

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Regular Meeting  
June 21, 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 the board members if there were any items on the agenda they wished to recuse themselves from. There were none.

A presentation was given by the Honorable Dr. Carrie O'Hare, president of the Columbia County Magistrates Organization. She presented the town with a plaque to be hung in the town hall that named those who served as town justice.

Court Clerk Ruth Wittlinger reported that the court is running smooth and thanked the board for allowing the department to hire a court officer for DA night.

Glenda Heermance addressed the board about the traffic issues in the hamlet of Ancramdale. She asked that the board consider the increase of volume in traffic in the last few years as well as accidents and near misses. She stated that her home, on the corner of the intersection, has been almost hit on several occasions. She also said that it is a lot of traffic for the people walking, children playing and bicycles going through. She asked that the board also look into the state of the bridge. Jack Lindsey, member of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors who run food baskets out of the church fellowship hall, stated that it is a treacherous spot and people drive way too fast through there. Some suggestions were lowering the speed limit through the hamlet, putting up signs and or a blinking light. Mr. Bassin

said that he would like to contact a deputy and have them patrol during high traffic times. He also suggested looking into a local law limiting the weight limit on town and county roads.

## **Supervisors Report**

1. Financial Report – No financial surprises in May. General fund spending through May was about \$5000 under last year, while Highway spending through May, excluding the \$240,000 we spent for the new grader, was about \$5000 over last year. Cash on hand as of the end of May was \$1,137,000. Cash projection for year-end 2018 is \$824,000, which is about \$88,000 better than budget. Sales tax, Judges and Building Department are running ahead of budget. We currently have about \$1 million on deposit with TD Bank in their liquid investment account, which is supposed to go to 1.6% next week, up from 1.5% currently and compared to .5% from BOGC.
2. Comp Plan Review Process – The Comp Plan survey is done. About 340 responses. CPRC will be studying the results for the next few months and will incorporate findings in a recommended revision to the 2010 Comprehensive Plan.
3. Community Cleanup Day – Had a successful community cleanup day on Saturday. Many thanks to the Highway Department for sponsoring this event, and to the volunteers who assisted.
4. Camp/Pool Programs - The Town Pool will open July 1, and Camp starts July 9. Camp Director Sarah Mason reports that Camp is full, with 65 kids signed up. Any additional kids applying will be put on a waiting list. We have received about \$20,000 in donations to the Camp/Pool program so far...about 50% of what we hope to receive in donations to support the Camp and Pool this year.
5. 2019 Budget – We will start the 2019 budget process in July. You will see a first cut at the budget at the August Town Board meeting, and we will hold public hearings on the proposed budget at the September, October and November Town Board meetings. As we have done in prior years, I will schedule meetings with each of you individually to review any comments or questions you may have on the budget. These meetings will be in late August and early September.
6. County – The Board of Supervisors passed a law last Wednesday banning the sale and possession of sparklers. This law is intended to prevent fires and injuries.

### **Comp Plan Review**

Councilman Clark gave an overview of the progress of the Comprehensive Plan review. He stated that once the process is complete, there will be some minor tweaking to be done on the Zoning Law.

### **Camp Pool Board**

Adrine Citrin stated that the camp is full at 65 children. There are 12 4-5 year olds signed up. She remarked that Sarah has done a wonderful job. On the 30<sup>th</sup> the board and Sarah will be holding an orientation for the parents.

The Pool is set to open on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The board discussed having a small gazebo put in the back yard of the town hall near the playground for parents to sit in for shade. Town Clerk Monica Cleveland gave the board some options. The board formed a sub-committee of Mrs. Cleveland, Mrs. Citrin, Councilwoman Hundt and Councilwoman Israel to look into the purchase of a gazebo.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to allow a gazebo to be purchased for the Town Hall property with \$2500 in funds contributed by the Youth Commission and the entire project not to exceed \$10,000. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Israel will also look into shading for the playground equipment.

Councilwoman Israel is working on spots for additional gatepost signs. She also suggested having shirts and hats made up with the sign on them. Councilman Boice will look into costs for this.

### **Highway**

Highway Superintendent Miller reported that the roadsides had all been mowed. The department will be repaving Wiltsie Bridge from the bridge to 82, as well as the remainder of Woods Drive. Mr. Miller has attended Highway School in Ithaca. He also updated on the Houghtaling House removal and said that the original

company is not responding so he would like to look into other companies. Costs for the removal of the house will be around \$30,000.

### **Town Clerk**

The town clerk is ready to kick off the 2018 summer reading program.

Mr. Jack Lindsey asked Councilman Boice if, giving the news on PFO in water, the Town of Ancram Fire Department was affected. Mr. Boice stated that Ancram does not use that type of foam that contains the PFO's.

### **Habitat**

One of the two families has been selected.

### **LUCA**

Councilwoman Hundt reported that she and Mr. Hoffman are still in the process of compiling lists. The deadline is July 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Ancramdale Historic Designation**

Mr. Bassin said that 2 of the 18 homeowners in the proposed Ancramdale Historic district who attended the meeting with Bill Krattinger from SHIPO had concerns. Mr. Bassin said that if there are only one or two who do not support the historic district designation, the state may still go ahead with the designation. The next step is to send letters to the 18 property owners asking them to vote yes or no on the historic designation.

### **Buildings**

Mr. Bassin reported that the Tin Smith house has been purchased. Mr. Bassin said that there was nothing new with Porters. Councilwoman Hundt asked if there was a timeframe and she questioned that she thought the owners had been told they had a limit on when they had to report news. Mr. Lindsey said that he believed at the October meeting the owners were told they had to provide an update on their plans in a couple of months. Mr. Bassin said that he was of the opinion that the town, according to NYS and Town laws, does not have a lot of leverage to make progress on this . Mr. Bassin said he was not inclined to pay with town funds to take it down because it was not yet a threat to public safety. Councilwoman

Israel suggested that the board ask the owners for a progress report. Councilman Boice agreed to speak to the owners. Mr. Bassin stated that if the board moves forward with this, there are other properties that need to be looked at that are just as bad and that the town cannot be selective. Mr. Bassin said that if the town was going to expend money they needed to have an engineer assessment done on all derilict buildings in town. Councilman Clark also suggested looking at the NYS Building code with Mr. Ferratto.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Boice to make the following budget adjustment:

To account #1620.41 Propane (\$401.00) and 1910.4 Insurance (\$950.00) from the Fund Balance: \$1351.00.

Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland  
Ancram Town Clerk