.

AYES: Ruso, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody, Irving

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: I received a letter from Karl Heck, Director of the Greene County Economic Development, Tourism & Planning concerning a Public Notice regarding the Greene County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Eight-Year Review of Agricultural District No. 124. The eight-year review will be done simultaneously with the annual Agricultural District review in 2019-20, and is the only time where properties may be removed from the Agricultural District as well as added. During the eight-year review, the Greene County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will prepare a report concerning the nature and status of farming and farm resources within the district. During this simultaneous review, the district can be modified with both the addition of parcels as well as removal of parcels and other modifications as determined from the review. The open enrollment period will begin on October 1, 2019 and end on October 30, 2019. A 'Request for Inclusion' form can be obtained by contacting Rich Schiafo, Principal Planner, (518)719-3290, rschiafo@discovergreene.com Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning, 411 Main St, Suite 419, Catskill, NY 12414. [Upcoming Meeting Dates](#) Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 7:00pm, Agroforestry Center 6055 NY-23 Acra. Public Information Session, Thursday, October 10, 2019, 7:00pm, Agroforestry Center 6055 NY-23 Acra.

Supervisor Ruso: I've been in contact with the *New Herald* which is under new management and henceforth beginning this month I am going to be writing a monthly column for them. There are some other features. They also own the *Greenville Pioneer*. I will have the article in *The News Herald* and we're working out details to have it in both papers. I don't have that final part accomplished yet. The first article I wrote will be in this Thursday's edition and it will be on the Good Energy and Community Choice Aggregation. Try to get more information out there. Just as a point, according to Ed Carey at this point in the process there's 5% of the Town has opted-out; 95% of the residents are still in. So, I'd like to share this article with you.

'New Baltimore has agreed to partner with Good Energy, along with over 60 other municipalities in New York State, in setting up what is called a "Community Choice Aggregation" (CCA) program. In forming a CCA, the town has created a large buying group of all account holders receiving electricity supply from Central Hudson within the town. This allows the residents and small businesses in town to pool our usage together to purchase electricity. This creates economies of scale and gives us the ability to obtain more competitive rates from energy supply companies. Good Energy was introduced to the Town of New Baltimore during a New York State Association of Towns meeting back in 2016. Good Energy is a New York State-based energy consulting company that has been building and operating CCA

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 8/27/19**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 9/9/19**
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 26, 2019 - Page 2

programs across the country since 2012. They have partnered with the New York State Association of Towns and the New York Conference of Mayors, to allow bulk-buying, thus providing lower rates for electricity supply for account holders in our town versus Central Hudson. How this works is that the town entered into an agreement with Good Energy to negotiate on the town's behalf via competitive bid for electricity supply. Once a winning supplier was selected, in this case, Constellation NewEnergy, residents and businesses in the town are automatically enrolled in the CCA program unless the account holder opts out. The program is estimated to save the town \$80,000 during the 17-month contract. CCAs were officially authorized in New York in April of 2016 by order of the NYS Public Service Commission. The local law regarding this agreement (Town of New Baltimore Local Law # 1 of 2016) was approved by the New York State Secretary of State. In addition to New Baltimore, other local municipalities include the Village of Coxsackie and the Town of Cairo. It has been asked "Why do I have to opt out, shouldn't I have to opt-in?" Under this concept, Good Energy, by having the approval of the Town of New Baltimore, can negotiate with energy suppliers and get a rate that is beneficial to the residents of the town. In this way, everybody is provided the choice to have Constellation NewEnergy be their energy supplier and will continue to have the rights to exercise that voice at any time over the course of the contract, now or in the future. However, to have an "opt-in" process instead of the current "opt-out" process would not have allowed Good Energy to negotiate the substantial rate discounts, and thus, the estimated \$80,000 in savings that the residents of the town would benefit from would not be available. As of the writing of this article, only 5% of the residents of the Town of New Baltimore have opted-out. This allows the remaining 95% to take part in the estimated savings. Constellation NewEnergy is the only energy provider approved by the Town of New Baltimore. There are reports of tele-marketers calling town residents, and even some reports of door-to-door salesperson trying to get people to sign up for their company. These companies are NOT part of the CCA, are not approved by the PSC or the Town of New Baltimore. Good Energy does not take part in any telemarketing or door-to-door sales pitches. As with any telemarketers or door-to-door sales efforts, please be cautious.'

County Legislator Pat Linger

In addition to our regular August committee meetings, I was kept busy with what has turned out to be time very well spent. Over a year ago, we passed a resolution to lock in USDA funding for the jail project with a guaranteed interest rate of 3.5 percent. This was done as a fail-safe measure to protect taxpayers in volatile bond market. Given current events in that market, we decided to request a Moody's review to solidify our Aa3 bond rating prior to putting our \$39 million bond out to bid. We met with their analysts for over 3 hours to show the solid footing Greene County stands on, and then took a tour of the County with them. The following week, we received their report. Not only did we receive a glowing report from them, we received a credit rating upgrade to Aa2. This rating is only held by two other rural counties in NYS, and puts Greene County in the same rating category as Saratoga County. This upgrade put us in a perfect position to go out to bid on August 15th. We received 7 bids for our bond, with the bid awarded to Robert W. Baird Investment at a 2.49 percent interest rate. This will save \$250,000 in annual bond costs, \$7.6 million dollars over the 30-year repayment period, and relieves us of the onerous requirements of the USDA. This will put the total cost of the jail project at \$63.5 million including cash, bond principal, and interest. This is far less than the "over \$100 million" as the Daily Mail and many others lead everyone to believe. While attending the Greene County Youth Fair, I presented several awards to Greene County students. The Directors Choice Award was given to New Baltimore's very own Kareel Slager of River Road. I had the honor of presenting a commendation in honor of the Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Reunion Association at their 20th, and final, reunion in Greenville. This past week, we were fortunate enough to have the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall come to Greene County. The Wall was open at the Point in Catskill 24 hours a day from Wednesday afternoon until this morning, when it was disassembled. I cannot thank the committee and volunteers enough for giving up their time, quite literally around the clock, to ensure smooth operations. We continue to progress with our SEQR process regarding the former GC Jail complex. Recommendations from SHPO have been received by the board and a request has been sent to the Village of Catskill to meet. We

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 8/27/19**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 9/9/19**
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 26, 2019 - Page 3

also have a request from the Office of Court Administration expressing their interest in obtaining additional space for County Court operations. At this time, we have identified future public use potentials as public parking, secure parking, OCA office and courtroom space, and other County office space. In my opinion, the best use of the property will be a multi-level mix of these uses. We are awaiting a review by Barton and Loguidice to ascertain what materials on the site may be historic as opposed to simply old. Historic preservation of some aspects is being considered pending that report. We approved a resolution adopting the 2019-2020 CGCC budget. We have authorized a geotechnical investigation of a slope failure on CR 2 in Prattsville. This is a more aggressive slide than the one we currently have on CR 61 in New Baltimore near the Zacek farm, but a similar path will probably be taken for that road in the near future as well. We authorized the contract for 2020 with Greene EMS with no increase in budget. We authorized the mandatory 8-year review of Agricultural District 124, due in June of 2020. Public comment period for this review, and the regular annual review, will be October 1, 2019 through October 30, 2019. If any property owner would like their property considered for inclusion, it will need to be requested during the open public comment period. We are currently in the process of developing the 2020 budget and all indications are that we will be within the tax cap. Further information will be forthcoming.

County Legislator Linger: Kelly had a question here on the Jail project. There's a significant amount of dirt that's being taken off of that site. It's going to various locations as part of the contract with Pike and Bellamy who is doing the site work. As part of that contract it's up to them to get rid of the waste material that's on the site. So as they excavate and they make these huge piles, they wind up in the way. So I know that pretty much anybody that goes down and talks to Bruce on the site down there he can probably set you up if you can send a truck down, he can tell you when he's gonna be loading trucks to get rid of dirt that's down there. It's pretty much all clay so it's not of a lot of use, but for somebody that wanted to fill in a hole or something like that it might be okay. But basically it has to come off the property because it's just in the way. Once they start moving it out, it's because it's in the way of progression on there.

Ellie Alfeld: The Ag District possibility of change, is that being put in the newspaper so that the people out there know because they don't know it's from here and we need publicity.

County Legislator Linger: It has to be publicly noticed just like any meeting or anything like that. Because we're doing the eight-year review at the same time as the annual review, it changed our public period from September to October so it gave people a little more time to get their things together for that if they want to be included or excluded.

Town Clerk Barb Finke

2 Site Plan Review \$1,300, 13 Building Permits \$1,280.22, 3 CO Searches \$45, 1 EZPass Tag \$25, 2 Fishing Licenses \$2.76, 37 Dog Licenses \$264, 1 Replacement Tags \$2, 12 Late Dog Licenses \$60, 1 Marriage License \$17.50, 1 Beer Permit \$20, 1 Demolition Permit \$75, 1 Excavation Fees Culvert Under Driveway \$35, 1 Park Rental \$25, 3 Minor Subdivisions \$90, 6 Certified Copies \$60, 93 Photocopies \$23.25, State, County & Local Revenues \$3,324.73, to New York State Agriculture and Markets for Spay/Neuter Program \$51, to New York State Department of Health for Marriages \$22.50, to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$47.24, Total to Supervisor \$3,324.73 I received 3 FOILs in July, two are satisfied and we are awaiting payment for the third.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 8/27/19**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 9/9/19**
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 26, 2019 - Page 4

