

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
May 17, 2018**

Present: Supervisor Arthur Bassin Councilman Hugh Clark
 Councilman David Boice Councilwoman Madeline Israel
 Councilwoman Bonnie Hundt Town Clerk Monica Cleveland
 Highway Superintendent James Miller

Supervisor Arthur Bassin called the regular meeting of the Ancram Town Board to order at 7:00 pm with a salute to the flag.

Mr. Bassin asked if there were any items on the agenda that any member of the board would need to recuse themselves from. There were none.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as read and placed on the record. Motion carried.

Supervisor's Report

1. Financial Report – No financial surprises in April. Our 1Q sales tax check was about \$72,000, slightly over the \$70,000 we had expected. General fund spending through April was about flat to last year, while Highway spending through April, excluding the \$240,000 we spent for the new grader, was also about flat to last year. Cash on hand as of the end of April was \$1,164,000. Cash projection for year-end 2018 is \$801,000, which is about \$65,000 better than budget. We currently have about \$1 million on deposit with TD Bank in their liquid investment account earning 1.5%, which is 1% more than we had been earning from BOGC

2. Tin Smith House – I have been informed by the owner that he has a buyer for the Tin Smith who plans to renovate it. If the deal falls through, the owner may still be interested in donating the property to the town.

3. Comp Plan Review Process – The Comp Plan survey is on the website, and by our 5/17 meeting should have been delivered by mail to all Ancram residents. Survey should be completed by June 1.

4. FAC Audit – FAC will complete its audit on 4/19. So far no issues have been reported.

5. Roe Jan Ramble - We have been asked to approve the Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour on September 22, 2018 as a “town sponsored event”, as we have done for the past few years. This will allow the volunteers who support the Bike Tour to be supported by the Town’s general liability insurance

6. Habitat Fees – Habitat for Humanity has requested that we waive the building permit fees totaling about \$1200 for the Ancramdale project.

7. LUCA – Bonnie Hundt and John Hoffman have started the process to update our census addresses. We have asked the county real property office for a complete list of all properties in Town by street address, and all new properties added to the list since 2000, or as far back as data is available. We are going back to 2000 to make sure that the census address files were updated for the 2000 and 2010 censuses.

8. Climate Smart Community Task Force (CSCTF) – The grant application for \$80,000 to replace incandescent lights with LEDs for town residents and to make the Town Hall more energy efficient is in final form, and will be submitted before the end of May. There is no matching requirement for the Town for this grant.

Luca - Councilwoman Hundt and John Hoffman have been going over the materials available to them. They are compiling a list of homes and addresses. They also will be obtaining an updated list of new homes from the assessor.

Volunteer Fire Service- Mr. Bassin spoke on the subject of the fire departments needing volunteers throughout the county. Councilman Boice spoke that each towns' needs are different. Mr. Bassin suggested that there be a meeting with the chiefs to talk about the issue. Mr. Boice agreed.

Board Members

Councilwoman Israel reported that the first Town of Ancram gateway sign has been installed on County Route 7. The board agreed that the “old” town of ancram zoning sign needs to be moved a few feet away from the new sign.

Councilman Boice spoke about the new speed limit on Sawchuck road. The board discussed the speeding issue throughout the town. Mr. Bassin said he would contact David Proper about hiring him at a per hour fee to control the speeding in Ancram.

Highway

Superintendent Miller reported that the roads are being graded, and the department is hauling stone for the July 9th Wiltsie Bridge Road and Woods Extension toping. On August 14th the department will be sealing. Mr. Miller announced that Route 22 will be seeing activity throughout the next few weeks during the late night hours of large loads and trucks heading towards a power plant in Dover.

Town Dump day will be June 16th.

Town Clerk

The town clerk reported that she attended several interesting classes at her town clerk conference at the end of April. The taxes collected have come in at about a 90% total. The office will be running a reading program this summer.

Camp/Pool Board

The camp and pool programs are coming together well.

