

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
August 18, 2016**

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

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

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and have them placed on the record. Motion carried.

Fire Chief

Mr. Boice said that so far it has been a slow year thus far. The department will be having their annual lobster and beef dinner on October 8th. The department placed 2nd in the convention parade. Mr. Boice and Mr. Bassin attended a meeting concerning the obtaining of volunteers for the departments in the County. There is a concern about the shortage of young volunteers.

Supervisor Report

Town Issues

1. Financial Report – July was another “normal” financial month. For the seven months ending July 2016, we have spent about \$150,000 less than through July 2015. The Highway Department accounted for the entire \$150,000 “savings”, caused by less spending for fuel, snow removal and repairs. Jim expects he will “catch up” over the next few months and will come in pretty close to the full year 2015 actual expense and 2016 budget by year end. We currently have about \$1.2 million of cash on hand.

2. Year-end Cash Projection – No changes. We should end the year with about \$800,000 in cash. Over the next few months we will spend about \$470,000 on the Town’s infrastructure - \$170,000 on road repair work and \$300,000 on culvert repairs. NYS will reimburse us for about \$390,000 of the \$470,000. Our net cost will be about \$75,000, related to the culvert replacement grant. We have to spend the money for these projects before the State will reimburse us, so our cash position will drop to about \$400,000 over the next few months, before bouncing back to the \$800,000 level by year end.

3. Culvert Project – Pats Rd. culvert replacement project begins August 15, and should take about 2 weeks. We are starting two weeks later than expected. Hall Hill will probably start after Labor Day.

4. Oil/Water Separator – Still waiting for DEC approval.

5. Parcel adjacent to Town Garage – This .54 acre parcel has been taken over by the County in a tax foreclosure. County has offered it to Ancram for \$2500, and the Tb approved this purchase last month. No new news on the timing of this transaction.

6. TH Wireless Smoke, Gas, Carbon Monoxide Detectors – We have a \$6000 proposal for the Highway Garage and a \$1000 proposal for the Town Hall. Jim Miller and I should have a recommendation by the 9/15 TB meeting.

7. Camp/Pool – We extended camp for a week to 8/19. Donations this year totaled \$25,000, about \$10,000 higher than expected and last year. Pool and Camp costs are expected to come in at about \$50,000 this year, about \$5,000 higher than the budget, but covered by our \$10,000 increase in donations.

8. 2017 Town Budget – We will briefly review the draft 2017 Tentative Budget at the 8/18 TB meeting. We will hold a public hearing on the Tentative Budget prior to the September TB meeting. The draft Tentative Budget indicates a tax levy that is flat to 2016 with a \$15,000 increase in the contingent account. As we learn more about our “uncontrollable” costs (health, property and liability insurance and the state retirement fund), and work our way through a review of salaries, the numbers will move around a bit, but as in the past 6 years, I think we should be targeting a final tax levy that is a percent or so under 2016.

9. County Issues – 2017 County budget process has started. 2017 target is for a tax increase that is under the .68% State budget cap.

Board Members

Councilman Clark and Councilwoman Israel gave thanks to Superintendent Miller and the highway crew for the work that has been done by the department.

Highway

The highway department had solicited bids for a 2017 regular cab 5500 4x4 truck 84” CA. Mr. Miller stated that two bids were received and were on file at the Town Clerks office. Mr. Miller suggested that the board accept the bid from Sawyer Motors for a 2017 Ram 5500 4x4.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilman Thomas and moved for adoption. Motion carried.

Resoluiton #37 of 2016: Purchase of 1 Ton Dump Truck - Resolved, that the Town Board accepts the bid of Sawyers Motors, Saugerties, NY for a 2017 Dodge Ram one ton truck equipped as specified in the Technical Specification which was part of the Town of Ancram RFP published July 28, 2016, and authorizes the Highway Superintendent to purchase the specified truck for a cost not to exceed \$65,000.

Mr. Miller reported that the department has paved 1.3 miles of road this year and sealed 9.25 miles.

Following the completion of the culvert project the department will work on the road in front of the Sommerhoff farm. Mr. Miller there was a small snag in the culvert project due to the needing of a crane for the footings.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to allow the Highway Superintendent to put on the Auction International Site a sander, a dump body and a lawn mower. Motion carried.

Town Clerk

The shredder barrels for the KISS program will be back at the town hall for the first two weeks of September.

Climate Smart Task Force

Mr. Dembo announced that there is a gentleman, Derek Porter, interested in being a member and is considering being a joint chair if there is someone who would share the responsibilities with him.

CAC

Mr. Bassin stated that he has been informed that Elizabeth Gilmre will be donating a tract of land contiguous to the CLC round Ball mountain area.

Councilwoman Israel at this time asked if the fire company is reimbursed for alarm activations. Mr. Boice said that there is a lot of paperwork for this and that any money collected goes to the County and not to the town fire department.

BAR

There have been three applications for the open seat. They are Steve Olya, Bob Mathers and Bob Podris. Mr. Bassin suggested that the three be interviewed before the September town board meeting. Councilwoman Israel and Councilman Boice said that they can represent the town board at the interviews. Councilman Thomas will attend as well if his work schedule allows it.

Town Signage

The company that Mrs. Israel had been using moved, so she contacted a company recommended by Stacy Moore. She showed three preliminary designs. Councilman Clark had concern with including a photo on the sign and that people traveling by will not have the time to see it. Councilman Boice asked that Mrs. Israel bring a design without the photo to the next meeting. She said that she can do that. She stated that with the suggested building materials, the signs will come in at around \$800 each.

Mr. Bassin stated that the Charter- Time Warner merger has been completed and as a condition of the merger the combined company is required by NYS to provide 100mbs broadband to all customers using Charter cable within 2-3 years.

The Hall Hill Free Ground Cemetary fencing has been completed and will be painted in the fall months.

Mr. Bassin stated that he has been discussing with Laurie from Technology 4-all the current situation with the TownofAncram.org website engine host being past its useful life. She has begun the process of migrating out information to a new engine, Word Press. Once completed, the board and committees will have the opportunity to look at it and make changes or suggestions.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Clark and moved for adoption. Carried unanimously.

Resolution #38 of 2016

2017 Tentative Budget Public Hearing – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board will hold a public hearing on the 2017 Tentative Budget at 6.45 pm on September 15, 2016 at the Ancram Town Hall, 1416 CR 7, Ancram NY 12502, to solicit public comments on the 2017 Tentative Budget, and it is further resolved that the Ancram Town Clerk will publish a public notice announcing this public hearing in the Town’s official newspapers.

The following budget adjustment was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilman Thomas and moved for adoption. Motion carried.

Highway Budget Adjustment to 5130.4 Machine Repairs to 5110.4 Repairs: \$15,000.00

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Thomas to approve the August Warrant. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Boice 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;

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk