

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
March 17, 2016**

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

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

Mr. Bassin introduced Doug Clark of Ryan Biggs/Clark Davis, engineer for the culvert project. Colleen Lutz informed the board that while three major culverts were singled out to be replaced, at this time they have been narrowed to two, one on Hall Hill and one on Pats Road. Permits requests have been submitted to DEC for approval. Mr. Clark showed preliminary designs of the proposed culverts. The culverts will be three sided concrete structures and almost similar to a small bridge. They will give 25% more flow when the water is at its highest point. For a six foot stream there will be an allotment for a twelve foot flow. The culverts will be a three sided box that will sit on footings with concrete risers and a top. A bid will need to go out for the detail, design and delivery of the culverts.

Mr. Boice asked how the company plans to divert the stream. Mr. Clark said that they will use a dewatering plan. They plan to place a temporary pipe which they can then pull out after the work is done. They may use a pump with a coffer dam as well.

Mr. Boice asked how long the proposed closing of the roads will last. Mr. Clark said anywhere from a week to four weeks for the project, Four weeks start to finish on the project with one to two of those weeks the road being closed. This all depends on equipment.

Mr. Boice asked about the dry hydrant that is located in the area. Mr. Clark said that this will be relocated and the Fire Company notified.

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

Resolution #16 of 2016: Culvert bids – Resolved, that the Town Supervisor working with the Culvert Committee and Ryan Biggs/Clark Davis is authorized to solicit bids for the detailed design, construction and delivery of concrete box culverts for Hall Hill and Pat's Roads to replace existing culverts as part of the culvert grant project.

A motion was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to approve the February 18, 2016 minutes as read and placed on the record. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Comments

Mr. Boice said that the department has been busy with 12 calls in the last month. They have had calls about out of control burns. Mr. Boice reminded people that the burn ban runs from March 15th to May 15th. In April there will be a recruit New York drive.

Supervisor's Report (Submitted to Town Board 3/13/16)

1. Financial Report – February was a normal month. We received the \$70,000 sales tax payment for the 4Q15 from the County. With this sales tax cash, our cash reserves currently are about \$880,000. We also have about \$50,000 in budgeted contingency and revenue opportunities. We have identified some unbudgeted capital projects that we should probably do this year, including up to \$25,000 for the garage oil/water separator system, about \$50,000 to \$60,000 for highway equipment (new dump body for plow truck, new sander for pickup, roller), that Jim Miller will discuss on Thursday, and up to \$50,000 in pool area improvements (paint, new fixtures & new lights for bathroom/changing room, new fence, blacktop around pool) that David Boice will be presenting for our consideration. Assuming we invest \$125,000 in these capital projects this year, we are likely to end up with reserves of about \$800,000.

2. Culvert Project – Collen Lutz and Doug Clark of engineering firm Ryan Biggs/Clark Davis will review progress on the culvert project and outline our plan going forward. We have decided to replace three major culverts – on Pats Rd, on Hall Hill by CR 7 and on Snyder by Wiltsie Bridge. It is unlikely we will have funds for all three within our \$220,000 grant, so we are starting to look for additional grant money, and may only be able to do one or two this year, based on how the bids come in. We plan to send all three locations out for bid by the end of the month.

3. Lighting District – The process required to disband the Lighting District and allow the Town to take over paying for lighting district costs related to the 24 street lights in Ancram appears to involve a petition from a majority of members of the LD to disband, and a referendum by the Town to accept lighting district costs. Once the Town has taken over LD costs, Town could reduce number of lights in the LD, which LD members may object to.

4. Climate Smart Community – Climate Smart Community task force will be appointed at April TB meeting. People interested in serving on this committee should contact me or Jane Meigs, who has agreed to serve as chair of the CSC TF.

5. Right to Farm law – Revised version of RTF law eliminates Town role in the dispute resolution process, and recommends use of NYS Ag & Markets mediation service. Public hearing will be scheduled prior to April TB meeting, and a joint Ag Committee-CAC-CLC meeting is set for April 4 to review RTF law, among other things.

6. Highway Garage Drain – Tank has been pumped out. Contamination testing is being scheduled. DEC discharge permit for oil/water separator has been applied for.

7. Emergency Management Plan – I have asked Jim Miller and Dave Boice to assist me to formalize a Town Emergency Management Plan.

8. Upcoming events:

Community Cleanup Day - May 7, 9 to 1...details to follow

Kids Summer Camp – July 5 to August 12...details to follow

9. County Issues:

-BOS passed a resolution supporting the “Raise the Age” bill being considered in Albany to raise the age of adult criminal responsibility from 16 to 18.

-Pine Haven sale could close in April or May.

Highway Department

Mr. Miller reported that the department has begun the spring road work as well as cutting trees and brush to get ready for the culvert project.

Mr. Miller had prices for various pieces of equipment the department would like to purchase.

Sander body for existing truck:

Zwack- \$36,995

Hudson River Truck and Trailer: \$43,000.00

Sander for red pickup: Ruges- \$5,200

Town of Northeast used black top roller- \$5,000

Mr. Thomas asked if these were all things that needed to be purchased right away. Mr. Miller said that the sander that is on the 2002 truck lets the sand out the back of the dump, not by the wheels and that there had been a few incidents this winter because of this. Mr. Miller said he expects the 2002 truck last another ten years. Mr. Boice asked if Mr. Miller had looked at aluminum as a possible option that can then be moved to a new truck. Mr. Miller said he had not. Mr. Boice had also suggested that the town look into V sanders as they can be removed from the truck. Mr. Thomas asked if the sander body was on bid price. Mr. Miller said it was.

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

Resolution #17 of 2016 Highway Capital Spending – Resolved, that the Highway Superintendent is authorized to purchase a replacement dump body for the 2002 plow truck, a sander for the pickup and a roller, for an aggregate cost not to exceed \$50,000.

The Highway Department will be soliciting applications for a part time person to run the mower for the Town lawns, grounds and parks. The hourly rate is set at \$10/hr.

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

Resolution #18 of 2016 Summer Intern for Highway Department – Resolved, that the Highway Superintendent is authorized to hire a summer intern to assist with lawn maintenance at a per hour rate consistent with the County of Columbia hourly pay rate for summer interns.

Town Clerk

The town clerk announced that she would be contacting the county offices about bringing the shredding truck to Ancram. The only concern is that the truck may only be available for senior citizens. It was suggested that she ask if it was possible for the town to pay an amount to the county to make it available to all residents. Monica will attempt to have the truck here the same day as community clean up day.

Court Offices

Court Clerk Colleen Lutz stated that the court has been busy with tickets.

Youth Commission

The Youth Commission is working once again with the Camp Board. The Camp is in the process of soliciting applications for counselors.

Communications

The communications committee just put out an updated version of the Town Directory. They are at this time working on a new newsletter.

Historic District

The committee has sent out the letters for those homes/properties in the proposed historical district. They have received approximately 20 response postcards back to date.

Assessor

The assessor reported that there were about 35 residents so far who have signed up to talk about their reassessment. He has been pleased with those who have been coming out.

Animal Control

The animal control officer has been working on a call about a horse in distress on Poole Hill road.

Cemetery

The Town Highway department has cleared the over growth at the old cemetery. Bob Murphy reported that the fence is going to be rehabilitated, but that it is very close to the road and may need County approval. The county is going to come and look at it.

Camp Pontiac

At this point, Camp Pontiac has not notified all the property owners it needs to to go forward with a public meeting about the proposed pesticides in the lake.

Habitat

The committee will be having a meeting next week. They are looking to do a study. The town will have to consider how to go about raising the \$6000 donations.

SRRC Review

Pat Prendergast has looked at this document and feels that it can be cut down by 60%. Nan is now viewing that.

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

Resolution #19 of 2016: Flood law review committee – Resolved, that Hugh Clark, David Boice, John Ingram, Colleen Lutz, Jim Miller and Erin Robertson are appointed to a Committee to review and make recommendations to revise the 1990 Flood Law; be it further resolved that Mr. Clark will serve as chair and Ms. Lutz as secretary of this Committee, that the Committee may designate other individuals to serve on the Committee, and that the Committee may engage professional legal and planning support at a cost not to exceed \$2500 to conduct its review.

Capital Pool Spending

Mr. Bassin announced that the Town would like to go ahead with some repairs at the town pool. The bathrooms will receive a major overhaul of fixtures and interior walls and floors. On the floors will be new rubber mats. The work will be completed before the season begins. The topping of the decking and the new fencing will have to be completed in the fall.

Mr. Jack Lindsey told the board that the Berkshire Taconic fund has funding for food through the hunger NY program. The Neighbors group would be willing to file a grant for the camp for funding to receive some funding for lunches for the camp kids. He asked for an endorsing letter from the town board. Mr. Bassin said that this was a great idea that the Board would like to help with.

Councilman Thomas made the suggestion that the Town Board consider lowering the fees or not charging at all for camp this year. He stated that it would be a good gesture on behalf of the town and that it's important to attract children to the program. Mr. Bassin suggested that the board discuss this more at next month's meeting.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Israel. Resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution #20 of 2016: Pool repairs and maintenance – Resolved that the Town Supervisor is authorized to spend up to \$25,000 to replace lighting and plumbing fixtures in the pool bathrooms, to resurface and paint the interior walls of the bathrooms, to resurface the floor of the bathrooms and to paint the exterior of the bathrooms and the machine room at the Town Pool, and to temporarily hire a town employee for up to 60 days to accomplish these repairs, or to contract this work out.

Highway drain & tank

Highway Superintendent Miller commented that the tank was pumped out on March 8th. The company who will test for contamination will do so Thursday or Friday of next week. Superintendent Miller also reported

that engineer Pat Prendergast was working with DEC to get approval for a oil-water separator system for the garage drain.

Mr. Bassin reported that he received an email about abandoning roads that only had one or a few homes on them. Mr. Bassin said that he did some research on this subject. The roads would have to not been used for between two to six years to be considered for abandonment by the town, and we do not have any evidence that this is the case. These roads have been maintained by the towns for the last 50 years. At this time, Mr. Bassin and the town board felt that there was no basis to abandon any town roads.

Mr. Bassin stated that Samantha Mason has decided to come back to run the town summer camp again this year. She will be back in town full time from college the middle of May.

Donna Hoyt asked about the playground and the possibility of moving it to the ball field. She also suggested making the bathrooms available to those using the ball field, even when the pool is closed. Those from the prior playground committee stated that they had looked into putting the playground at the ball field but that the park equipment company did not think there was a big enough footprint and was concerned about the hill. Mr. Boice was concerned with allowing the bathrooms to remain open, most of which was a concern over vandalism and safety issues.

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

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica R. Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk