

Public Hearing on Local Law 2 of 2017 Expanding the Residency Requirements for Code Enforcement and Building Inspector at 7 PM

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

**OCTOBER 9, 2017
AGENDA**

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment Period

Correspondence

- New Baltimore Fire District Budget, Public Hearing to be Held on Tuesday, October 17 at 7 PM at the Firehouse
- Motion to Accept Resignation of Ellsbeth Finke from the Board of Assessment Review

New Business

- Presentation and Discussion of 2018 Tentative Budget and Fiscal Stress Report
- Resolution to Adopt Local Law 2 of 2017 Expanding the Residency Requirements for the Code Enforcement Officer and Building Inspector
- Resolution Appointing Highway Department Employee
- Resolution to Approve Advertisement for Full Time and Part Time Heavy Equipment Operators for the Highway Department
- Resolution to Authorize Highway Superintendent to Purchase Abrasives (Dry Screened and Washed) Used in Snow and Ice Control by Greene County Resolution 283-16 until September 19, 2018
- Resolution to Approve Advertisement for Part-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

Upcoming Meetings

- October 12, 2017 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- October 19, 2017 Friends of New Baltimore Recreation at 5:30 PM at Yanni's
- October 23, 2017 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM following the Public Hearing on the 2018 Budget
- November 1, 2017 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- November 8, 2017 Seniors Committee at 1 PM
- November 13, 2017 Town Board Regular Meeting at 7 PM

Public Comment Period/Community Events

Budget Workshop

- Reconciling Budget Amendments

Audit of Claims

Adjournment

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

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OPENING OF REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Dellisanti opened the meeting at 7:20 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending Deputy Supervisor Ruso, Councilmembers Irving and VanEtten, Tal Rappleyea, Esq., Deputy Town Clerk Jordan, Highway Superintendent Jordan, and 18 members of the public who signed the attendance book.

Absent: Councilmember Briody and Town Clerk Finke

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Dellisanti: (To Ellie Alfeld) Do you want to wait until the budget?

Ellie Alfeld: I want to wait until the budget, thank you.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Joan Ross, you would like to speak on truck traffic on Route 144.

Joan Ross: Yes, I have some signatures from people in the hamlet. I didn't plan any speech, I just wanted to say we're having a big problem in the hamlet with the large trucks that are coming through and several times they haven't been able to make the curve at the Reformed Church. They've been stuck and I think the most egregious was when the 70' long wind turban blade got stuck and had to back up all the way to the Port of Coeymans with a police escort. So I don't know how we can get some health and safety issues addressed, but I think one thing that we could possibly do as they've done in Coeymans is get a crosswalk at the Post Office as a start and then maybe some signage at 9W and 144 notifying trucks that there is a very sharp curve ahead because when we've talked to the truck drivers who get stuck, they said they were following their GPS and it led them into the hamlet. They really would never have gone through had they known.

Supervisor Dellisanti: I think our Highway Superintendent will tell you, it's a State road.

Joan Ross: Yes.

Supervisor Dellisanti: We have contacted the Commissioner of DOT on numerous times. I'd be happy to do it again, send a letter to them and ask them to put a crosswalk in down by the Post Office. But that's really their call, it's not our call.

Councilmember VanEtten: They said they did a report and that they didn't have...

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: But maybe if they put proper signage so that truck drivers would have warning. Didn't you talk to Carver?

Councilmember Irving: I've been down to the hamlet several times. I've talked to the Wolfes, I talked to the, I'm sorry I can't remember their names. Joan, they just bought the old elementary school where they took his fence down.

Many Responded: Degni's.

Councilmember Irving: I made probably a half a dozen trips down there and contacted the State Highway Engineering Department and the answer that I got from them was that they're going to investigate it. And I said 'well, how long is the investigation going to end up, is it going to take several months.' They said 'all of that, probably five-six months or longer.' Haven't heard anything back yet, but we've done as much as we can do and obviously, you're right, it's a concern but being a State highway which Denis can say, there's not much more we can do, but that's about where we stand.

Councilmember VanEtten: We will send them another letter.

Joan Ross: They can't make a weight limit for trucks?

Councilmember Irving: I've been adamant and aware of the situation and you're absolutely right.

Joan Ross: It's even worse in Coeymans because the houses with children are right on the road.

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Councilmember Irving: I brought up the point that a lot of the truck traffic is taking a shortcut going through the hamlet of New Baltimore, going to sites further away. So they're aware of it and I've spoken for the Town to the State.

Joan Ross: Several of the truck drivers have said that the GPS led them off the Coxsackie exit...

Councilmember Irving: You're right, you're right, absolutely.

Joan Ross: And into... They said that had they known about the curve, they would never have gone there and we can't really do anything about GPS, but maybe some signage at 144.

Councilmember VanEtten: Carver has said that they're going to make sure their truck drivers don't go through there and they go through the Town of Coeymans.

Joan Ross: But there are a lot of other trucks.

Councilmember VanEtten: There are.

Joan Ross: And they don't really want to be there once they get there.

Councilmember VanEtten: Right, oh no, you find that and it's like...

Joan Ross: And they've actually driven people off the road who've had to jump out of the way.

Councilmember VanEtten: But we can request signage, we have before.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I pulled into someone's driveway.

Ellie Alfeld: My son did too.

Councilmember Irving: Now we've had a local State Police officer, a resident of New Baltimore that has investigated those accidents and I've talked to that Police Officer and they're patrolling the area, but there's not too much more we can do. But I can say this, we're not going to give up on it. It is a concern.

Joan Ross: It is when you have a day care right there.

Councilmember Irving: To the point of what we can do now, but keep pressure on because it is not a situation or something that we want.

Joan Ross: And if we had a crosswalk, I mean the State law says you have to yield to someone in a crosswalk so at least the truck drivers would be put on notice that you have to slow down there. They don't even know the curve is coming and...

Councilmember Irving: I drive a school bus daily so I see these. I drive for special needs children here at the Circle of Friends and I fully understand the hazards on the road. I'm glad you brought it up to tonight.

Joan Ross: I hope it doesn't take a death for them to act because that's usually what happens. Somebody's killed and then they say 'okay, you're right.'

Councilmember Irving: But as your Board member, I've been pushing hard as I can and I'll push even harder.

Joan Ross: Thank you.

Audience Member: If I can just make a suggestion on that is that you work with Coeymans because if we're going to do something, they can echo our voices. I know that people are really upset in Coeymans.

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Joan Ross: Those houses are right on the road. It's really bad with little children.

Councilmember VanEtten: But I've also heard people that live on Main Street that don't want those trucks coming up Main Street either in the Town of Coeymans.

Audience Member: The point is that the route should be to go to Selkirk and get off and come south.

Councilmember VanEtten: Right.

Audience Member: Laraway is getting most of those trucks, not all of them, but most of them. The same thing if you're going north, never mind saving a couple of cents, go to Albany if you have to go to Albany. It's just crazy.

Councilmember VanEtten: I know.

Audience Member: There's too many people who are endangered.

Supervisor Dellisanti: I'll send you a copy of the letter I put together when I send it to DOT.

Audience Member: I'll appreciate that, thank you.

Supervisor Dellisanti: That's not a problem. Ellie.

Ellie Alfeld: I would like to state again what I was told by the Vice President up at Carver when they had the Open House and we spoke about the truck traffic and he said that if we had Carver trucks going through New Baltimore, if people can get the name or the number or anything to identify them and bring that information up to Carver's offices, they will ban that truck driver from any further business. So, if you hurt them in the pocketbook, it will make an impression.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Yes.

Janet Kash: Just one quick question and thank you for reaching out to the DOT for this over the past years, but if you do it again could you also reach out to Senator Amedore and Assemblyman Lopez since they're our State Senator and our State Assemblyman? They might also be able to advocate to DOT for our Town.

Councilmember Irving: I've had him call me when I was driving a school bus and I had to put my cell phone down because you can't talk when driving a school bus. And that's the truth.

Janet Kash: But I think if we bring it to the attention of our State representatives as well, it may carry a little more weight.

Councilmember Irving: Yes, you're right. Very good.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Although Lopez, is he gone already?

Councilmember VanEtten: I think he's talking to George about it.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I thought he was gone.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Pete Lopez is leaving. On the same topic?

Eileen Vosburgh: You know I think Joan had a good idea about signage. What if we were to ask the property owners say near Albright's there or even when they get right off at the Thruway in Cossackie you know they have all those signs, what if we ask them to put up a sign and you could spare change it and see if people would pay for it. But I mean at least it would be something before something really bad happens. I think that's a good idea, Joan.

Councilmember VanEtten: Do you have to get permission from the State, though, to put signs on a State road?

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Many Responded: Yes.

Audience Member: You have to be a certain distance from the center line (unable to understand).

Eilleen Vosburgh: Okay, but maybe that could work though, maybe we could work it out.

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, when we send a letter to DOT we can request that too, they would be the people that would...

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Even offer to find funding for the signs just to get the signs.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Yes, exactly; get it up there and maybe then Coeymans would go in on ones down in their area too.

Supervisor Dellisanti: On the opposite side, basically getting in from both ways. Yes, sir.

Ron Locke: In addition to this discussion, on one occasion I was at the corner by the Church in the hamlet and the schoolhouse. I've had to stop for a truck coming through and that's both ways and I was thinking you know from Catskill, Saugerties to Catskill on 9W, they have a light because it's a blind, you're going under the railroad on an S turn. They have a light on both ends. If you can't go over, you have to stop for a truck on a State highway is ridiculous and to do the study over a six or eight-month period seems kind of ridiculous. The signage idea I think is good. Well, a truck got stuck down there and I helped him turn around and he said 'well can I go down Church Street?' (Many speaking at once.) So, we turned him around. Had to stop traffic, I was the only one there to stop traffic. We had traffic going both ways.

Richard Guthrie: That's how people get hurt.

Supervisor Dellisanti: The next card I had was from Judge Farrell. I'm trying to go in order as you presented them to me.

Judge Farrell: Thank you. Again, I'm Joseph Farrell, Town Justice for the Town of New Baltimore; probably everybody knows me. I know it's budget time and it's always a difficult time, but I really want to emphasize that we'd like to get, trying to get Dawn a raise to bring her up to a compatible raise, a compatible rate of pay that is similar to other court clerks in the immediate vicinity. Dawn has a certain set of skill sets that are rather unique and specific to the job and they're not really compatible to other clerk positions. Some of the things that Dawn has to do that are independent of other clerks, are on the legal side. She prepares court dockets, calendars, cases. She has court-specific computer software and case management systems that aren't part of the public realm. She has to record payments of court fees, fines. She's not just somebody that processes a checkbook, we have five different accounts for the Court and those accounts need to be reconciled on a monthly basis, submitted to the Comptroller's Office, and we're subject to all kinds of reviews. They're business accounts, they're not just personal checking accounts. She does an excellent job of that. She has to answer inquiries from the general public regarding judicial procedures, court appearances, she schedules trial dates, sends out letters for adjournments and other court-related matters. She repairs and issues orders of the Court. She deals with probation, orders of protection, release documentation for people that are either in jail or in other types of state-sponsored services that we send them to. She has to prepare sentencing information, summonses; she prepares documents regarding the outcome of Court proceedings; she has to search out files; she talks constantly to attorneys, litigants; and there's a litany of other things. Not only that, because of the responsibility load that Dawn has, and all other court clerks, the State's requiring that they go, that they have training now. It's not an option to go to training; it's a requirement that they go to training because the laws change constantly. She needs to be up-to-speed with the current trends of the legal system which are very complicated. Now I know that this has been an ongoing problem, funding the judicial side of the government, but we need to have the funding for Dawn. There's a lot of reasons that I'd like to see her get a raise. One of the reasons that I'd like to see her get a raise is that we lose people because of the pay rates that we pay our court clerks. We've lost a full time court clerk because she got a better job. Once they get trained here, once they get a good background, they have a tendency to leave. We've lost a full time court clerk and at least two part-time court clerks because of the pay discrepancies. They get the knowledge and there's

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value to that knowledge and other people, other agencies see the value and they jump ship. That puts us in a difficult position when we don't have a court clerk. I don't even want to get into that. It's the lack of pay is one of the driving forces that we lose these people and they become very qualified. I would like you to really seriously consider not just a 1½% increase for Dawn, but something rather meaning. Thank you.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Judge Meacham.

Judge Meacham: Thank you. I'm Tom Meacham, Co-Judge here in the Town of New Baltimore. I'd like to say thank you to our Town Board for providing the opportunity for the citizens of the Town of New Baltimore, especially to Nick Dellisanti for your terms of service here and the professionalism that you bring to this Town and the experience that you bring to this Town. So, thank you for your service. As my Co-Judge has been stating, the Town court clerk is grossly underpaid. The services she provides to this Town is very important. If you've ever been in a Town Court, you would see some of the activity that goes on and it's all legal so any mistakes, something like that, there are legal consequences for it as well. So, it's very important that we maintain the quality in our court system that is required in order for us to process all these cases. Previous court clerk was paid, and I'll give you some ideas of numbers so you have an idea of what we're doing, of what we're paying. Previous court clerk was paid in 2010 over \$30,000 for her annual salary. The current court clerk started off at being paid \$29,000 in 2013 just to give you an example of pay. She's currently being paid \$27,000 so her pay is going down partly because some of her hours have been taken away. Other court clerks, to give you an idea of other court clerks pay in the area, Coxsackie which is a court that's similar in size and caseload to our court, their full-time court clerk gets paid \$33,500. Hunter, up on the Mountain, smaller court, and their court clerk gets paid \$43,700. Athens is \$49,900, Catskill is \$35,000 – that's the Village, and the Town is \$37,000 and change. So, in conclusion what I'm trying to say is that our court clerk is being grossly underpaid. She has 15 years of experience as you know. It's of value to this Town. We really need to make sure that she is in line with other court clerks. That's all we're asking. If it means giving her more hours, so be it, but mainly what we'd like to see per our proposed budget of \$33,800 is what we're asking for for the Town court clerk.

Supervisor Dellisanti: How much was that again?

Judge Meacham: \$33,800. Thank you.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: If I may add the decrease is related to the number of hours that were changed three years ago, so there were a few hours. For me, at least the way I work, I'd like to know what the hourly rates of some of those folks are that you speak of. Dawn is paid at 32½ hours per week.

Judge Meacham: Correct.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Is that correct? And I don't know if the others are being paid 40, I simply don't know, but I would like to know how they match up on an hour-per-hour rate.

Judge Meacham: That's a good question and some of them are pretty much the same, around 35 to 40 hours a week.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I'll try to make some time and call some of these places in the next few weeks, some of these other Towns. I don't care if it's Coeymans or Greenville or whichever...

Judge Meacham: Right, could be other counties.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: In addition to if not more than the ones you've already contacted. Were they forthcoming in the permission?

Judge Meacham: Yes.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Were they quite helpful?

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Judge Meacham: Yes, actually a lot of it is available online as a public service.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes, I've looked but it doesn't tell me how many hours they work.

Councilmember VanEtten: Or how long they've been there and how many increases they've had.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That's one of the questions. It just says the dollars that they're budgeted, doesn't tell me if they work full-time, part-time, or what have you.

Judge Meacham: Right. As I mentioned in my reporting is that originally her wage was more than what she is currently getting and a lot of that is due because she has had some of her hours taken away from her. So obviously that will make an impact. So, whatever you can do would be appreciated.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Let me find out, again I work hourly. If you work 20 hours a week, I work 40, of course you're going to make more and the other way around obviously.

Judge Meacham: Agreed.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I'll look at the hours, hourly rate.

Judge Meacham: Thank you.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Eileen, do you want to speak on the budget?

Eileen Vosburgh: Can I just ask one question about that? Why were her hours cut?

Supervisor Ruso: New York State Labor Law says you must have a half-hour lunch break -- she was not given a lunch break -- if you work more than six hours a day. So, she never had a lunch break. Well, she took a lunch, but she got paid for it is basically what it was.

Eileen Vosburgh: So why can't she just come in early or later so that she has the same salary?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Town office hours are 9-4 so they're also asking us to change the hours that Town Hall's open.

Eileen Vosburgh: Now this person actually, if somebody comes in during the lunch time, is she actually doing her job?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Sometimes. I think so.

Eileen Vosburgh: Or does she put a sign up that says 'I'm at lunch?'

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Sometimes that's the case.

Eileen Vosburgh: So she puts up a sign that says...

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: No, the door's closed.

Councilmember VanEtten: It's a State law; we can't change a State law.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I'm not here every day, but I've seen the door closed, yes. But nevertheless you have to have a half-hour lunch if you work more than six hours.

Councilmember VanEtten: It's a State law, we cannot change that.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Okay and there were some variables throughout the Town as we discussed in what 2014, some people had a half-hour that they were taking, and some people were paid for their lunch that they were taking and you can't have some departments doing it one way and other departments doing the other way. That was one of the topics that we

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discussed back when we put together the Employee Handbook. Everyone takes a lunch break if you work more than six hours. Now we have some people who work exactly six hours, they don't have to take a lunch break. It's not in the Code, it's Labor Code – not Jeff Code – it's not Town Code, it's Labor Code.

Eileen Vosburgh: I just know as working for the Department of Health for 33 years that I know that it was rarely that I got to take any lunch.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Pick up the phone.

Eileen Vosburgh: Rarely and no coffee breaks or anything.

Supervisor Dellisanti: You were still deducted for lunch though.

Eileen Vosburgh: Yes, I was.

Supervisor Dellisanti: So was I.

Councilmember VanEtten: It's State law.

Eileen Vosburgh: But, I kept working through it.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: But you were still deducted because it was available to you is what they claim. That's how they say it.

Ellie Alfeld: I'd like to point out one thing to the Board just to remind you. Dawn has a lot of time (unable to understand) as a single in that office because we've had her clerks that have left and we've had to apply for new clerks and, of course, that takes training and then when they get good at it, they leave too.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That's what the Judge said, yes.

Ellie Alfeld: I'm just saying that Dawn carries a heavy load both responsibility and work.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Tom, do you have something?

Judge Meacham: Yes, according to State Law, Section 162, in some cases an employee can take their lunch and eat on the job and this applies where only one person is on duty and there is only one person in a specific occupation. If the employee volunteers to accept this arrangement, the Department of Labor will accept these special situations as compliance with Section 162. However, an employer must offer the lunch period to the employee.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Correct, but it's not just a rubber stamp if that's what you mean.

Judge Meacham: No, what I'm saying is that when you're in a position where you're required or your job requires you to perform some duties it could be in a snow plow truck during the winter, you're not going to want to stop for half...

Many talking at once, unable to understand.

Janet Kash: Just one more comment on this and I know that you guys are having to deal with a lot of (unable to understand), but another thing that's important for folks to remember is that a lot of people are coming on their lunch hours to get their business taken care of so it's difficult for them to come to the Town government and then not be served because we're closed down for state government lunch. You know it's just the way that people's you know schedule's work so I don't know if there's...

Councilmember VanEtten: Right now she doesn't have a clerk, but we are hiring another clerk so she won't be there all alone so they can stagger it.

Judge Meacham: As the Co-Judge did mention, we used to have a part-time court clerk but she had left also for better pay at another job.

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Many talking at once, unable to understand.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Ellie, would you like to speak on the budget now?

Ellie Alfeld: I'd rather wait until you start doing it step-by-step because I've got an outline.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Eileen Vosburgh, do you want to talk about the budget now?

Eileen Vosburgh: Maybe I'll wait with Ellie.

Supervisor Dellisanti: You can have a party. Sharon Locke.

Sharon Locke: Mine is a budget question too, or related too, although I don't know if it shows up on the budget.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Do you want to wait until we get through the budget? Ron, do you want to speak anymore on the truck traffic?

Ron Locke: That's okay.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Okay. Mr. Colwell, Jake, about the recreation youth programs.

Jake Colwell: Yeah, I have a couple and I appreciate you taking them late, thank you. My first one was just I was hoping to get more information about the summer recreation and the youth program budget lines. Maybe when you get to that point you can talk a little bit more about...; I wasn't able to find anything about the hiring process for those positions or about some of the programming that's been done in the past. I spoke to a number of people throughout the Town who have children both ages that probably would have liked to have been able to apply for the job as Counselors and would have liked to have taken part in the programs themselves. None of them knew about it and that might be just you know them not looking.

Supervisor Dellisanti: It's advertised every year and it's on the website.

Councilmember VanEtten: It's advertised. And Counselors are in the paper advertised.

Jake Colwell: So that's advertised in which papers?

Councilmember VanEtten: Like everything else, it's on our website. And I have to add this children's recreation program has gone on since I was a child in this Town year after year after year so.

Jake Colwell: Okay, sure, it's mostly I think young families like mine that we just moved in, maybe we didn't know where to look for it things like that. So, I was just hoping to get more information on those, some of the programming things. I used to run the Cocksackie Summer Recreation Program years ago and well, maybe something I can help out with in the future. So if I can get more info on that at some point, doesn't have to be right now, I appreciate it. And my other one there since it's probably the next one on the list, I was curious if any of the Board members have informed themselves on the results of the Greene County Jail Proposal Alternatives to Incarceration research results that came out last week and if you had any comments that you plan on making to the Greene County Legislator on those results with your questions, comments, concerns about the various options.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Good question. On the 23rd of this month, our Legislator, Pat Linger, is going to come here and make a full report. At that time it might be a good idea for you to be here for that one.

Jake Colwell: Yeah, absolutely. Thank you.

Supervisor Dellisanti: And we'll react to what he has to say.

Jake Colwell: Have you read the reports that came out from that subcommittee, though, because Pat's not on that subcommittee?

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Supervisor Dellisanti: I have not.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I read what was in the paper.

Supervisor Dellisanti: I saw the comments that were made, but I haven't seen the entire report.

Jake Colwell: If you'd like, I can share it with you. It's pretty enlightening stuff. Okay, the 23rd though, right, this month?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Yes, the 23rd of this month.

Jake Colwell: Thank you.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Thank you.

Sharon Locke: The time of that, excuse me, Nick. The time of that?

Supervisor Dellisanti: 7:00, yes.

Judge Farrell: One thing I would like to say about the position of the court clerk. As far as the hours go, there was a cut, but even if she was reinstated that two and one-half hours a week, she would still be under par with the other court clerks. That being said, and she's offered to come in half an hour early or stay half an hour later if it's absolutely a requirement for her to have lunch. I don't know why the Town Hall would have to be open if she was here. There's oftentimes when the Town Hall is closed, but there are people that work late. I've come in early, but the Town Hall is not open. The fact that we're in the office doing work doesn't mean that the public space is open for the public. She can come in a half an hour early or stay half an hour late and not have the Town Hall opened up. You don't have to extend the Town Hall hours.

Supervisor Dellisanti: You're not going to be open to the public is what you're saying.

Judge Farrell: That's correctly, that's exactly what I'm saying.

Supervisor Dellisanti: So there'd be no service for the court clerk to the public during those extra hours?

Ellie Alfeld: It'd be catchup time, doing bails and checking accounts and stuff.

Audience Member: Administrative things.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Well, one of the things that we have offered I think it needs to be known that Dawn works past 4:00 on Tuesdays.

Judge Farrell: Correct.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: For as ever long as Court time takes.

Judge Farrell: Correct.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: We've offered that she get paid for it, but she chooses to take that in comp time typically later within a week. So she'll take Thursday or Friday afternoon off.

Judge Farrell: That's true.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: But, we've offered to pay that.

Judge Farrell: That's true.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: And that's dollars out of our pocket so I don't want us to say we haven't counteroffered at least opportunities for her to make more money. We have.

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Judge Farrell: Well, one of the firsts for her to take this job, and one of the reasons she took this job, is that she would get comp time for the hours that she worked during Court because it was an extended day. Now traditionally that's the way the court clerk worked. And traditionally in the past they would take Friday afternoons off. They would work Tuesday afternoon at Court and take Friday afternoon off. She's here Friday afternoon. So she accumulates that time. That's a perc in the job that was offered to her when she first started. Why would we take that away now?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Last year, the year before last year.

Judge Farrell: Why would we take that away from her?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: We're not taking it away, we offered it.

Supervisor Dellisanti: It would put more money in her weekly check and it would put more money in her retirement.

Judge Farrell: But she has to give up a perc, one of the reasons that she took the job.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: But she doesn't get paid for her lunches, that's one of the things we talked about three years ago. We did talk about that.

Judge Farrell: Yeah, we did. We don't get anywhere though.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I'm going to add another point. If you're worried about people making phone calls and no one being here during lunchtime, every Friday afternoon the only one answering the phone is the Town Clerk who can't answer questions about the court clerk.

Judge Farrell: And visa versa.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Right. I've heard all these other things that suggested that the attorneys will call, the police departments will call. There's no one there. It happens every, or typically or oftentimes on Fridays.

Judge Farrell: That's one of the disadvantages of having one person running that office. She's entitled to have time off.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: No, I have no qualms about it.

Judge Farrell: She's entitled to have time off.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Correct.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Can we move on?

Rick Dubois: I'm from the hamlet. I did sign in, but I kept this because I wasn't sure if I was going to speak. Now she gets paid for her lunch break?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Not anymore.

Rick Dubois: She used to.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes.

Rick Dubois: And she refused to take it?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: She was taking it, but got paid and she no longer gets paid for it.

Rick Dubois: And why was that pay taken away?

Councilmember VanEtten: It was a State law.

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Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Because we're going to follow the State law, Labor Code says that if you have six hours or more of work, you are entitled to a half-hour break unpaid.

Councilmember VanEtten: The Town employees at the Highway Garage were not getting a half hour, they were not getting paid for it.

Rick Dubois: So basically she was working a 40 hour week or always working a 32 hour week?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: 35.

Rick Dubois: 35 hour, okay. So her time wasn't cut other than half-hour each day?

Supervisor Dellisanti: The lunch period correct. Her work hour.....

Rick Dubois: Just the way I heard it, I thought you worded it you were pretty much either...

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Only the half hour lunch.

Councilmember VanEtten: Right and that was by State law because part of the Town didn't get it, part of the Town did.

Rick Dubois: And I think this is where we get to know what is going on with the government is through this. I mean I sat on that side for many years. You get aggravated trying to try what's going on with the politics.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: 2014 we put together a comprehensive Employee Handbook. At the time the benefit time, nothing was well-described. We did not have an FMLA Law that was put into federal regulations in 1991. We did not have an FMLA regulation or a policy in the Town. We were not compliant with the Labor Laws that we just described there. Dozens of Labor Laws, we were not compliant with and we realized that not long after being here. And so without regard to what department, or one person or an individual we didn't make about any individual, certainly not Dawn, it was all the things in general. And as it turned out shortly thereafter we had some employees who went out with a knee replacement. Guess what they needed? FMLA. And the list went on, there were so many things. We had, I think during that year, we must have had eight public meetings here describing the changes and the benefits mostly to comply with Labor Law, FMLA Law State and Federal, as well as some of the Town Codes. And we can get into even more of these things at our time off benefits. Denis, you can reflect upon what Doctor Day is if you want. Nobody really wants to, but as an illustration nowhere in any Town Board meeting, going back to 1992, I read every single one, could I find that you have time off for Doctor Day. What is that? If I got a Doctor's appointment at 3:00, you get the whole day off. If I have a Doctor's appointment at 9:00, I get the whole day off. I don't know anybody who does that. We're willing to say you've got to take the afternoon off, that's okay. That's no problem. However, we had people who were taking 15 Doctor Days in a year in addition to getting 25 vacation days, in addition to getting 12 holidays, in addition to getting – some departments were getting 5 personal days, some departments were getting 3 personal days, some employees were getting 12 sick days, some were getting 10 sick days. Who was it up to? Well, in our regards whichever department you were in. That department decided what days off they were going to have and what they were going to call them. We had employees taking 80 days off a year with pay, not approved by the Town Board. You can't do that. You can't do that, but we did what we could to try to grandfather people in to make this fair. There is no more Doctor Day. Never was approved. I mean the list goes on in some of the various things, certainly there are other policies that relates to whether it's drug testing, and there's a Code of Ethics that's built into the Handbook, and dozens and dozens or more of advents, but we made it comprehensive. It was a very lengthy ordeal. And again it wasn't about one person, I don't ever want to seriously think it was about Dawn. It was about everybody and it wasn't designed to affect any individual, it was about all individuals.

CORRESPONDENCE

The New Baltimore Fire District and Medway Grapeville Fire District Budgets, Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, October 17 at 7 PM at their respective firehouses.

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Supervisor Dellisanti: At this time I would like to make a Motion to accept the resignation of Ellsbeth Finke from the Board of Assessment Review, seconded by Councilmember VanEtten.

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, we might want to say that she moved out of Town.

Supervisor Dellisanti: I'm going to read her letter. *'Dear Nick, Jeff, Scott, Chuck and Shelly: I truly appreciated the Town Board's appointment to the Board of Assessment Review earlier this year and was very happy to serve in that capacity. As we recently sold our house and moved to Coxsackie, I will resign my position effective immediately. I enjoyed my service to the Town of New Baltimore and thank the Town Board for this opportunity. Sincerely, Ellsbeth J. Finke'* Any other questions or comments?

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

Supervisor Dellisanti: I have some good news for the Town and the hamlet. On Friday afternoon I received a call from the Governor's office and the grant that we've been applying for for the last two years on the wastewater treatment plant has been approved. We received \$652,000 which is outstanding. (Audience clapped) Yes, it was very good. Everyone should know that the \$2.6 million bond that we took out for the new plant will be reduced by the \$652,000. I got a letter from Delaware Engineering, Mary Beth Bianconi, wrote to me *'Congratulations Nick. As we intended, the Town received a grant for the new sewer project. This will lower the debt service and result in savings to the users.'* So, we are very, very happy about that.

Richard Guthrie: When will we see the savings?

Supervisor Dellisanti: That's a good question. Well, the project is going to go out to bid in November and they expect to put the shovel in the ground in the spring and be finished by December of '18. So, I would imagine you will start seeing the saving in 2019, but it's off to a good start.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation and Discussion on Tentative 2018 Budget and the Fiscal Stress Report

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: 2018 as well as our, just released at the end of September, Fiscal Stress Scores. We are going to go to our Fiscal Stress. Every year the Comptroller's Office prints out a Fiscal Stress score and our figures go up and down, or have. Fiscal Stress Summary, just to let you know, in 2014 we were at 10%, last year it was at 6.7, this year it's at 3.3. Zero is the best score you can possibly have. So, we've come down from 10 and now we're down to 3.3. It actually was up a little bit higher beforehand, but we're excited to be in the direction we're going right now. Here's a graph that shows the same thing, shows our trend for 2017. Obviously, 2017 expenditures are not complete. Just to let you know where the scores were and there are some issues that we have on the horizon that I worry about; there are other indicators that add to this. Financially the one point we had was because in 2014 we had a deficit spending of about \$20,000. 2015 we have not and 2016 we did not; 2017 we hope not. We do have some worries on the horizon, but things we can't really do anything about. We're not at a troublesome mark, but we're going the wrong direction in terms of change in population, the very first line. We lost in one year 1.4 percent of our population. I don't like it either. Property Value, we lost, was that a 1.2 percent? Yes, it is.

Rick Dubois: You said population. Is that the people living here or is that actually the taxpayers?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Population. This was in 2016 just to remind you, this is not '17. Change in Property Values in 2016, I didn't know it but it's buying or selling, 1.2 percent decrease. And this is State figures; this is not our stuff. Unemployment Rate in New Baltimore, that's more County-based because it's hard to just judge just New Baltimore, that's at 5.7 percent. Those are things to worry about on the horizon. We're going to go to graphs. Once again these are Unassigned and Assigned Fund Balances as a Percent of Gross Expenditures, that figure over there on the left-hand graph indicates that our Unassigned Fund

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Balance is basically increasing. We have more money in the bank. Fund Balance as a Percent of Expenditures over on the far right is pretty much the same thing, the graph is almost a mirror of the other. Operating Surplus 2014 and I indicated in '14 we had a deficit of 1.2 percent and 2015 we had a surplus of 1.3 and last year we had a surplus of 4.8 percent. Cash Investment, I don't know why it goes to zero. Cash as a Percent of Monthly Expenditures, the graph on the right, if you have 100 percent of cash as a monthly expenditure, that means you can pay your bills without any money coming in for one month, that's at 100 percent. Well in 2014 we had 356 percent cash which implies that we had 3 ½ months of money in the bank in case something happened and we didn't have money coming in. For 2015, we're up to 400.5 percent and in 2016 we're at 436 percent. So now we can operate 4.36 months without any worries, not that I wouldn't be worried about it.

Jake Colwell: Jeff, just a quick question. Is there an ideal number that most towns around us try to keep itself at?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I'm going to show some of that. We're not at their levels in some cases, but I'll show you that in a few minutes. We don't have any short-term debt in the General Fund, so guess what our numbers are? Zero, which is the place to be. Personal Services and Employee Benefits, as a percentage of revenues and that's what the left-hand graph is. Staff and Benefits was 48.7, in 2015 was 50.3, and it's at 50.2 this year. So that's remained relative steady. Debt Service has remained relatively steady; that takes into account all debt in the Town including Sewer and Highway. And that's the end of our graphs. This is in comparison and I think this goes to what you were asking, Jake, if I'm not mistaken. This is how we compare to other towns. So, we're not at a great place for some of those. I think your question was about the Assigned Fund Balance. Well, New Baltimore is the bar on the left side, All Towns is the second bar, Capital District Towns is the third bar, and Medium-Sized Towns in the State of New York is the last one. So, we really have less in the bank than what our typical counterparts will have. Same thing, this is the other one that's a counterpart, the one on the right is very similar to the one on the left. So other towns have more money in the bank than we do. Does that mean we're right and they're not; I don't know. We'll show some things that we like where we are as well. Operating Surplus and Deficits, we ran last year a 4.8 percent surplus. All Towns in the State it was a 6 percent and Capital District Towns ran at a 7.1 percent surplus and Medium Sized Towns ran at 5.4 percent. So, I don't think we're far off. Some of these towns are pulling in too much money and not giving their taxpayers a break either. Cash Investment Versus Current Liabilities, there are no General Fund current liabilities, so our cash investments appear as a zero, comes out to be zero. However, cash as a percentage of monthly expenditures, this is the one you're speaking of, that's the one where we score 436 percent and all Towns the average is 7.12 months of cash. Capital District has 6.72 and Medium Upstate Towns has 7.27. So, we're not bankrolling a lot of money and our surpluses are not extremely high above and beyond our expenditures. They're really aren't; it's not like we're banking a lot of money every year. Here's the issue of Personal Services. Our Town has 50.2 percent of our expenditures are on staff and/or benefits. All Towns run at 42 percent, Capital District Towns are at 45, and Medium Sized Upstate Towns are running at 40.6 percent. So we're about, if you took Medium Upstate Towns which is what they group us into, we're running about 10 percent more that goes towards the employees than what is averaged whether you want to compare with Capital District or New York State, or All Towns. We're a bit on the higher side. Debt Service, this is where we go mostly to the Highway Garage, 4.2 percent for the Town of New Baltimore. Our debt is lower than what we did in other places. By the way can you see those shaded areas, when you start getting those shaded areas, you're at moderate or some level of additional stress. So if our figures were higher, you could see that we had to be in the one on the left with the percentage of Personal Services as a Percent of Revenues. We are kind of approaching that level, but I still think we're safe. The level is 65 percent; we're running at 50 percent. Fiscal Stress Score, this is the one I like so you can pay attention to it you like, we're at 3.3 percent. All Towns are at 10, Capital District are at 8.8, and Medium Upstate Towns are 11.2. So, while we don't have big money in the bank, we're not running into the stress factors that some of these other towns are because well I can't speak for what they do.

Jake Colwell: Can you explain why we're so high on some of the other numbers, but low on the one that's....? Isn't this number kind of the assessment of all the other numbers?

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Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Well, this is a comparison; this is not so much talking about all our numbers. If you were thinking about the one with the employees, why we're high there, but in good shape there, and I think that part of that has to do with the fact that we don't have any debt. So when you talk about employee expenditures as a percentage of what you spend and what you bring in then it's going to be higher because we don't have those other expenses so the percentages are going to be more attributed to that.

Jake Colwell: Our lack of debt is what is keeping this number so low?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I think it helps, I think it helps absolutely. Sometimes you have to go into debt. We've been avoiding that with the exception of some equipment. We just bought the...

Highway Superintendent Jordan: The excavator.

Deputy Supervisor: The excavator, thank you.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Well, what we do on that is when we pay off the big truck and we don't have any bonds out there, then we went to find out what Denis needed and he needed an excavator.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That's what we did this year. The truck he bought in 2012 was paid off and that debt was retired and that's when we bought another vehicle for very similar dollars as it all turns out so we're basically keeping our budget the same except we're paying on new equipment. Some of our equipment's like 1987, is that right Denis?

Highway Superintendent Jordan: That is correct, even older than that.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: '86, I don't even know. That's the Fiscal Stress stuff, now I'm going to go into what you all came here for which is the budget.

Jake Colwell: This is available?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That's on the Office of the Comptroller, the Comptroller's Office has that. It came straight out of their office. This is the Tentative Budget that we're presenting here tonight. It's been handed out and available since the last meeting in September, was it the 23rd, as well as it's available tonight. Some things are being added tonight that I've been informed of, some things to be considered tonight, the Preliminary Budget will jump forward then and the Preliminary Budget will be presented in November and the Final Budget will be developed from there. What's the day in November, November...

Supervisor Dellisanti: 13th.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: 13th, thank you, Nick.

Supervisor Dellisanti: We'll have a Public Hearing and then that will be the night we vote on the permanent budget. November 13th will be; we'll announce that at the next meeting, we'll set the dates.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Like every year in a budget, we win some here and we lose some there so we're just trying to keep up with things. I'm going to go, this could be a long night so I'm going to go as quick as I can so follow along with me. If you have a question, yell it out. Real Property Tax is \$301,000, that's a slight increase in the General Fund. The General Fund, by the way the Summary page all feeds into that. Our PILOT which is what we get for SERTA mostly is \$23,000, actually last year it was \$22,665, but I heard we might have a little kickup so we stuck to \$23,000.

Richard Guthrie: Question on that, how long does that PILOT in effect, when does it expire?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I think we have six more years?

Supervisor Dellisanti: I think six more years.

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Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Interest and Penalties, we get those in from various late payments and of the like. By the way if you look at the Actual column, that was figures that were available to us in September, so basically two-thirds of the year was done, so we've extrapolated some of our experience through that date to come out to a figure that would be the budget for 2018. We put down \$17,100; Franchise Fee is \$19,000; Clerk Fees \$1,800. Garbage & Recycling \$800; some of these are small figures by the way. Go ahead, yes...

Ellie Alfeld: Excuse me. Hold on to the Recycling/Garbage & Refuse, would you explain to me why January to December 2016 you had \$34,000?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes, I can tell you that because we bought back in the '90's or '80's, we owned a part of a landfill down in...

Supervisor Dellisanti: Catskill.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Catskill and it was sold...

Ellie Alfeld: Okay that's the Catskill money.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: It was sold in 2016.

Ellie Alfeld: I remember.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: And we gained \$34,000 -- that's part of where you win some and you lose some I'll say that much. Safety Inspection fees, we budgeted \$1,700 even though we brought in \$1,735 already in 2017. Zoning Fees \$400; these are small dollars; Youth Services \$2,000.

Ellie Alfeld: I'm going to ask that you combine the Youth Recreation Services with (unable to understand).

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Well, this is income, this is not on the expense side.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, there's no way of knowing, Jeff, because your column at the top starts as Ordinary Income/Expense so it's hard to (unable to understand).

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Well, the next line says Income, just below it says Income, but when I scroll down you don't see it anymore so I understand where you're coming from. Dog Licenses, these are really small in the course of things. Building Permits, we kept it the same as last year. Permits Other, I don't even know what that is anymore. We brought our Fines & Forfeited Bail down, we're going to bite our fingernails on that, our Justices I hope are still here. They know what I'm talking from. Unclassified Revenue, that's just for odd stuff that comes in. The Employee Health/Dental Reimbursement is at \$7,350 and we had some changes in people who were participating this year, so it went down from last year of \$9,300 to \$7,500. State Aid Per Capita, that's a set figure. We've gotten \$12,603 to be precise every year for the past four years. Mortgage Tax, that's held pretty steady at \$80,000 each year. Our big check comes in November. So if you look at that, you'd say \$34,000 whoops. Comes twice a year, big check comes in November. Last year in 2016, we had \$83,000 and we had budgeted \$80,000. So we came in alright and so that's why I said \$34,000 and assuming that things are normal, it'll come in similar. In fact, last year our last check was in the \$50s -- \$55,000, \$56,000. I can't recall the amount of what that check was that came in late last year. If we get a similar check, we'll be above \$80,000. Total Revenue for the General Fund is \$576,000. Now, Town Board Personnel, the Town Board is not getting any change in their salary. It is going to remain at the same figures year after year since the beginning of time. I don't know how long back that goes. The Municipal Clerks, this includes a 1½ percent raise and will include what we discussed tonight. The Justices, that's been pretty much the same since I don't know how back far that goes, probably since the Town Board got a raise I think, you guys can tell me otherwise.

Justice Farrell: It's been a long time.

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Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Court Contractual Expense, that's the same as last year. You're on a pretty good path to spend most of it this year, you have \$5,600. Supervisor Personal Services, that's been at \$1,000 for quite awhile.

Ellie Alfeld: Question, each year I ask and each year I'm still waiting for the name of the clerk.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: We don't have one.

Ellie Alfeld: Then where's that \$1,000.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That's at the Town Supervisor's discretion.

Ellie Alfeld: So in other words he can pay somebody.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Back in 2013, we had actual dollars in there because I believe it was, was it Marjorie? Susan had hired Marjorie to be her Confidential Clerk.

Ellie Alfeld: Correct and paid it out of her salary.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: No, it was out of the Clerk position.

Councilmember VanEtten: It was \$1,000.

Supervisor Dellisanti: It was out of the \$1,000.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: There it is, look at the budget right there, there it is. I don't go beyond 2013 and I don't know what happened before that. I believe Diane Louis was for David if I'm not mistaken. So Nick hasn't hired anybody, he did have someone help him out in 2014 for \$250.

Ellie Alfeld: So that will go back in the General Fund if it's not expended.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes. The Town Supervisor's salary was budgeted the same as it was going back as you can see, \$7,925. Which is perplexing, I don't know why they...you get paid four times a year, why don't you make it an even figure? We didn't do that. Supervisor Contractual Expense \$16,000. A lot of that is our bookkeeper, bookkeeper expenses who does our payroll. Tax Collector...

Ellie Alfeld: Wait a minute, who's the auditor?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: We don't have one.

Ellie Alfeld: Well that's what I thought because I...

Councilmember VanEtten: There's no money under that.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: We don't have anything budgeted.

Councilmember VanEtten: There's nothing budgeted.

Ellie Alfeld: But why don't we have an auditor, we have a bookkeeper? Why aren't our books audited by a professional auditor? That's my question.

Councilmember VanEtten: She's a professional licensed bookkeeper.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: And that's a good question that's asked in a lot of towns. At a meeting I was at earlier with the Comptroller's office, a lot of towns do not have auditors because the cost of doing such is extraordinary.

Supervisor Dellisanti: It starts around \$10,000.

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Deputy Supervisor Ruso: And so a lot of the small towns simply don't have an auditor. I wish to say we did because I would be glad instead of some of the things we have to do, but.

Emily Wheeler: So you won't be required to with the grant you're getting for wastewater?

Councilmember VanEtten: Won't be required to what?

Emily Wheeler: Have an audit?

Councilmember VanEtten: Delaware Engineering takes care of all that.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Delaware Engineering handles all that for us.

Emily Wheeler: When I came from Vermont, every town (unable to understand) had an audit.

Councilmember VanEtten: That's not the way it works here.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I see they had \$500 way back in 2013 and that's before I got here and I don't think any auditor will do anything for \$500. Tax Collector, that's the same. Tax Collector Contractual Expense, we raised it because you had something going on.

Tax Collector Jordan: BAS Program.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: The Assessor's Office, you're going to see something different here in a moment. The Assessor's Office, the Assessor himself, the salary's the same, been that way for a number of years. The line item below is the clerks and we've had money in there for years on end, but we've changed something for this year. We have another line item which is down below, it's called Personnel. And for those that don't know, we have different people who carry on different tasks throughout the Town. For a half hour they're working for the Assessor, all of a sudden the phone rings and it's from the Building Department so I'm on the phone 15 minutes, so they're charging things throughout the day let alone throughout the week and they're charging four to five different subpayroll accounts. Well, our bookkeeper asked 'why don't you take advantage of the line item itself.' A1430 Personnel, what does that do? You don't have to have a line item for every possible thing that anyone might accidentally call Town Hall for. You don't need that. It's a lot easier for bookkeeping and so we thought about that and we complied. The Personnel that are not going to be in there are those who have, by the fact that they are Elected Officials, have their own line item. So the Court clerks would not be in this. The Town Clerks, Deputy Clerks are not in this. Neither would be the Tax Collector and certainly none of Denis' people would be in here. So these are the combination of the Planning – not the entirety of everybody's pay – but the combination of Assessor, Planning, Zoning, and Building. So that's the biggest difference you'll see in this year's budget. So no longer will we have to have four or five codes for very simple things that happen throughout a given day which I think, I know you handle a lot of that stuff, probably makes it a lot easier.

Richard Guthrie: So it is not saying that we're eliminating any positions?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Oh, no. Heavens, no. Not at all.

Chris Frey: I know the Assessor works for several other townships, obviously this is strictly for New Baltimore. How many hours is that do you know?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: About four or five or six hours give or take, is that about right?

Ellie Alfeld: Depending on...

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Sometimes he's not in at all. So I'd say maybe 400 hours a year, is that about right?

Supervisor Dellisanti: I think it's like 300 hours a year. He puts in for six every week.

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Emily Wheeler: Jeff, I have a question, too, I guess. Why do we pay somebody \$16,000 to do the payroll when every municipality I've ever audited the payroll is done in house by the Town Clerk or somebody? I've never seen it...

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: It's not just payroll.

Emily Wheeler: Well, even bookkeeping. That's always been done inhouse in every municipality. I've done audits on ten different CPA firms.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Well all I can say is that we bid that out.

Emily Wheeler: Why can't an employee of the Town that's hired or elected as Town Clerk or a position like that doing that as part of their job responsibilities?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I don't know, we've always bid this out.

Councilmember VanEtten: We've always had it outside.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: How long has it been bid out? Forever.

Emily Wheeler: Would it be cheaper, I mean what's the hourly rate you're paying the bookkeeper then?

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, we wouldn't have to pay benefits and things like that.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: It's a contract, it's not really an hourly rate. The place is called Evening Star Bookkeeping and I believe we contracted with them in 2012 or 2013; 2013 okay and it's been bid out that time when they first came in and we bid it out once since then for a three year stretch rather than done for one year so I mean it will probably be bid out again probably 2019.

Audience Member: But pretty much they do payroll and bookkeeping?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes, all the checks are written.

Supervisor Dellisanti: All the vouchers.

Justice Farrell: I have an answer to that. I asked the question probably 15 years ago. Why did we hire somebody to do all this? 1. They have the expertise where they didn't have the expertise (unable to understand). 2. In the long run it was much cheaper to hire somebody to do the payroll and the recordkeeping along with the payroll than to have it done inhouse. It was just cheaper; in the long run it was cheaper.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: You're probably right.

Rick Dubois: Because you don't pay for their insurances.

Emily Wheeler: But the Town Clerk and the Assistant Town Clerk reacts, like I said I've done ten different large cities and small municipalities smaller than New Baltimore; I've never, never had it done. It's always been the Town Clerk.

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, some of the bigger cities and towns do have..

Emily Wheeler: Well, I mean these are towns smaller than New Baltimore.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I don't know I suppose if I knew someone who was going to be a good bookkeeper I would give them a call and see...

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, it's different states ...

Emily Wheeler: I never did see such a thing.

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Councilmember VanEtten: But the bottom line is that it did save us money. Yeah, it was cheaper.

Justice Farrell: It was cheaper.

Richard Guthrie: Question on the salaries, does that include benefits?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: No, benefits are a different line item altogether; that's just for straight dollars in their pocket. There is another line item for social security and what have you.

Eileen Vosburgh: That Personnel line, is that the Assessor's clerk, the clerk for Zoning Board, and the clerk for Planning Board?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes.

Supervisor Dellisanti: And Building.

Eileen Vosburgh: Building as the CEO?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Yes.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Those are only clerical positions. Town Clerk's office is pretty much the same; Deputy Clerk that's the 1½ percent.

Richard Guthrie: I have a question regarding the Assessor, since the Assessor divides his time more or less equally between the various towns that he's assisting, is that equitable in each of the Towns?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I think it's within a range. I don't think it's that far off. It's in the \$20s everywhere else.

Councilmember VanEtten: We pay a little less than some of the other towns.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I think we're paying a little less, but I think that has to do with the number of properties.

Ellie Alfeld: But he doesn't assess.

Councilmember VanEtten: I'm with you.

Ellie Alfeld: I'll prove my point because I've come to the conclusion if he's out assessing, then you're getting a voucher for mileage from him and I've never heard you people getting a voucher about how many miles he's traveled. So that tells me he's not traveling.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Records Management, that's Diane isn't it.

Deputy Town Clerk Jordan: Yes.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Records Management Contractual Expenses.

Sharon Locke: I have question about whether some of the clerks' hours have been cut so perhaps it's difficult for them to get their jobs done in a timely manner because their hours have been cut.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: But we're not looking at that right now, we don't have a reduction due to consolidation, yes. But I don't expect anybody to really work different hours, so the answer to that is no. Records Management, Buildings Management; I'm going to go down, I don't necessarily, these are really small items like Education and Public Safety, that's when we buy a sign here and there and it's hard to say, I don't want to get bogged down on all of them, I'd like to focus on some of the big ones. This is the one I'm kind of worried about, Safety

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Inspection. This is the one where this other fellow is on and plus the Building clerk, is that still in there?

Ellie Alfeld: On this Public Safety and I understand that these buildings have to be checked every year to meet their requirements, however, we do not charge these company buildings, motels a fee for this service and I think even if it were \$25, \$100, whatever a year, it's the cost of doing business in this Town and I don't think the taxpayers should have to pay to inspect the motel that is getting \$100 a night or more.

Supervisor Dellisanti: I agree with you and I told Elliott to put together a list of new fees to do the same thing.

Ellie Alfeld: Okay, thank you.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Get a comparable to our local community places.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Correct, he's going to do a chart; I'll bring the chart to the Town Board Meeting.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: See what the differences are.

Ellie Alfeld: Good deal.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I will just tell you that I run a business in the Town of Niskayuna. We're doing an \$8.5 million project and we had to get a building permit for our project and the cost of the building permit was \$41,000 just for a permit. That's our whole budget there.

Sharon Locke: I don't know where my computer question would come in about whether we own or rent or computers. Is that under Central Data Processing or is somewhere else?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Yes.

Councilmember VanEtten: A1680.4.

Supervisor Dellisanti: The answer is yes and yes.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes and yes to answer your question.

Sharon Locke: Yes and yes what?

Supervisor Dellisanti: We rent the computers.

Deputy Supervisor Dellisanti: They're leased.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Lease the computers.

Sharon Locke: Can you tell me why the decision or how the decision was made to lease as opposed to buy computers for the Town?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Much more expensive.

Councilmember VanEtten: Much more cost-effective.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: There's a couple of reasons that I do it in my business and one is obsolescence and when one goes down, they take it away and bring me a new one. Aside from that, in our expertise my business is not computers so there's a point that that weighs in.

Ellie Alfeld: At one time we had our own computers and it got to the point to we couldn't afford to replace them.

Councilmember VanEtten: They were obsolete.

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Supervisor Dellisanti: Or repair them.

Councilmember VanEtten: So it was way more cost-effective.

Sharon Locke: Did that go out to bid and is the same company doing the servicing that does the leasing?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Yes and Yes. It went out to bid and IT in Coxsackie does the servicing as well and programming.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: 1680.4. By the way just to let you know, you see those tabs on the bottom that say Highway, Sewer; we've got a long way to go so that if I pass over something I don't want you to feel neglected, I mean some of these smaller items \$100 for Economic Development and so forth (unable to understand). You were asking questions about Youth Programs, is that correct Ellie?

Ellie Alfeld: Yes, I was.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Playgrounds Personal Service and Youth Programs, you're asking what the difference between those two lines are? The Playgrounds Personal Service is for the repair and upkeep.

Ellie Alfeld: Is that just \$2,000?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: No, the first one is Playgrounds Personal Service, that's repair and upkeep – painting of the picnic tables, touching up of this.

Ellie Alfeld: How much did you say that is?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: \$700 for this year, A7140. Now the other one is Youth Programs Personal Service, that's the other one you were worried about. That's our Parks Personnel that have worked over there.

Rick Dubois: So that's for payroll.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes, that's payroll stuff. It only runs four weeks. Is that what you were talking about Ellie?

Ellie Alfeld: I'm trying to figure out how much the youth of the Town cost us for a four-week program that seems to me to get a little bit out of hand as far as expenses are concerned.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Well, this year I think all expenses were in as of September 15, it came to \$1,598.

Supervisor Dellisanti: That's correct.

Councilmember VanEtten: And a lot of that is because we have to pay minimum wage.

Ellie Alfeld: And what about donations? What about donations that you get from the fire company towards the Park and fundraisers?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That's up in the grant that we got from the Bank of Greene County.

Ellie Alfeld: So that offsets that expense or it's neglected?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That offsets that expense.

Sharon Locke: How many children were served by the Parks Program?

Councilmember VanEtten: You know it varies a lot from day to day, but about 25 average.

Sharon Locke: 25 per day?

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Councilmember VanEtten: 20-25; it varies a lot though if it's raining we might get less children and then days that are sunny we get 25. Days that it's raining maybe 10 come, but average about 25.

Ellie Alfeld: The problem is though the only thing we really have to offer kids is District 2 Park. We have three districts in this Town and District 1 we don't get to use really that much as far as any kids having availability and now District 3, I mean up until you just gave that lease agreement out that was like a dead issue. Nobody went to District 3 Park. So all I'm complaining about is the fact that I'm in District 1, you're in District 2, alright, I don't know who's in District 3 here, but why is it that this is so central. I think we've got to include the other kids in this Town?

Councilwoman VanEtten: Well, this was the park that was most used. We had to start somewhere to redo the Park. We don't have the \$250,000 it would take to do all of them so we started with District 2, we went on the most used Park which is why we started there. It's centrally located, one that would cost less money. The other Parks actually need more repairs and things than does District 2 so we had to start somewhere.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: There's another point (unable to understand) historical. It is the most centrally-located, it's not perfect for any place, but to attract as many kids...we aren't going to have three different programs, we don't have that kind of money.

Ellie Alfeld: No, I realize that.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: So it's the most centralized Park and I'm going to say that my daughter who's 21 right now went to this Park back when she was of age.

Ellie Alfeld: And how did she get there, Jeff?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: My wife or I drove her.

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, of course, that's in a lot of towns and villages I mean I had children that had kids that live in other towns and drive them to the park. Again, we had to only start with one park and really we've gotten a ton of positive feedback from people with children about the District 2 playground and park. They love it.

Ellie Alfeld: Oh, sure. District 2 is the epitome of a good park.

Councilmember VanEtten: Right, and we spent no taxpayer dollars.

Ellie Alfeld: I want the Town's kids to have something.

Councilmember VanEtten: Well, and so do we but we couldn't again raise \$250,000 in the three years that we've had to do all the parks at once.

Richard Guthrie: Some of the towns charge nonresidents an extended fee for the use of the Town facilities. We seem to have an open policy of the term I like is equity, however, there is a certain (unable to understand) burden on the Town residents for out-of-town resident usage.

Councilmember VanEtten: So you're saying that we should charge somebody from Ravena that comes to play in the playground? And who's going to sit there and...?

Richard Guthrie: Look at Colonie. If you're not a Colonie resident you pay. It's their policy there.

Councilmember VanEtten: That's not true. I take my grandkids to The Crossings several times and we don't pay anything.

Richard Guthrie: Well it is true. I go to the facilities in Colonie on occasion.

Supervisor Dellisanti and Councilmember VanEtten: What type of facilities?

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Councilmember VanEtten: I know The Crossings is free. Bethlehem Park you don't have to pay to get in. Not The Crossing.

Many talking at once, unable to understand.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Just to let you know this is a budget conversation. Time to get us back to reality here. So now we have some of the other benefits someone had asked a question about, we have State Retirement \$32,000, that's up a little bit. Social Security is at \$21,241, that's similar. Workers' Comp, Disability Insurance, Hospital & Medication, and Interfund Highway, we have \$15,000 this year, Denis. Are you still here, Denis?

Highway Superintendent Jordan: Yes, I am; not much longer.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: You want to get to the Highway now. Well, we just got the Medway, that's a \$0, but we just got the stuff tonight so I'll be entering that in the next couple of days and that's kind of a wash. Our New Baltimore Fire District is \$422,000, they have miscellaneous income which I believe is fundraising of \$18,500 for a total budget for the New Baltimore Fire Department of \$441,000.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Back to that Personnel line item, where in this budget is the CEO and the...

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Right now it's estimated at \$14,000. You can't see it on my machine, but up here it's in red because it's very tentative and I don't have a final figure on that.

Eilleen Vosburgh: What line item is that?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Safety Inspections Personal Service.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That is Safety Inspections Personal Services A3620.1. I didn't put it in red for your sake, I put it in red for mine only because I know I need attention on that and that may very well be changed by the time it's at the Preliminary and at the Final, but that's kind of a really, I have it in as kind of an uncertain figure, my most uncertain Personal Services figure because what we talked about earlier.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Okay so you did increase that to, oh no.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That's a decrease.

Eilleen Vosburgh: That's a decrease.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That's why I've got it in red.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Once again that makes no sense to me at all.

Supervisor Dellisanti: At the time this was done we went from two CEOs down to one CEO and then we lost the second CEO. That's before this number was put in here.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Alright and once again I think it should be...

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I'm not solid on that figure, all of our conversations (unable to understand).

Eilleen Vosburgh: And then the Clerk is the second line, salary inspections?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: No, that's including that.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Oh, it's inside that \$14,000?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: The clerks only get built into that same line?

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Eilleen Vosburgh: So when I have it those three clerks – the Assessor’s clerk, the clerk for Zoning Board, and the clerk for Planning Board – it came up to \$18,144 not \$25,000. What’s the difference?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes, but the Building we’re not certain about.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Yeah, but didn’t he just say the Building was in this other line item?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: But we still have \$14,000 in the Building and that figure isn’t going to stay the same so we probably are going to do some more combination before we can fill that out.

Eilleen Vosburgh: But where’s the clerk in the \$25,000 Personnel or is it in one of those two?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Some are in both. I’ve estimated some in both lines.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Okay I’m just saying there’s a difference of \$6,856.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: To the higher.

Eilleen Vosburgh: To the Personnel.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Forgive us on this; this is a Tentative Budget line and I do expect this line item to be changed. I’m going to go to the Highway, Denis’ favorite. If you look at our total budget this year for the Highway Department, I’m going to look at Total Income. We have \$987,614, compare that to \$972,000. That’s an increase in \$15,000 from previous years and thanks and most of all part to what is it called, PAVE-NY, Denis?

Supervisor Dellisanti: CHIPS.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: CHIPS and PAVE, we’ve had an historical figure of \$14,300.

Supervisor Dellisanti: No, \$142,000.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: \$142,300 thank you.

Supervisor Dellisanti: We picked up another \$32,000.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: We picked up \$32,000 which gives us a little bit of a safety value as it relates to the other increases in expenses. That’s why this was \$15,000 Interfund Transfer we brought down from \$20,000. Wasn’t it \$20,000 last year, Denis?

Highway Superintendent Jordan: Yes it was.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That’s really the biggest differences. Property Taxes \$769,000, slight decrease from the year gone by. \$27,000 for the PILOT, we kept that the same. Consolidated Highway Earnings \$174,000. Interfund Transfer. Road Maintenance Personnel is \$264,000, it’s up about close to \$5,000. That’s with the 1.5% increase. Road Maintenance Contractual is down a little.

Ellie Alfeld: That’s \$167,000 versus \$180,000?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes, but we’re looking at, I know there’s a year to go, but we’re looking at the \$82,000 as well as a variable. The \$82,000 is not close; I know we spent a lot recently and we bought a lot of stuff.

Too many people talking at once, unable to understand.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Machinery Costs, we haven’t spent anything if you look at that line item. I think we consolidated some of this a few years ago didn’t we Denis?

Highway Superintendent Jordan: Yes.

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Deputy Supervisor Ruso: We hadn't expenditures in those line items as you can see. Machinery Contractual Expenses, it's the same figure as last year \$70,000. Brush & Weeds we consolidated that some years ago. Snow Removal, I think that portions of this year's cost on Snow Removal Personal Services are higher but if you look at the other Personal Services line item that's up above DA5110, we spent \$163,000. I think we have some cost shifting from one to the other that's substantially lower.

Ellie Alfeld: Are you talking about shifting that \$25,375 as your total when you look at \$29...

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: We're still going to budget that, but I'm just looking at this year's actual expenditures.

Ellie Alfeld: But you've already spent \$29,999.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Right.

Ellie Alfeld: That gives you what \$7-\$8,000 left and we don't know how much snow we're gonna get.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: That's where I was just talking about. We put more cost into that line item and put less cost into the other Personal Services line item. Do you follow what I'm saying?

Ellie Alfeld: You're going to come shovel my driveway or my road yeah; there's not enough money in the budget to shovel.

Councilmember VanEtten: It went up.

Ellie Alfeld: This is what he spent already.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Look at those two Personal line items. Last year was \$260,000 plus \$25,000 for a total of \$285,000. This year you look at \$264,900 plus \$25,375, so we're talking just shy of \$270,000.

Supervisor Dellisanti: \$290,000.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: \$290,000 excuse me. So in overall, staff expense is up about \$5,000.

Supervisor Dellisanti: There was a mistake in the previous calculations in the years past on the regular Personal Service line and Jeff and I corrected that.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Overall our staff spending is higher, that's what I want to make sure you understand. State Retirement, there it is again. Social Security and the biggest change in State Retirement are some of the turnover we've had in the Highway Garage. These are people in different tiers and of the like. Social Security is a little bit up. Workers' Comp, there we are. Serial Bond, there it is \$24,257 and by the way these questions below are bookkeeper's questions, she didn't know we bought our new excavator.

Ellie Alfeld: So in other words that paid off loans, payments are going to go to the excavator?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Correct.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: In 2017, our payment was \$24,500; 2018 is going to be \$24,257. Now the interest is higher, but that's always the case in the first year of the loan.

Ellie Alfeld: What kind of interest are we talking about?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: 2.1%

Supervisor Dellisanti: A little over 2.

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Ellie Alfeld: Is that a local bank?

Supervisor Dellisanti: The Greene County Bank.

Sharon Locke: What would be the reason that the bookkeeper wouldn't be aware of an expenditure like an excavator?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: At the time she wrote the check hadn't been received yet from the bonding company and certainly we hadn't handed it over to her and she hadn't written the check yet so that wasn't known at the time by her. We inserted those dollar figures that we knew of were going to come from our bond, but she didn't know.

Supervisor Dellisanti: The closing on the bond wasn't until the middle of September.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: She put this together in September and we've had some things added since then. I'll go to the Sewer Department. We've got some good things going on in the Sewer Department. We've got so much stuff going on down there. Our Sewer Rents are holding steady, actually it's a slight decrease in our Sewer Rents to \$148,000. Sewer Penalties \$1,000, that remains the same. Interest & Earnings, we put that up to reflect what we've actually received, so we have that at \$200. So, our total costs for the Sewer Department is \$149,480. This is our Expenses. Once again Administration \$10,000; we've been closing in on \$9,000 last year. This year we're not done yet, but we'll see where that goes. Sewage Treatment Plant Personal slight increase. Equipment we brought that down a little only because we had money go in for equipment and we've not had to spend it so we have a good reserve there, but we've also decided to 'let's bring down the cost to the people in the Sewer District.' Sewage Treatment Contractual, that's all our chemicals, lab values, and all those things \$30,000. State Retirement is what it is. Social Security, that's an automatic figure. Workers' Compensation, Disability Insurance, Debt Service Principal, \$46,000.

Ellie Alfeld: Is that paid off, that's why it's in red?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: It's in yellow. That was a tentative figure because we weren't sure what was coming in on that, but we've gotten more figures since then.

Ellie Alfeld: Well, they had to use the same (unable to understand) for when they paid off that bond.

Supervisor Dellisanti: That number will be rolled into the big bond when it's all said and done.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: This is what we have here is a balanced budget for this line item. Water, I don't know if anyone's here from the Water District. District 1...

Too many people talking at once, unable to understand.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: There's two districts, actually three. 9W from Ravena there's a number of homes that come down almost to Aquetuck Road.

Ellie Alfeld: To the Cemetery.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: In fact if you go there, you'll see the fire hydrants. And that's District 1. Then we're in Scheller Park, there's like 30?

Supervisor Dellisanti: 29.

Councilmember VanEtten: That comes off of Cocksackie.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Cocksackie as Jake had pointed out. So, basically they give us an estimate of where our billing is and we bill them based upon that estimate. But that figure is coming from Cocksackie and/or Ravena. There's a little small district, District 3, that serves SERTA and they basically pay the bill, the whole thing. The only place that's billed for water is District 3. And once again at the bottom of the page we've got to fix something because we

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do have debts of \$1,700 that we have to fix and I know there are some new numbers coming out.

Ellie Alfeld: Why do we have debt?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Because we have some other numbers that didn't come in yet; that will be taken care of by the Preliminary.

Ellie Alfeld: And that will only impact those people in the Water District?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Correct.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Now we're going to go to, and this one I'm actually glad about the most, this is the Street Lighting. Street Lighting you see that our budget in the last number of years has been at \$25,000, 2015, 2016, 2017. Our budget for 2018 is down \$3,000 for a number of different reasons. We're budgeting \$22,000, down from \$25,000. That's a 12½% decrease. What had happened was in 2013 there was not enough money in the Lighting District and they had to borrow money from the Town General Fund. And the amount that was borrowed was more than we took in and we had to raise it to \$25,000 to pay that debt off. Technically we're supposed to have that paid off within one year of being borrowed, but then we had an increase in 2014, we had an increase in our electrical rates, everybody did. So, we budgeted for more money, but the electrical rates went up. So, the Town wasn't paid back out of the Lighting budget. Nevertheless, it's all paid off as of this last year and now we can find a way to bring down the cost and we've actually had one more thing done. I don't know how many of you noticed, but we've had this agreement with Central Hudson since late 2014 and they're replacing our light fixtures with LEDs which use about 1/3 of the cost. Right now only 25% of our fixtures, in fact it's 26 out of 101, are LED. Every one that we replace saves us money because they don't have to be replaced for 12 years and they use less than half the electricity. We at one point had thought about replacing a whole bundle of them, but unfortunately, it cost \$400 per and we don't have \$30,000 to replace all the light fixtures. So, as they go bad, that's when we're replacing them. So, hopefully we'll see more decreases in years to come, but it's already down \$3,000.

Ellie Alfeld: Jeff, on that Lighting District 1 and 2, this is in the hamlet?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: The hamlet is 1. District 2 is out here at Kalkberg Park.

Ellie Alfeld: What about the lighting that's on like the intersection of 9W.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: There are some general lighting, various intersections throughout the Town. Very limited, I think there's like four lights on 9W and there's a few here and there. There's some at major intersections and as I read they were required by DOT.

Ellie Alfeld: And where do they come in under the Lighting District?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Should have asked that question awhile ago; that's in our General sheet that we spent an hour on, A5182.4. That's it right there, so that's where we are. Ambulance...

Richard Guthrie: Can we go back on Lighting?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Oh sure.

Richard Guthrie: Central Hudson has just put in for a rate increase on the Public Service Commission. Are you staying true with that and will it affect the proposed budget?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: I don't think so. I have read that. I know that we paid off all the debts. We're no longer in debt any longer in terms of what we owe the Town and so the Town could have let it go longer, but technically by law we're not supposed to extend a loan to any of the subordinate funds for more than one year. It actually went three years not because we wanted it to, but the Lighting District did not have the money. So now that it has the money, it paid off that bill, it was close to \$3,000, we can charge less, but I think with the LEDs that have

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been put in, we are going to start to see some reduction there as well. Now Central Hudson can blow us out of the water any day, I guess that's true. I don't know how to budget for what they might increase or might not increase, but it is certainly a worry.

Eilleen Vosburgh: So it's not included in the budget?

Councilmember VanEtten: We don't know what the rate is.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: No, it's not been approved yet.

Supervisor Dellisanti: They're still going through Public Hearings on that.

Ellie Alfeld: The Public Service Commission.

Supervisor Dellisanti: PSC.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: We have to have this done by November 15.

Richard Guthrie: Might it be prudent for the Town just to send a letter to the Public Service Commission expressing concerns about rate increases that might be passed on to the taxpayers and put the Town on record as having a position on a rate increase request?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: On one side they giveth and the other side they taketh away because they have been very cooperative with their LED replacement programming and it's been a good partnership with them and so what they giveth they taketh away. They reduce our electricity usage for which we get to have a rate increase.

Rick Dubois: They're charging you \$400 for a lightbulb.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: No, it's the whole fixture; it's more than just a bulb.

Richard Guthrie: Isn't it a capital improvement on their part rather than...it seems odd that we should be paying for their equipment.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yeah, but it doesn't behoove them to replace it. It behooves us to replace it with something that's more efficient. For one it's the right thing to do, for two they'd be glad to. If we didn't sign up for this program, they were more than happy to let us have the good old sodium vapor lights that cost us a lot more, they would just continue to put them in. It's a joint program.

Rick Dubois: I've dealt with other power companies, Green Mountain, where they charge when I was working for my hometown, they charge me \$150 a lightbulb and I went to the local hardware store looked through his book and I could get that same lightbulb identical same serial number and everything for less than half the price.

Richard Guthrie: Can you install it?

Councilmember VanEtten: Maybe in Vermont, but I don't know about New York.

Rick Dubois: Anyway so I figured I'd call them and I told them 'hey, you're screwing the municipality.' I said 'here's the deal, either you sell me the lightbulbs and we keep our business with you for the price I can get them here or you're going to lose our business.'

Richard Guthrie: That might be part of our comments that we pose to the Public Service Commission to put into their rate formula.

Rick DuBois: I understand that the whole fixture LEDs, they're not cheap. LED fixtures are very expensive, but they are improving themselves too.

Councilmember VanEtten: And that's for them to replace it.

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Deputy Supervisor Ruso: They're pushing it where in a sense you're right, the bulbs are \$179 actually. You said you can get it for less than half the price, but then of course we...

Rick Dubois: You see like at the shopping malls and stuff, you're taking about \$6-\$7,000 for just that fixture. That's not counting the pole or anything; so they're not cheap.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Well, I'm going to try and move on to the last section is Ambulance. And once again these are numbers supplied to us that we don't really get much choice on. District 1 Ambulance Services, this is the one out of Ravena; they gave us a budget of \$33,316 that we need to get from the residents in that district. They have some slight interest earnings of \$20 and they do get insurance reimbursements from people that they share with the Town. So, we get money back or have a reduction of about \$4,000 a year. Now, Coxsackie is District 2.

Eilleen Vosburgh: Doesn't that seem low, the insurance reimbursement?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Well, it does. It's a sharing thing, but I agree it seems low, but wait until you get to see Coxsackie's. Actually, the Ravena Rescue Squad does service about two-thirds of the residents of the Town of New Baltimore. Coxsackie does one-third of the residents of the Town of New Baltimore. So Coxsackie is charging \$34,000 whereas Ravena is charging \$33,000 and oh by the way, look at how much insurance reimbursement Coxsackie shares with us. They do not share a penny and you know what, by law they do not have to. And Ravena doesn't have to either, but at least they've been kinder. I don't know if \$4,000 is the right figure, I'll go along with you on that. But, it's better than zero. The only thing I'm going to say is that it's a lot of money and I wish to say it weren't. That's the Income side of things; here's the Expense side of things. There's the ALS, because that's actually part of it too, the Advanced Life Support which is the Greene County fly cars that are supportive of this; it's not all Coxsackie or Ravena. Of the \$30-some-thousand that's from Ravena, \$12,000 is Advanced Life Support. And of the \$34,000 that's for Coxsackie, that's also got the Life Support of about \$7,000. That's an estimate. Overall though we have to pull in the amount of money for which they charge us. So, we're billing the residents of the Town in taxes the same figures that are being charged per District.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Which is like \$8,000 less than last year.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes, by the way we are better than we were.

Richard Guthrie: What district are these ambulances, voting districts or is that similar to the fire districts where they are defined by different boundaries?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Similar to the fire districts.

Richard Guthrie: So there is an Ambulance District 1 and an Ambulance District 2.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Yes.

Richard Guthrie: And the administration of those districts in what jurisdiction?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: One's in Ravena.

Councilmember VanEtten: One's in Coxsackie.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: The Ravena Rescue Squad okay and the other is the Town of Coxsackie. That's their jurisdiction. The Town of Coxsackie operates their own ambulance squad.

Ellie Alfeld: And they've never been willing to share any return back like Ravena does.

Supervisor Dellisanti: No.

Eilleen Vosburgh: So Coxsackie will go all the way out to Greenville, to the Greenville part of our Town?

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Supervisor Dellisanti: That's correct.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Greenville basically the southern...

Eilleen Vosburgh: So Greenville doesn't have one out there?

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Greenville has its own.

Many people talking at once, unable to understand.

Supervisor Dellisanti: You may recall that we were trying to consolidate with Coxsackie, Greenville, and Greene County EMS, but Greenville dropped out so we're back to the same program that we're at now. Eventually Greenville will realize by spending the money in the Greenville Rescue Squad, the number is going to be astronomical. Not this year. Thank you, Jeff.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Thanks for being patient guys. It only happens once a year.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 162-2017
OCTOBER 9, 2017

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2017 EXPANDING THE
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
AND BUILDING INSPECTOR**

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore has held a Public Hearing on October 9, 2017, regarding proposed Local Law 2 of 2017, a local law expanding the residency requirements for Code Enforcement and Building Inspector, at which time the public was given an opportunity to speak regarding this proposed local law.

LOCAL LAW 2

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 20 of the State of New York Town Law the position of Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector has previously been established. The Town Board acknowledges that in the event such position is established, the appointee must be a resident of the Town unless otherwise changed by local law.

SECTION 2. The Town Board hereby determines and enacts that the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector of the Town of New Baltimore need not be a resident of the Town.

SECTION 3. This local law shall take effect immediately when it is filed in the Office of the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore does hereby adopt Local Law 2 of 2017 Expanding the Residency Requirements for Code Enforcement and Building Inspector.

Motion by Supervisor Dellisanti seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

Supervisor Dellisanti: AYE
Deputy Supervisor Ruso: AYE
Councilmember Briody: ABSENT
Councilmember Irving: AYE
Councilmember VanEtten: AYE

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 163-2017
OCTOBER 9, 2017

RESOLUTION APPOINTING HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE

WHEREAS Town Board Resolution 154-2017 authorized an advertisement for full time and part time positions in the Highway Department be placed in *The Daily Mail* for one week.

WHEREAS Highway Superintendent Jordan received the application, contacted the Greene County Sheriff for a background check, and tested the applicant successfully on the use of various highway equipment.

RESOLVED that Tavis Stuppelbeen is appointed as a Heavy Motor Equipment Operator at a salary of \$17.25 per hour for a period of six months where the salary will increase to \$18 25.

Motion by Supervisor Dellisanti seconded by Councilmember Irving

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Did we also have consideration about this person being an out of Towner?

Supervisor Dellisanti: I spoke to Tal about that. It's not a position that needs to be a law change for that. I had asked the same question because I thought if we had to do it for one, we had to do it for the other, and he said 'no, it's not the case.' This is a laborer-type position so it was okay.

Ellie Alfeld: Where's the gentleman from?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Originally from Columbia County, he's moving into the Coxsackie/ New Baltimore area. Any other questions?

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 164-2017
OCTOBER 9, 2017

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR FULL TIME
AND PART TIME HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS
FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent is seeking full time and part time heavy equipment Operators for the Highway Department.

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

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

Seeking one full-time and part-time equipment operators/truck drivers with minimum of clean and valid CDL, class B license with experience driving large trucks up to and including 10

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wheelers, snow plowing experience with large trucks with plow and wing helpful. Able to operate front end loader to load trucks as needed; perform labor like shoveling, raking, chain saw operation, brush chipping, and weed eating among others. Six month provisional; employee benefits including health insurance with 25% employee contribution; must pass pre-employment drug and alcohol testing and submit to random testing when selected. Contact Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan at (518)756-2078 Monday-Thursday between 6 AM-3:30 PM; application deadline October 20.

Motion by Supervisor Dellisanti seconded by Deputy Supervisor Ruso

Audience Member: You might want to add the area code.

Supervisor Dellisanti: We will add the area code at 518. Any other questions or comments?

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 165-2017
OCTOBER 9, 2017

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
TO PURCHASE ABRASIVES (DRY SCREENED AND WASHED)
USED IN SNOW AND ICE CONTROL UNTIL SEPTEMBER 19, 2018**

RESOLVED the Town Board hereby authorizes the Highway Superintendent to purchase Abrasives (Dry Screened and Washed) used in Snow and Ice Control per Greene County Resolution 303-17 until September 19, 2018. The Highway Superintendent will inform the Town Board of cumulative expenditures and unused balance for this product.

Motion by Supervisor Dellisanti seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 166-2017
OCTOBER 9, 2017

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR PART-TIME
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR**

WHEREAS, a vacancy has occurred in the position of Part-Time Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator in the Town of New Baltimore.

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

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
REQUEST FOR RESUMES FOR PART-TIME WASTEWATER
TREATMENT OPERATOR

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore is seeking persons interested in being appointed as Part-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. A letter of intent for the position and a resume should be sent or delivered to Town Clerk Barbara Finke at New Baltimore Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Hannacroix, NY 12087 and must be received by the close of business on October 20. All applicants must possess all current and valid license(s) from the State of New York Department of Health or any other necessary agency for sewer plant operation and all applicants will be considered and interviewed for the position.

By order of the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore
Barbara Finke, Town Clerk

Motion by Supervisor Dellisanti seconded by Councilmember Irving

Richard Guthrie: Will there be a pool of potential applicants wide enough that might have access to the Catskill *Daily Mail*. In other words, should the net be cast further and wider.

Supervisor Dellisanti: The problem is that we had to have a daily newspaper. The *Pioneer* from Greenville is a biweekly newspaper, so the closest one to New Baltimore was the *Daily Mail*. So that's why we're going with the *Daily Mail*.

Richard Guthrie: That's for official notices. Does that also have to apply to advertisements for applications for job positions?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Yes.

Councilmember VanEtten: And it's very expensive to advertise.

Richard Guthrie: And we're limited to that, we can't go beyond that?

Supervisor Dellisanti: I won't say we can't, that's what we're required to do.

Richard Guthrie: Good luck in finding an applicant then because I don't know that there's...

Supervisor Dellisanti: The person that's retired may want to come back.

Richard Guthrie: Oh, I see. Never mind.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: We might have a candidate already who lives in the Town of New Baltimore.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Any other questions or comments?

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

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TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 167-2017
OCTOBER 9, 2017

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EMERGENCY REPAIRS AT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted its Procurement Policy on January 1, 2017 concerning the procurement of goods and services

WHEREAS, Chief Wastewater Plant Operator Louis Betke discovered the flow meter was not working and had to be repaired immediately to continue proper functioning and Bullock Utilities was contacted to make the repair.

WHEREAS, due to the emergency condition of this repair and according to Procurement Policy 6 b, Section 103(4) of the General Municipal Law, this service had to be performed immediately and an alternative proposal might threaten the life, health, safety or welfare of the residents.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore approves said emergency repair at the Wastewater Treatment Plant by Bullock Utilities, Inc., Invoice No. 6595 Town Voucher No. 2017-10-38, for \$1,139.13.

Motion by Supervisor Dellisanti seconded by Councilmember Irving

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

Upcoming Meetings

- October 12, 2017 Planning Board Meeting at 7 PM
- October 19, 2017 Friends of New Baltimore Recreation at 5:30 PM at Yanni's
- October 23, 2017 Town Board Work Meeting at 7 PM
- November 1, 2017 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:30 PM (If Needed)
- November 8, 2017 Seniors Committee at 1 PM
- November 13, 2017 Town Board Regular Meeting

Ellie Alfeld: Church luncheon is Wednesday at noon, roast pork, mashed potatoes, fresh peas, and I believe it's either baked apples or apple crisp. Donation lunch.

Richard Guthrie: And that's open to all.

Ellie Alfeld: Anybody that wants to come. No age limits.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Supervisor Dellisanti: I have a couple of things I wanted to add that came in since Jeff and I put together the Tentative Budget. I received a memorandum from the Workers' Compensation Bureau PERMA the Town of New Baltimore's coverage is going up to \$12,839 from \$12,250 so we need to change that figure, Jeff, by \$589.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: Actually that is distributed between the Highway, General, and Sewer so we'll have to use our formula.

Supervisor Dellisanti: The other item that came in after we finished the Tentative Budget was the budget for the Medway Fire Department. They have listed \$194,060 as their budget, they have \$2,100 in income and interest, and the tax increase of \$191,960. So, we'll have to change those numbers as well, but that's basically just filling in the blanks.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: It's only a \$191 increase.

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Supervisor Dellisanti: No, it's not \$191, I have to look at the other budget. But I'm just saying they have income of \$2,100. The charges to the tax area, the assessed tax area, is \$191,960.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: It is what it is; I just wanted to look at it.

Supervisor Dellisanti: It's in your packet. Yes, Dick.

Richard Guthrie: It just occurs to me I'm wondering if you've heard back from Congressman Faso on the letter that you had sent our earlier regarding the potential for funding for water service in the hamlet area.

Supervisor Dellisanti: I'm glad you brought that up. I wrote letters to Senator Schumer, Senator Guillobrand, and Congressman Faso. I got a response from Congressman Faso and I met with one of his assistants in the office. I received information that, yes, they will look into possible funding. I've also had Delaware Engineering put together the new map of the area. Hopefully, I want to say before the end of the year we'll have Delaware Engineering come here and give us an update on the water system and what the costs could possibly be. They're working on that for us now, but I'm glad you brought that up, thank you.

Richard Guthrie: Thank you.

Ellie Alfeld: Is that Mary Beth working on it?

Supervisor Dellisanti: Yes, Mary Beth. She's terrific, I like her a lot. She's the one who helped with the grant.

Ellie Alfeld: She's come through with it for us for many years.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Every time, whenever we ask. Right now she's also working on possible extension to the Medway Firehouse too. They like her as well.

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE, COUNTY OF GREENE

RESOLUTION 168-2017
OCTOBER 9, 2017

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 2017-10-01 to 2017-10-40, it is

REVOLVED that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to pay claims 2017-10-01 to 2017-10-40,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will prepare an abstract and hold it for public review until November 30, 2017.

Motion by Supervisor Dellisanti seconded by Councilmember VanEtten

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

General \$4,348.16, Highway \$151,879.61, of that was \$114,000 for the excavator, Sewer 1 \$1,525.89, Sewer 2 \$31.07, Lighting District 1 \$1,697.26, Lighting District 2 \$154.17, Total \$159,636.20.

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Supervisor Dellisanti: Any other business to come before the Board? I want to thank Jeff for putting together the presentation. He's worked tirelessly with me every Saturday for the last three months plugging numbers into his computer. It's an arduous job, it's tough to put together, it's a lot of talking who wants what, who needs what, and Diane wants \$300 more for a computer program so we have to take care of that so it's a lot of conversation and I appreciate the time and effort every Saturday. Thank you. A budget is a guesstimate, you have to do the best you possibly can. We've been very good for the last three years. Hopefully the budget that was presented to you tonight will show that there is a \$3.16, it stays exactly the same which it's not going to, but it will be a \$3.16 tax reduction per thousand on assessed valuation of your house. You can do the math yourself; it's very simple. That number's going to change between now and the Preliminary Budget because we had some changes tonight which always happens, but I will give you another update on that when we do the Preliminary Budget and at the Public Hearing as well.

Richard Guthrie: Do you still have to hear from the New Baltimore Fire Department?

Supervisor Dellisanti: No, we have theirs and we just got Medway's Friday afternoon.

Deputy Supervisor Ruso: So, we've got them all.

Supervisor Dellisanti: Do I have a Motion to adjourn?

On a Motion by Councilmember Irving, seconded by Councilmember VanEtten, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Irving, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Briody

Supervisor Dellisanti: This meeting is closed. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke
Town Clerk