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The August 2, 2019 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 vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody Irving

Motion Carried

The August 12, 2019 Town Board Regular 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 vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody, Irving

Motion Carried

Tax Collector

No Report

Historian Ted Hilscher

Made a trip to Kinzers, Pennsylvania to observe and record their operating hay press at the Rough and Tumble Threshermen's Reunion. Wrote an article on the Vanderzee press for the Town Newsletter. Researched town minutes from 1930s and 1940s for future Town Newsletters

Agriculture

No Report

AgFest

No Report

Animal Control

No Report

Assessment

NYS TAXATION & FINANCE: We received notice from the NYST&F that they will be working on the PDC; Full Market Value; Equalization Rates for the 2020 assessment roll. We will be reviewing and correcting the sales which have occurred through 06/30/2019.

NYST&F also has been contacting the Assessor's in regards to STAR Exemptions and the good cause eligibility changes **SMALL CLAIMS AND TAX CERTIORARI'S:**

There are no known filed court cases for the Town in regards to Small Claims or Tax Certiorari's this year **ASSESSOR'S OFFICE UPDATE:**

Currently we are reviewing all exemptions and supporting documents. This seems to be a very slow process. The recipients of the basic STAR exemption seem to be missing most of the documents. In cases some or all are being asked for documents i.e., re-filing of the exemption application, driver's licenses, deeds, etc. when deemed necessary. Section 1 – 6 have been reviewed, whereas 7 – 942 will be reviewed during the upcoming months

SCHOOL TAX ROLLS: The Town's file was sent to Greene County for the processing of the September School tax bills. The Assessor's office usually receives additional calls and Office visits during this time of year **EXEMPTION RENEWALS:**

Fast approaching will be the exemption renewal process for the up-coming months. We will require additional postage for our office during this process, and the updating of the files

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 8/27/19**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 9/9/19**
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 26, 2019 - Page 5

Audit and Budget

Supervisor Ruso: We are working on our budget for 2020. Kelly and I have already done some office time together looking up various things and trying to get some things determined. So we don't have anything to report but we will next month, nothing in writing anyway.

Buildings & Grounds/Recycling Operator Kirk Trombley

60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastics) 17, 10 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 93 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 44 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, 1 Air Conditioner 7/27/19

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for July, 2019, is as follows:
Building Inspections: 24 Building Permits Issued: 6 Building Permits Renewed: 7
Building Permit Renewal Letters Sent: 5 First Notice Certificates of Compliance Issued: 1
Certificates of Occupancy Issued: 1 Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests: 5
Demolition Permit Applications Received: 1 Demolition Permits Issued: 1 New
Building Permit Applications Received: 5 New Building Permit Applications Awaiting
Permit Issuance: 3 Open Building Permits: 97 Septic System Applications Received:
2 – 1 New System; 1 Repair Application Fees for July, 2019: \$1,355.22 Total Fees for
Year to Date: \$7,082.42

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement

No Report

Grants/Promotions/Economic Development

No Report

Greene County EMS

No Report

Greene County Planning Board Representative Jean Horn

August 21, 2019 Referrals: 1. Town of Lexington, Windham Falls Recovery Center, Site Plan Review/Special Permit Local decision with comments 2. Town of New Baltimore, 5 MW Community Solar Project w/ 5 MW Energy Storage Site Plan Review Local Decision with comment 3. Town of Catskill, Construction of Garage Area Variance Local decision with comment

Highway Superintendent Alan VanWomer

July 22 to August 26, 2019 Grader Patch New Baltimore Road with Blacktop, Put Roadside mower back together, Tuesday July 23 checked all roads for storm debris, Hauled large rocks to District one park for future use, Loaded dumpster with scrap metal and had picked up, Started to work on chips paperwork hoping to get in for September payment, Grader patch under tunnel on New Baltimore Road, Grader patch on Deans Mill Road, Mowed along Roads, Mowed for Village of Ravena at water plant with boom mower, Mowed parks and Town Hall as needed, Replaced spring hanger on 1985 International, Replaced collapsed culvert on Featherbed Lane, Swept New Baltimore Road for chip seal, Cut brush on New Baltimore Road by the Bridge, Tuesday July 30 chip sealed New Baltimore Road, Rebuilt roller assembly for boom mower, Cleaned up loose stone on New Baltimore Road, thank you to the village of Ravena for the use of their sweeper, Cut two trees on West Deans Mill Road, Cut trees on Old Kings Road and Medway Earlton Road, Thank you to Greene County Highway for their bucket truck, Cut hanging trees on Flatbush Road, and High Rock Road, Started drainage project on Gill Road, Patched washouts on Dirt Roads, Installed Acquetuck Road sign at Acquetuck and 9W, Cut brush around road signs, Installed two new driveway signs on East Honey Hollow Road, Started to haul road sand for winter, Repaired tarp roller on 1985 International, Sunday August 18, Alan removed trees blocking Roads on Honey Hollow Road, Old Kings Road, and Jennings Road from wind storm, Monday August 19 checked all roads for storm debris, chipped and cleaned up brush from trees on Honey Hollow

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 8/27/19**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 9/9/19**
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 26, 2019 - Page 6

Road, Old Kings Road, and Jennings Road Put up Yard sale signs, Replaced Stop sign on Birchwood Lane, Replaced two large hydraulic lines on Roadside mower, Grader Patch West Deans Mill Road, Wednesday August 21 I attended the Escort for the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, along with the Town of Cairo, Windham, and Cocksackie, Cut up fallen tree on Manor Road, Cut brush on Jennings Road, As reported last month, we were able to get the hydraulic motor for the roadside mower repaired by a local welder at a cost of \$250.00 as apposed to \$1300.00 for a new one.

Supervisor Ruso: What happened to the old sign for Acquetuck Road?

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: There was never one there for some reason. I never even noticed. Actually the Village of Ravena foreman said he got a phone call about it so he called me and I went and looked and sure enough there's not one there. There's never been one there.

Councilmember VanEtten: I never noticed.

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: But, now there is.

Supervisor Ruso: You drive past something every day, you don't notice what you don't notice.

Insurance

Supervisor Ruso: We have reached out to our insurance carrier about the health insurance costs if they can give us a rough estimate which I need for the budget.

Personnel

No Report

Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten

The Planning Board met on August 8, 2019, with the following business transacted:

Public Hearing was held on Minor Subdivision Application submitted by William Burns, Jr. for a three-lot subdivision of his property on Hillcrest Road. The proposed subdivision is on the portion of his property in the Town of New Baltimore.

In the **regular monthly meeting** that followed: ...The Burns subdivision was approved with no conditions. ...Following further discussion with representatives from Solar Generation Projects, LLC, the Solar Generation Oriole Site Plan Application for their solar project on property owned on e/s of Route 9W north of Route 144 was approved contingent on receipt of final site plan and receipt of copy of Decommissioning Agreement signed by all required parties. ...Held initial procedural discussion on Solar Generation's request to combine the other two parcels of land owned adjacent to solar project parcel. ...Discussed with Jeffrey & Donna Carlson their submitted Minor Subdivision Application for a proposed two-lot subdivision of their property on Scheller Park Road. Required Public Hearing has been scheduled for 7 p.m., September 12. ...Held preliminary discussion with a project attorney regarding the necessary steps to bring two parcels into compliance prior to Site Plan application submission for a proposed project to be placed on the two parcels.

Zoning Board Chair Pat Linger

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet on August 7, 2019, since there were no applications to come before the Board.

Seniors

Councilmember VanEtten: They have an October 24 meeting coming up at 1PM here.

Technology/Website

No Report

Town Courts

No Report

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 8/27/19**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Adopted 9/9/19**
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 26, 2019 - Page 7

Veterans and Memorials

Councilmember VanEtten: I would like to thank Shop 'n Save and HMS for donating. Shop 'n Save really does a great job for anything that we have and so does HMS so I just really want to thank them. Everybody shop local.

Wastewater Treatment

No Report

Youth, Parks and Recreation

No Report

Public Comment Period

No Report

Community Events

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 125-2019
AUGUST 26, 2019

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 2019b-08-01 to 2019b-08-45, it is

REVOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2019b-08-01 to 2019b-08-45.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until October 31, 2019.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody, Irving

Motion Carried

General \$12,822.27, Highway \$260,924.27, Sewer 1 \$9,792.67, Sewer 2 \$134.41, Total \$283,673.62

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: September 22 is the Memorial thing.

Supervisor Ruso: September 22 Memorial, that will be right out here; right in front of Town Hall.

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: I dropped off two stones at Taylor Monument today and Barb Carras has already paid for the engraving.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
TOWN HALL, 3809 COUNTY ROUTE 51, HANNACROIX, NY 12087
AUGUST 26, 2019 - Page 8

Draft 8/27/19
Adopted 9/9/19

Supervisor Ruso: What time will this be?

Councilmember VanEtten: Did she decide to do two or one?

Highway Superintendent VanWormer: Two.

Councilmember VanEtten: It was at 2:00 wasn't it? It was on the last Agenda.

Ellie Alfeld: It's on the Calendar, too.

Councilmember VanEtten: I think it's 2.

Motion by Councilmember VanEtten seconded by Councilmember Downes to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM

AYES: Ruso, Downes, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody, Irving

Motion Carried

Supervisor Ruso: Thank you everybody

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC
Town Clerk