

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

**NOVEMBER 25, 2019  
AGENDA**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentation by Javier Barrios/Ed Carey from Good Energy**

**Reports**

**Supervisor**

- Letter from Jeff McGurn, P.E., New York State Department of Transportation
- Letter from John B. Auricchio, Director of the Office of Consumer Services, New York State Department of Public Service
- New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Municipal Shelter Inspection Report for Columbia Greene Humane Society

**County Legislator**

**Town Clerk**

- Approval of November 13, 2019 Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes

**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)

- Motion to Authorize the Supervisor to Sign an Amended 2020 Contract with Greene County Emergency Medical Systems, Inc.

Greene County Planning Board (Member Irving)

Highway (Chair Ruso/Member Briody)

- Resolution to Appoint Part-Time Employees for Town Highway Department
- Resolution to Surplus Highway Equipment Through GovDeals, Inc.
- Resolution to Increase Pay Rate for Part-Time Highway Department Employee

Insurance (Chair Ruso/Member Downes)

Personnel (Chair Ruso/Member VanEtten)

- Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution
- Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution
- Resolution to Authorize Councilmember-Elect William Boehlke Jr. and Councilmember Irving to Attend the Association of Towns of the State of New York Newly Elected Officials 2020 Training School

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**

- November 28-29, 2019 Town Hall Closed and November 30, 2019 Recycling Center Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 4, 2019 Senior Committee Christmas Party at Pegasus at 12:30 PM
- December 4, 2019 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- December 9, 2019 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- December 12, 2019 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- December 23, 2019 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 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.**

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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 Councilmembers Briody, Downes, Irving, and VanEtten, County Legislator Linger, Town Clerk Finke, Highway Superintendent VanWormer, and 5 members of the public who signed the attendance book. Absent: Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti and Tax Collector Jordan

***Supervisor***

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

AYES: Ruso, Briody, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** The first thing we're going to do before I get into the meat of the order here, I'm gonna ask Mr. Javier Barrios to please give us a little talk about Good Energy and what's going on.

**Javier Barrios:** I'm gonna be brief. It's a simple concept, but I'm gonna just go and tell a little story about solar and how it used to work and then lead up to what we're talking about today which is something called Community Solar. Obviously Good Energy is the CCA provider here, consultant to CCA administrator, and the Public Service Commission in the State wants us to implement renewable energy within the community. So in the past, let me go back and talk about solar. People had to install solar panels on their roofs right. Everybody knows that. In some cases it wasn't affordable. You had to realize some type of subsidy from the State for the utility and then you would install the panels and depending on where your house faced the sunlight, it was either a good plan or a bad plan. If it was a good installation or a bad installation, it really didn't make sense in some cases. So since then the solar market is transformed completely in the State of New York. There's a tremendous amount of development and that's because of something called Community Distributed Generation Program, CDG. It used to be called Net Metering, they revamped the Net Metering Program and developed a new, easier program to implement and install and roll out solar programs throughout the State. The way it works is that before instead of going to the local resident and installing panels to offset your electricity, what they did is they essentially allowed developers to install large solar farms into the grid. And before it used to be when they did that it was industrial grade or utility grade generation project which went into the grid and that helped the utility system. But now they actually could install these solar farms to go into the grid and they created a financial transaction where the resident can subscribe to that solar farm wherever it is. You don't have to install the panels on your home at all. So through that transaction, you actually get a discount for your home, for your residence. So with a large solar farm that's installed on the local grid, let's say you're in Central Hudson, as long as Central Hudson is the same utility, it could be 100 miles away, it could be 50 miles away, it could be 5 miles away. It has nothing to do with having to build solar at the community or within the jurisdiction unless you want that to happen which is another conversation, but we don't have to go there at all. The way the program works is that every resident who signs up to that solar farm, whichever one you pick in Central Hudson, gets a discount off their utility, their entire utility bill of 10 percent simply for signing a piece of paper. Very, very easy, quick, no installation of panels, very impactful to the environment. Obviously you're tapping into the resources there, instead of it going to the grid, it is going to the homeowner for savings. And there's something called the VODER system, Value of Distributed Energy Resource, that they created. I'm not going to go into it, but it's a formula that values that particular solar farm within that community and that's how the discount is given. So it's a guaranteed 10 percent discount off your utility rates. So additional dollars to every single residence that subscribes. We are doing several types of programs whether the municipality wants to do it or not, but not only are we giving the discount to each resident, we are also creating a fund for the municipal to create scholarships or grants or an efficiency fund potentially for every

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subscriber. So if the municipality gets behind that community solar farm, you actually can get some dollars back for-- in some municipalities you do a low income fund, some municipalities were doing an energy efficiency fund or a scholarship or grant. So depending on what you want to do, it could just go back to the city for whatever reason, but certainly there are dollars available for the municipality to create something like that. So it's really a win for the solar developer, it's a win for the municipality, and it's a win for the resident. And the market's about two years old now. Now it's finally at a sophisticated level where it's very easy and smooth and there is so much development going on right now. Currently with our partners, developers, we've got about 17 megawatts of solar that's available to residents. And once that's subscribed to your neighboring city or your neighboring residents or whatever, it's gone and you gotta wait for the next one. So this is allocated for 2020, the year 2020. So once that's fully subscribed, there's no savings for the residents, no discounts left. So obviously you're a favorite nation so to speak because you're doing Community Choice Aggregation, so you're the first to know what's going on in the Central Hudson as far as Good Energy goes. So we definitely want to share it with you, with Coxsackie, with the rest of the communities that we have on board with Community Choice Aggregation. The other thing is eventually there is a CBG order and a Community Solar Order that talks about it being an opt-out. Right now it's just an opt-in. So if a resident doesn't want to subscribe to it, they don't have to. They can just tear it up. But in the future there is the potential for it to be opt-out where you can just give a discount to everybody all at once, a guaranteed discount. That billing mechanism is not there yet in the State, but we are pushing that discussion. There is a conversation. Utilities are looking at their systems so we're probably about 2 or 3 years away from that. So potentially for Community Choice Aggregation you can bring in all solar power for your residents down the road. Very, very interesting stuff that's going on in the State so you want to be at the forefront. You at least want to be in line so that you know how it works on the opt-in level. Now if potentially down the road you guys want to do it for the CCA and do it as an opt-out, you can do it down the road. But definitely it's worth doing the exercise to give those that are really interested and want solar to get that 10 percent discount. Again no installation, no panels anymore. People could still do that if they want to, it doesn't take that function away or that ability, but for residents that have apartments or whatever in other towns or cities or whatever, it's a great, great way to sign up and get discounts from the State.

**Supervisor Ruso:** There is a Community Solar project being installed in Town now. The process is well underway, it's been through the Planning Board and I believe they're going to start installing it. In fact I know they're working back there on that property. Seven hundred fifty kilowatts is the size of that.

**Javier Barrios:** Okay, it's a small installation.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Is that part of your...

**Javier Barrios:** It potentially can be. Yes, I would have to see what that development project is and seeing if our solar developers are partnered up with that or are buying the assets. So the way it works is obviously we have our solar investors so they buy up assets that are going to be created. In many cases the developers what to let go of those assets, make their profits, and go. So depending on what investment strategy they have for Central Hudson, that could be a group of solar plants. If you just share with me where that is.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's only about two miles from here, right off Route 9W.

**Javier Barrios:** Within the Town of New Baltimore?

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, sir.

**Javier Barrios:** Seven fifty is not that much so it could be part of the overall aggregate. That could be potentially already subscribed somewhere else. Just so you know because it doesn't need to be in the Town limits.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Right.

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**Javier Barrios:** You could subscribe in Coxsackie, or Cairo, whatever. But at the end of the day there's place of capacity. I'm not so concerned about that that we can provide those discounts to the residents even if it is fully subscribed. I'm not really concerned about that. So we would partner with our solar marketer. It wouldn't be a Good Energy program per se. It would be that solar developer name so that it associates with the solar farms that are being used and that can be disclosed later on as the projects go. The key is to put the seal of approval from the Town, get the word out there, don't leave money on the table, you offer it up to your residents and the good thing is that you don't have like all those multiple calls you're gonna get from all these solar developers. You'll have one endorsed solar provider that can go out and really do a solid campaign as opposed to having all different providers. So what we do is we vet the solar farm, we vet the solar developer, we come back, offer the program, have a proposal, and then you guys can decide to move forward with letters or whatever we can do.

**Supervisor Ruso:** When will your proposal be prepared?

**Javier Barrios:** I could have that very soon within a couple weeks.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Our next meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. Are you talking about before then or are you talking about...?

**Javier Barrios:** Yeah, before then.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright good, I look forward to seeing your report and then you want to have the approval of the Town Board before we proceed.

**Javier Barrios:** Yeah, so I would provide a proposal on how the marketing's gonna look, what the dollar figures are, what the savings are, and so you'll know exactly how that is. Pretty simple stuff; really just easy, easy stuff; a lot of municipalities are doing it. It's a no brainer. It's an opt-in program, nobody's forced to do it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** And we're getting right now \$0.59 cents per kilowatt hour and this takes another 10 percent off of that so it's like another half a penny.

**Javier Barrios:** So it takes it off the entire bill so you're also taking off 10 percent off your transmission distribution as well, your delivery, and you're energy supply.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Oh, that makes it different.

**Javier Barrios:** It's not just the supply, this is actually the entire bill.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Both ends, both sides.

**Javier Barrios:** So depending on what your costs are historically there and what the supply costs for Central Hudson are there, that's what (unable to understand).

**Supervisor Ruso:** Alright beautiful. I look forward to seeing your proposal. Thank you. Any questions anyone else?

**Councilmember Downes:** So since we're already getting that discount you talked about. Would this be on top of that?

**Javier Barrios:** Yes, it would be an additional discount. It's a win-win, double winner.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you very much, sir. I would like to read a letter from Jeffrey McGurn, P.E. concerning the replacement of the bridge over the Hannacroix Creek on Route 144. 'Dear Resident/Property Owner: I am writing to inform you that the Department of Transportation is designing a project to replace the Route 144 bridge over the Hannacroix Creek. At this time, we anticipate that construction of this project will take place between June and August 2021. The work will include but is not limited to: complete removal of the bridge deck, existing beams and the south and north side abutments. New integral abutments, beams and a deck will be installed. The span length

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will increase from 80 feet to 115 feet and will remain on the existing alignment. Both approaches will also be slightly raised to better accommodate high water through the structure. During construction, the bridge will be closed, with traffic directed to a signed detour route using Route 143, Route 9W through Ravena and back to Route 144 south of Ravena and New Baltimore. A detailed map of the detour route is on the reverse side of this letter. An informational meeting is scheduled to be held at the Coeymans Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, on December 2, 2019 at 6 PM.’ We knew something of that, but to reiterate DOT would like to close Route 144 from June to August 2021. There are health and safety, economic, and tourism issues that we think will impact the residents. I have drafted a letter signed from the Town Board to Mr. McGurn enumerating the concerns we have for our Town. I would like to make a Motion that we sign this letter, I’m gonna read it significantly anyway. ‘Dear Mr. McGurn: The Town of New Baltimore is in receipt of a copy of your letter concerning Bridge Replacement on Route 144 over the Hannacroix Creek in the Town of Coeymans, Reference Marker 144-1102-1001, NYSDOT PIN 1007.16. The Town Board would like to go on record as being unequivocally **opposed** to the decision to close the bridge and use a detour route using Route 143, Route 9W through Ravena, and back to Route 144 south of Ravena and New Baltimore. This route will have far-reaching negative health, safety, economic and tourism impacts and would be detrimental to the residents and business in the hamlet of New Baltimore. The Town is very concerned about emergency coverage in the hamlet. The northern area is serviced by the Ravena Rescue Squad located at 1 Bruno Boulevard in the Town of Coeymans. An emergency response currently would allow the ambulance to travel to Route 143 and proceed down to Route 144 for a call. With this suggested detour, the ambulance would have to instead travel along Route 9W to enter the Town of New Baltimore, proceed down New Baltimore Road to Route 144 adding miles and precious response time to any call. Depending on the severity of the call -- health emergency or vehicle accident -- this could become a life-or-death situation that might have been prevented with an earlier, more convenient response time. Fire coverage is also an issue of great concern. If the Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company calls the Coeymans Fire Company and/or the Ravena Fire Department for mutual aid, they would have to travel a similar route as the Ravena Rescue Squad. This would also add precious response time to an already critical situation. As you may be aware, we are a Hudson River Town. The timing of this replacement -- specifically during the summer months of June-August -- would be disastrous for Donovan’s Shady Harbor Marina and The Boathouse Grill. Both are long-standing, successful business located on Route 144. Many of the owners who dock their boats for the season travel from the Capital District region and beyond and would be impacted as they would have to travel out of their way to get to their boat. It is conceivable that they could choose another, more convenient marina instead of returning to New Baltimore. The restaurant could also see a dramatic decline in customers who would normally travel on Route 144. Instead they could quite simply visit other restaurants instead of being inconvenienced by the extra commute. There are also tourism areas on Route 144 that could be negatively impacted. The Hudson River Interpretive Trail and the Hannacroix Creek Preserve have consistently drawn many visitors into the Town of New Baltimore. People may look elsewhere if accessing these sites becomes difficult and more time-consuming. While we can understand the replacement of the bridge many be necessary from a safety standpoint, the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore would like to emphasize that we do not support the closing of Route 144 and mandating detours. Instead we would request the consideration of the construction of a temporary bridge and stop lights which would keep Route 144 open in one direction, thereby safeguarding the health and safety of our hamlet residents, the economic well-being of our local businesses, and tourism opportunities. Please reconsider this decision and keep traffic open in one direction. If you should require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Supervisor Jeff Ruso at (518)756-6671, Ext. 7.’ So I want to open this up for discussion. Have you any thoughts ladies and gentlemen on the Board?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I think that’s it’s a good idea putting the stop light there. I mean I’ve seen that in a lot of other Towns and places.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** I have been in contact with Mr. McGurn. We've had some emails that have gone back and forth and I've also spoken with him twice. He is amenable to the time and date, not committed to it, but he said that they may be able to be able to start in March instead of in June. I don't know how that really benefits us, maybe it helps Shady Harbor to some extent, but I'm not sure if that really is a benefit or not and I told him so. Nevertheless I plan on being at the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December in Coeymans Town Hall and so I would like to have each of us sign this letter.

**Councilmember Downes:** My initial is wrong.

**Supervisor Ruso:** It's not an 'A.'

**Councilmember Downes:** No, it's a 'C.' Will we sign off on that?

**Supervisor Ruso:** We can fix that. So nevertheless the body of the letter is, we're sending it to Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner, NYSDOT; Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer; Aline D. Galgay, Esq., Attorney for the Town; Senator George Amedore; Assemblyman Chris Tague; New Baltimore Fire District; Ravena Rescue Squad; Coeymans Fire Company; Ravena Fire Department; Supervisor Philip Crandall; Supervisor-Elect George McHugh; Mayor Bill Misuraca from Ravena; Crandall and McHugh being from Coeymans. So any further discussion? I'll entertain a Motion to accept as amended the letter to New York State Department of Transportation so I'll make that Motion.

**Councilmember Downes:** I'll second.

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

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

**Motion Carried**

**Councilmember Briody:** That will be hard for them to try to keep one lane open, though, based on the work that they're looking to do. There's no way...

**County Legislator Linger:** Extending those berms is gonna be a killer because that's 40 more feet.

**Councilmember Briody:** And there's no way you're gonna be able to put a temporary bridge up.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I do recall probably 20-some years ago it was closed for a length of time. I can't recall for how long.

**Councilmember Briody:** They replaced the bridge going across by Coeymans so that was closed.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, they did that. That was about 8 years ago?

**Councilmember Briody:** That was closed for a duration of time.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Yes, it was. Yes, it was.

**Councilmember Downes:** Well, if they can get in early enough, if they can get in in March, that June through August is gonna hurt us.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, people such as Brian Donovan with Shady Harbor are very concerned obviously and any business that loses any customers is, a lot of places are operating on a slim margin, and we don't want anything to affect his business.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I wonder, though, Scott, if they get in there in like March if they could do enough on it when it starts to get busy they could open it.

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**Councilmember Briody:** Possible.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That's a minor benefit and that's not really much of an amendment. The anticipation was to remain open in one-half. He had indicated. Mr. McGurn did, that they weren't that open to that suggestion, but I don't think we really tried hard enough as of yet. We only just were given this information in the last two weeks and this being our first Board meeting since that occasion. So that's our letter so we'll amend it and have it ready for everyone's signature.

**Ellie Alfeld:** What I was gonna suggest is that a copy of the letter may be sent on to McHugh. I know he doesn't take office til January.

**Supervisor Ruso:** He's cc'd on this. We decided because of the timing. The information is now, but the timing of the bridge is when he's in office so we put both on, yes.

**Ellie Alfeld:** Thank you.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I see that the New Baltimore Conservancy has written a letter as well that has it's own issues that are somewhat different than the Town's. 'We are in receipt of your November 13, 2019 letter providing notice of the proposed replacement of the bridge in the summer of 2021, and an informational meeting which is scheduled for December 2, 2019. On behalf of the New Baltimore Conservancy's Board of Directors, and our membership, we offer the following thoughts and suggestions for the Department's consideration and review in advance of the informational meeting. They are listed in no particular order: 1. We recommend that "Hannacrois" should be changed to "Hannacroix" to match the Hannacroix Creek Preserve (HCP) signage, and the Hannacroix stream crossing signs on the New York State Thruway mainline. 2. We note that the proposed bridge is longer and will be higher to accommodate mean high water. We request that the bridge should be of sufficient height to allow passage of kayaks, canoes, and other non-motorized methods of passage on the Hannacroix. 3. Since the new bridge will have a design life of 75 +/- years, we highly recommend that the new bridge provide ample, well defined shoulders for bicyclists (many bike groups use 144 on the weekends), pedestrians, and people who fish off of the bridge. People park at the HCP/Hudson River Interpretative Trail (HRIT) parking lot and walk to the bridge for activities ranging from fishing, bird watching and even annual eel counting! People also walk/bike/jog from the historic hamlets of New Baltimore and Coeymans Landing. 4. We are aware of the extensive archaeology that has been done in anticipation of this project. The whole area is sensitive for both Native and European materials and we assume that the Department will establish a protocol for excavation monitoring and a plan for unanticipated discoveries. 5. Following up on #3 above, State Route 144 has seen a noticeable increase in large truck traffic due in large part to the increased activity at the Port of Coeymans. Unlike State Route 143, which provide ample shoulders and sidewalks to State Route 9W, State Route 144 offers little or no shoulders, and therefore no refuge from trucks for pedestrians and bicyclists. Large trucks heading to the NYS Thruway, should be encouraged (signed truck route) to use State Route 143 to get to the Thruway, on behalf of public safety. The travel distance is practically the same to get to the Thruway mainline (Coxsackie Interchange). 6. Due to the historical and environmental significance of the area, we recommend that one of two informational signs be placed on the bridge, discussing the importance of tidal streams, estuaries, the history in the area, etc. NBC will be pleased to work with the Department on the text and the funding (if necessary). 7. We note the closure duration of 3 months, but is there any provision to allow pedestrians, bicyclists and fisherman/women to cross the Hannacroix Creek during these three (3) months?'

**Supervisor Ruso:** If they're not gonna put in a bridge for temporary traffic, I don't know if they'll put in a bridge for foot traffic. There's nothing wrong with asking.

**Councilmember Downes:** Liability, they're not gonna do that.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, it doesn't hurt to ask.



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**Councilmember Downes:** It's only taxpayer dollars.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So things are changing unfortunately. 'Dear Community Leader/Elected Official: As the winter season approaches, many New Yorkers will face a difficult time managing their energy costs. This situation may be particularly hard on the elderly and those with fixed or low incomes. It is important that consumers are made aware of steps they can take, and the programs they can participate in, to reduce their energy use and help control energy bills this winter. The New York State Department of Public Service's winter outreach and education campaign is designed to help consumers manage their energy bills while staying warm and safe during the cold weather months. We are encouraging consumers to take simple, low-cost energy saving measures to reduce energy use and to consider bill payment options and financial assistance programs to help manage energy costs. I am writing to ask for your assistance with our outreach and education effort. Enclosed is a list of available publications related to the upcoming winter season, which include topics such as the rights and protections of electric and natural gas customers, what to do if utility service is interrupted, and the actions consumers can take to manage their winter energy costs. We encourage you to distribute these publications by placing them in high traffic areas in your community.'

**Supervisor Ruso:** 'Enclosed is the **Municipal Shelter Inspection Report** completed on **10/25/2019**. This inspection relates to Agriculture and Markets Laws and Regulations which may be viewed on the website below. As the report indicates, dog shelter services were rated "Satisfactory". Please make note of any comments listed on the report. Municipal dog shelters are subject to inspection by this agency on a regular basis. Please notify this office within 30 days of any changes in municipal shelter services.' This inspection was Satisfactory; it is for the Columbia-Greene Humane Society shelter in Hudson. So it's been approved.

***County Legislator Pat Linger***

November brought a significant amount of business to be taken care of for our board. Following the Public Hearing on our 2020 tentative budget, we passed the budget with one resolution to amend. That amendment will allow Greene EMS to supply a 5<sup>th</sup> paramedic fly car for its ALS response system. This addition of service was requested by the Mountaintop Supervisors to level response times of 14 minutes for calls on the mountain versus 9 minutes for calls in the valley. While the car will be housed somewhere on the mountaintop, it will move around the county for coverage as needed, just as the other cars do. During our early discussions, I had given Supervisor Ruso a courtesy call in case this was approved and increased the Town share, prior to New Baltimore passing its budget. I am happy to report that we have appropriated funds from the new internet sales tax to pay for the additional fly car from the County budget, with no effect to the Town budget. The end result for the County budget was a net zero, as we balanced the expenditure with new revenue. In addition to the internet sales tax appropriation, we received a \$50,000 SAM grant from Assemblyman Tague, as well as a \$93,000 contribution from Greene EMS. The total increase in the tax levy remains at 1.7 percent, as reported last month. We have set a public hearing for Senior Citizen and Persons with Disabilities tax exemption for December 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:20pm at 411 Main St. Catskill, 4<sup>th</sup> floor Legislative Chambers. We met with key players at the Community College to discuss implementing a distance learning course at the Cairo Library. This was an early discussion that will hopefully develop over the next few months to draw additional students to a business class here in Greene County. We held a public hearing on the Fact Finder report regarding the Highway union. If there is no response from that union, we will act in December to impose a contract for 2015. We have approved several resolutions in opposition to unfunded mandates from NYS. These include Preschool and Summer School costs, criminal justice reform postponement, Medicaid Administration costs, and costs associated children with PINS status. We have also asked that the Governor veto the Preserving Family Bonds act, passed by both houses of the State Legislature this year, which will effectively keep foster and adoptive children tied up in

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the court system, rather than stabilizing their housing and familial status. We renewed the contract with Senior Projects of Ravena for meals on wheels clients in New Baltimore. We have exercised an option to purchase 370 Mansion St. in Coxsackie for \$400,000. This is the building that our temporary Sheriff Office and Jail processing center are located in. This will save taxpayers roughly \$125,000 over the cost of renting for the next 2 years until we can populate the new Jail complex. When we initially looked at this building, the owner was asking \$500,000 and we declined at that price, opting instead to lease. The intent is to sell the property when we move into the new Jail. Engineering is in process for the road slides on County Route 61, but took a backseat to a higher priority slide on CR 2 in Prattsville that had been closed to one lane. We have patched the sections of CR61 for the winter and are monitoring the slide activity for both the Sickles Creek and the Coxsackie Creek slides. At this point, there is no time schedule set, but it will be a significant cost to repair. I had several discussions with our Highway Superintendent regarding CR51, specifically the section between Dugway Ln. and Shady Ln. including the Cemetary hill. This section of road was scheduled to be re-paved this year, but funding only allowed about half of the mileage scheduled. I have been assured that this will be put in the 2020 schedule, completing CR51 in New Baltimore from SR9W to the Coxsackie Town line.

***Town Clerk Barb Finke***

6 Building Permits \$488.40, 11 Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$29.99, 26 Dog Licenses \$174, 2 Late Dog Licenses \$10, 2 Marriage Licenses \$35, 3 Solar Residential \$150, 4 Certified Copies \$40, 3 Photocopies \$0.75, Recycle Fees \$20, 1 Commercial Zoning \$200, 1 Non-Commercial Zoning \$40, State, County & Local Revenues \$1,780.15, to New York State Agriculture and Markets for Spay/Neuter Program \$33, to New York State Department of Health for Marriages \$45, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Hunting/Fishing Licenses \$514.01, Total to Supervisor \$1,188.14 I attended a meeting with Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti and Delaware Engineering on the preliminary plans for District 3 Silver Lake Park. A few changes were suggested and revisions will be made in the coming weeks. This project is very much needed, will add baseball to the cricket pitch currently used, and update the concession area. Our Town residents will be very proud of these improvements thanks to the grant by Senator George Amedore.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The November 13, 2019 Town Board Regular Meeting submitted by Town Clerk Finke, Moved by Supervisor Ruso and was seconded by Councilmember Briody. The adoption of the foregoing Motion was duly put to a vote and vote was as follows:

AYES: Ruso, Downes, Briody, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Tax Collector***

No Report

***Historian***

No Report

***Agriculture***

No Report

***AgFest***

No Report

***Animal Control***

No Report

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***Assessor***

No Report

***Audit and Budget***

No Report

***Building and Grounds/Recycling Center Operator Kirk Trombley***

60 Gallon Bags of Plastic (No Hard Plastic) 10, 12 Bundles of Magazines and Phone Books, 79 Bags and Bundles of Newspaper, 19 Boxes and Bundles of Cardboard, 1 Small Refrigerator on November 9.

***Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Allan Jourdin***

Summarization of Code Enforcement Officer activities for October, 2019, is as follows:  
Building Inspections: 24 Building Permits Issued: 10 Building Permits  
(Miscellaneous) Renewed: 2 Certificates of Compliance Issued: 8 Certificates of  
Occupancy Issued: 1 Complaint Forms Received: 2 New Building Permit  
Applications Received: 10 Building Permit Applications Awaiting Permit Issuance: 7  
Open Building Permits: 107 Septic System (New) Permit Applications: 1 Application  
Fees for October, 2019: \$638.40 Total Fees for Year to Date: \$24,500.62

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

The regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. There were 4 EMS calls in October for a total of 71 for this year 2019. We had 102 calls for all of 2018.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Now on Resolution 132-2019 which was adopted on September 23, 2019 authorized the Supervisor to sign an agreement with Greene County Emergency Medical Systems, Inc. from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. I am in receipt of a letter dated October 30, 2019 from President Mark Evans which enclosed an amended contract with the correct date of '2020' instead of '2019.' I would like to make a Motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the amended agreement with the correct date of '2020.'. Do I have a second?

**Councilmember Downes:** I'll second.

AYES: Ruso, Briody, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Greene County Planning Board Representative Jean Horn***

County Planning Meeting, Wednesday, November 20, 2019 1. Town of Athens...  
Re:Amending Current Zoning Law...proposal to rezone approx. 375 acres from Ag and Rural to Mixed Use Commercial. ( This will cover area for Flint LineSolar Farm, but also encompass more rural properties that have not been purchased for the Solar Farm.)  
There is lots of controversy in Athens regarding this proposed change. Action:Local Decision with Comments 2. Town of New Baltimore:...Re: Area Variance for New Baltimore Family Dentistry Parking lot, Rt 9w. Action: Accept/Local Decision with Comments 3. Town of Windham...Re:Site Plan Review for Construction of 3 Unit Townhouse Complex on Rt 12. Action: Accept/Local Decision with Comments 4. Town of Jewett..Re: Local Law amending zoning of short term rentals. Action : Accept/Local Decision with Comments 5. Town of Catskill..Re: Site Plan Approval regarding 'Hello Panda Light Festival Lantern Exhibit' at a large defunct resort. Action: Declined due to dangerous condition of resort

***Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer***

Highway Report October21 to November 25, 2019 Picked up bagged leaves in Hamlet, Blacktopped culvert crossing on High Rock Road, Mixed sand and salt and put in shed, Patched Haas Hill Road with crusher run, Repaired signal lights on 2012 pickup, Picked up be prepared to stop sign on Honey Hollow road, stolen from the County, and returned

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Checked over all plow trucks, serviced where needed, and got ready for winter, Straightened several leaning road signs, Repaired back up lights on 1985 Oshkosh truck number 6., Repaired large air leak on 1985 Oshkosh truck number 3, Vacuumed leaves from ditches in hamlet and other roads prior to heavy rain, Repaired knocked down sign on Gedney Hill Road, Welded patch on the wing on 1997 International, Assisted Greene County Highway with a drainage project on Main Street, Mowed high grass on Mill Street, Painted wing on 1997 International, Tested batteries on 1997 International two out of three were bad , replaced all batteries, Picked up truckload of junk dumped on Sunset Hill Road, and bunch of toys dumped on West Deans Mill Road, Repaired wing cable on 1997 International, Built alluminium mud flaps for 2017 F350, Cut up fallen tree on Lime Kiln Road, Took chipper box off 2006 F350 and put sander on for winter, Took broken top off of our fisher poly sander it was \$400.00 to replace. Scott was able to find a guy who does plastic welding, and he welded it for us at no charge., Tuesday No. 19 light snow and ice, plowed and sanded all roads, Repaired stop sign knocked down on Honey Hollow Road, Repaired broken Mirror on 1993 International, Sunday November 23, checked roads at 3am, called all in at 4am for light snow and ice, plowed and sanded all roads, Washed all trucks again, Checked roads for wind debris, Fuel usage for the month of October Diesel Fuel 252.8 gallons Gasoline 232.1 gallons Highway Department will be taking part in 3 holiday parade of lights this year Catskill November 29 6:30 Cossackie December 6 6:00 Ravena December 7, 6:00

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Our next Greene County Highway Superintendents meeting is December 26 at 9AM. Right now we're trying to get Chris Tague and George Amedore to come and discuss Highway funding for 2020. Jeff, if you or Nick are available and you want to come.

**Supervisor Ruso:** What's the date and time again?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** It's December 26 at 9AM.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Maybe I will. Quick question if I might. Are you done, I'm sorry? You said Sunday, November 23; I presume you mean the 24<sup>th</sup>?

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** Sunday, yes, it must be the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you. Just making sure.

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

**RESOLUTION 160-2019**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT PART-TIME EMPLOYEES FOR  
THE TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Superintendent of Highways be empowered to employ the following individuals as Part-Time Heavy Equipment Operators to assist the Town Highway Department for snow removal when their assistance is deemed necessary by the Superintendent of Highways at the rate of \$17.00 per hour.

Paul VanSlyke  
Ken Burns

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

NAYS: Ruso, Briody, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 161-2019**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

**RESOLUTION TO SURPLUS HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT  
THROUGH GOVDEALS, INC.**

***WHEREAS*** the Town Highway Superintendent has declared a Ford F-350 Truck Body and a Husky 3” Water Pump to be surplus equipment.

***RESOLVED*** the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore approves the surplus of said equipment through GovDeals, Inc. auction services as approved by Resolution 139-2016.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Briody, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

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

**RESOLUTION 162-2019**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

**RESOLUTION TO INCREASE PAY RATE FOR  
PART-TIME HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE**

***RESOLVED*** Gregory Empie has successfully completed a six-month probationary period with the Highway Department and his rate of pay will increase to \$17.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Irving

AYES: Ruso, Briody, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

***Insurance***

No Report

***Personnel***

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

**RESOLUTION 163-2019**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

**STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION**

***WHEREAS*** Resolutions 203-2016 adopted December 26, 2016, 99-2017 adopted April 24, 2017, 131-2018 adopted on August 13, 2018 were posted on the Town Bulletin Board, Town website, and sent to the State Comptroller.

***WHEREAS*** said resolutions have been reviewed by the State Comptroller’s Office and time accruals are being updated with changes.

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE

COUNTY OF GREENE

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Adopted 12/9/19

***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)
<b>ELECTED OFFICIALS</b>							
Town Council	Kelly Downes			6.5	01/01/18-12/31/21	N	.97
Town Justice	Joseph Farrell			6.5	01/01/16-12/31/19	N	5.77
Town Clerk	Barbara Finke			6.5	01/01/15-12/31/17	Y	23.64
Town Justice	Thomas Meacham			6.5	01/01/17-12/31/20	N	3.58

**Supervisor Ruso:** There are various issues related to each person that Barb has had feedback from the OSC so each of the employees will have to address it accordingly. This is basically the reporting process.

**Town Clerk Finke:** What happened was we rounded up and they didn’t want us to round, they wanted it to actual.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So if you worked 5 hours and 50 minutes, they didn’t want to hear 6 hours, they wanted 5 hours and 50 minutes.

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

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

**RESOLUTION 164-2019**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

**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.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE

COUNTY OF GREENE

TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING

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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 Clerk	Barbara Finke			6.5	01/01/18-12/31/21	Y	24.79

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

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 165-2019  
NOVEMBER 25, 2019

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNCILMEMBER-ELECT WILLIAM BOEHLKE SR. AND COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES IRVING JR. TO ATTEND THE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS 2020 TRAINING SCHOOL

*WHEREAS* the Association of Town s of the State of New York has scheduled a Newly Elected Officials 2020 Training School from January 15-17, 2020 at the Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road in Albany.

*RESOLVED* that Councilmember-Elect William Boehlke Sr. and Councilmember Charles Irving Jr. are authorized to attend said training at a cost of \$200 each.

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

*Planning Board Chair Rob VanEtten*

The Planning Board met on November 14, 2019, with the following business transacted:  
...Approved Altered Lot Line Application for Scott and Amy Joralemon allowing them to combine into one parcel the two parcels they own on Acquetuck Road. ...Approved the Site Plan allowing for 13 more parking spaces at 12498 U.S. 9W, LLC better known as New Baltimore Family Dentistry. ...Held a brief discussion on status of the DG New York CS, LLC Site Plan Application. The Board is still awaiting response from two of the three Engineers contacted requesting bids to review this project. The third engineering firm contacted does not handle solar projects. The Town Board has given necessary authorization for the Planning Board to contact more Engineers to obtain the required quotes. ...Minor Subdivision Application was received from Mansion Street Development for a two lot subdivision of the 8.3 acre parcel owned on west side of Route 9W. Required Public Hearing has been scheduled for 7 p.m., December 12. ...Held an initial Site Plan Discussion with Teichos Energy’s authorized representatives regarding their proposed Hannacroix Solar Facility project. The 5MW solar facility would be sited on the west side of the New York State Thruway just south of the New Baltimore Service area. Site Plan Application was denied and applicant is being referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals since project as proposed does not meet the required interior setbacks between parcels; and in one instance lot coverage exceeds the allowable 50% per Town

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Code for the Developmental District. ...The Planning Board Chair stamped and signed the necessary maps to complete the Boundary Line Adjustment between the parcels owned by Mansion Street Development, LLC on New Baltimore Road and Alan and Stephanie Livingston on Wyche Road. Approval took place at September Planning Board Meeting pending receipt of required maps and mylar.

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

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on November 6, 2019, with the following business transacted: Public Hearing was held on the Area Variance Application for 12498 U.S. Route 9W, LLC (New Baltimore Family Dentistry) necessitated by the addition of 13 more parking spaces bringing lot coverage over the 30% allowed by Town Code for the Commercial District. No members of the public were present to offer comment. In the Regular Monthly Meeting that followed, the Area Variance Application was approved.

***Seniors***

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

**RESOLUTION 166-2019**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PREPAYMENT FOR SENIOR  
HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

***WHEREAS*** the Town of New Baltimore Senior Committee will hold their Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 4, 2019 at 12:~~00~~**30** PM at Pegasus Restaurant.

***WHEREAS*** according to the Town Procurement Policy dated January 1, 2019, two quotes were procured as the total amount is over \$1,000.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Town of New Baltimore is authorized to prepay the Senior Luncheon for attendees of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$1,484.93 from Line Item A.6772.4.

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Ruso, Briody, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Technology**

No Report

**Town Courts**

No Report

**Veterans and Memorials**

No Report

**Wastewater Treatment**

No Report

**Youth, Parks and Recreation**

No Report



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**Audit of Claims**

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

**RESOLUTION 167-2019**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 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-11-01 to 2019b-11-15, it is

***RESOLVED*** that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2019b-11-01 to 2019b-11-15.

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

Motion by Supervisor Ruso seconded by Councilmember Downes

AYES: Ruso, Briody, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

General \$69,549.41, Highway \$883.51, Sewer 1 \$91,726.25, Sewer 2 \$162.18, Total \$162,321.35

**Public Comment**

**James Eckl:** Thank you Mr. Supervisor. I understand it's a little later than ordinary; I'll try to keep it brief. I hadn't anticipated such a discussion of the bridge project and a lot of what I prepared has already been covered. I do note that the Department of Transportation website which I checked this morning says that the expectation for this project is that the construction will begin in the summer of next year and sometime in the winter of 2020-21 whereas the letter that you read as I recall indicated that it was going to be during the summer of 2021, June, July, August. I'm sure I don't know what's right, but there does seem to be this difference of opinion between the Transportation Department's own website and the letter you got.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I spoke to the representative and he assured me the summer of 2021 were the timeframes.

**Town Clerk Finke:** And that's what it says here, June and August 2021.

**Supervisor Ruso:** And in my conversation he said they may amend it to begin March and hopefully end earlier, start a little earlier and end it earlier, but that's certainly that was just conversational.

**James Eckl:** Evidentially, the Department needs to update it's own website. I would like to make this observation now. We've often heard it said that when you get a lemon, make lemonade. And as it is right now it appears that the highway will be entirely severed just a little bit north of the Town and County line with all the hazards it presents, with all the inconvenience it will represent, it might represent a wonderful opportunity and let me tell you why. I suggest to you that we could look at this as a grand experiment. Now you all know and you don't need me to tell you, but I'm gonna say it anyway just for the record, the ever increasing levels of activity at the Port of Coeymans has in turn resulted in much greater heavy truck traffic through the hamlet where the highway is now and it twists and turns. It's the most built up corner of our Town. There are a lot of residents of the hamlet who are distressed at the level of truck traffic. But if

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the highway is completed severed, what that means is the traffic coming from the south on the Thruway, that exits at Coxsackie, which possibly now very likely will be going north on Route 9W for a couple miles and then turning onto the south end of Route 144, they won't be able to do that anymore. The trucking industry is gonna have to adjust and we may wonder how well they will adjust. And if they do adjust and if the trucking industry deals with the inability to use Route 144 through New Baltimore for dependency of the construction. If they can adopt that successfully for a temporary closure, they can adopt successfully to a permanent closure and that I submit to you demonstrate the best argument in the world in support of the ability of this Town to permanently close Route 144 to heavy truck traffic. The Town couldn't do it itself. It certainly would need the approval of the Transportation Department.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I have to tell you, not to interject too much, but I had similar thoughts and I said I wonder if what this could change for the long term regarding truck traffic. I did want to also add a quick point that 144 goes through the hamlet. However, I think that persons such as myself and perhaps Ellie here who live at the also on or close to Route 144, the hamlet is not the only people that have concerns and I feel a little bit left out because while I don't have the bends and turns near my home, they rip through there at really high speeds. So the truck traffic on Route 144 is not just a hamlet issue by any stretch. So I wouldn't want to just frame it for them, they have their own issues, of course. I don't want to frame it as only about them. It's about the rest of us, too.

**Ellie Alfeld:** And might I point out there at that curve just past Barry Guptil's place, it's a blind spot. There's a driveway that comes right in on that curve and you gotta know what you're doing.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Precisely. So this could be a win for all parties is where I'm going throughout 144. Anyway, proceed; I'm sorry to interject.

**Councilmember Briody:** Isn't Route 144 a State road?

Many responded: Yes.

**Councilmember Briody:** They're not gonna shut that down.

**James Eckl:** Thank you, Mr. Supervisor, it might be because there's such a concentration of population in the hamlet, there's the most people there to complain.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Oh, yes, of course.

**James Eckl:** And, of course, that's where the right angle turn is at the foot of a rather steep hill.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We don't have the bends that they have. You're absolutely right. Please proceed, anything further?

**James Eckl:** I have another observation that I'd like to make. I did not note that there was a report under Animal Control, but this also has to do with the hamlet and I'm reliably informed that there are residents of the Town within the hamlet who over the past few months have experienced being menaced by a rabid or apparently rabid fox. Now I certainly do not know how long an animal with rabies can survive, whether perhaps it is one animal or whether it is perhaps a number of them, but there are people in the hamlet who are distressed at being threatened by this apparently rabid animal. Now you had mentioned a connection with the bridge construction project, the pedestrian traffic that is made possible by the fact that the hamlet is so built-up. People go for walks. People walk their animals, their own pets and a rabid fox is a threat to everybody and I have been asked to relate the concern of an acquaintance in the hamlet that there seems to be no warning system in place. Now I recognize that the Town cannot take the proactive approach of hunting down dangerous animals. I realize that very well, but when a report of a threatening animal has been received, it's desirable in the interest of public safety that people know about it. Putting it on the Town website doesn't provide immediate notice, of course, but at least it alerts people to be more observant in the future. I

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understand that the Town operates the 756-6600 number which is all very well, but one needs to be alerted to the possibility that there is a problem in order to call the number in order to find out if there really is a problem or not. And I do not pretend to have an answer here, but I think I got a pretty good question.

**Councilmember Downes:** Well, my understanding is that rabid fox, everybody that was in danger knew about it and there was a hunting party out after that fox. That was my understanding so I'm not sure if that fox has not been taken care of this point, but did the person call the...?

**Councilmember VanEtten:** Yeah.

**Councilmember Downes:** Did they call the authorities or did they just call you?

Many speaking at once.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** They called the authorities.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Along with our Animal Control Officer who was out running up and down the roads looking for him as well and so forth and, of course, timing is everything sometimes. You know you get down there 20 minutes later...

**Town Clerk Finke:** And there's other foxes; you don't know if it's that fox.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I saw a fox cross 144 in the hamlet a couple weeks ago. It was evening time, but I've seen foxes, I've seen dozens of foxes every month it seems throughout the Town.

**Ellie Alfeld:** We've got them in our backyard.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** It could not necessarily be a fox, it could be a raccoon any kind of an animal can come and get you.

**Ellie Alfeld:** We had a fox at my place; I had a bear there last night.

**Councilmember Downes:** We live in a country that is part of...

Many speaking at once.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We had the bear last week, maybe again last night for all I know.

**Councilmember Downes:** If you're seeing a fox in the middle of the day...

**Supervisor Ruso:** That's a problem.

**Councilmember Downes:** It's a problem and people should be aware of that. When you live in the country that's part of things to be aware.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Well, I do believe it was daytime sighting.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** They should call the proper authorities.

**Supervisor Ruso:** The only reason you'll see it out there is either it's sick or it's been roused from its den. That could happen. I recognize, I'm trying to tumble over my mind how the notification process would be. We don't have such a, I mean we have an emergency contact information. Alan runs an emergency site, we've not really had things on behalf of a rabid fox, but it's usually been area-wide type of disaster, flood.

**Highway Superintendent VanWormer:** If we know about it, we can certainly put it on there, but if we don't know about it.

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**Supervisor Ruso:** I think that's part of the issue is how do we get others to know because you don't want to be walking out there when the animal that truly is sick is present.

**James Eckl:** Well, sir, by your (unable to understand) that brings me to the question that I wanted to pose about the Swift 911 system that the County government operates. I realize the Town doesn't have any authority over that and I do not profess to have the answer.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So you have an answer for that, sir? Our County Legislator is present.

**County Legislator Linger:** Absolutely. I was gonna ask when he was finished if I could just speak to it a little bit.

**James Eckl:** I hope you will, but if I could just take an extra moment or two. If one is threatened, for example, it should be something that might impact the entire County. Everybody needs to know a blizzard perhaps, but if the threat is represented by a rabid fox or an apparently rabid fox in New Baltimore, people in Halcott don't have to know about. And my question was and I frankly have absolutely no idea whether the Swift 911 system can be tailored to give notifications only to restricted localities or whether the way it works is all or nothing at all, either there's no notification or everybody in the County gets the notification.

**Supervisor Ruso:** That would make sense.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** I would think there would be.

**James Eckl:** Because if a notification could be sent to a restricted locality, there's your answer for telling people what's going on in real time, but I will defer to our Legislator and I'll be very grateful to learn (unable to understand).

**Supervisor Ruso:** What can you fill us in on, sir?

**County Legislator Linger:** Our Swift 911 system can be tailor-engineered. It can do a reverse dial, you can pick your phone prefixes. The only issue would be is somebody has to be training on it from the Town. So whether it's your Emergency Officer or whoever, I'm sure Dan King could get in touch with them and get them trained on using that system. But, yes, it can be used for that, for any type of emergency situation.

**Supervisor Ruso:** So then the next step is to insure that our Emergency Officer is informed of event or an item or issue.

**County Legislator Linger:** Correct.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Wherever it is.

**County Legislator Linger:** I actually got a phone call as well on the fox. I got ahold of Joe Tanner.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Me too.

**Supervisor Ruso:** Me too.

**County Legislator Linger:** Only because he's the Animal Control Officer, however, DEC will not let him go after wildlife.

**Town Clerk Finke:** Will not let him, yes.

**County Legislator Linger:** He had already contacted DEC.

**Councilmember Briody:** So that's the State level.

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**County Legislator Linger:** That's the State level. They will not let an Animal Control Officer that does not have that training go after wildlife.

**Councilmember Briody:** Rightfully so and here's the other thing, though, too. Have we ever on a 911 system, have we ever put out such a report? Do we want to be clogging up the 911 infrastructure with...?

**County Legislator Linger:** No, no, no, this isn't the 911 system. This is a separate notification system so what it would do is basically a reverse dial.

**Councilmember Briody:** Dial out system.

**County Legislator Linger:** Whoever's training in it can punch in the phone prefixes that you want to hit.

**Councilmember Downes:** Right, but I think we really make the decision on that what we feel is important enough.

**County Legislator Linger:** There's other towns that use it for boil water advisories and those sort of things.

**Councilmember Downes:** That's a whole different thing.

**County Legislator Linger:** I don't know, it's still public safety issue. It could be used if you would like to do it.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I never by the way had any confirmation of the capture or killing of the fox. I never heard and what determination that it was indeed rabid, but I do know there was a daytime sighting which is always suspect.

**Councilmember Downes:** And it had been sighted a few times.

**Supervisor Ruso:** If it's the same one.

**Councilmember Downes:** And at that time who knows.

**County Legislator Linger:** And then the other concern that Mr. Eckl brought up, I have spoken with both the old Director and the new Director for State DOT regarding Route 144 and baring a weight-limited bridge or some factor such as that, they will not stop commercial traffic on a State road.

**Councilmember VanEtten:** We've written letters.

**Supervisor Ruso:** I know, but they will have to stop it when the bridge is being repaired.

**County Legislator Linger:** When the bridge is out, that's a qualifying event. When the bridge is not there, that's a qualifying event. We had the bridge on Deans Mill Road that was weight-limited for awhile. That's a qualifying event. But baring something such as that, they will not stop commercial traffic to do commerce on a State road. That's what they're there for.

**Supervisor Ruso:** We tried that already I know a couple years ago. We got similar answers, unfortunately. Thank you.

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**Community Events**

- November 28-29, 2019 Town Hall Closed and November 30, 2019 Recycling Center Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 4, 2019 Senior Committee Christmas Party at Pegasus at 12:30 PM
- December 4, 2019 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- December 9, 2019 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM
- December 12, 2019 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- December 23, 2019 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM

Motion by Councilmember Briody seconded by Councilmember Downes to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM

AYES: Ruso, Briody, Downes, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Motion Carried**

**Supervisor Ruso:** Thank you everybody.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke RMC  
Town Clerk