

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
July 21, 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 regular meeting of the Ancram Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Bassin at 7:00 pm with a salute to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Boice to approve the minutes of the last meeting and place them on the record. Minutes passed unanimously with Councilwoman Israel abstaining due to her absence from the last meeting.

Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Boice said that the Public Hearing and vote had been held for the proposed new fire truck bond issue. The vote passed 30 to 2. Mr. Boice stated that the Ancram Fire Company will be taking part in the Fireman's Convention in Niverville on July 30th.

Supervisors Report

Town Issues

1. Financial Report – June was another “normal” financial month. For the six months ending June 2016, we have spent about \$100,000 less than through June 2015. The Highway Department accounted for the entire \$100,000 “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 2015 actuals and 2016 budget by year end.

2. Year-end Cash Projection - I have updated the attached 2016 cash projection chart. We have identified \$499,000 of revenue risks and unbudgeted projects, including the \$275,000 culvert project and a new \$71,000 dump truck, offset by \$485,000 of unbudgeted savings and revenues. Net, net, our cash at year end 2016 is projected to come in at \$797,000, \$14,000 under the \$811,000 originally budgeted amount. As you recall, the TB has established a policy that requires the Town to maintain about \$800,000 of cash reserves at year end, so we are “in the ballpark”.

3. Culvert Project – Project will begin the first week of August and is scheduled to be done by the end of the first week of September.

4. Right to Farm Law – We will consider this local law for adoption at the 7/21 TB meeting. We received the County Planning Board “no objection” letter last week.

6. Highway - Jim Miller proposes we buy a 1 ton dump truck. He will fund it with internal budget transfers from road repairs. Jim also proposes we give the highway crew an

annual uniform allowance rather than paying an outside supplier for uniform services. Jim's proposal will save the Town almost \$2000 annually. Still waiting for DEC approval for the garage drain oil/water separator.

7. 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.

8. TH Wireless Smoke, Gas, Carbon Monoxide Detectors – Have contacted Vector at David Boice's suggestion. They will be giving us a proposal for the TH and Garage. Discovered we do not have any smoke detectors in the utility rooms, where we are most likely to have a fire start.

9. Camp/Pool – Signups for camp are at about 65 kids, double last year. Actual attendance during the first two weeks was about 55. I am recommending we give the Camp Director and the Head Lifeguard a \$1 increase over the \$17.75/hr budgeted for this year to recognize the increased complexity and responsibility involved with organizing and running our expanded pool and camp activities. We have received \$23,500 in donations for the camp and pool, \$8500 more than \$15,000 in camp/pool revenue we had budgeted for 2016.

County Issues

1. Pine Haven - Sale was completed June 30. County received about \$8 million in purchase price and receivables, paid the buyer about \$3 million in management fees and netted about \$5 million. The County expects to receive a net of about \$3.5 million in IGT money from NYS over the next few years related to the 2013-2016 period.

2. Broadband - County has appointed a broadband committee to work on improving broadband around the County.

3. CGCC – County has appointed a Committee to work with the Community College on a long term plan.

Mr. Bassin stated that the 2017 town budget process will begin in September.

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

Resolution # 33 of 2016: Right to Farm Law - Whereas, the Ancram Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2010 and the Ancram Farmland Protection Plan adopted in 2011 both recommended adopting a local Right to Farm Law, and

Whereas the Agricultural Advisory Council has developed a draft Right to Farm Law which has been reviewed by the Town of Ancram Conservation Advisory Council, the Columbia Land Conservancy and the NYS Department of Ag and Markets, and

Whereas the draft Right to Farm Law was reviewed at a public hearing on April 21, 2016, and

Whereas the Columbia County Planning Board has reviewed and approved the proposed Right to Farm law, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board declared itself Lead Agency and conducted an environmental assessment according to SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, after consideration of the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part I and Part II, finds that the adoption of the Town of Ancram Right

to Farm Law, as described in the Negative Declaration (Part III of the Full Environmental Assessment Form and the narrative provided for Section F of the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part I) will have no adverse environmental impacts as per 617.7 of 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQRA),

Therefore it is Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board adopts Local Law #1 of 2016, the Town of Ancram Right to Farm Law, and instructs the Town Clerk to immediately file this local law with the NYS Department of State, to post copies of this Local Law on the Town web site and at the Town Hall, and to file a copy of this adopted Local Law with the County Planning Board.

Town Board Members

Councilman Clark reported that he attended a seminar on solar training and had found it very good and educational. He said it was worth attending.

Highway

Superintendent Miller reported that the culvert project will begin the first week of August. Pat's Road will be closed and detoured. Signs will begin going up soon.

On August 2 and 3rd the town will be sealing Hall Hill and East Ancram.

Mr. Miller asked for approval to solicit bids for a one ton dump truck. He explained that the town has 17 dead end roads that have to be maintained and that the ten wheel trucks cannot turn around on these roads. Mr. Miller expected that this would be a well used truck as it will be utilized when the larger trucks are not needed.

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

Resolution #34 of 2016 Authorization to Allow the Highway Superintendent to Solicit Bids of 1 Ton Dump Truck - Resolved, that the Highway Superintendent is authorized to solicit bids on a 1 ton dump truck. Bids will be opened and rejected or approved at the next Town Board Meeting.

Mr. Miller reported that the grader has been returned following repairs to its motor. Mr. Miller said that the repairs were less expensive than expected.

Mr. Miller provided each board member with the road and vehicle maintenance reports for the last six months.

Mr. Miller informed the board that the town's uniform company has given notice that they are no longer servicing this area. The town paid \$2400 for 6 months of uniform services. Mr. Miller proposed that instead of finding a new company, the men could receive a clothing allowance. They currently have Town of Ancram shirts and jackets. This will come at a savings of \$1800 with each man receiving an allowance of \$700 a year. Councilman Thomas suggested that this be a reimbursement process where the men will turn in their receipts. Mr. Bassin will discuss this with the town accountant.

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

Resolution #35 of 2016: Highway Uniform Allowance – Resolved, that highway department members will be reimbursed \$700 per year, with employees given the allowance of \$350 for the remainder of 2016, for uniforms, uniform cleaning and work boots, and that the Highway department will discontinue using the uniform service. Employees will be required to present receipts to the Highway Superintendent to receive reimbursement.

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

Resolution #36 of 2016: Pave NY Appropriation: Resolved, the the Highway Superintendent is authorized to apply for \$31,629.44 in Pave NY funds available to the Town of Ancram, and is authorized to implement highway improvement projects not to exceed the amount that will qualify for reimbursement under the Pave NY program.

Communications Committee

The committee is continuing to work on the entrance signs for the town. The Board decided to table this until next month.

CAC

The CAC has weeded the playground.

Assessors Office

Clerk Cleveland reported that the department is continuing to work on the filing project.

Building Department

The zoning officer has condemned a property on Cottontail Road.

Building Manager

There is a leak in the ceiling in the assessor's office that needs attending to. Mrs. Cleveland also asked if it would be possible for the CAC to again trim the birch trees along the building as they are making it hard to park under them.

Camp Pontiac

The application for Camp Pontiac to put herbicides in the lake has not yet been approved, and the company who was applying for the Camp has apparently quit.

Cell Survey

The results of the cell survey shows that AT&T has much better coverage in this area. More details to follow.

Freerground Cemetary

It is reported that the completion of the fence should happen by the end of the month.

BAR Member

There have been two applications for the vacent seat on the BAR.

Security/Alarm System

Mr. Bassin met with the Vector Co0mpany and they stated that they are not interested to bid on the Town Hall system as they felt they could not offer a better price than A&R, the current company. Mr. Miller met with A&R and Vector and said he received a quote of \$4300 for fire and smoke and \$1800 for a camara on the fuel tanks.

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

Resolution #37 of 2016: Camp Director & Head Lifeguard Compensation – **Whereas**, the number of kids attending the Ancram Kids Camp and using the Ancram Pool is expected to be double the number from last summer, and whereas the planning, coordination and supervision of programs and activities is significantly more complex this year than last, **therefore**, in recognition of the increased complexity and responsibility involved in the Camp Director and Head Lifeguard positions, it is resolved that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to increase the per hour compensation of the Camp Director and Head Lifeguard by \$1 to \$18.75, effective retroactive to the beginning of the 2016 camp and pool seasons.

Mr. Bassin stated that the Town has the opportunity to purchase the property adjoining the Town Garage property. Mr. Bassin said that there are quotes of \$11,000 and \$14,000 to take down the current house and trailer. Mr. Bassin figured the town employees could do it for half the cost. Mr. Bassin was assured by the Building Inspector that an asbestos survey will not be required on a residential property.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption by roll call vote. All voted yes except for Councilman Thomas who voted no.

Resolution #38 of 2016: Parcel adjacent to town garage – **Whereas**, the County of Columbia has foreclosed on a .54 acre property adjacent to the Town Garage in Ancramdale (tax map number 102000 220.1-1-17), and whereas the Ancram Highway Superintendent has recommended that the Town acquire this parcel, and whereas the County has indicated they would sell this parcel to the Town for \$2500, **therefore**, it is resolved that the Town Supervisor is authorized to purchase this parcel from the County for \$2500.

The following budget adjustment was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Thomas and moved for adoption. Carried unanimously.

To Fund Balance: \$42,000; From: 5142.4 \$26,000 and 5140.4 \$16,000.

To: 5130.2 \$73,000; From: 5110.4: \$73,000
To: 5112.2 \$31,629.44; From: Pave NY \$31,629.44

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the warrants and pay the bills. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk