

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
July 20, 2017**

Present: Supervisor Arthur Bassin Councilman Hugh Clark
 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 Arthur Bassin at 7:00 pm with a salute to the flag.

Mr. Bassin read to the board an email he received from the Elizaville Church regarding the good works of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry program.

The board decided to vote on the minutes of the June 15, 2017 meeting at the next month's meeting.

Mr. Bassin asked the board if there was any business on the agenda any of the board members wished to recuse themselves from. Supervisor Bassin and Councilman Clark recused from the veterans exemptions discussion. Councilman Boice recused from the head lifeguard pay.

Supervisors Report

1. Financial Report – June was another normal month. Cash on hand at month end was \$1,432,000. The 12/31 cash projection indicates we will have about \$942,000 in cash on hand at year-end, about \$8,000 more than we projected last month and slightly above the \$927,000 budgeted. We still have about \$50,000 of possible revenue and cost opportunities which if they materialize, could improve our year end cash position, or allow us to buy additional equipment without deteriorating our cash on hand. FAC continues to look into investing some of our cash in CDs with short term maturities, and/or prepaying our truck loan.

2. Highway – The Highway Department has been working over the past month on Woods Drive, Wiltsie Bridge Rd, Poole Hill Rd, Pats Rd and 5 Roses Rd. Woods is being prepared for paving, while the other roads have been chip sealed. The Hall Hill Culvert is scheduled for late July. The Pats Rd culvert has been painted a dark gray, additional plants have been put in along the wing walls and we are looking for a crab apple tree to help block the mouth of the culvert from the house. The roadway over the culvert has been paved and chip sealed. This pretty much finishes the work on the Pats Rd culvert planned last year. Highway Superintendent Jim Miller has located two used graders. Same make and model. One for about \$60,000 with 1900 hours on it, and the other for about \$120,000 with 1400 hours on it. Our current grader has about 8000

hours on it. Jim plans to try the \$60,000 grader out and rent it for a month to see it is large enough for us. A new grader would cost over \$200,000.

3. Kids Camp and Pool – The pool opened on July 1, and about 52 kids attended the first week of camp and 64 attended week two. Rain caused the kids to use TH a couple of days last week. Donations for the Pool 7 Camp total just over \$23,000.

4. Doodletown WMA – Jon Shramko has FOILED information about the environmental analysis that accompanied the purchase of the Doodletown WMA, and has requested information about the process DEC used to install the parking areas on Allen Rd. We have requested the same information for the Doodletown Rd parking area. We recently received a copy of the DEC response to Mr. Shramko’s email.

5. Unsafe building – Code Enforcement Officer Ed Ferratto has identified 73 Cottontail Rd as a possible “unsafe building” under Local law # 2 of 2015, and plans to initiate the process to have the owner either repair the building or demolish it. We will have to conclude that the structure is a danger to the public or neighbors in order for us to apply LL #2 of 2015. Given the location of the building, this may be an issue.

6. CSCTF – We held the first day of energy code training, and reviewed LED street light options late in June. CSCTF is working on energy benchmarking and EV charging stations, and should have recommendations in September.

7. BAS cyber security – Town Clerk Monica Cleveland and I met with Dave Vitti from BAS, a software company that provides the town clerk, tax collection and building department/planning board software which we currently use. BAS will come in a do a review of our internet interface security and device security, and propose ways to strengthen our overall cyber security.

8. Trout Unlimited Culvert Grant - Trout Unlimited has submitted a grant request to review the 18 culverts we identified as part of the Cornell-DEC culvert study to further narrow down the list to the top 3 or 4 to work on next. This is a planning grant, not an implementation grant. Jim Miller and I will be involved, and will focus the process on replacing culverts on the list that are on roads that are on the Highway Department list to pave in the near term. We will be looking for culvert design solutions that can be done by the highway crew on its own, or by the highway crew supported by local contractors. This probably means large, flat bottomed plastic coated pipes that will meet passability and capacity goals and are significantly quicker and less expensive to install. If TU gets the grant, Town participation and “match” will be “in kind” time.

9. Columbia County – Work on the shared services plan continues, and the 2018 budget process has started. County plans a series of meetings in towns around the county to talk about the opioid epidemic and what can be done to deal with it.

Mr. Bassin made the following comments: the draft budget will be ready to go out in August; Mr. Bassin has been approached about asking the county to lower the speed limit on County route 3 to 45 mph.; Mr. Bassin was approached about putting the stop sign back at the bottom of 82 entering Ancramdale; the veterans exemption vote will have to wait until January as two members of the town board will have to recuse themselves from the vote; the County Airport is opening a fire training facility tower.

Highway

Mr. Miller reported that the department has one more day of oil and stoning. The Houghtaling House demolition has been postponed due to the fire in Albany which has caused the asbestos landfill to be full. The Highway Department will be receiving \$172,000 from CHIPS. The road grader has been down since July, the parts are stuck in customs at the Canada border. The grader the town will be renting is a 2006. The town can buy it for \$60,000. But, it may not be large enough for what the town needs. Councilman Boice suggested that because a new grader would have a full warrantee, it may be better for the town to buy the machine new. A new machine will cost around \$250,000. Repairs to the old grader last year came in around \$12,000. The town has approximately 21 miles of dirt road.

Mr. Miller was asked about giving notice about road work, like an email to the residents on the road. Mr. Miller said that he does not have emails for all the residents. Mr. Bassin agreed. Mr. Bassin will continue to communicate road work on the Ancram email list.

Town Clerk

A motion was made by Councilwoman Israel and seconded by Councilman Boice to allow the town clerk to purchase two four drawer lateral file cabinets, one two drawer fire proof file cabinet and one metal bookcase for the Town Clerks office. Motion carried.

FAC

The committee is looking into the possibility of moving town funds into cd's.

Camp Board

The camp and swimming lessons have begun. The group decided to split the free swim into two groups. The pool also split one swim lesson into two groups.

Town Hall

The town architect has told the supervisor that the new doors are all right with one push bar given the occupancy of the building.

Communications

The committee has distributed a picture of a proposed sign for the free ground cemetery. The board approved it for production.

The town website coordinator has given her notice but has given the town the name of someone she suggests to take over.

Zoning

Mr. Clark is looking towards August or September to look over the few proposed changes to the zoning, or “tweaks”. There are about 8-10 items.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel and moved for adoption. Resolution carried with one recusal by Councilman Boice.

Resolution #29 of 2017:

Head Lifeguard & Camp Director Pay – Resolved, that the Head Lifeguard and Camp Director be paid \$19.50 per hour in 2017.

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

The question was raised about the town board supporting financially the fund raising for Thompson Finch Farm. Those asking stressed that the town is a farming community, so it should support them. Mr. Bassin said that while that is a true statement, and that the town does want the farm to remain active, the board cannot use tax payer funds to support a private business. Mr. Bassin pointed out that the board cannot financially support one farm and not all of them.

Mr. Bassin came back to the 45 mph for County Route 3. A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Supervisor Bassin to apply to the County to change the speed limit on County Route 3 to 45 mph. The votes were as follows: Yes, Clark, Bassin, Boice. No, Israel. Motion passed.

There being no more business, the meeting was closed on a motion by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Boice. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Monica Cleveland
Ancram Town Clerk