

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Continuation of the Public Hearing on Proposed Unsafe Building Law
September 18, 2014**

Present:	Supervisor Arthur Bassin	Councilman James Miller
	Councilman Chris Thomas	Councilman Hugh Clark
	Councilwoman Madeline Israel	Deputy Clerk Ruth Wittlinger

Supervisor called the continuation of the Public Hearing on the proposed Unsafe Building Law to order at 6:45 pm. Mr. Bassin stated that the Public Hearing had been properly advertised.

Mr. Bassin opened the meeting to the floor for comments.

Mrs. Donna Hoyt read the following comments into the record:

The way the law is structures is vague at best. There is no protection for the property owner. The law is built solely on the discretion of the Building inspector.

- *How is the building unsafe to property? (Criteria)*
- *What constitutes being abandoned (Criteria). What are the requirements for apply for a search warrant? Who and how does the "Town" determine if an engineer is necessary? (Criteria)*
- *The notice should be served only to owner of record whether business of home.*
- *How much time is given for repair or demolition.*

The building inspector should have to present reasonable evidence to the Town Board to justify hiring an engineer and the Town Board should vote on this at a public hearing as they would any other expenditure. The Building inspector is spending either Tax dollars or private owners money that can amount to thousands. Even the Highway Superintendent need Town Board approval for expenditures over \$3000.00

Where in the law does it say the Taxpayers pay for the Engineer when it is unnecessary? Who pays for engineer when only repairs are needed?

What is the criteria to determine who takes the building down? Town Employees or Contractor? Who approves this? How is the contractor selected?

Supervisor Bassin stated that he has spoken to Mr. Ferratto about definitions of terms used in this law. He also spoke about setting up guidelines and timelines for all procedures and policies.

Mrs. Hoyt asked if the town can get the exact language of the NYS Law. Mr. Bassin said the town already had it.

Mr. Jack Seiber asked about serving papers through the mail? Mr. Bassin said that is the first class mail is not returned then they are considered served.

Mrs. Hoyt asked how the town board proposes to the starting of this law. She asked if the town takes care of all the buildings at once or will there be guidelines to finding the "worst". Mr. Bassin said that the board has not gotten that far yet.

At 6:55 pm a motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to close the public hearing on the proposed unsafe buildings law. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ruth Wittlinger
Deputy Town Clerk