

**Town of Ancram  
Town Board  
Regular Meeting  
June 15, 2017**

Present:           Supervisor Arthur Bassin                               Councilman Hugh Clark  
                          Councilwoman Madeline Israel                            Councilman David Boice  
                          Town Clerk Monica Cleveland

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

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

**Fire Chief**

Mr. Boice reported that it has been a busy period for the fire department. The Memorial Day parade had to be canceled due to the rain but the department opened the firehouse for a very nice ceremony that was well attended. A question was raised about a call that was responded to for an open burn and if the department can recoup moneys for this. Mr. Boice stated that this burn had been called into the DEC prior to lighting.

**Supervisors Report**

1. Financial Report – May was another normal month. Cash on hand at month end was \$1,496,000. The 12/31 cash projection indicates we will have about \$934,000 in cash on hand at year-end, about \$10,000 less than we projected last month and slightly above the \$927,000 budgeted. We still have about \$53,000 of possible revenue and cost opportunities which if they materialize, could improve our year end cash position. FAC is looking into investing some of our cash in CDs with short term maturities. We currently earn about .25% on our municipal money market account which averages about \$1.2 million over the year, generating about \$3,000 in interest. If could double the .25% rate by laddering CD's we could add another \$3,000 annually without giving up much in terms of liquidity. Another option would be to prepay the remaining \$240,000 on our 1.99% truck loan, which would save about \$9500 over the next three years.

2. Local Laws 2 & 3 – We will consider adopting Local Laws 2 & 3 at the 6/15 TB meeting.

3. Memorial Day Parade – While the parade was cancelled due to the rain, the Memorial Day Ceremony was held in the Ancram Fire House, with about 100 people attending. Jim MacArthur hosted the event, with members of the Cadby Shutts VFW Post and volunteer firefighters from Ancram and Taghkanic participating.

4. Kids Camp and Pool – We have 75 kids signed up for camp, 20 of whom are under 5, so Camp Director Samantha Mason plans to hire one additional camp counselor, and has put a freeze on new applications and plans to start a waiting list. Thanks to Annie Walwyn-Jones, Murdoch Morrison and all the volunteers they recruited to help out with the Ancram Neighbors Network (ANN) Memorial Day Weekend Pig Roast, ANN raised a record high \$5,300 to help support the kids camp and pool. Total donations so far are slightly over \$18,500 thanks to the ANN Pig Roast, the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation, which is donating \$7500 again this year, and to about 50 individuals and businesses which have contributed to support the camp and pool. We will continue to solicit donations from the Ancramemail list and hope to raise a total of about \$25,000, which is about what we received in donations last year, before the camp and pool open early in July. Again this year we will be providing USDA free lunches to all campers and kids at the pool.

5. 5/23 Grievance Day - The BAR reviewed 5 cases, and agreed to 3 modifications. Assessor Ken Leggett had reviewed and agreed to “stipulations” on 6 cases prior to the BAR meeting, and made 4 corrections. Our assessments are at 100% of market value according to the State. Assessor Leggett continues to work with the County Office of Real Property to update assessments based on changes in market conditions.

6. Doodletown WMA – Neighbors living adjacent to the DWMA and the Ancram and Taghkanic CACs continue to be engaged in an active email exchange with DEC Wildlife Manager Mike Clark. DEC is continuing to build parking areas off Westfall and Doodletown, and continues to work on the WMA Plan, which should be done over the next few months and be presented at a public hearing. Questions have come up which DEC has not yet responded to, about whether DEC is going to do a SEQRA review and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) based on their plans to clear cut up to 20% of the 690 acre area.

7. CAFO General Permit – As I reported last month, we have been asked to join an amicus brief in a lawsuit against DEC for inadequate regulations to control CAFO operations. Earthjustice, the firm that is suing DEC, claims that DEC is not following EPA regulations requiring that CAFO nutrient management plans be filed with DEC, and that these plans and data confirming compliance with them be available to the public. I have asked for opinions on this from CAC, NYS Department of Ag & Markets, Cornell, DEC and the Ancram Agricultural Advisory Council. So far, only

one comment. I don't think there are any large cattle operations (over 300 head) in Ancram subject to CAFO, so this may not be of immediate interest to us.

8. CSCTF – The CSCTF is looking into energy code training, electric vehicle charging stations and LED street lights. Along with the unified solar permit and the energy audits previously approved by the Town, implementing two additional energy saving actions would qualify us for up to a \$50,000 NYSERDA grant.

9. Columbia County – The next Shared Services Panel meeting is 6/22. I won't be able to attend, and have asked Deputy Supervisor Hugh Clark to attend representing Ancram.

A motion was made to adopt the following resolution by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Israel. Resolution carried.

**Resolution #28 of 2017 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD FOR THE Town of Ancram in the Matter of the Adoption of the Town of Ancram Highway Construction Standards Local Law #2 of 2017:**

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram adopted a Comprehensive Plan in April 2010, which is a statutorily recognized instrument under Town Law §272-a for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development in a Town; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan encourages the Town to improve its land use laws to be more effective and efficient; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram Town Board, created a committee to draft changes to its land use regulations as recommended in the Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Committee after careful review, prepared a draft local law regulating the construction of roads and driveways in the Town of Ancram in accordance with the adopted Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ancram has caused to be prepared a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) pursuant to the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has duly considered the contents of the EAF and completed Parts 2 and 3 thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has identified the relevant areas of environmental inquiry and taken a hard look at them; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has issued a negative declaration under SEQRA thereby complying with the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has completed requirements of NYS General Municipal Law 239-m by forwarding a copy of the draft plan to the Columbia County Planning Department and waiting 30 days for their response; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has met requirements for adopting a local law, and properly noticed and held a public hearing;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN BOARD OF ANCRAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK:

THAT THE Town Board of the Town of Ancram hereby adopts the Town of Ancram Highway Construction Standards (Local Law # 2 of 2017); and

THAT THE Town Board shall enter this law into the minutes of the Town Board and shall publish a summary or abstract of it once in the official newspaper of the Town; and

THAT THE Town Board instructs the Town Clerk of the Town of Ancram to maintain a file in her office in the Town Hall to contain all parts of this law, and

THAT THE Town Board ensure that all parts of the law be posted on the Town's website; and

THAT THE Town Board cause affidavits of the publication and posting of the amendments be filed with the Town Clerk.

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

**Resolution #29 of 2017: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD FOR THE Town of Ancram In the Matter of the Adoption of the Town of Ancram Updated Land Subdivision Regulations Local Law #3 of 2017:**

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram adopted a Comprehensive Plan in April 2010, which is a statutorily recognized instrument under Town Law §272-a for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development in a Town; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan encourages the Town to improve its land use laws to be more effective and efficient; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ancram Town Board, created a committee to draft changes to the land subdivision regulations as recommended in the Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Committee after careful review, prepared a draft amendment to the Land Subdivision Regulations in accordance with the adopted Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ancram has caused to be prepared a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) pursuant to the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has duly considered the contents of the EAF and completed Parts 2 and 3 thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has identified the relevant areas of environmental inquiry and taken a hard look at them; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has issued a negative declaration under SEQRA thereby complying with the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has completed requirements of NYS General Municipal Law 239-m by forwarding a copy of the draft plan to the Columbia County Planning Department and waiting 30 days for their response; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has met requirements for amending the local subdivision law, and properly noticed and held a public hearing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN BOARD OF ANCRAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK:

THAT THE Town Board of the Town of Ancram hereby adopts the Town of Ancram updated Land Subdivision Regulations (Local Law # 3 of 2017); and

THAT THE Town Board also hereby repeals the Town of Ancram Land Subdivision Regulations (Local Law #1 of 2015); and

THAT THE Town Board shall enter this law into the minutes of the Town Board and shall publish a summary or abstract of it once in the official newspaper of the Town; and

THAT THE Town Board instructs the Town Clerk of the Town of Ancram to maintain a file in her office in the Town Hall to contain all parts of this law, and

THAT THE Town Board ensure that all parts of the law be posted on the Town's website; and

THAT THE Town Board cause affidavits of the publication and posting of the amendments be filed with the Town Clerk.

