

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
September 18, 2014
Public Hearing 414 Library Tax Bill Disclosure Law**

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

The public hearing was called to order by Supervisor Bassin at 6:31 pm, who stated that the hearing had been properly advertised in the official papers.

Mr. Bassin explained that the local law will allow a separate line item on tax bills to disclose the amount of money collected for the library.

Mrs. Donna Hoyt asked why this has to be paid by the property owners. She asked why it cannot be paid by other non property tax revenues.

Mr. Bassin stated that it will come from town money whether it is a line item on everyone's bill or a part of the town budget, it will still get paid by tax dollars. If it is paid separately by taxpayers it will not affect the 2% tax cap.

Mrs. Hoyt stated that there was already a fire district and a lighting district. Now, she stated that there will now be a library district. She asked also about the rescue squad money. Mr. Bassin noted that when the rescue squad money was moved to the county, the town tax bill was reduced by that amount, and if the referendum is approved, the \$5000 paid through the town budget could be eliminated, and town taxes reduced by \$5000.

Councilwoman Israel said that because the town currently pays the library \$5000 from the town budget, the proposed increase would be \$25,000 and if this was a budget item, \$25,000 more would need to be added to the budget via taxes to come to the level of what would be raised with the levy.

Jane Plasman asked how Copake and Hillsdale handle this issue. Mrs. Israel answered that they had accepted the 414 referendum and it is now a line item on their bills.

Gary Delimeester asked if the \$30,000 amount stay the same indefinitely. Mr. Bassin answered that if the library wanted to raise the amount, they have to have another referendum vote.

Councilman Thomas asked if anyone knew how many people from Ancram use the library. Councilwoman Israel stated that there was an 80% increase of cards with the new building and that Ancram has around 600 cards.

Supervisor Bassin asked the Board if they wanted to disclose the proposed \$30,000 library tax on the town tax bill or leave it in the budget?

Councilman Thomas felt he wanted to know how often Ancram residents used the library. Councilwoman Israel stated that she can get this information.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel at 6:52 pm to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ruth Wittlinger, Deputy Town Clerk