CAC

The CAC read a statement concerning the Sawchuck Road/Floods issue:

Sawchuck Road Septage Disposal Complaint Follow-up and Recommendations

Background:

Several landowners on Sawchuck Road have complained about septage disposal practices on property abutting their own. This complaint was brought to the town's attention at a recent Comprehensive Plan working meeting by the landowners present at that meeting. We were asked to provide further information and recommendations to the Town Board regarding any potential associated environmental issues.

We met with these landowners and discussed the issues. Their complaints include the possible consequences of longstanding mis-use of the site including:

- * Possible chronic illegal dumping practices.

- * Possible overuse of the site for dumping including use of seasonally restricted winter dumping lagoons during the growing season and more trucks dumping than allowed.
- * Possible non-compliance of lagoon maintenance and design.
- * Possible non-compliance with DEC and Department of Health relevant permitting and regulations—including inconsistent plowing under of non-filtered, spread septage that retains solid paper waste.
- * Possible non-compliant dumping of portable toilet waste that includes chemicals used in portable toilets and solid paper waste not permitted for field dumping.
- * Inconsistent attention by the DEC to these compliance and permitting issues.
- * Resulting environmental contamination of adjacent waterways and soils due to run-off of improperly managed dumped materials.
- * Nuisance septic smells and noise from truck traffic during non-business hours.

We have identified the following potential environmental impact issues relevant to this site (cf. Natural Resources Conservation Plan, DEC maps, Trout Unlimited references):

- * Site soils are categorized as “moderately to excessively drained” therefore promoting high seep-through of the toxic dumped materials into adjacent soils and waterways.
- * Site topography and steep slopes maps indicate very steep slopes on the dump site promoting rampant erosion and run-off of the dumped material, especially during rains.
- * Site contains a stream that drains into adjacent wetlands and is a trout-spawning stream that could be easily contaminated.
- * Site contains farmland of statewide importance (i.e. exceptional agricultural soils).
- * Site contains significant biodiversity areas.

We believe that these important potential environmental impacts warrant immediate further investigation by the Town Board into the veracity of the neighbors’ complaints.

We therefore suggest the following actions:

- * Contact the DEC regarding timeliness of inspection, legality and compliance with historic and current required permitting and dumping practices—possibly request a site visit with Town Board representatives.
- * Contact the Department of Health regarding legality of current dumping practices and compliance with any required permitting as well as issues regarding smells and toxic waste matter remaining on the site.
- * Contact Trout Unlimited for further testing and monitoring recommendations regarding the trout spawning stream on the property.
- * Arrange for comprehensive testing of stream water on adjacent property to include E. Coli levels, toxic chemicals, and the usual nitrogen and phosphorus levels—as well as any other indicators recommended by the Department of Health.
- * Ask the landowners to present their complaints to the Town Board at a public meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to allow Hudsonia to complete the Bio-Diversity map. Motion carried.

Monument Committee

The committee will speak to Cantelle about estimates for the monument.

Councilman Boice reported that 911 is not interested in the Town Hall for a radio. He will continue to look into defibrillators.

Historic District

The meeting for the Ancramdale Hamlet Historic designation will be at the Ancramdale Church Hall on Saturday at 2pm.

Assessor

Town Grievance day will take place May 22 from 4-8pm.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt for the town of Ancram to participate in the Roe Jan Ramble.

Habitat House

Mr. Bassin addressed the question as to if the town board would be willing to wave the building fees for the Habitat House to keep the construction cost low. Everyone on the board was in favor of this. A motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilman Clark to allow all building fees to be waved in the construction of the Habitat House in Ancramdale. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the following Highway Budget Adjustment: \$4,000 from Fund Balance to 5130.2 Equipment for a new York rake.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilman Boice to approve the warrents and pay the bills. Motion carried.

Jamie Purinton suggested that the camp make a field trip to Scotland Farm this summer.

Councilwoman Israel asked if it would be possible to put up a small awning or a place of shade for parents who have children on the playground. The board will look into this.

Bob Blechman of the APG addressed the board concerning the Stiehle House. He said that the APG is in the process of moving the building back from the road.

There being no more buisness, a motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk