

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Regular Town Board Meeting  
September 18, 2014**

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

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

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the August 21 public hearing and town board meeting minutes and have them placed on record. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassin introduced Mr. Avery Heath and stated that Mr. MacArthur had chosen Mr. Heath to serve as his deputy Highway Superintendent. Mr. Heath is attending the meeting in Mr. MacArthur's absence. He is at a conference.

**Fire Chief**

Mr. Boice reported the following:

- The calls have been slow.
- The annual fund raising Lobster and Beef BBQ will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2 pm. They will be participating in the Annual Fire Prevention Day at Taconic Hills.

**Town Supervisor Report**

**Town Issues**

**1. Financial Report** - We ended August with \$673,000 after prepaying the full \$288,000 outstanding principal and interest on the garage loan. We should end the year with about \$560,000 in the bank. Overall, we are still tracking close to the budget. The only issue is the timing of CHIPS highway reimbursement money from the State. We have spent about \$152,000 on CHIPS projects so far, and usually would be reimbursed in September or October...but this year Jim MacArthur indicates we may not get our CHIPS reimbursement until December or January.

**2. 2015 Tentative Budget** – We will hold a public hearing on the Tentative 2015 Budget on 9/18 at 6:30. Taxes are budgeted to remain flat in 2015. There are several uncertainties in the budget that we will clarify over the next few months, including the cost of the retirement program, health insurance and property and liability insurance. Preliminary indications are the cost of our insurance policies may increase by under 10%, while our retirement program costs may actually decrease.

**3. Public hearings** - We will holding four public hearings on 9/18:

- Consolidated Zoning Law – 6 pm
- 2015 Tentative Budget – 6:30 pm
- 414 Library Tax Disclosure Law – 6:45 pm
- Continuation of Unsafe building Law - 6:50 pm

**4. Unsafe Building Law** – I have asked Building Inspector Ed Ferratto to give the Town Board a preliminary list of properties that may be subject to the proposed Unsafe Building Law, and to provide

background on these properties related to previous efforts at enforcement. I will be recommending that we wait for this report before we consider the unsafe building law for adoption. I am also concerned that most recent draft of the law we got from Jason Shaw does not have any provision for a Town action other than demolition. We need to review that, and provide for less drastic measures when appropriate.

## **County Issues**

- 1. Airport** - FAA has indicated they will approve the reclassification of the County Airport to B II to D II, which effectively reduces the required length of the runway safety area from 1000 feet to between 300 and 600 feet, which we can achieve on county owned land for under \$300,000..
- 2. Pine Haven** – Nothing new of substance to report. We expect proposals from private operators who may be interested in buying the nursing home by the end of October.
- 3. Department of Public Works** – The County has started a discussion on the future organizational structure and job description of the Commissioner of DPW, who currently oversees the County Highway Department, Solid Waste, Engineering and the County Airport. The 4 year term of the current DPW Commissioner ends early in November. Unfortunately, the County has not done a review of the challenges facing DPW over the next 5-10 years, and has not developed a “plan” which would define the resources, organizational structure and leadership needs of the County to deal with the county’s infrastructure. Making any organizational or leadership changes prior to “getting the facts” on what is needed seems premature, but regrettably, consistent with prior County decision making practices.

## **Town Board Comments**

Councilwoman Israel stated that the Roe Jan Ramble will take place on September 20, 2014. The group is looking for volunteers to run a table at the Town Hall from 10am to 1pm.

## **Town Highway**

Deputy Heath stated that the department is getting ready for the coming winter months.

Mrs. Hoyt asked if the highway department will be fixing the area on Carson Road that has washed. Mr. Heath said that it will be repaired by year end and that this spot will be placed on the culvert pipe survey and mark it for replacement.

## **Town Court**

Ruth Wittlinger stated that the court offices are getting new credit card terminals. At this point OCA will no longer pay the discounted rate to run the machines. The rate will now be paid by the defendant if he/she chooses to use the card for payment. She stated that the office is almost done with the records management project. This will free up much storage space.

## **FAC**

The FAC met last Saturday.

## **Planning Board**

They are meeting on a site on East Ancram Road.

## **Youth Commission**

The camp and the pool have both been closed down for the season. From the budget fund, there is \$4000 left. Mr. Boice would like to put that money into fencing and deck work.

## **CAC**

The CAC will give their presentation on Saturday.

## **ZRC**

They are moving forward on the new consolidated zoning law based on the public hearings.

## **Ag Advisory Council**

They will begin working on the right to farm law next year.

## **Heritage Resources**

The committee is looking to raise \$5000 to \$7000 to do some fence work on the Free Ground cemetery as well as to right some fallen headstones. They will also put \$1500 into Union Cemetery for the same items.

## **Building Management**

The Building manager has given the Town Board the following bid notice:

The Town of Ancram is accepting bids on the following Ancram Town Hall Snow Control Services. Specifications are as follows. The parking area will have the snow plowed as well as salt applied. The sidewalk will be shoveled and ice melter applied. These areas will be determined by the Building Superintendent. The plowing and shoveling need to be completed before 8 am, Plowing and shoveling will be done for any storm for which there is an inch or more of accumulation. If a storm continues during the day the plowing and shoveling may need to be repeated. On days that the storm continues, when there is a meeting/event scheduled the parking area and sidewalk will need to be redone before the meeting/event. The contractor will need to plow and shovel each evening between 4 and 6 pm for public meetings and sheriffs patrol if necessary. The contractor will be furnished with a meeting and event calendar. The contractor may be contacted to remove snow at anytime for arraignments for Town Court. Ice melter and/or sand will be applied to the parking area and sidewalk if freezing rain or sleet occur as well. The parking area will need to be pushed back so that full parking capacity is available. Salt or an ice melting product will be applied to the parking area. An ice melter, that will not harm concrete or any plant or rugs, will be used on the sidewalks. Contractor will be responsible for snow removal from November 15, 2014 to April 15, 2015 .Contractor may bid on a one year, three year or five year term. Contractor will provide a price for the above services and materials. Contractor has to provide Certificates of Insurance for General Liability and Workers Compensation with \$1 million dollar coverage and \$2 million aggregate for the working season. Bid will be given for the cost of entire season and will be broken down into 4 monthly payments, December thru March. Town has the right to cancel the contract for unsatisfactory performance which will be determined by the Town Board at its sole discretion. Bids are due no later than Saturday October 11, 2014, and will be accepted at the Town Clerks office during regular business hours Wed, Thurs 10 am to 2 pm and Sat 9:30 to 12 noon. Town Board will review bids at the regular Town Board meeting on October 16, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Bassin stated that Mr. MacArthur feels strongly that the town highway department does not do the plowing at the town hall. When its snowing, its more important to have the highway department out plowing roads, not the town hall parking lot.

Councilman Clark felt that whenever possible we should have this kind of work outsourced.

Councilwoman Israel stated that she agreed with Mr. Clark.

Councilman Miller said that he has no opinion on the subject.

Councilman Thomas stated that since Mr. MacArthur is going to be out after surgery, then this will need to be outsourced.

Donna Hoyt questioned if Mr. MacArthur is going to be out, who will be covering for him. Mr. Bassin said he will be on the job but unable to do physical work.

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Clark to accept the specs on snow plowing. Motion carried.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption by roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution #15 of 1014: Adopt Local law # 1 of 2014 – Separate Listing of Library Taxes on Property Tax**

**Bill:** Whereas, the Roe Jan Community Library has indicated its intent to hold a referendum of Ancram voters to approve a \$30,000 annual payment to the Library to support its operations, and whereas the Ancram town Board has determined it is in the best interests of the taxpayers of the Town of Ancram to be aware of the amount being raised in taxes for the Roe Jan Community Library, and whereas Local Law # 1 of 2014 was submitted to the Ancram Town Board for their review on 8/21/14 and to a public hearing on 9/18/14, therefore it is resolved that the Ancram Town Board adopts Local Law # 1 of 2014 authorizing the County Columbia to separately itemize taxes collected on behalf of the Roe Jan Community Library under Chapter 414 of the NYS Law on the Town of Ancram property tax bill, and instructs the Ancram Town Clerk to file this local law with the Secretary of State and post it as required by law.

The following Highway Budget transfer was offered for approval by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion carried.

TO: 5112.2 (Chips) \$48,000, 5130.4 (Machinery) \$17,000, 5142.4 (Snow Removal) \$5,200  
FROM: 5110.4 (General Repairs) \$39,000, 9010.8 (State Retirement) \$9,000, 5110.4 (General Repairs) \$17,000, 5110.4 (General Repairs) \$5,200.

The following General Budget transfer was offered for approval by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion carried.

TO: 1620.4 (Building, generator, paving) \$6,000, 7020.1 (Kids Camp Staff) \$3,200.00  
FROM: Fund Balance \$6,000.00, 7310.1 (Pool Staff) \$3,200.00

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to 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,

Ruth Wittlinger  
Deputy Town Clerk