

Draft Resolutions - May 21, 2015 Town Board Meeting

1. Climate Change: A resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Ancram, NY regarding Climate Change:

WHEREAS an overwhelming majority of credentialed scientists, in the United States and abroad, support the findings that climate change is happening and that human activities are a key contributor to it;

WHEREAS the U. S. National Academy of Sciences and the U. K. Royal Society have stated, “It is now more certain than ever, based on many lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth’s climate. The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, accompanied by sea-level rise, a strong decline in Arctic sea ice, and other climate-related changes;” (<http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/exec-office-other/climate-change-full.pdf>)

WHEREAS the 2014 National Climate Assessment, reviewed extensively by the National Academy of Sciences and a Federal Advisory Committee, states that in the Northeast “Heat waves, coastal flooding, and river flooding will pose a growing challenge to the region’s environmental, social, and economic systems... [which] will increase the vulnerability of the region’s residents, especially its most disadvantaged populations;” (<http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/regions/northeast>)

WHEREAS the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review of the U.S. Department of Defense states that the effects of climate change are “threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions – conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence;” (<http://climateandsecurity.org/2014/03/04/climate-change-and-national-security-in-the-2014-quadrennial-defense-review/>)

WHEREAS the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change has reported “Impacts from recent climate-related extremes, such as heat waves, droughts, floods, cyclones, and wildfires, reveal significant vulnerability and exposure of some ecosystems and many human systems to current climate variability ... and “All aspects of food security are potentially affected by climate change, including food access, utilization, and price stability;”

(https://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf)

WHEREAS New York State “Executive Order No. 24 set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in New York State by 80 percent below the levels emitted in 1990 by the year 2050;” (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/80930.html>)

WHEREAS the Union of Concerned Scientists has called “for government and corporate decision makers to reduce the threat of global warming by:

- Expanding the use of renewable energy and transforming our energy system to one that is cleaner and less dependent on coal and other fossil fuels.
- Increasing vehicle fuel efficiency and supporting other solutions that reduce U. S. oil use.
- Placing limits on the amount of carbon that polluters are allowed to emit.
- Building a clean energy economy by investing in efficient energy technologies, industries, and approaches;”

(http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/global_warming_101#.VPIobUvYkpE)

WHEREAS if left unaddressed, the consequences of climate change will adversely impact all Americans, hitting the most vulnerable populations--children, the elderly, the sick and the poor—hardest, and saddling future generations with the costly burden of a damaged planet; and

WHEREAS most faith traditions recognize a moral obligation to care for the most vulnerable peoples and to be responsible stewards of the Earth;

WHEREAS global warming and resultant climate instability are broadly considered issues requiring correct and sustained actions by nations, states, and communities;

WHEREAS local, state and federal governments are incurring increasing costs to repair damage from severe climatic events, and these costs are only expected to increase and will ultimately be borne by taxpayers;

WHEREAS addressing climate change through increased energy efficiency measures and increased development of renewable energy sources could provide benefits in terms of employment and sustainable economic activity;

WHEREAS the region has experienced multiple 100 year storms in the past 10 years; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ancram:

1) urges the County of Columbia, the State of New York, and the Congress and President of the United States of America to take prompt and effective measures to rapidly address climate change by promoting and encouraging a reduction of greenhouse gas

emissions from fossil fuels and their associated infrastructure, improvement in the efficiency of energy systems, and the development and installation of renewable energy systems; and

2) stands ready to work with any level of government to achieve these goals, that will in the process create safe, sustainable jobs and provide real, clean energy solutions for generations to come.

2. Government Efficiency Plan:

Whereas the State of NY has required each unit of local government to develop a plan to save 1% of the municipality's 2014 tax levy in 21017, 2018 and 2019, and

Whereas the Town of Ancram is required to develop a plan to save \$8000 per year in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and

Whereas the County of Columbia has developed a county-wide plan, will be lead agency for all towns in the County, and will file a county-wide savings plan that will include the Town of Ancram,

Therefore it is resolved that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to develop a Town of Ancram efficiency plan that identifies savings of at least \$8,000 per year in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and

It is further resolved that the Supervisor is authorized to work with the County to include the Town savings plan to be included in the County plan, and to execute the certifications necessary for the Town of Ancram to become part of the County plan, and

It is further resolved that the Town of Ancram commits to using best efforts to implement its portions of the County plan, and to support the implementation of the County plan in its entirety.