#### **Doodletown WMA**

Mr. Jack Lindsey is concerned that the proposed parking area for the Doodletown Wildlife Management Area will be draining into a protected watershed. He stated that the DEC has been informed of the concerns of the neighbors on Doodletown road of this project. Andrew Wilcox will be walking the area on behalf of the CAC and making a report. A question was raised about damage to Westfall road due to the logging and this project. Mr. Bassin felt that the DEC would probably not pay for any damage but we could ask.

#### **CAFO**

Mr. Bassin brought up the CAFO brief and asked if Ancram would like to be a part. The board felt that they would not at this time because there are no CAFO operations in Ancram. Mr. Clark felt that there was not enough information given to the town to make an informed decision.

#### **Grievance Day**

There were 6 grievance applications filed, three adjustments made and five stipulations approved.

#### **County Issues**

Mr. Bassin spoke on the Opioid plan the county was working on. They are looking to form a task force and have Narcan training.

#### **Town Board Member Comments**

Mr. Clark stated that while he was in complete support of the right to farm law in the town, he has some concerns with large hay trucks that are traveling on route three. He asked that Mr. Bassin reach out and ask them to slow down for the sake of the walkers and bikers. Colleen Lutz was in agreement and stated that she felt 55 mph on that road was too fast.

### **Highway Superintendent**

The department has repaved the rest of East Ancram and ½ mile of Roche Drive. They will be working on Woods Drive in the next week, reclaiming to create a good base to oil and stone. The Houghtaling house is scheduled for demolition the week of 7/10. The department will be sealing Poole Hill, 5 Roses, Pats, East Ancram, Roche and Wiltsie Bridge the week of 7/10. The Hall Hill Culvert will go in in mid July.

### **Town Clerk**

The town clerk asked for permission to purchase two lateral filing cabinets and a bookcase. Councilman Boice suggested also looking into a fireproof file cabinet. The clerk will hold off purchase until she has prices for a fireproof cabinet.

### **Ethics**

The Ethics board asked that the town board place on the agenda a recusal opportunity at the beginning of the board meeting.

### **Meeting Room**

The doors on the front and the meeting room are waiting a response from Herringtons about the panic bars, one versus two.

### **Kids Camp**

Mr. Bassin reported that there are approximately 85 kids enrolled in camp this year with a 60-70 child a day average. The pool has split the free swim for the camp into a A and B group to help with lifeguard coverage and water quality. Both Mr. Boice and Mrs. Israel raised concern with the number of children enrolled. Mr. Bassin stated that Sam Mason, the camp director, had the counselors required for the amount of kids and that she was comfortable with the number.

Mr. Bassin brought up the question of the Electric Vehicle Charging station. He suggested that the board postpone this resolution until the DSTF decided if they wanted to head in that direction. The town also needed to also look at the zoning law.

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

Colleen Lutz addressed the board about a possible Trout Unlimited Grant application for a culvert study that would prioritize the 17-18 culverts identified by the Cornell – DEC 7 study as most in need of replacement. Trout Unlimited would manage the process and the town would contribute time, not money. Mr. Bassin was skeptical and would like to make sure the town was not incurring a financial obligation and Trout Unlimited would actually manage the effort. As long as the town has no financial obligation and Trout Unlimited managed the project, Mr. Bassin felt this would be a good project for the Town to support.

There being no more business, a motion was made by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Israel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Monica Cleveland, Ancram Town Clerk